

Bank Holiday Madness And Fun In London



GNEWS NEWS

By Alexander Baron



57
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The August Bank Holiday, Sunday and Monday, is intended to be a time for enjoyment, to wind down, or even to escape to the coast. In London though, it means the Notting Hill Carnival, and often as not, the Notting Hill Carnival means trouble.

Founded in 1964, the Carnival is said to be Europe’s largest street festival. It is also a magnet for mayhem, which can include street robberies, and knifings just for the hell of it.

At the Carnival last year, a man was stabbed in the face and had his jaw broken in what appears to have been a totally unprovoked attack. On July 30 at Isleworth Crown Court, 38 year old Kirt Waldon was given a **fourteen year sentence** for that act of savagery.



Kirt Waldon

There is little if anything that can be done to prevent such lunacy, but the Metropolitan Police are taking action to pre-empt organised mayhem. On Tuesday, a massive operation – obviously intelligence-led – **resulted in** 62 arrests and the seizure of a firearm.

That will certainly make the Carnival a safer place, but for men and women with cameras and NUJ cards in their pockets, it won't make it a happier one. Journalists have been asked – asked indeed – to pay a £100 accreditation fee for access to press areas and a press tower for this year's event. It is not known how many have signed up for this *scheme*, but the NUJ **is boycotting it**.

Finally, if at times feisty crowds are not your scene, there is a two day festival – Saturday and Sunday – at Kings Cross. All events are free although some require registration. This will be a family-friendly affair, and is focused on knowledge and learning. There will be a children's book fair, and various workshops including music and photography. Full details can be found on the dedicated **Kings Cross website**.

57
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