

LINDFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2023



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A Note from the Editor...

Hello and welcome to the winter edition of the LBS newsletter.

At the time of writing, we have just ended the 2023 Bonfire season. LBS members attended outmeetings almost every weekend from September to mid-November. In this edition we have a review and some pictures from the season.

And of course, we hosted our own Bonfire Night festivities on 4th November (the 5th was on a Sunday and in years when it falls on a Sunday we hold it on the 4th). We also have a review of our night.

I'm not going to lie – the last year has been a real challenge for those of us charged with the running of the Society after the cancellation of the fireworks in 2022. It has been hard to stay resilient in the face of vitriol spouted by keyboard warriors, who seem to know better with their 20/20 hindsight. We licked our wounds, learnt from the experience and made changes where needed.

The first firework launching therefore on the 4th was, as I am sure you can imagine, a real cause for celebration for everyone involved, and proof that teamwork really does make the dream work! We also received some wonderful feedback, which made it all worthwhile.

To everyone who helped, whether helping to raise the funds to pay for our night, making torches, helping to set up the common on the day, tidy up afterwards and everything else, **THANK YOU!**

With very best wishes

Stew

Stewart Rose
Press Secretary



Our justgiving QR code is still open if you would like to donate to our 2023 costs. Scan the QR code to go to our page.



Lindfieldbonfiresociety.co.
uk

 Lindfield Bonfire Society

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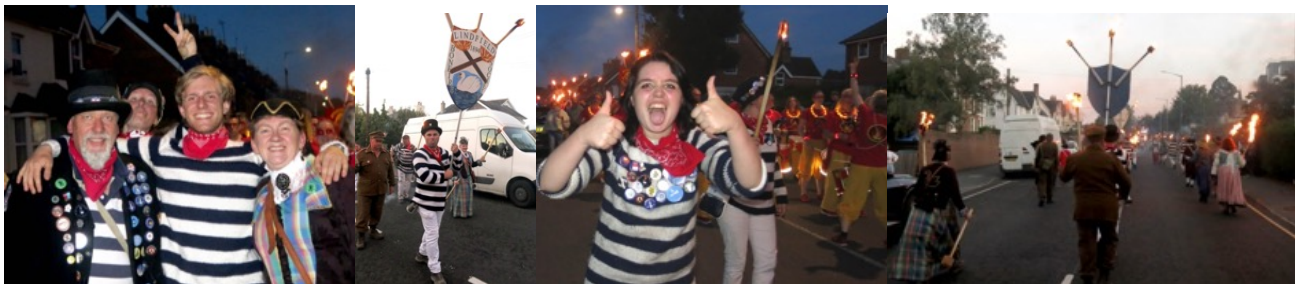
 Lindfield_Bonfire

2023 Bonfire season in review

Uckfield - 2 September

Our traditional season-opener took place in Uckfield. It's always strange because it is warm and light – two things that are not usually found in the bonfire season!

Indeed, it was so summer-like that some members managed to get stung by wasps during a break in the procession!



Mayfield - 16 September

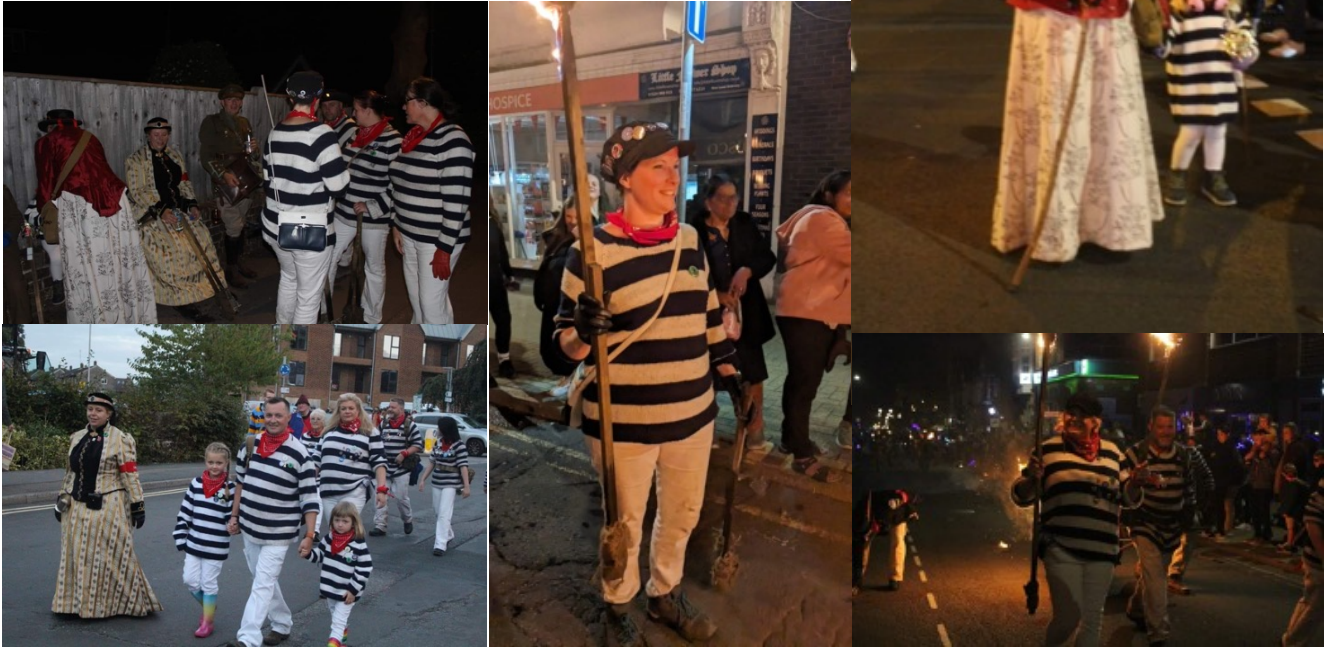
Next up after Uckfield was the Mayfield Carnival. This evening is a firm favourite of the LBS faithful. Another unseasonably warm evening. It was also a big night for Lisa too who attended her first outmeeting!



2023 Bonfire season in review (continued)

Burgess Hill - 30 September

A short ride down the road for this outmeeting. Despite being unable to retain the trophy for the tar barrel racing, we still had a great night!



Eastbourne - 7 October

Next up after Burgess Hill was a trip to the seaside in Eastbourne. We welcomed new members Freya and Georgia to our ranks. The bonfire was very hot!



2023 Bonfire season in review (continued)

Hastings - 14 October

Hastings is a firm favourite outmeeting in our season, with a number of members booking hotels to stay over and make a weekend of it. A nice procession through the old town, followed by the bonfire and fireworks on the beach, followed by a trip to The Carlisle for the more adventurous night owls...



East Grinstead - 21 October

We received an invitation to attend new-kids-on-the-block East Grinstead's evening and couldn't resist! Bradley Bover, LBS' young member of the year, carried the LBS shield for the first time.



2023 Bonfire season in review (continued)

Newick - 28 October

Another Local outmeeting for us is down the road at Newick. With just a week to go before our night, it's the last opportunity to have some fun before the real work begins.



Chailey - 11 November

The week after our night, we were on the road again to our neighbours Chailey for their night. This was the best-attended outmeeting for a long time, with 24 LBS members making the short trip to Chailey.



2023 Bonfire season in review (continued)

Barcombe - 18 November

Our final outmeeting of the season always goes with a bang at Barcombe. A lovely procession through this usually quiet village, except for this one night of the year...



Lindfield's Bonfire Night - 4 November 2023

The weather gods had not been kind to us again in the run up to our night, with Storm Ciaran providing heavy rain and strong winds. Despite this, torch-dipping on the Friday, proved to be a pleasant day weather-wise, with the aroma of kerosene hanging in the air as we dipped over 600 torches ready for the day after. It's fair to say we stank of kerosene as we enjoyed a pint in the Standup Inn afterwards!

At 6.30am on the morning of the 4th, intrepid volunteers assembled on the Common in the pouring rain, to embark on the mighty task of preparing the Common for the evening. Unlike other societies, who can do this over a number of days due to their event being on private land, we have the Common for only one day, so have to race to get as much done as possible.

As soon as the firesite was fenced off, the task of building the bonfire commenced. A steady stream of pallet crates were carried from the Lewes Road entrance of the Common to avoid damaging it with vehicles.

While this was happening, the Guy emerged from his temporary home (sideways), and was taken to his place for the day outside Cottenhams Butchers, keeping LBS members company who manned a street collection





The three crosses in the image above represent the three LBS members that we have lost in the last year: David Hobbs, Liz Honeysett and Phil "Kempy" Kemp.

Arriving at the Common, the Guy was transferred to the Bonfire, and the traditional Bonfire Prayer was recited, before the fire was lit.

Lindfield's Bonfire Night - 4 November 2023 (continued)

As night descended on Lindfield, visiting societies started to turn up, ready for the evening's festivities.

At the appointed time, the procession formed up. Led by our Harbour Master, David Riddle, with music provided by Burgess Hill Marching Youth Band, the procession moved off.





Lindfield's Bonfire Night - 4 November 2023 (continued)

Then came the fireworks...



And then it was over. A year of planning, culminating in a few well-deserved drinks



The editor did not realise that his wife had two identical twins!

With the display over, and the crowds heading home to dry out, LBS wombles deployed to the High Street to pick up litter. In Lewes, the council provides rubbish collection services, but in Lindfield we receive no such support, so we do it ourselves. The fire was finally extinguished at 2.30am, with the last LBS helpers heading for bed for a few hours sleep.

The morning after, we turned out again, this time to tidy the Common. Litter was picked up, fire ash and nails picked up, and we handed the Common back to the community – yet again in a better state than how we received it 24 hours previously.

The night was a success because of the contribution of so many LBS members and volunteers over the preceding 12 months. To you all, **THANK YOU!**

For anyone interested, here is a youtube clip from the evening made by LBS member Mike Anton:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9p03jqZZE9M>

Lindfield Bonfire Society wishes to thank the following local businesses who supported us this bonfire Night:

Cottenhams Craft Butchers for their sponsorship of the Guy

KPS for much-needed wood mulch

WTP Scaffolding for the Bonfire Bishop's stand

Archers Waste Disposal for taking away the rubbish that we collected

The Lindfield Club

The Standup Inn

St Francis' Social Club

Some feedback from Bonfire Night...



Tony Toni Tonee

5 November at 21:15 · 🌐

Well done to the [Lindfield Bonfire Society](#) for a great evening last night. Despite the weather, Guy burned and the fireworks went down a treat!



Stephan Sanner

7 November at 18:53 · 🌐

My first guy fawkes fireworks in Lindfield! Thanks for a wonderful spectacle.



Cara Cotton

4 November at 23:40 · 🌐

Sensational ❤️



Tony Toni Tonee

Such a fun night!

2 w Like Reply Share



Julie Mason

Another great evening well done LBS

2 w Like Reply Share



Caroline Rogers

5 November at 13:42 · 🌐

Thank you so much for a fantastic parade and display last night. Spectacular and loved by my whole family!

Upcoming events

Lindfield Christmas Shopping Night - 5 December 6pm - 8pm

LBS will have a stall outside the Standup Inn for this late night shopping event

Sussex Association of Bonfire and Carnival Societies Annual Carol Concert - 10 December 3pm in Uckfield

Join us as we process to the church in Uckfield for a very unique and bonfire-y carol service like no other you've seen before!

First Bonfire - 30 Jan 2024 at The Witch Inn

Join us for our first event of 2024 as we commemorate the First Bonfire. Our good friends from Skulldrummary will be in attendance making some noise!

Fundraising News

Don't forget EasyFundraising!

These days, many of us are buying more and more items online. By registering and making purchases through [easyfundraising.co.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.co.uk), LBS receives a percentage of the sale at no additional cost to you.

So if you're thinking of changing your utility supplier, insurer, book a hotel break, or just want to buy someone a gift, use **EasyFundraising** as your first point of call.

Thousands of retailers will donate for free



To date, online purchases through **EasyFundraising** has raised £896.91 for LBS.

Start today with EasyFundraising by going to:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lindfbonfsociety/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=clipboard&utm_content=rm-cpl

Membership and Society News

Need to renew your membership?

Remember that you are only allowed to participate in LBS events like torch carrying if a paid up member so as to be covered by our insurance. If you need any help, please contact our Membership Secretary, Mike Webster for information on memberslbs@gmail.com .

If you know of someone who would like to join the Society, then check out our website for full details for information on the different types of membership at www.lindfieldbonfiresociety.co.uk/membership



Mike Webster
Membership Secretary
and Captain of Ranks

Finally, may we be the first to wish you a very happy Christmas!

