

# CHESTER'S MIDSUMMER WATCH PARADE 2017

## Order of Procession

Drummer and Child  
Karamba Samba  
Watch Banner, Chester Guilds  
Bluecoat Boy  
Romans  
*Chester Roman Tours*  
Lord Mayor's Mount  
*The Lord Mayor of Chester,  
Cllr Razia Daniels*  
Cernunnos  
Green Men, Green Men Masks  
*Boughton Heath Primary School*  
Gaia  
Tree of Life  
Suns  
*Dee Point Primary School*  
Forest Samba  
*Sambadouro*  
Fish Banner, Shoal of Fish  
*Belgrave Primary School (Sat)  
Kelsall Primary School (Sun)*  
Pike and The Luce  
Pirate Banner, Pirate Crew  
*Mill View Primary School*  
Pirate Band  
The Motley Crew  
Pirate Ship, Pirate Boat  
Envy, Plenty, Fame & Mercury  
Angel Banner, Angels  
Cherry Grove Primary School  
Unicorn Banner  
Unicorn Brass Ensemble  
Unicorns  
Chester Blue Coat Primary School  
Stag  
Joy, Peace & Rumour  
The Dromedary Camel

The Bactrian Camel  
Balaam's Ass  
Minstrels  
*Wolfgate Border Morris*  
The Elephant & Herd of Elephants  
*UCF School*  
Chester Vikings  
St Werburgh  
Geese, Small Geese  
*Hoole Primary School*  
Raven Band  
*West Cheshire College*  
Raven & Flock of Ravens  
*Newton Primary School*  
Civil War  
Civil War Tours, Chester  
Minstrels  
Marinella  
The Giant Master  
Dave Roberts  
The Chester Family of Giants  
Hobby Horses, Jesters  
Dragon Banner, Dragons  
Minerva Arts  
Green Dragon, Black Dragon  
Hellmouth Banner, Hellmouth  
Fiery Monsters  
Upton Westlea Primary School  
Devil in Feathers  
Devil Band, Devils  
  
Artistic Director: *Russell Kirk*  
Production team: *Cheshire West  
and Chester Council & Russell Kirk*  
  
With thanks to: *Chester Cathedral,  
Chester Market, all our volunteers  
and Marshals*



[www.midsummerwatch.co.uk](http://www.midsummerwatch.co.uk)



Cheshire West  
and Chester



# CHESTER'S 2017 MIDSUMMER WATCH PARADE

**Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 June  
Starts 2pm Abbey Gateway**

In Tudor times, Chester's Midsummer Watch Parade was renowned throughout the country. First recorded in 1498, when it was organised by the City Guilds, this spectacular street procession was a joyous and colourful celebration of Midsummer's Eve.

The Giants were the outstanding feature of the Parade. Chester was unique in England for having a whole family of Giants - the Father, the Mother and two Daughters. There were also enormous Beasts - the Unicorn, the Camel, The Dragon and an Elephant ridden by a Cupid shooting arrows into the crowd. These fantastic structures were accompanied by musicians, hobby horses, angels, devils, green men and children in costume. There was a 'Merchants' Mount', a huge moving ship - a reminder that in those days Chester was an important port. The whole procession was led by a small child and the 'Ancient City Drum'.

The Midsummer Watch Parade was abandoned in the 1670s and revived in 1989. The Giants, Beasts and other structures are loosely based on contemporary records of the original parade. The 2017 Midsummer Watch Parade has been organised by Cheshire West and Chester Council, Changing Gear and The Friends of the Watch, supported by Chester Freemen and Guilds, Light Blue Touch Paper Arts Group and many local youth and community groups.

## **Parade Route**

**Abbey Gateway - Town Hall Sq. - St.Werburgh Street -  
Eastgate Street. - Bridge Street - Pepper Street - St. John's  
Street - Eastgate Street - Northgate Street - Abbey Sq.**

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