**AGM CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – 14th April 2019**

**Introduction**

CISPP continues to undertake a range of successful and sustainable projects which are continuing into 2019, celebrating a decade of this voluntary community organisation. These projects are the mobile exhibition van; the schools’ visits; creating educational, entertainment and promotional carnival DVDs; and producing and disseminating the annual carnival promotional leaflet.

**Mobile exhibition van**

The mobile exhibition van and team attended six summer events during 2018: Wellington Street Fair, Chard Party in the Park, Clutton Show, Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show, Mid-Somerset Show and Baltonsborough Show. The van attended 17 carnivals in Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire and Devon in 2018 for use as a PA system with active participation in the processions whilst also drawing attention to the project. Carnivals have been asked to pro-actively book the van for the 2019 processions and ideally be those that also contribute financially to CISPP. The van has been on the road since August 2010 (over 28,500 miles travelled). Future financing of the van will be the key pressure on and priority for fundraising for the future, though the van is in very good condition for a decade old and can potentially run for another 10 years.

**Schools’ project**

Schools visited by the CISPP mobile exhibition van in 2018 were: Preston Primary (Yeovil); Huish Primary (Yeovil), Manor Court Primary (Chard), Avishayes Primary (Chard), Ditcheat Primary, Stoberry Park Primary (Wells), and Ashcott Primary, 11 fewer than last year since in that year we did a particularly large project visiting schools in the Chard area at the request of Chard carnival for their 50th anniversary year. Over 70 different schools have been visited since 2011 (well over a total of 100 visits).

**Archive compilation DVDs**

The film of the decades compilation of iconic carts DVD remains popular since its launch in 2013 and its update in 2017 raising over £600 so far. This can potentially be updated again to incorporate the last couple of years and perhaps encourage another wave of sales. A new bygone clubs heritage DVD is still in production and is a longer-term project. A Christmas card carts DVD was produced and completed since the last AGM which has raised £850 and was a major fundraiser and success this year. A Halloween carts DVD is in production with many days of work attributed to this, but when nearing completion, unfortunately the Swift TV archive owner withdrew permission for use of footage which is an unexpected and disappointing development. This DVD and the bygones DVD can hopefully still go ahead using other archive footage despite this setback.

**Illuminated carnivals leaflet**

For the 2018 season, 20,000 leaflets providing the dates and times of the Somerset County, Wessex Grand Prix, South Somerset and independent illuminated carnivals were produced and distributed across the country for the ninth successive year from March, though not all were distributed due to tourist information centres only being able to take 100 at a time. Much appreciated donations town carnival committees covered some of the costs, but the funding was dependent on private sponsorship from BGW Solicitors to whom we are extremely grateful, especially as they have also sponsored the 2019 leaflet along with GW Publishing for 15,000 leaflets which were available by early March (thanks again to Paul Hansford for design work pro bono). We have emphasised to town committees that the leaflets can only be produced in the future if they contribute to the costs and it seems the message may be getting through.

**CISPP Carnival Live TV project**

For the fourth year, live broadcasts were streamed online from the official DVD productions, this year from Burnham-on-Sea and Glastonbury carnivals in association with Moving Art, featuring interviews with participants, and the first 30 minutes or so of the procession to advertise to a global audience and to encourage people to visit the carnivals and to purchase official DVDs which support carnival funds. This project was funded by the HLF for one year in 2015 but cannot continue this year due to the expense and organisational effort required.

**Key priorities for 2019:**

* Fundraising to continue the running of the exhibition van
* Sustainability of the schools’ project in terms of personnel to undertake visits, costs covered (but not prohibitive to schools), and visits reasonably spaced out around carnival time
* Emphasising that committees should support leaflet funding which in turn supports their events
* Continuing work on Halloween and bygones DVDs
* Encouraging other carnivalites to get involved either as members or helpers at specific events for the sustainability of CISPP

**Final comments**

Sadly, late last year we lost a former CISPP member and dedicated supporter, Kevin Knapp. The donations from his funeral last October were kindly given to CISPP and raised £1111.00 for which we are extremely grateful.

Finally, again thanks to the highly dedicated CISPP members who once again have voluntarily contributed much time and personal financial resources, incorporating school and event visits, participation in carnivals, leaflet production and administration/organisation. CISPP also values supporters and helpers, and sponsors/donating committees to keep the organisation financially sustainable. Here’s to the 10th anniversary of CISPP this month!

**Andrew Tallon, Chairman, CISPP**

**April 2019**