

# LINDFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024



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## A Note from the Editor...

Hello and welcome to our summer 2024 newsletter.

Preparations are well underway for Bonfire Night 2024 which will this year be held on Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup>. There's an update on page 2.

The Committee has also decided on the charities that it will be supporting with its street collection on November 5<sup>th</sup>. These are also outlined in our Bonfire Night update.

Since our last newsletter, we have held our AGM, and for those of you who were unable to attend, we have an update as to who was elected to the Committee.

Fundraising is as much an all-year round task as planning for November 5<sup>th</sup>, and we have an update on both the recent events that we have taken part in and also upcoming events.

Sadly we have to announce that Ian Newman is standing down from his role as our Bonfire Bishop. Ian has been involved with LBS for many years and we thank him for his service to the Society and hope to see him and Pat soon.

With Phil Newman also standing down as Deputy Clergy, we therefore need a new Bishop to read the Bonfire Prayer at events including Badge Night, First Bonfire and of course on the Clergy Stand on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Costume will be provided. If anyone is interested in the role, please email [lindfieldbonfiresoc@gmail.com](mailto:lindfieldbonfiresoc@gmail.com).

With very best wishes

*Stew*

Stewart Rose  
Press Secretary



## Bonfire Night Update

It is hard to believe that at the time of writing, as summer starts to emerge, November 5<sup>th</sup> is approximately 13 weeks away. This year will be a special one as it marks the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary since Lindfield Bonfire Society was founded in 1894. LBS is hard at work with planning for Bonfire Night 2024 and below are just some of the things that we have been up to:

- The Common has been booked for Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup>, when we will be on the Common preparing it, by putting up fencing, and building the bonfire. We have also booked our medical coverage and security team.
- After their amazing display last Bonfire Night, which was set up in very difficult conditions, we have awarded our firework display contract to Wizard to perform our displays for the next three years.
- We are in the process of booking bands to be part of the procession.
- We have made a start on making the 650 torches required for the procession. You may have seen some of these on our Village Day stall and can be sponsored. We are also offering the opportunity to sponsor a firework this year.
- We have selected the designs for our 2024 badge, and planning for our 2024 programme is well underway:

Additionally, we are delighted and honoured to announce that we are supporting the following local children's charities with this year's street collection on the 5<sup>th</sup>:

- CLAPA
- Orchard House
- Riding for the Disabled
- Finley's Touch

Finally, it costs £18,000 each year to stage Lindfield's Bonfire Night – an event that is free for all to attend. We hold events throughout the year to raise the money to pay for this. In previous years we have used a JustGiving page to raise funds, but this year, we are using a SumUp QR code. We use SumUp card readers to process payments, and using their QR codes for donations means that we receive 100% of the amount donated – with no commission fees deducted:



**Recent events****Lindfield Bonfire Society Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on 18 April 2024, at which the following Committee was elected to serve:

Presidents	Martin Durrant & Alison Eggert-Hobbs
Chair	Darren Lucas
Treasurer	Tracey Webster
Hon. Secretary	Vacant
Vice Chair	Mark Tampion-Lacey
Fundraising Coordinator	Sarah Tampion-Lacey
Membership Secretary	Mike Webster
Logistics Secretary	Matt Wilcock
Minutes Secretary	Stewart Rose
Press Secretary	Stewart Rose
Committee only	Wendy Box, Wilson Forsythe ,Bea Wilcock
Captain of Firesite	Vacant
Captain of Bonfire	Richard Newman
Captain of Ranks	Mike Webster
Captain of Procession	Matt Wilcock
Captain of Torches	Emma Ford
Captain of Buckets	Tracey Webster
Captain of Barrels	William Tampion-Lacey
Captain of Set Pieces	Vacant
Harbour Master	David Riddle

The Ted Haskell Memorial Trophy was awarded to Mike Webster, with the Phil Haskell Shield awarded to Emma Ford, and the Brenda Ford Junior shield was awarded to Bea Wilcock.

At its July meeting, the Committee approved the nomination of Ralph Doe as the Society's Hon. Secretary to serve until the next AGM. Ralph and his family have been LBS members for some years, and Ralph brings with him a wealth of experience in charitable fundraising. Welcome aboard, Ralph!

**LBS Vintage and Antiques Fair**

Back in March, we held our ever-popular Vintage and Antiques Fair at King Edward Hall. A full house of traders greeted the good people of Lindfield on the lookout for that something special. As usual, the LBS café, with offerings of hot drinks and bacon sandwiches was a hit, as was our tombola. This was a really successful day, with all profits going towards our fundraising for November the fifth.

Thanks to all members who turned out to help and make this event the success it was!

## Recent events (Continued)

### Lindfield Village Day

Village day on the common continues to get bigger and bigger, and LBS this year had two stalls: one for our legendary china smash, and another for the sale of merchandise.



After we had remembered how to put up what felt like the biggest tent on the common, the china smash yet again proved to be a great success as both children and adults discovered the health benefits of destroying chinaware!



LBS also took part in the procession, which this year had the Olympics as its theme. LBS represented France, and we deployed the world-famous LBS privy to good use. The privy has previously been raced down Denman's Lane as part of the dash, and at last year's Village Day was a giant beehive. This year, the privy was converted to a revolutionary guillotine, with a certain Mr G Fawkes providing the head!

All of this hard work paid off because LBS was awarded first prize for best procession entrant, and contributed to a really successful day raising funds for LBS.



Thanks to all the LBS members who came out and helped on the day. It was a very long, but rewarding day!



## Recent events (Continued)

### D-Day beacon lighting

LBS were contacted by Haywards Heath Town Council to ask if we could light the beacon in Victoria Park, to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings. Sadly Lindfield for some inexplicable reason, does not have a beacon of its own, apparently due the fact that due to common land law the erection of a permanent structure is prohibited (*Tell that to the cricket pavilion – Ed*)

An intrepid team consisting of Matt and Bea Wilcock, and Stewart Rose, set about loading the beacon with fuel, whilst discovering that being 18ft in the air on a wobbly ladder really is a long way up, with Darren Lucas providing the ignition system to light the beacon.

Just before lighting at 9pm, the local branch of the Royal British Legion laid a wreath at the foot of the beacon, before it was lit promptly at 9pm, in the presence of other LBS members who had turned out to support.



## Upcoming events

**Duck Race Night**  
**Saturday 17th August 8pm**  
**The Lindfield Club**



Join us as we host a night of duck racing at The Lindfield Club. We will be showing a number of televised duck races over the course of the evening. Simply 'buy' the duck you think will win and if it crosses the line in the top 3 you win a cash prize. There will also be some celebrity duck races too. The event starts at 8pm with the first race at 8.30pm.

Profits from the night will be split between Lindfield Bonfire Society and The Lindfield Club.



**Badge Night**  
**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 8pm**  
**The Standup Inn**

Our annual Badge Night will be held at The Standup Inn, with our good friends from Skulldrumery in attendance performing in the street on their drums. Pop along for a pint and pick up our latest badges

**Haywards Heath Town Day**  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Victoria Park, Haywards Heath**

For the first time, LBS will be holding its china smash at Haywards Heath's town day. Can you spare an hour or two to help man the smash? All help is gratefully appreciated. This is a great opportunity to raise funds for the Society in the run up to November the fifth and have a bit of fun at the same time!

**Christmas Craft Fair**  
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November**  
**King Edward Hall**

Our traditional Christmas craft fair will again take place at King Edward Hall, with stallholders providing the opportunity for you to buy the odd Christmas present. We will again be hosting the LBS café, providing drinks, cakes and bacon sandwiches. Can you help? We always need your support in various ways like baking a cake for the café, helping to set up before we open, or manning the café or our tombola / merchandise stall for an hour.

## Become a member of Lindfield Bonfire Society

LBS is a small, friendly, member-run organisation that raises funds throughout the year to stage a free-to-attend procession, bonfire and firework display for Lindfield.

We are always on the lookout for new members to get involved.

Only members are allowed to participate in events like carrying torches as they are covered by the Society's insurances.

If you, or anyone that you know are interested in membership, further information can be found on our website at [www.lindfieldbonfiresociety.co.uk/membership](http://www.lindfieldbonfiresociety.co.uk/membership), and if you have any further questions, our Membership Secretary, Mike Webster, will be happy to help. Mike can be contacted on [memberslbs@gmail.com](mailto:memberslbs@gmail.com)

## 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](http://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.

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

Thousands of retailers will donate for free



### **LBS outmeeting attendance**

At the time of writing, LBS have been invited to and will be attending the following outmeetings as part of the 2024 season:

Uckfield - 7 September  
Mayfield - 21 September  
Burgess Hill - 28 September  
Eastbourne - 5 October  
Hastings - 12 October  
East Grinstead - 19 October  
Newick - 2 November  
Chailey - 9 November  
Barcombe - 16 November

Please note that this list is not fully complete and only includes those meetings that we have formally received an invite for and will be further updated as invitations continue to be received in the run-up to the 2024 Bonfire season.

Only paid-up members of Lindfield Bonfire Society may take part in outmeetings for insurance purposes. Members must wear 'whites and stripes' to aid identification when taking part in a procession. Members will not be allowed to participate otherwise.