



# Castle Cary & Ansford Carnival Society

Somerset's Family Carnival • established since 1977

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Outline

A Somerset Carnival Committee has just published its Programme for its carnival season, with an unusual and unique competition. Castle Cary's Carnival Programme is out, with information about next month's processions and no less than three competitions. A local artist has given his support by offering to make a portrait of the lucky winner of a draw in the Programme.

### Story

When local artist John Staib (see [www.staib.co.uk](http://www.staib.co.uk)) was approached by a member of Cary's Carnival Committee to help out with fund-raising this year, he offered to make a portrait of the winner of a draw, in the Carnival's 64-page Programme. John works in pastels and has completed over 250 portraits in the UK and abroad. CCACS Press Officer Paul Hansford said, "We are delighted that John has agreed to support us in this way: it's a fantastic and literally unique prize. I'm a fan of John's pastel work – he takes a lot of care, and has the knack of bringing out the personality of his subjects."

Paul added, "For logistical reasons, we are limiting entries to people who live within 10 miles of Cary – so the odds of winning must be pretty good. We've managed to keep the price of the Programme to £1 again this year, so it's even better value for money than ever."

Entry forms for the portrait competition are available in this year's Carnival Programme, which is on sale in shops in Castle Cary and from Carnival Committee members. The Programme is an essential guide to Cary's carnival season; this year, it also has a word-search competition to win a shopping voucher at the town's award-winning Martin's Stores, and a colouring competition for children.

### Background

**The Castle Cary & Ansford Carnival** is popularly known as "the family carnival". This year's Illuminated Evening Carnival takes place on Saturday 17 October; its Children's Carnival takes place on the afternoon of Saturday 10 October. These dates are one week later than in previous years.

Cary Carnival is sixth in the Wessex Grand Prix Circuit sequence of towns comprising Sturminster Newton, Trowbridge, Mere, Frome, Shaftesbury, Gillingham, Castle Cary & Ansford, Wincanton and Warminster. Local Carnival clubs include the Britannia Carnival Club and the Cary Comedians.

**John Staib** lives and works in Somerset. He uses various media including pencil, wax crayon, pastels, water-colours and oils. He has completed over 250 portraits in 5 years in the UK and abroad, most commissions coming from referrals. Currently, John's fees start at £500 for a drawing, £650 for a pastel, £1050 for an oil painting.

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