

Community & Leisure

Beeston Carnival Internationally acclaimed author entertains audience at Chilwell Theatre *by the Editor*

IT'S time to start looking for Beeston's Carnival Princess and Prince!

The Carnival this year will take place on Saturday, July 10. We need a Carnival Prince and Princess to lead the Carnival Parade from Beeston Square along the High Road before acting as Beeston's very own mini-celebrities for the day, visiting the displays, exhibitions and stands on Broadgate Park and adding a touch of glamour to the high-octane event.

Our applicants need to be aged between 8 and 11 and live locally. Being Princess and Prince is a wonderful chance to dress up for a day, lead a parade, and have

grown-ups fuss around, take photographs, and make sure all is well. In a nutshell, be someone very special for a day. This year, for the very first time, our Princess will be crowned with a special and exclusive Carnival Tiara provided by Onyx Jewellers of Beeston.

If you would like to be considered as Prince or Princess, please complete the form and send it, with a recent head and shoulders photograph, to: *The Beeston Express, PO Box 7440, Beeston, Notts, NG9 1ZS*, to arrive no later than Monday, May 24.

We will publish photos of the entrants and ask *Beeston Express* readers to vote. Those selected will be notified by phone as soon as possible after the closing date.

LOUIS de Bernieres, author of *'Captain Corelli's Mandolin'*, came to Chilwell Theatre on Friday, April 30, under the auspices of the Village Venture touring theatre scheme. With him was the flautist Ilone Antonius-Jones and between them, they held the audience rapt with their music and poetry.

A number of the audience were not so enraptured as to render them unable to provide a neat percussion rhythm backing to some of the fine music played by the duo.

Before the concert began, Ilone had distributed an 'interesting' collection of hand-held percussion instruments amongst the audience, requesting that they join in as and where appropriate. With the more easily recognisable maracas, tambourines, triangles

and bongos were some decidedly ethnic and unusual instruments – such as (the audience was told) a set of dead goat's toe nails tied together with an embroidered ribbon and to be jangled in time with the music. The sound could be described as not dissimilar to what one might expect of a bundle of empty mollusc shells similarly tied and jangled!

But back to the real reason for the best turnout since the 'Paradiso' community cinema was launched at Chilwell School last year.

There had been a real buzz of excitement as the theatre filled to brimming with an audience anticipating a memorable evening of music and readings from this world-renowned author and the acclaimed flautist. They were not disappointed.

The evening proved a seamless blend of music from Eastern Europe, Ireland and Latin America, from medieval to baroque and Renaissance, from folk to classic.

It began on the lively note of 'Chirping of the Nightingale', the audience finding their rhythm and joining in, quietly at first and then with more confidence.

Louis de Bernieres may be a well known author, but he also happens to be an accomplished musician with an eclectic range of stringed instruments, such as the fine hand-made 'mandolyre' designed by himself, or the charango – an ethnic stringed instrument made out of nothing other than the shell of a (dead) armadillo!

The music and some poignant poetry readings

were connected with a stream of bad jokes, many of them directed at Louis himself, and the audience loved it.

The first solo note from the alto flute played by Ilone Antonius-Jones was one of those 'hair standing up on the back of the neck' moments. My notes say 'Pavane' but nothing more. All I can tell you is that this is the first time I have consciously listened to an alto flute, and I was instantly smitten.

Also on flute, 'El condor pasa' was familiar to many as the music of 'If I Would' by Simon and Garfunkel, but in a completely different guise.

Having Louis de Bernieres here was a huge coup for the Chilwell Theatre.

Let's hope we can look forward to more of a similar ilk!

Beeston Carnival Entry Form

I would like to be considered for Beeston's Carnival Princess/Prince (delete as appropriate).

My full name is: _____

I live at: _____

My telephone number is: _____

I am _____ years old

I go to _____ school

Please answer this short question, which tells us a little bit about you as a person. Voters will be able to take this into consideration when they make their choice.

The thing I like most about living in my community is: _____

Now get the form signed by one of your parents or the person who looks after you, and ask them to attach a recent head and shoulders photograph of you before returning the form to *The Beeston Express*, PO Box 7440, Beeston, Notts, NG9 1ZS.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Beeston Players present

No Dinner for Sinners

by Edward Taylor

7.30pm. Wednesday, May 12 – Saturday, May 15
 Round Hill School, Beeston

Tickets: £5 (conc £4) on the door

JIM Watt has a problem. His boss, the president of 'Moral Outrage' is coming to dinner and Jim needs a wife quickly to keep up appearances. Unfortunately his girlfriend, Helen, has walked out. In desperation, Jim turns to his cleaning lady, Edna, to play the part.

Chaos ensues, and when Helen unexpectedly reappears, followed by Jim's secretary, Terri, Jim has a lot of explaining to do...

Wollaton concert raises funds for Africa

BESTWOOD Male Voice Choir was in good voice as it performed a concert at Grangewood Methodist Church, Wollaton, in March.

The concert was held to raise funds for the proposed visit of nine people from the Wollaton church to South Africa where they will join the 'Desmond Tutu Build' with the charity 'Habitat for Humanity' to help build a house in a Cape Town townships.

The choir's repertoire for the evening covered many different musical styles and included a selection of African songs, carefully selected

in view of the concert's fundraising aim. They were ably led by conductor Mirek Russ and accompanied by Glenys Skidmore on piano.

The concert boosted funds by £800.

Two more concerts will be held at Grangewood Church in June. On Saturday, June 12, 'Reflections', a guitar and flute duo, will provide relaxing music for a summer evening.

Then on Friday, June 25, you are invited along to listen to 'The Carousel Singers' with the Attenborough Handbell Ringers.

'Spring Serenade' at Chilwell Road

A GROUP of singers which specialises in the English Madrigal School of the Elizabethan and Jacobean period and performs mostly 'a cappella' secular vocal music will perform at Chilwell Road Methodist Church on Saturday, May 22, at 7.30pm.

Under their founder Piotr Wisniewski, Farnaby & Co will present a concert entitled 'Spring Serenade'.

The group has been singing together since 1993 and their concerts have included appearances at Leicester Early Music, the University of Nottingham (where they performed to an international audience)

and at Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire, where they sang Elizabethan madrigals in a thoroughly authentic setting. They have also given a highly acclaimed concert performance of Purcell's 'Dido and Aeneas'.

Recent concerts have included music by Brahms, Bach, Handel, Sullivan and European 17th century composers, as well as music of the English Madrigal School.

Tickets are £5 (£4 in advance), student/child £2 and can be obtained from the church office – (0115) 943 1164.