

Title:

A Brief History Of The Fairground Industry

Word Count:

444

Summary:

A brief history detailing the development of the fairground industry in the United Kingdom

Keywords:

fairground, funfair, history, amusements

Article Body:

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

It is now generally accepted that their origins are from pagan customs of the people who first

The Romans did much to promote fairs by improving trade and communications throughout the coun

During the centuries following the departure of the Romans, many fairs and other festivals wer

Charters granted by the sovereign gave the fair legal status and an increasing importance in t

Merchants and traders from Europe, the Middle East and beyond were drawn to the great chartere

The sheer number of these fairs, no fewer than 4860 were chartered between the years 1200 and

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 th

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 agricultura

By the early eighteenth century the trading aspects of the charter fairs had waned and most fa

Around this time the first fairground rides began to appear, small crudely constructed out of

In 1868, Frederick Savage, a successful agricultural engineer from Kings Lynn, devised a meth

His invention, a steam engine mounted in the centre of the ride was to transform the fairground

Freed from the limitations of muscle power, rides could be made larger, more capacious and mor

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 a

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