



THE SOUTH LONDON MAGIC SOCIETY



"That's the way to do it"

**Professors Chippy Wood and Paul Jackson
on the history of Mr. Punch
August 2014**



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Punch and Judy by Paul Jackson and Chippy Wood.

Gary opened the evening thanking those members who participated in last month's Stage Competition. He reminded us that next month will be the Close Up Competition with a maximum of 10 competitors. Please email Gary as soon as possible if you would like to enter. He encouraged new members to join in, reminding us that we have a Virgin Cup in this competition for any member who has never entered the competition before. It is possible for a new member to win both cups.

Charlie Chuckles has contacted Gary saying that he has a friend who is organising a talk on the history of playing cards to be held at Green Street Green on 4/9/14 at 8pm. Tickets cost £2.

Gary then introduced Chippy and Paul. Paul's splendid booth was already up when we arrived, identifying him as Professor Imperious.

Chippy started by playing a couple of tunes on his accordion. A man of many talents!

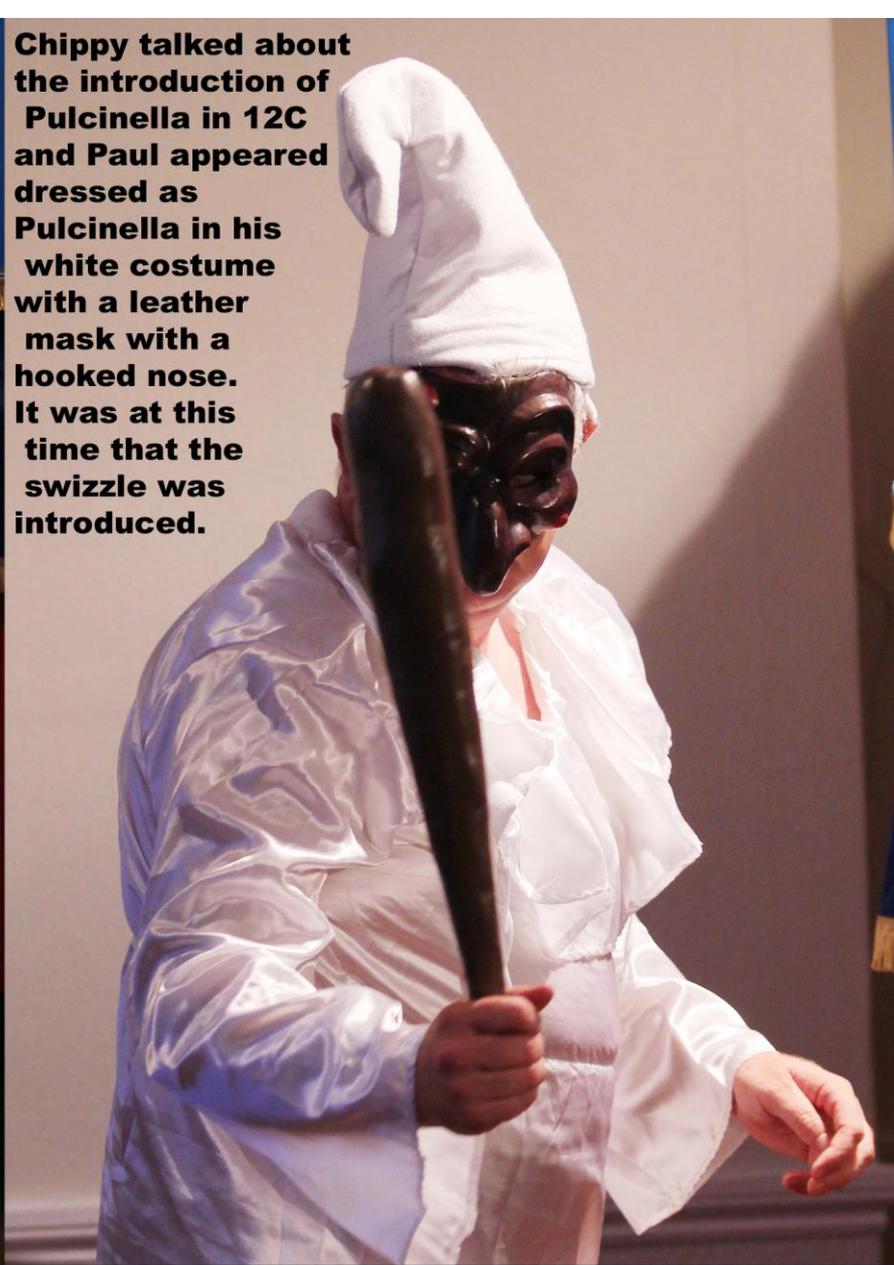


Chippy started to tell us a potted history of Punch dating back to Greek and Roman theatre. Paul overcame some technological gremlins to present the first half of his Punch and Judy show including his rather gorgeous crocodile.





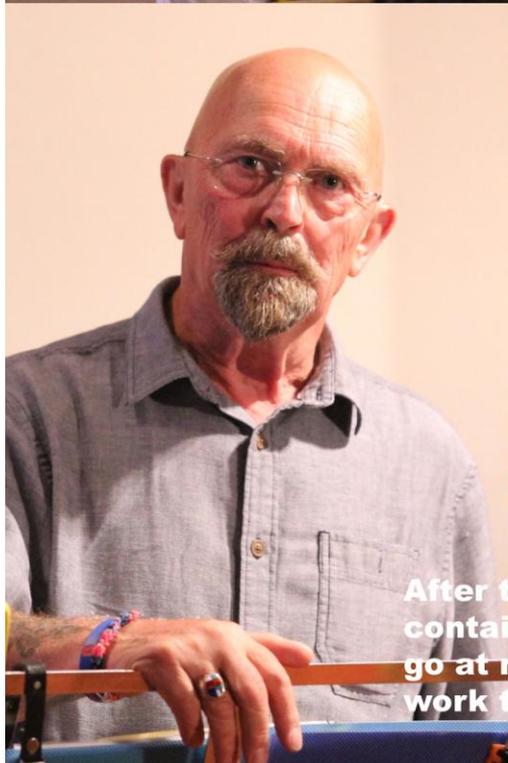
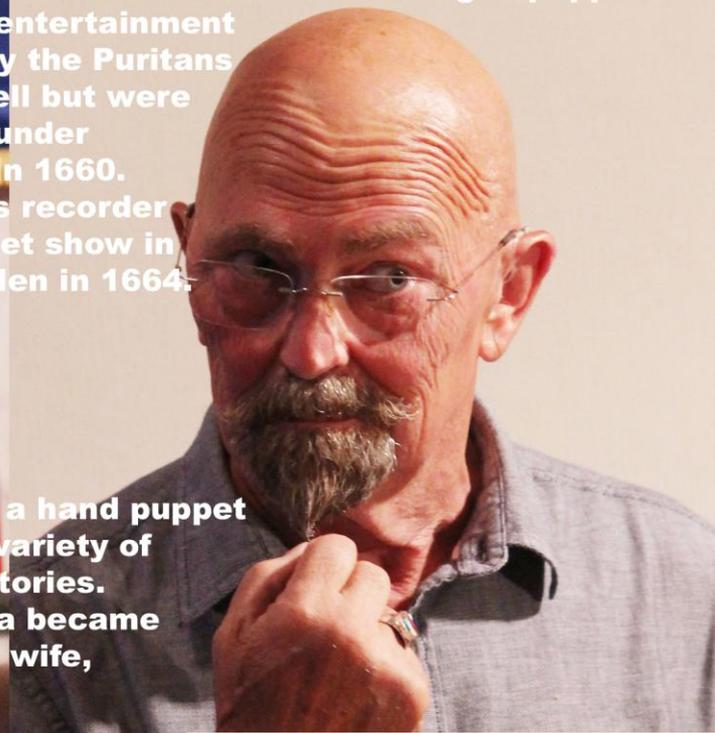
Chippy talked about the introduction of Pulcinella in 12C and Paul appeared dressed as Pulcinella in his white costume with a leather mask with a hooked nose. It was at this time that the swizzle was introduced.





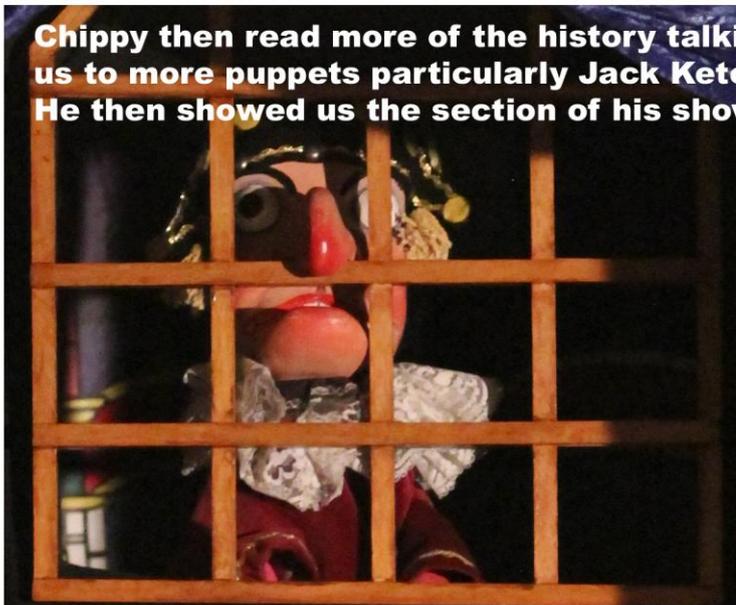
Pulcinella turned from an actor to a stringed puppet in Italy. Such entertainment was banned by the Puritans under Cromwell but were reintroduced under King Charles in 1660. Samuel Pepys recorder seeing a puppet show in Coventry Garden in 1664.

Pulcinella then became a hand puppet and was used to tell a variety of stories, often biblical stories. In the 1800s Punchinella became Punch and Joannie, his wife, became Judy.



After the interval Paul handed out carefully prepared packages containing everything needed to make a swazzle. We all had a go at making one and several people were able to make them work to some extent.

Chippy then read more of the history talking about Poccini Paul then introduced us to more puppets particularly Jack Ketch the Hangman. He then showed us the section of his show featuring the hangman.







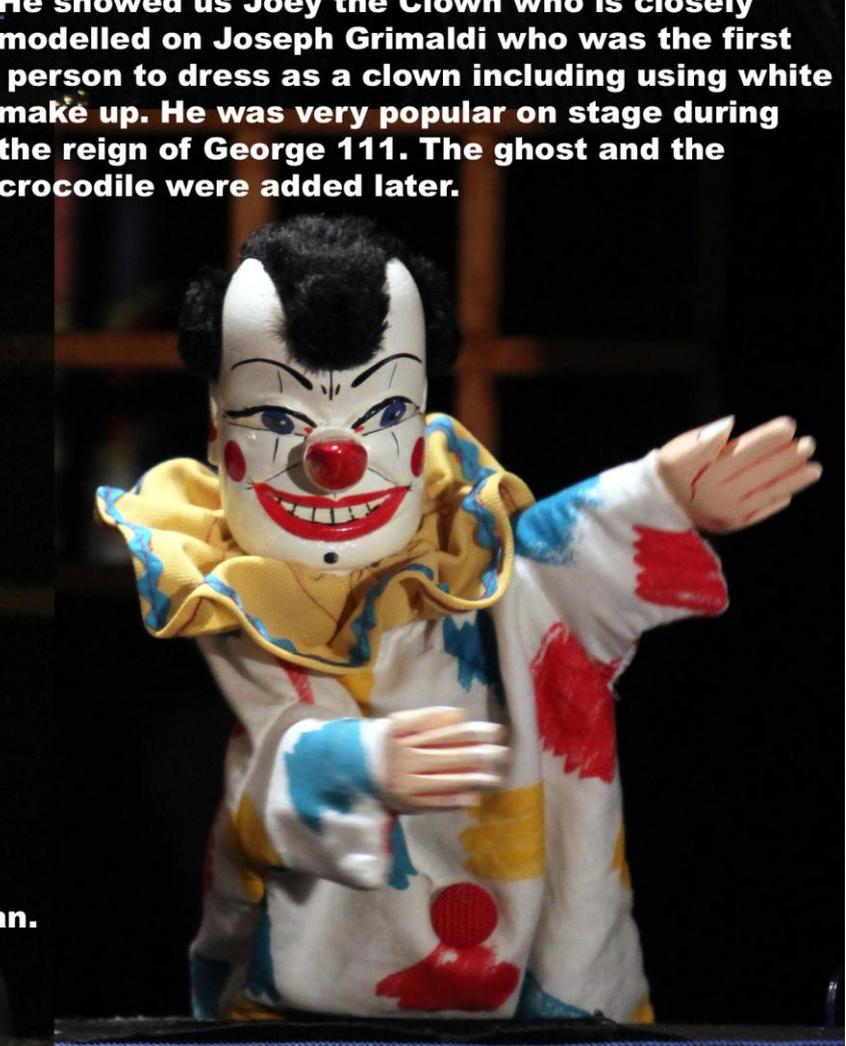
The policeman was added complete with truncheon, handcuffs and rattle.

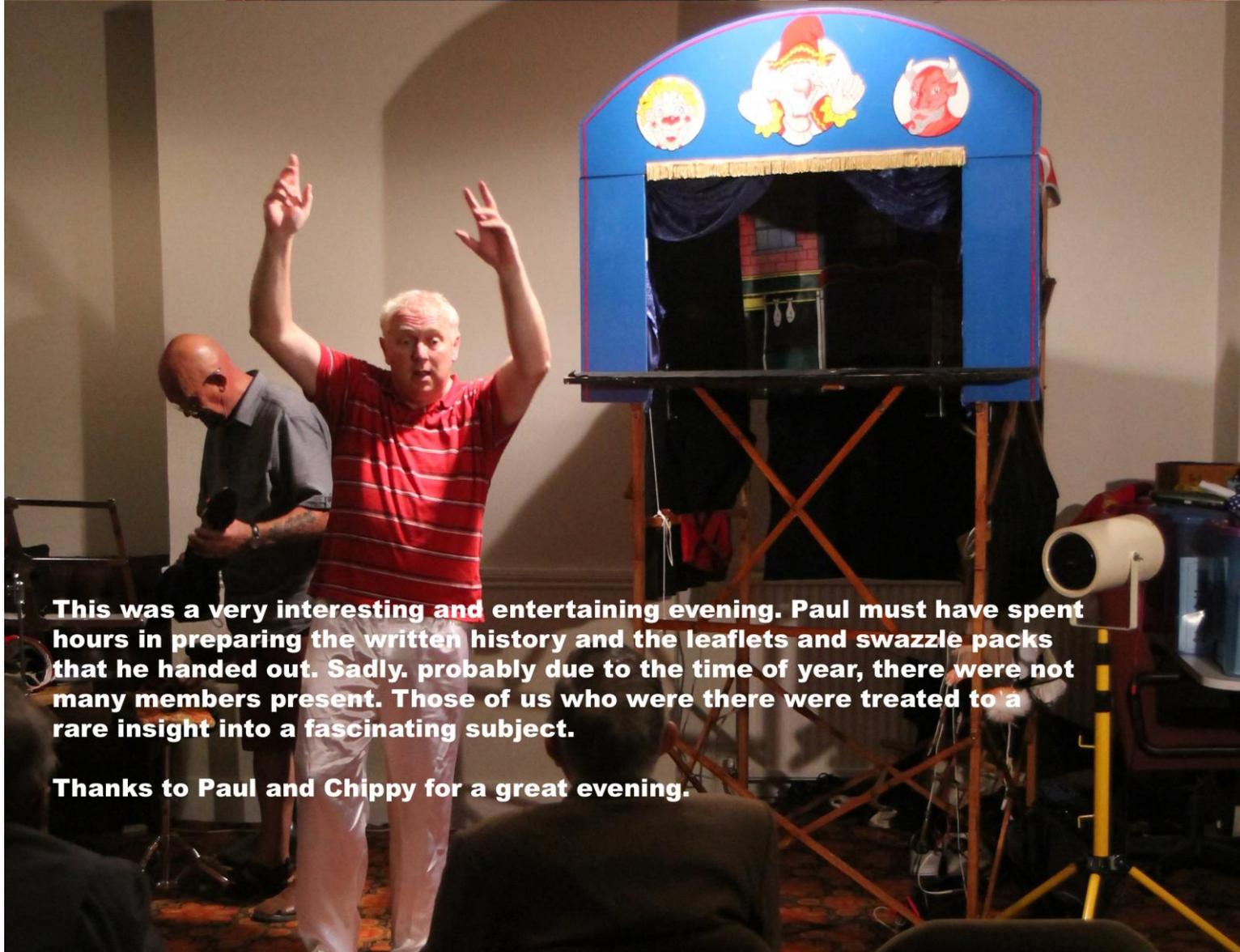


He showed us Joey the Clown who is closely modelled on Joseph Grimaldi who was the first person to dress as a clown including using white make up. He was very popular on stage during the reign of George 111. The ghost and the crocodile were added later.



Chippy took over in the booth to show his part of the show with the policeman.





This was a very interesting and entertaining evening. Paul must have spent hours in preparing the written history and the leaflets and swazzle packs that he handed out. Sadly, probably due to the time of year, there were not many members present. Those of us who were there were treated to a rare insight into a fascinating subject.

Thanks to Paul and Chippy for a great evening.