

# 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 to 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.

# Carnival Dates 2020

## WESSEX GRAND PRIX

Mere	19 Sep	7.00 pm
Frome	26 Sep	7.00 pm
Shaftesbury	3 Oct	7.15 pm
Gillingham	10 Oct	7.15 pm
Wincanton	16 Oct	7.30 pm
Castle Cary	17 Oct	7.00 pm
Salisbury	23 Oct	7.30 pm
Trowbridge	24 Oct	7.00 pm
Warminster	31 Oct	7.00 pm

## SOUTH SOMERSET FEDERATION

Wellington	26 Sep	7.00 pm
Ilminster	3 Oct	7.15 pm
Chard	10 Oct	7.30 pm
Taunton	17 Oct	7.00 pm

## SOMERSET COUNTY GUY FAWKES CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION

Bridgwater	7 Nov	6.00 pm
Burnham-on-Sea	9 Nov	7.30 pm
Weston-super-Mare	13 Nov	7.15 pm
North Petherton	14 Nov	7.00 pm
Shepton Mallet	18 Nov	7.30 pm
Wells	20 Nov	7.00 pm
Glastonbury	21 Nov	7.00 pm

## INDEPENDENT

Blandford Forum	12 Sep	7.00 pm
South Petherton	12 Sept	7.30 pm
Midsomer Norton	16 Nov	7.30 pm

# The 2020 Guide to West Country Illuminated Carnivals

Wessex  
Grand Prix  
Circuit

South  
Somerset  
Federation

Somerset County  
Guy Fawkes  
Carnivals



Produced by **Carnivals In Somerset Promotion Project**  
[www.cispp.org.uk](http://www.cispp.org.uk)

# 2020 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.



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



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.

Somerset County Guy Fawkes Carnival Association  
 South Somerset Federation  
 Wessex Grand Prix

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.

