

Lindfield Bonfire Society Newsletter

August 2020

Welcome

The Committee hope you and your families are all keeping safe and well during these unprecedented time.

We start this newsletter with a statement from our Chairman Paulus Smith.

A message from our Chairman

I'm sure that all members of the Lindfield Bonfire Society, as well as most of the residents of the village, will be very disappointed that the LBS committee has had to come to the decision to cancel this year's bonfire celebrations.

The committee decided in March, at the beginning of lockdown, that it would carry on planning to hold Bonfire Night until such time that it would be unfeasible to continue, and at a specially convened meeting last Thursday it was decided that we should bow to the inevitable and cancel the evening.

It is very, very rare for us to cancel Bonfire Night and it is only done after much discussion and always with a heavy heart. However the safety of the public and of our members has always got to be our upper most concern - we have never before had to deal with the dangers of a global pandemic!

Many of the other Sussex Bonfire Societies had already decided to cancel their celebrations which would mean that we would have to plan for far larger crowds than our usual ten or twelve thousand and although the council and police were supportive of our plans to continue, they have pointed out that it would be our responsibility to enforce social distancing throughout the evening, not just for our members but for the entire crowd. Anyone who has attended our event will know that this would be practically impossible.

We enjoy a huge body of support throughout the village and beyond and we want to thank the services, local agencies and commercial concessions that are involved in Bonfire Night as well as all the people of Lindfield for their backup and trust that we will enjoy the same support and enthusiasm when we are back next year!

All the best and keep safe

Paulus
Chairman LBS

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Society Events

Sadly since March we've had to cancel many of the events and fund raising activities our Society had planned for the year such as the annual dinner, Vintage & Antiques Fair, Village Day. We hope you will accept our apologies for this and understand the reasons why we have had to do this. We continue to plan towards holding future events and continue to review the ability to do this within current regulations.

The Society AGM

Regretfully we still do not have a date for this year's Society AGM. The Committee will continue to review the situation around social distancing and the availability of the KEH to hold this meeting and update you all when we know more.

Fundraising

On a brighter note, the Committee is continuing to fundraise so we can make our usual charitable donations to Chestnut Tree House, CLAPA, Court Meadow Riding for the Disabled, Orchard House and Kangaroos. We have a number of exciting ideas in the planning stages, and we'll keep you all informed. Here are two events we have confirmed so far.

Drive Sale - Monday 31st August, 11am – 3pm - 18 Beckworth Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2EH

All the stock we had amassed for Village Day will be set out for sale, why not drop by and bag a bargain? There will be cold drinks available for purchase too. We will also have LBS merchandise for sale, including the 2021 Lindfield Village Calendar.

'Not Badge Night' Picnic - Lindfield Common - Date to be confirmed

Sadly it is not possible to hold our Badge Night in the Stand Up Inn as we usually do, so we have decided to hold a picnic on the Common instead. Please do come along, bringing your own food and drink (perhaps a take away pint from the Stand Up?). This is your opportunity to purchase this year's LBS badge, renew membership and just enjoy some socially distanced company.

Easy Fundraising – how you can raise funds for LBS as you shop online.

LBS members have raised £321.89 since August 2019 when we started using easyfundraising!

If you shop online through the easyfundraising portal you can raise FREE donations for Lindfield Bonfire Society. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use #easyfundraising to shop with them!

Please sign up and support us:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lindfbonfsociety/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_content=gs

If you have any queries or problems signing up or using Easy Fundraising please let Sarah know and we'll help you out. Sarah can be contacted by emailing lindfieldbonfiresoc@gmail.com

Just Giving

Earlier this year it became clear that many of our planned fundraising events would have to be cancelled, so the Committee decided to set up a Just Giving page in order to continue to raise funds for Nov 5th. So far £145 has been donated. Here's the link, please go and have a look and perhaps share it with your friends.

<https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/lindfieldbonfiresociety>

First Aid Certificates & Training

Our Logistics Secretary Matt Wilcock is looking for members who have valid First Aid Certificates to help provide cover at our events, or who may be interested in attending a basic first aid course. If you can help or are interested please email us at lindfieldbonfiresoc@gmail.com

Membership

Our Membership Secretary Mike Webster is always on hand to help with any questions you have on being a member of the Society, and is more than happy to help you with sorting out renewals or lapsed memberships. Mike can be contact by emailing memberslbs@gmail.com

And finally...

We wish you all the best and we all look forward to things next year being much improved and, of course, we will be working towards a bigger and better night on November 5th 2021 to make up for this year's disappointment!

With Regards,

The Chairman and Committee of Lindfield Bonfire Society

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