



Castle Cary & Ansford Carnival Society

Somerset's Family Carnival • established since 1977

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 11 May 2009

Outline

A variety company put on a sparkling show in Castle Cary last Friday. In aid of the Castle Cary carnivals, the Vintage Varieties cast returned to the town for a fourth time, to perform a splendid show of music and dance. The event was attended by 60 folk, many in period costume, and raised over £570 for carnival funds.

Story

The Constitutional Club in Castle Cary was the scene for the return of Vintage Varieties company, to perform a wide range of standard songs from the twenties, thirties and forties. The cast of Colin Martin, Mary Buckle, Vivienne Patterson-Evans, David Evans, Bryan Hallett and Charmaine Bray were ably supported by musical director Lynne Merrifield, Ralph White on drums and compere James Buckle. They covered favourites from the tongue twisting Sister Susie's Sewing Shirts For Soldiers through jazz standard Sweet Georgia Brown to the evergreen White Cliffs Of Dover. With frequent costume changes and some imaginative stage moves, the show included song-a-longs for the audience of around 60 folk, many of whom came in costume.

The show, which included a supper provided by Carnival committee members, raised a net profit of around £400 for Cary carnival funds. Carnival Secretary Sue Stockman said, "We are very pleased with the turnout and, as ever, Vintage Varieties gave us a great show."

Background

The Castle Cary & Ansford Carnival is popularly known as "the family carnival". Its illuminated Evening Carnival takes place annually on the evening of the second Saturday in October; a Childrens' Carnival takes place on the afternoon of the preceding Saturday.

The 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.

The Vintage Varieties Company is a group of old hands who, many years ago, decided that what the Great British Public needed was a good old knees up around the Joanna. They have performed breath-taking melodramas, daring feats of magic and mesmerising demonstrations of terpsichore in village halls and Scout huts throughout the area, all without the aid of a safety net.

The company includes Musical Director Lynne Merrifield and Ralph 'Dhobi' White on percussion. The cast includes James Buckle and Charmaine Bray, Mary Buckle, David Evans, Bryan Hallett, Colin Martin and Vivienne Patterson-Evans.

Photo

Cast of the Vintage Varieties Company (attached)



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