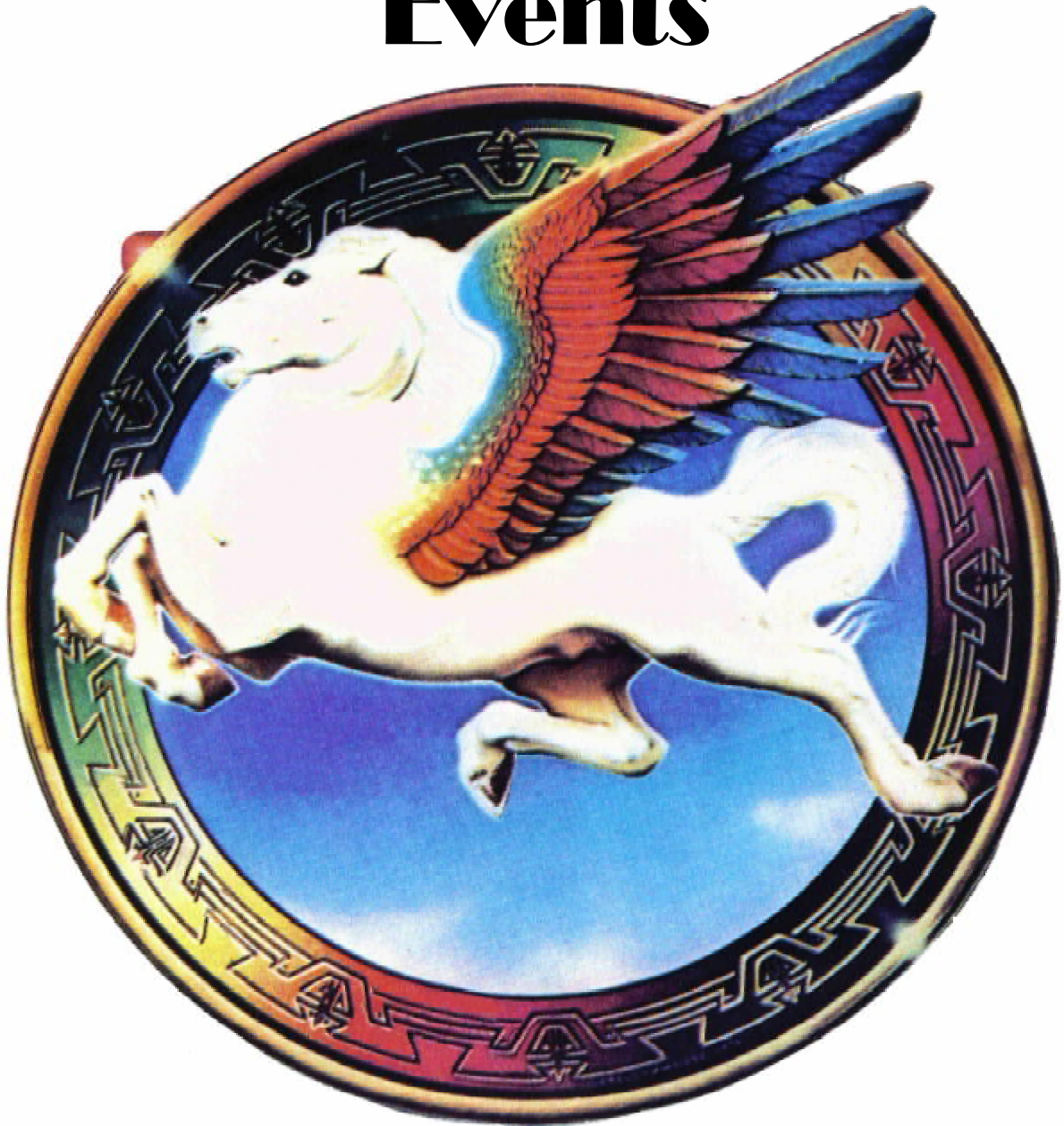


Funfair Rides And Games For School Events



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A Brief History Of The Travelling Funfair

Fairs in this country have a long and ancient history, deeply rooted in tradition. The word fair is derived from the Latin 'feria', meaning a holiday and at one time the Romans were credited with the introduction of fairs. It is generally accepted now that they have their origins in the pagan customs of the people who first settled this land, their seasonal gatherings held for the purposes of both trade and festivity, contained within them the essential elements of the fair.

The Romans did much to promote fairs by improving trade and communications throughout the country. During the centuries following the departure of the Romans, many fairs and other festivals were incorporated into the calendar of the growing Christian Church.

Charters granted by the sovereign gave the fair legal status and an increasing importance in the economic life of the nation. Merchants and traders from Europe, the middle east and beyond were drawn to the great chartered fairs of the Middle Ages bringing with them a wealth of goods. The sheer number of these fairs - no fewer than 4860 were chartered between the years 1200 and 1400 - drew not only merchant but entertainers as well: jugglers, musicians and tumblers - the ancestors of today's showmen.

The Black Death of 1348-49 brought about a new kind of fair. In order to stem the rise in wages caused by the shortage of workers, Edward III introduced the Statute of Labourers. This compelled all able bodied men to present themselves annually for hire at a stated wage. These gathering or hiring fairs were held mainly around Michealmas, the end of the agricultural year.

By the early eighteenth century the trading aspects of the charter fairs had waned and most fairs consisted almost entirely of amusements, acrobats, illusionists and theatrical companies all plied their trade on fairgrounds. Around this time the first fairground rides began to appear, small crudely constructed out of wood and propelled by gangs of boys.

In 1868, Frederick Savage, a successful agricultural engineer from Kings Lynn, devised a method of driving rides by steam. His invention, a steam engine mounted in the centre of the ride was to transform the fairground industry. Freed from the limitations of muscle power, rides could be made larger, more capacious and more heavily ornamented. The showman's demand for novelty was matched by the ingenuity of Savage and other engineers. In the wake of the steam revolution an amazing variety of new designs and rides appeared.

These rides were the forerunners of today's amazing thrill rides, over time innovations such as electric lighting, electric motors, hydraulics etc. allowed rides to evolve into the amazing devices that are seen today at any local fairground



About Our Services

Thank you for your interest in our products. For many years travelling funfairs have brought enjoyment to pe

The use of funfair attractions at school fundays is not a new phenomenon, but it is one which is on the incre

As is common in other businesses you have a wide choice of operators and equipment to choose from, this

There is no obligation on you part for any help or information we provide, feel free to take advantage of our



F.A.Q.

Suitable Attractions

The large teenage rides incur a high operating cost, so they are suitable only for events at the largest of schools. An ideal balance is a mixture of children's rides and inflatables along with a games unit and perhaps a candy floss stall.

Quantity of Attractions

For an average junior or primary school, a couple of rides, perhaps an inflatable slide along with a hook a duck stall and a candy floss unit are adequate. Usually to bring more than this means we have extra staff and transport costs and rarely see an increase in business as the school population is not large enough to support the additional rides.

Suitable days

During the summer months, weekend are our busiest time with June and July being extra busy, so if possible avoid these days. Some of the most successful events we have attended have been during the week and started just as the schoolday ends. This means that the children are already at the school. To hold it on a weekend can sometimes mean that neither ourselves or any other operator has the equipment available to attend.

Advanced Notice

We have in the past supplied attractions with less than 24 hours notice, but this means that we have to bring whatever we have available at the last minute. Ideally you should be planning the event a number of months in front and give us as much notice as possible, this allows us to bring the attraction you want, rather than whatever is left over from other events

Hiring Attractions.

Occasionally school will hire attractions from us and allow their pupils free use of them. We still supply operators and trained staff to look after the rides under these conditions so everyone is perfectly safe, and still covered by our insurance's etc.

Donation

If you are not hiring the attractions, we are operating them and charging the children then after a successful day we pay a donation to the school. This can be on a percentage basis or a flat fee agreed beforehand.



F.A.Q.

Operating the Equipment

Whilst you are welcome to provide members of staff to help supervise the public, or to collect money if you are charging on the rides, only experienced operators are allowed to actually operate the rides. For this reason when you hire equipment from us it is provided with experienced members of staff to control the ride and to load and unload the passengers

Power Supply

All of our equipment comes with self contained power generators to provide the motive and electrical power required. Smaller children's rides are capable of being powered from standard household sockets but the larger rides require industrial power supplies.

Insurance

All of our equipment is covered by public liability insurance to the tune of £10,000,000 as required by the Showmen's Guild of Great Britains operating rules.

Health And Safety

All of our equipment has electrical and mechanical safety certificates issued by qualified engineers, additionally we undertake a risk assessment for the event covering things such as ride placement and access, egress points to the fair, copies of this document along with all safety and insurance certificates will be provided to you well before the event itself.

First Aid

All major rides and all catering units carry first aid kits, and we are currently ensuring key personnel all have first aid training with the ultimate aim that any equipment we supply would come with a trained first aider. However this should be viewed as a complement to your own arrangements, larger events should still have St Johns ambulance cover or something equivalent.

Set Up Times

Smaller attractions and modern thrill rides can be set up and the safety checks performed in around 4 hours (less for children's rides, around 1 hour), more traditional rides such as dodgems and waltzers require upto 8 hours. As the attractions are set up simultaneously, an entire funfair can be erected and tested for safety in less than a day.



F.A.Q.

Spill Containment

Although we have never had an instance of oil or fuel leakage on site, we have a spill containment kit and trained personnel on hand to ensure prompt action in the unlikely event of hydrocarbon leakage.

Litter

We supply our own bins to keep the level of discarded litter down. Additionally after the event any litter remaining on the site we occupied is collected and removed by our staff.

Ride Segregation

We carry bunting and rope barriers to enable rides to be segregated from public areas and ensure safe operation.

Fire Fighting Equipment

All rides, inflatables, catering units and power supply vehicles carry fire extinguishers. All such equipment is supplied with test certificates.



Fairground Stalls

This is a tiny fraction of the stalls which are available for your event. We can supply virtually any combination of games you may need.



Shooting Gallery

A hugely popular shooting gallery providing up to three different games, with a mixture of luck and skill and a selection of top quality prizes.

Size 44 ft x 13 ft

Transport 1 vehicle

Basketball

A large basketball games, again with a selection of superior quality prizes.

Size 32 ft x 12 ft or 16 ft x 12 ft

Transport 1 small trailer



Hook A Duck Stall

The ideal children game, with every player a winner, every time

Size 20 ft x 20 ft

Transport 1 vehicle





This is a tiny fraction of the children's rides that we are able to supply.



Toyset

One of the most popular types of children's ride, the toyset seats 35 children on a variety of different toys

Size 17 ft diameter

Train Ride

Another highly popular children's ride, the train can seat 33 children.

Size 16 ft diameter



Inflatable Slide

We have slides of all sizes to suit any venue.

Size various





Catering Units

This is a tiny sample of the various forms of catering unit that we have available.



Caffe Bellissimo

A catering unit specialising in continental coffee. From an espresso to an americano with everything in between, also serves cookies and panini rolls.

Size 18 ft x aft

Transport 1 vehicle

Destination Doughnuts

As the name suggests, a doughnut specialist, all types and varieties to suit the sweet toothed.

Size 16 ft x aft

Transport 1 small trailer



Confection Perfection

Remember a favourite sweet from your childhood, chances are this stall will stock it, from candy floss to cinder toffee.

Size 14 ft x aft

Transport 1 vehicle





The Showmen's Guild Of Great Britain

The principal object of the Showmen's Guild is to protect the interests of its members - travelling showmen who gain their livelihoods by attending funfairs. It does this in two ways: by its code of rules for members and through the legal and constitutional processes of the land. The Guild's rule book ensures that all members have equal status within the Guild, regardless of the scope of their operations as individual businessmen. The rules, which are enforced by the Guild's own disciplinary tribunals, cover such matters as the orderly running of fairs and the conduct of members both on and off the fairgrounds.

The administration and operation of the Guild is democratically determined by its 4,700 members. (the actual total of persons involved in the business is considerably higher as the membership lists only heads of families.) Forming the base of the Guild's structure is a system of ten regional Sections covering the whole of Great Britain.

Each Section is run by a committee of members, elected annually by secret ballot. The ten Sections have their own offices, each managed by a paid staff of officials. Four members from each Section committee are appointed to serve on the Central Council, the national governing body of the Guild. In addition to the Section delegates, the Central Council includes the six Officials of the Guild and all Past Presidents.

The Guild requires all members owning rides to submit their equipment each year for thorough examination. This annual inspection scheme is carried out by engineering inspection bodies who are accredited and registered. The scope of the inspection is comprehensive and can involve, in the case of certain components, non-destructive testing. If the examination proves satisfactory, the inspecting engineer issues a pass certificate of inspection and a small circular sticker confirming the ride is safe to operate. Should a ride fail the test, the engineer issues a stop order with immediate effect. This bans the operation of the ride until it can pass a further inspection.

The provision of winter quarters and the loss of fairgrounds are of constant concern to the Guild. When the travelling season is over, the showman needs a permanent base where he and his family can spend the winter months. Ideally it should be within the reach of schools and shops, and be large enough to enable him to carry out the vital maintenance work on his equipment.

Equally important is the safeguarding of fairgrounds. Redevelopment schemes have taken their toll of sites, particularly in town centres where fairs have been held for centuries. Their loss, especially where no alternative is offered, is unfortunate in several respects: the town loses part of its heritage, local people are denied the continuing opportunity of an essentially popular form of entertainment and the showman loses part of his livelihood.

In environmental terms, fairgrounds merit the same attention as conservation areas or public amenities such as open spaces. They represent an important element in the history of towns throughout the land as well as providing a unique and valuable form of recreation.