

Chaddesden Carnival 6 June 2010
Muriel Evans - the First Carnival Queen - facing the camera.



29 girls applied to be the Carnival Queen, reduced to five finalists for the ballot that took place at the Gloria cinema, Nottingham Road, on 21 July 1939. The winner was 15 year old Muriel Evans of 22 Wiltshire Road. Mary Sherwin (12/14) of 249 Derby Road and Eileen Wright (13/14) of "Ingoldmells" Albert Road were selected as the Queen's attendants. (Different reports give different ages.)

The ballot was organised by Mr H Sylvester Hays, manager of the Gloria. The result was announced by Mr W H B Guy, president of the Chaddesden Hospital Fund Association and chairman of Chaddesden Parish Council.

Miss Evans was crowned at The Gloria by Judy Shirley, a BBC vocalist, the night before the Carnival which took place on Saturday 19 August 1939.

An old-fashioned landau, almost hidden under a mass of beautiful flowers, served as a coach for the Carnival Queen and her attendants when they headed a fancy-dress parade around the village in the afternoon.

Before the opening ceremony, flowers were placed on the grave of Mr J H Bullock, former chairman of Chaddesden Parish Council and pioneer of the Hospital Fund. The Carnival included a horticultural show, tug-of-war contests, children's sports, and numerous side shows.

[Derby Evening Telegraph, 22 July and 19 August 1939]

