

About the CISPP

The Carnivals In Somerset Promotion Project (CISPP) was formed in 2009 by a small group of carnivalites who were concerned that the unique heritage of the West Country illuminated carnivals could be lost in the future unless efforts were made to encourage more people to take part and support the tradition.

CISPP's aims are to:

Promote the historical and contemporary importance of the unique West Country illuminated carnivals

Disseminate an interactive carnival exhibition so that communities can experience the heritage and culture of West Country illuminated carnivals

Create educational and entertaining DVDs to portray the carnival experience

Stimulate tourism through West Country carnivals

Develop partnerships with interested groups to ensure the future of West Country illuminated carnivals



The mobile exhibition van can be booked to visit your school, community or other event to show-and-tell about West Country illuminated carnivals. The van contains an exhibition and audio-visual equipment to tell the story of illuminated carnival.

Visit our website at www.cispp.org.uk or telephone 01963 440472

Carnival Dates 2017

Wessex Grand Prix

Sturminster Newton	Sat 2 Sept	7.45pm
Mere	Sat 16 Sept	7.30pm
Frome	Sat 23 Sept	7.00pm
Shaftesbury	Sat 30 Sept	7.15pm
Gillingham	Sat 7 Oct	7.15pm
Wincanton	Fri 13 Oct	7.30pm
Castle Cary	Sat 14 Oct	7.00pm
Salisbury	Fri 20 Oct	7.30pm
Trowbridge	Sat 21 Oct	7.00pm
Warminster	Sat 28 Oct	7.00pm

South Somerset Federation

Wellington	Sat 30 Sep	7.00pm
Ilminster	Sat 7 Oct	7.15pm
Chard	Sat 14 Oct	7.30pm
Taunton	Sat 21 Oct	7.00pm

Somerset County Guy Fawkes Carnival Association

Bridgwater	Sat 4 Nov	7.00pm
Burnham-on-Sea	Mon 6 Nov	7.30pm
Weston-super-Mare	Fri 10 Nov	7.15pm
North Petherton	Sat 11 Nov	7.00pm
Shepton Mallet	Wed 15 Nov	7.30pm
Wells	Fri 17 Nov	7.00pm
Glastonbury	Sat 18 Nov	6.45pm

Also...

Blandford Forum	Sat 9 Sep	7.00pm
Midsomer Norton	Mon 13 Nov	7.30pm

Somerset's Illuminated Carnivals 2017 Guide



Carnivals In Somerset Promotion Project

www.cispp.org.uk

Somerset's 2017 Illuminated Carnivals

The tradition of illuminated carnivals in the West Country can be traced back to the religious celebrations that took place following the failure of the Gunpowder Plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament in 1605.

Somerset County Guy Fawkes Carnival Association

South Somerset Federation

Wessex Grand Prix

Illuminated carnival parades now take place in around 30 towns across the West Country between September and November each year.

Although Bonfire Night is now a major annual celebration across the UK, it is likely that the event was originally so keenly celebrated in Somerset because the population was predominantly Protestant.



From hay carts and torch light, the carnivals have developed into all-electric road shows with floats of up to 30 metres in length and up to 30,000 light bulbs.



From these beginnings over 400 years ago, carnival has spread across the West Country.



Other rural carnivals started in the 20th century, to celebrate the return of soldiers from the two World Wars or were initiated to raise funds for local hospitals and community facilities.