

LINDFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

August 2025



A Note from the Editor...

Hello and welcome to our August newsletter.

It's roughly three months now to Bonfire Night! Planning is well underway for this year's event, and Matt Wilcock, our Logistics Secretary, provides an update of where we are on page 2.

Although our focus is on organising a procession, bonfire and firework display on November the fifth, there's more to us than just one day each year. In this edition, we republish an article from last year's programme which shows all of the activities that we undertake over a whole year. Hopefully it gives an idea of all the help and time that goes in behind the scenes and why we always need the help of more of our members.

We also have details on our Grand Prize Draw, which will be held over the Bonfire season, and if that's not enough we reveal our 2025 badge as well as a special badge to commemorate 50 years of service to LBS by our President, Martin Durrant.



It's not long now until the Sussex Bonfire season starts in September. As we accept invitations to other society outmeetings, they will be listed on the LBS Members Only Facebook page, so make sure that you have joined the group to keep up to date.

With very best wishes

Stew

Stewart Rose
Press Secretary



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November the Fifth Update

By Matt Wilcock - Logistics Secretary

Work is well underway with the planning for Bonfire Night on Wednesday November the fifth.

Despite the event being the same format as last year, there are still things that need to be updated and booked. Booking the Common (NB this is now booked up to 2029!), road closure applications, Event Pack updates, catching up with our firework provider Wizard Fireworks, and liaising with our partner agencies such as MSDC and Sussex Police, are just some of the tasks that have to be undertaken.



Happily, our planning is going well and where it needs to be at this point in the Bonfire cycle.

We have a number of Captains who look after various specific areas of planning ahead of the big day:

Richard Newman is our Bonfire Captain. On the day itself, Richard oversees the building of the Bonfire, but in the run-up to it will be sourcing the all-important pallet crates that are used to build the Bonfire.

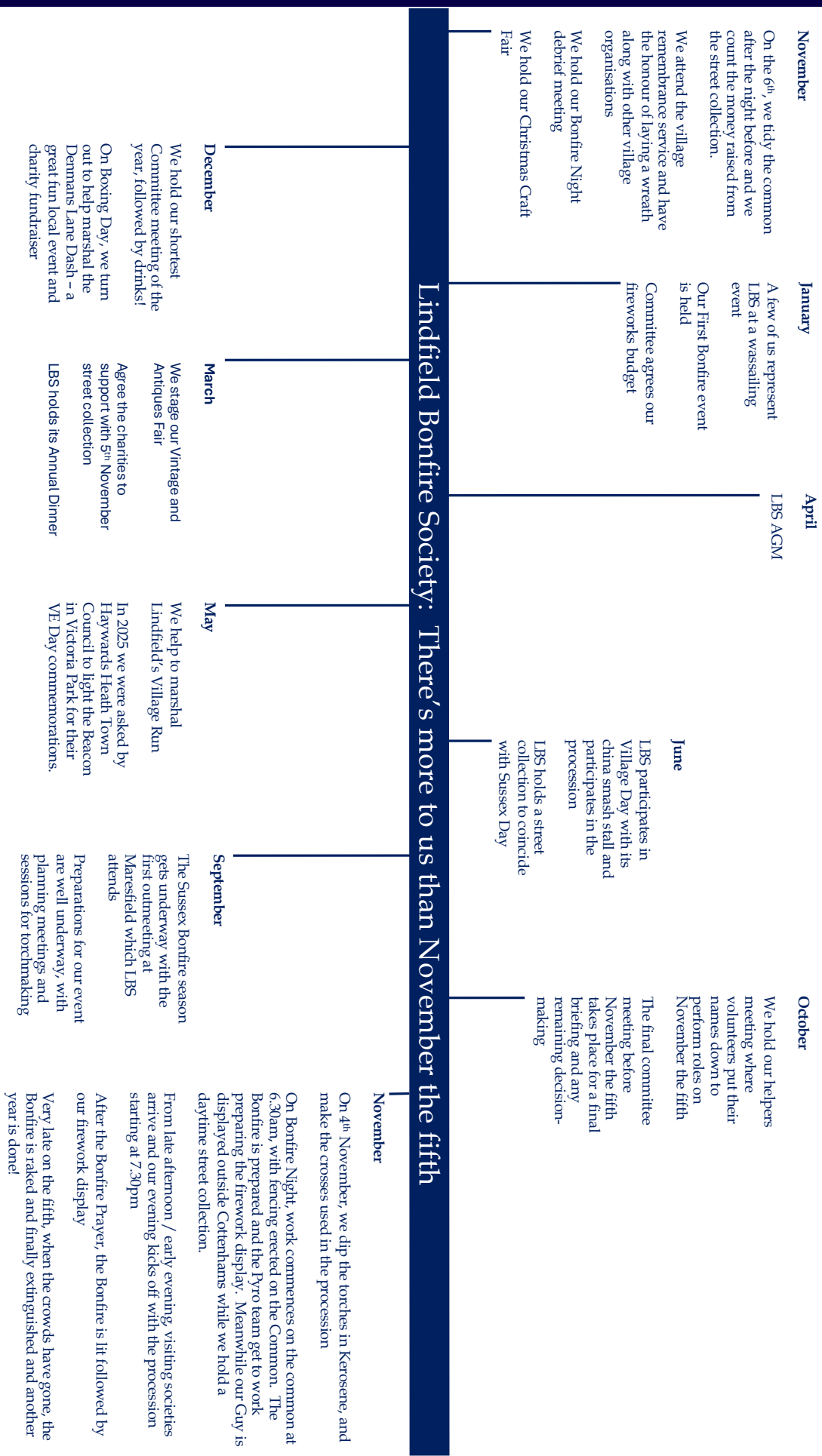
Emma Ford is our Captain of Torches. Emma ensures that our circa 600 torches that we require are made to our high standards, working to source wood, hessian sacking, and arrange torch-making dates where we get together and construct them. Keep your eyes on our members-only Facebook page for upcoming dates for torches. We'd love to get more members involved, not only to share the burden, but also to ensure that torchmaking skills are passed on and shared amongst us.

The delivery of Lindfield's Bonfire Night (not just November the fifth but also fundraising to make it all happen is performed by only a tiny proportion of our membership. We would love it for more members to become actively involved, whether to make a torch or two or help with fundraising - either helping to shake a tin on one of our street collections or helping out at our Christmas Craft Fair, Vintage and Antiques Fair or Village Day China Smash stall.

As we get nearer to November, I will organise a helpers meeting where various tasks on the day get allocated to make sure that everything is covered. Please attend if you can. Any help, no matter how large or small, is always greatly appreciated.

Best Wishes

Matt



LBS Launches its Bonfire Grand Prize Draw

We're delighted to announce that we will be holding a Grand Prize Draw which will run over the Bonfire Season.

We have obtained some fantastic prizes which can be won ranging from a flight simulator experience, afternoon tea, golf, gym memberships and much, much more.

Tickets cost £5 each, with profits going towards our fundraising for November the fifth.

Tickets will be available to purchase online from Tuesday 16th September, which coincides with our Badge Night Event, up to 23:55 on Saturday 22nd November which is the date of the Barcombe Bonfire - the last outmeeting of the season that we attend. For various regulatory reasons, tickets are only available online via our partner Raffall.

For details of how to buy your ticket(s), see the advert below.

LBS wishes to express its grateful thanks to the many organisations that have donated prizes.



THE LINDFIELD BONFIRE SOCIETY GRAND PRIZE DRAW

Running throughout the Bonfire Season
Great prizes to be won

- Flight simulator experience at CAE
- One month's membership of Potential Personal Training
- 4 ball at Lindfield Golf Club
- 2 x Grandstand tickets for the Christmas Jumper Race Day at Plumpton Racecourse
- Afternoon tea at the Birch Hotel
- 2 ball round at Haywards Heath Golf Club

AND MANY MORE...

Tickets cost £5 each and are available from
www.raffall.com/Lindfield_Bonfire
or scan the QR code



For a full list of prizes see www.lindfieldbonfiresociety.co.uk/grandprizedraw

Draw closes on Saturday 22 November 2025 at 23:55
Profits from this prize draw go towards fundraising for November the fifth

LBS Reveals its 2025 Badge

Our 2025 badge has been unveiled and is now on sale.



The origin of the badge comes from a membership perspective and each society would have a 'year badge' that their members had to wear in order to be known to be a paid-up member. The badge would be given out at 'Badge Night' once a member had renewed their subs and then had to be worn for the Bonfire Season (Sept to End Nov) when attending any procession. Anyone marching and not wearing it would be asked to step out. Some societies have stuck to this system, but LBS and others create year badges to sell as a fundraiser item to the public and other society members.

Some bonfire folks choose to wear all badges they have 'earned' or bought from other societies as so are covered in them, others choose to wear only the 'year badge', it is a matter of choice and there are no rules. Lindfield use the badge as a general fundraiser and do not use it as a membership tool. Our badge and programme launch night is on 16th September at The Stand up Inn along with our drumming friends Skulldrummary. 2025 badges are available at LBS events, The Stand Up behind the bar and Sarah Lacey Dry cleaners and are £1 each.

...and a limited edition unofficial badge!

Some years ago, LBS President Martin Durrant, posed for a portrait. He 'liked' it so much, that it was presented to him at our Annual Dinner earlier this year to commemorate 50 years of invaluable service to Lindfield Bonfire Society.

But it would have been wrong to not allow us all to share Martin's portrait with a larger audience and so we created this limited edition badge.

Supplies of this badge are running low, so if you'd like one, please contact Mike Webster to see if any are still available.



Upcoming Events

Below are a list of upcoming events for your diaries...

Tuesday 16 September 2025 7.30pm
Badge Night @ The Stand Up Inn

Join us as we kick off the 2025 Bonfire season with a pint, and noisy entertainment from our good friends Skulldrummary. Our 2025 badge will be on sale and we will also be launching our 2025 Bonfire Programme.



Saturday 22 November 2025 10am - 4pm
Christmas Craft Fair @ King Edward Hall



In the run-up to Christmas, what could be better than coming along to the Christmas Craft Fair to buy some gifts for loved ones from our stallholders. We also need members' help to stage this event. Are you available to help set up at the start or close up at the end of the day? Could you help out in the LBS cafe? Could you bake a cake or help out on our merchandise stall? There's a role for everyone!

Sunday 14 December 2025
Sussex Bonfire and Carnival Societies Carol Service
Uckfield

This is probably the most raucous carol service you will ever attend! A tinsel-clad procession through the streets of Uckfield followed by a church service with Christmas carol greatest hits and trying to guess what fancy dress costume the Rector will wear!



January 2026
First Bonfire
Date and Venue TBA

Blow away the Christmas cobwebs at First Bonfire. This popular start-of-the-year event is well attended by LBS members and other societies, as they recite the Bonfire Prayer and see Skulldrummary perform a set.

Outmeetings
September - November

Details of these events, with joining instructions will be posted on the Facebook Lindfield Bonfire Society Members Only Page as they become available.