

The King Arthur evening event was a great success

and practically sold out.

Anonymous report on SWING A RING A DING CHRISTMAS at the King Arthur Hotel, Reynoldston, Gower, December 6th:

"It was a typical December evening on Gower. Travelling to Reynoldston - from whatever direction - meant braving the heavy rain and the bitterly cold wind, while avoiding the wandering sheep.

The King Arthur Hotel provided a lovely warm and cosy haven - the ideal place to start the season's festivities with the Gower Festival's cheery invitation to participate in a "Swing a Ring a Ding Christmas" - and it delivered just that - in spades.

This is the second time the Gower Festival has spread its activities wider than the fortnight in July, which is when audiences get the opportunity to enjoy the finest professional performers of international repute, in the glorious setting of Gower's fabulous churches. This new 'fringe' activity is proving to be a very popular method of publicising the Festival and is a clever way of attracting a new and different audience. Having enjoyed "Swinging and Ringing and Dinging" so much last Wednesday, I, for one, am now anxious to attend the Festival proper and I'll be putting the July dates in my new 2024 diary - which Santa will shortly deliver.

Let me tell you some more... We had time to dine in the King Arthur's Avalon Suite, which was bedecked in Christmas finery, whilst a small section of the Gower Festival Big Swing Band played some cool 'Dinner Jazz'. Nice! The TV Comedian Noel James - a semi-finalist in one of the popular Saturday evening shows, Britain's Got Talent, entertained after the food and then it was time to work off the calories with some first-class swing music from the Big Band. Glen Miller, Count Basie, Artie Shaw - they all featured - and vocalists Sarah Meek and Dave Cottle warbled magnificently. The dance floor was packed as everyone jumped to join in. There was plenty of Christmas music as well and the band leader Griff Harries kept the music flowing and kept us all smiling. It was a lovely, fun evening.

I look forward to doing it all again very soon - and I really look forward to the Gower Festival proper in July. Mr Festival Organiser - you have gained a new follower! Anon."

