

# Reading Booklet

Literacy Materials



# CARNIVAL!

Delton Carnival 1971-1991

## Carnival time is here again!

The world famous Delton carnival attracts around a million people from all round the world.

- 45 licensed 'sound systems'
- 3 live stages: local and world music from top international artistes
- 63 spectacular floats on a three mile circuit
- dance, drama and poetry reading from around the world
- steel drum band championship finals
- hundreds of stalls: exotic food, arts and crafts from all corners of the globe • reggae, soca, jazz, soul, hiphop, funk, house, garage...
- groups participating from Afghanistan, Kurdistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Bulgaria, Russia, Brazil and many more!



**FRESH FM STAGE**

Saturday 27th July

**~~CANCELLED TO BE REPLACED~~  
BAMBAATAA STAGE  
BY MAPLE MIME TROUPE**  
Saturday 27th July

12:00 Intangible Linguists – Poetry and Stories

12:00 Da Hai Kung Fu Club Display

2:00 Delton Children's Centre Present 'Snow Seven Dwarfs'

2:00 Topo – Bulgarian Puppeteers White and the

4:00 Mystic Samba Dancers

4:00 Children's Fancy Dress Awards

6:00 Mala Bab Drummers

6:00 Steel Drum Band Championship Awards

Live coverage by Fresh FM from the Fresh FM Stage and other events

Watch and listen online at [www.getfresh.co.uk](http://www.getfresh.co.uk)

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# Man Jailed for Ice Cream

## Assault

## Residents Demand Changes at Delton Carnival

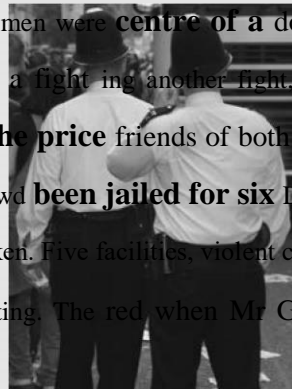
A MAN at the Malcolm did not back other young men were centre of a down from his asking taken to hospital follow street brawl at price of £3, and a fighting another fight. Delton Carnival quickly developed as believed related. to be drugs sparked by the price friends of both parties Last year's carnival of an ice cream has become involved. was marred by crowd been jailed for six During the ensuing crushes, lack of toilet months. brawl Mr Askew's arm and jaw were broken. Five facilities, violent crime

The incident occur- other people were and pickpocketing. The red when Mr Greg subsequently detained but Residents' Group link

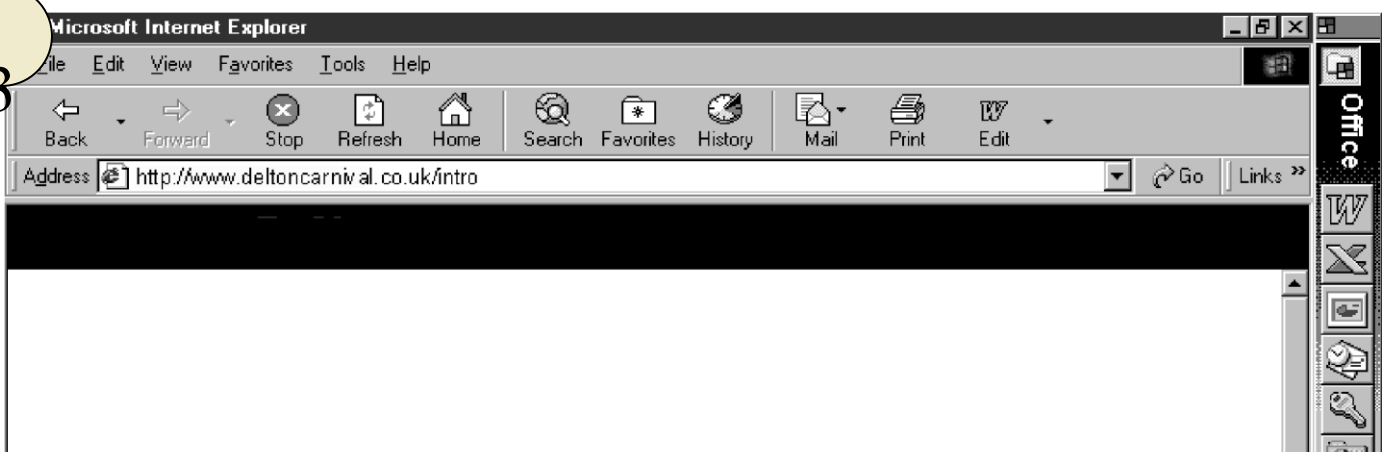
Askew, 24, of later released without

these problems directly to the size of the

Sloughton, complained charge. However, the incident event, believing it has to Sean Malcolm, 19, After being chased and had been caught on CCTV outgrown the area and about the cost of the captured by the police, and he later admitted the suggesting that it is either strawberry ripple which Malcolm is quoted as charges. drastically reduced in he was selling from a saying: The incident took size or moved to another stall at the event. Mr 'I ain't done no place on the 27th of location. fighting.' July, the day before two



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## Introduction

The Delton Carnival is one of Europe's largest, with more than 1 million visitors attending. It is a festival of freedom and peace for everyone, embracing music, costumes and other art forms from the Caribbean and other parts of the world.

The Carnival has taken place in the streets of Delton at the end of July for the past thirty-five years. This great festival began initially from the energies of black immigrants from the Caribbean, particularly from Trinidad, where the Carnival tradition is very strong. People living locally dreamed of creating a festival to bring together the people of Delton, many of whom, as immigrants from many countries, were facing racism, lack of working opportunities and poor housing conditions, resulting in a general lack of self-esteem.

From a small procession through the streets with just a few people in costume and carrying steel drums in the 1960s, the carnival has evolved into a huge multicultural arts festival. It is a great tourist attraction that brings life to Delton at the height of summer.

Dear Sir

It is with great concern that I read the recent news of the fracas over the price of a strawberry ripple ice cream and of other violent incidents at Delton carnival this year.

There can be little doubt that violence at the event has escalated in recent years, and it is similarly evident that this has coincided with the marked increase in the number of people attending the carnival. Many of these come solely to witness the colour and excitement of the carnival, but there are also many youngsters whose purpose is to cause trouble: to rob innocent bystanders and to settle violent scores with other gangs.

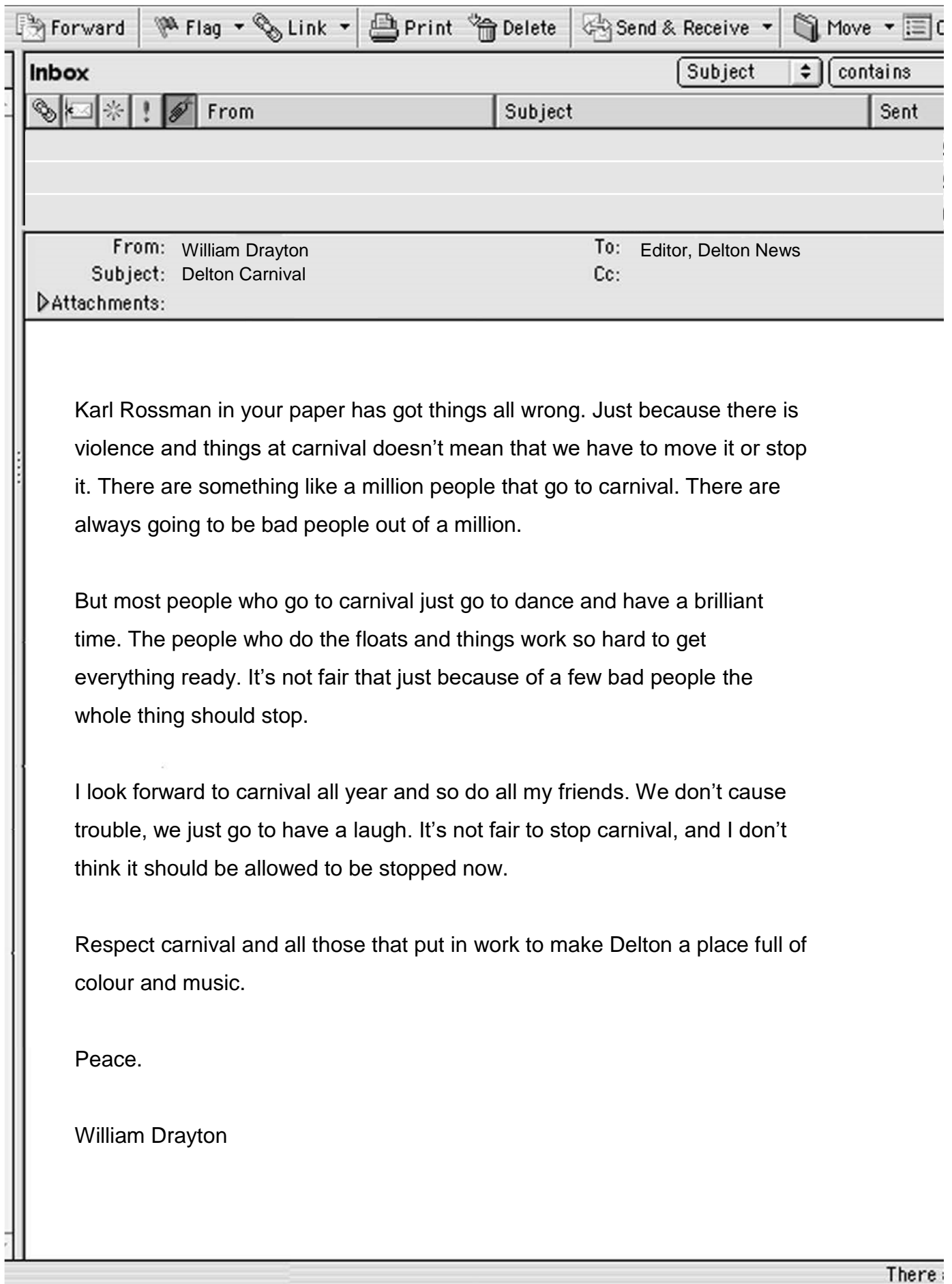
This undesirable element has no place in Delton. It is my opinion that no carnival, no matter how culturally valuable, should be allowed to continue under the present low standards of security and inadequate police presence.

The streets of Delton are entirely unsuitable for such an event. The narrow streets become dangerously congested every year, and are difficult to police. The deafening noise late into the evening has become unbearable. Drug use is widespread and vandalism results in tens of thousands of pounds' worth of damage to private property every year. The carnival must be moved to another location, and policing must be doubled - if not trebled - if the event is to continue.

Yours sincerely

*Karl Rossman*

Karl Rossman,  
Delton





# MEET THE PEOPLE



*Read our interviews with two of the million people at Delton this year: a musician and a policeman.*

**Carlton Williams, 63, head of The Blackstar Steel Band**

**H**IS band have won the carnival steel bands championship for the fifth year in a row, and Mr Williams has seen Delton carnival change radically in the thirty years since he moved from Trinidad. But the excitement remains.

'It's the two days in the year when everybody – I don't care what their sex, colour,



race or creed – can go and enjoy themselves with no inhibitions. It's the one time that my steel band can play to so many people here in Britain, and it's a great celebration of my culture. It's in my blood.'

The 100 members of his band have practised for six days a week to get ready and have decorated three floats. Mr Williams described it as 'a lot of hard work and no sleep' but would not change a thing. 'People have been talking about the violence at carnival and talking about more crowd control. But the way I see it, the carnival is a great advert for racial harmony. It does more for unity than any government scheme or institutional initiative.'



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## Constable Richard Carmichael

CONSTABLE CARMICHAEL has been having a tough two days, patrolling the three-mile route for twelve or more hours a day. 'I'd be interested to know just how far I've walked this weekend,' he laughs. 'I reckon I could have got to Brighton if I had gone in a straight line!'

His task has become more hazardous over the six years that he has patrolled the carnival. Crowds have



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burgeoned to more than 200,000 on Sunday, and an estimated 1 million on Saturday. But he has found this year's carnival crowd a generally positive bunch. 'It's been very good natured this year. We only had 37 arrests, and they were for relatively minor offences: 14 for drunkenness, 6 for possession of cannabis and only 3 for assaults.'

'The main job is arbitration, just making sure that little disputes

don't get out of hand. Like yesterday we had an incident over the price of an ice-cream. If I had been there that would have been settled in a few minutes. But you can't be everywhere. I don't think that people have become more violent or anti-social in the years that I've been here. It's just the sheer numbers in the crowds nowadays. But most people are just having a great time. Even I feel like dancing sometimes, though I resist the urge!'



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