About 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

We can bring Carnival you — the CISPP Van!

Book our **mobile exhibition van** to visit your school, community or other events — to show-and-tell about West Country illuminated carnivals. Our van contains a static exhibition and audio-visual displays to tell the story of illuminated carnival.

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

Carnival Dates 2019

Wessex Grand Prix

Sturminster Newton	[to be confirmed]	
Mere	14 Sep	7.30pm
Frome	21 Sep	7.00pm
Shaftesbury	28 Sep	7.15pm
Gillingham	5 Oct	7.15pm
Wincanton	11 Oct	7.30pm
Castle Cary	12 Oct	7.00pm
Salisbury	18 Oct	7.30pm
Trowbridge	19 Oct	7.00pm
Warminster	26 Oct	7.00pm

South Somerset Federation

Wellington	28 Sep	7.00pm
Ilminster	5 Oct	7.15pm
Chard	12 Oct	7.30pm
Taunton	19 Oct	7.00pm

Somerset County Guy Fawkes Carnival Association

Bridgwater	2 Nov	6.00pm
Burnham-on-Sea	4 Nov	7.30pm
Weston-super-Mare	8 Nov	7.15pm
North Petherton	9 Nov	7.00pm
Shepton Mallet	13 Nov	7.00pm
Wells	15 Nov	7.00pm
Glastonbury	16 Nov	7.00pm

Also .....

Blandford Forum	7 Sep	7.00pm
Midsomer Norton	11 Nov	7.30pm

Correct at the time of printing

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The 2019 Guide to West Country Illuminated Carnivals

Wessex Grand Prix Circuit | **South Somerset Federation** | **Somerset County Guy Fawkes Carnivals**

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www.cispp.org.uk

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2019 West Country 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.

Weston-super-Mare
Burnham-on-Sea
Wells
Shepton Mallet
Glastonbury
Bridgwater
North Petherton
Taunton
Wellington
Ilminster
Chard
Midsomer Norton
Trowbridge
Warminster
Frome
Mere
Castle Cary
Wincanton
Gillingham
Salisbury
Shaftesbury
Sturminster Newton

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.