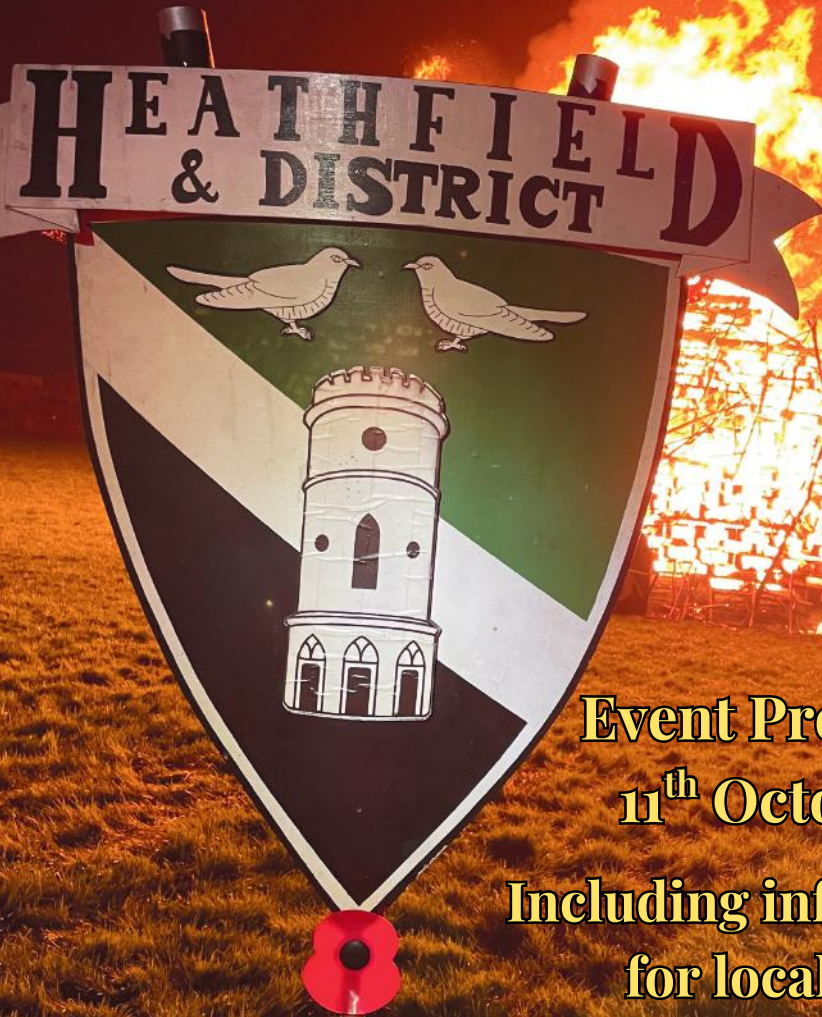


Heathfield & District Bonfire Society



Event Programme
11th October 2025

Including information
for local residents



Firework display entry only by wristband, £4 each available from:
Farrago, Heathfield Waldron Parish Council office,
Albion House Bakery in Cross-In-Hand, Mermaid Lounge in Horam.
See our website for details.



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the team at Heathfield
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*They were kind,
compassionate, caring
and very professional.*

-Mrs. S



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*"Their professionalism
was matched only
by their warmth. We
wholeheartedly
recommend Heathfield
Funeral Services to
anyone"*

-Mrs. D



★★★★★

*"The care and attention
received at what was an
incredibly difficult time
was exceptional.*

*Thank you so much to the
whole team at HFS. You do
a remarkable job. Wouldn't
hesitate to recommend!"*

-Mrs. C



★★★★★

*"Heathfield Funeral Service
were in a word 'Amazing'
They took great care and
showed such
professionalism throughout
the entire process"*

-Mrs. G



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Chairman's Welcome



On behalf of the members of Heathfield and District Bonfire Society I welcome you to our programme. Please take some time to look through the pages and read the information and guides to our night.

This year we had the honour to lead the celebrations for the town on VE Day. We were equally proud to be given the opportunity to be part of a team organising the planting of a tree on VJ Day. Remembrance plays an extremely important role within our society. From the two Sussex martyrs from our town, to the fallen in all conflicts, they will always be remembered by us.

This year the Sussex Bonfire Council calendar has fallen in such a manor that we are the only bonfire on the 11th October. You will be able to witness societies travelling up from Lewes, from the Senlac area of the county and our neighbouring societies. There is something so unique seeing the streets of Heffle filled with flame, the sound of drums, and the unique smell a procession brings. Followed by fireworks and the finale of this year's tableau dispatched at the hand of the firework team after months of design and hard work.

Have a wonderful evening. Please give what you can to our chosen good cause.

Lastly, please take direction from our marshals and leave your fireworks at home.

Thank you to all those that bring the night together and to all our sponsors.
Steve Thomas

Heathfield & District Bonfire Society Chairman

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Heathfield & District Bonfire Society

2025 Committee and Founders HDBS Officers & Committee Members



Steve
Chairman (Officer)
Aide & Founder



Dave
Vice-Chair (Officer)
Aide de camp
& Founder



Rachel
Secretary (Officer)
Captain of Bands
& Founder



Mick
Treasurer (Officer)
Event Control



Jo
Commander In Chief



Hodge
Captain of Torches



Sally
Health & Safety Officer
Captain of Ranks

Honorary Members



Halina
Founder
& Honorary Life Patron



Ken
Founder
& Honorary Life Patron



Tom
Captain of Banners
Deputy Captain of Bonfire
Founder & Honorary Life Patron



Willy
Honorary President

HDBS Captains & Deputy Captains



Josie

Membership Secretary



Jake

Quartermaster



Rob

Captain of Fiery Pieces



Faye

Captain of Tableau



Ben

Captain of ~Barrels



Paul

Captain of The
Cracker Barrel



Emma

Captain of Programme



Siobhan

Captain of Firesite



Jack

Captain of Bonfire



Annie

Traffic Co-ordinator



Fiona

Captain of The Gate



Robin

Captain of Remembrance



Amy

Deputy Captain of Tableau



Meredith & Faye

Co-Captains of Juveniles



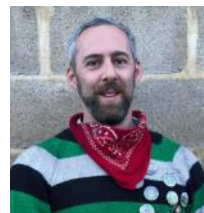
Jade

Deputy Captain of Fiery Pieces



Shane

Deputy Captain
of Ranks



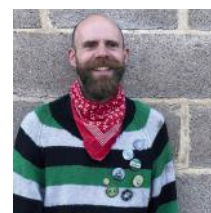
Tom

Deputy Captain
of Torches



Nic

Deputy Captain
of Barrels



Rowan

Archbishop

A word from our President...

It is indeed my absolute honour and privilege, as the first President of HDBS, to address the readers of this 2025 programme.



Thank you so much for your support, it is very much appreciated.

For numerous years I have many fond memories of glorious nights at Bonfire, however these memories are just single records in my life over a short 6 month bonfire season per year, but HDBS is a 12 month group combining work with pleasure maintaining tradition, history, anniversaries and social functions.

Since joining HDBS I have experienced all year round enjoyment and subscribe to their positive outlook and their Community spirit where all members share their skills and attributes.

Bonfire is a Sussex tradition which should be upheld regardless of the many obstacles (indefinitive) that this modern world throws in our way.

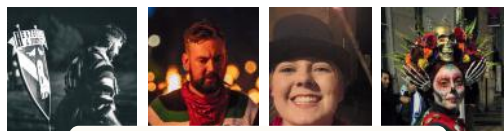
This applies to all of our kindred Societies as well from whom we have made many friends and received great support..... Thank you also.

I salute all of our members for their tireless work, passion and energy and the shared respect that they have demonstrated to everyone. We are a proven family, with guaranteed succession through junior members.

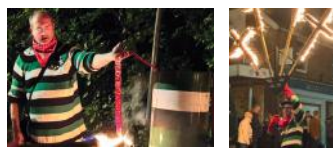
Remember ALL “The sum of the whole is greater than the parts”
Have a GREAT NIGHT – ENJOY whilst raising monies for our local deserving groups mentioned in this programme.

Allan (Willy) Marchant

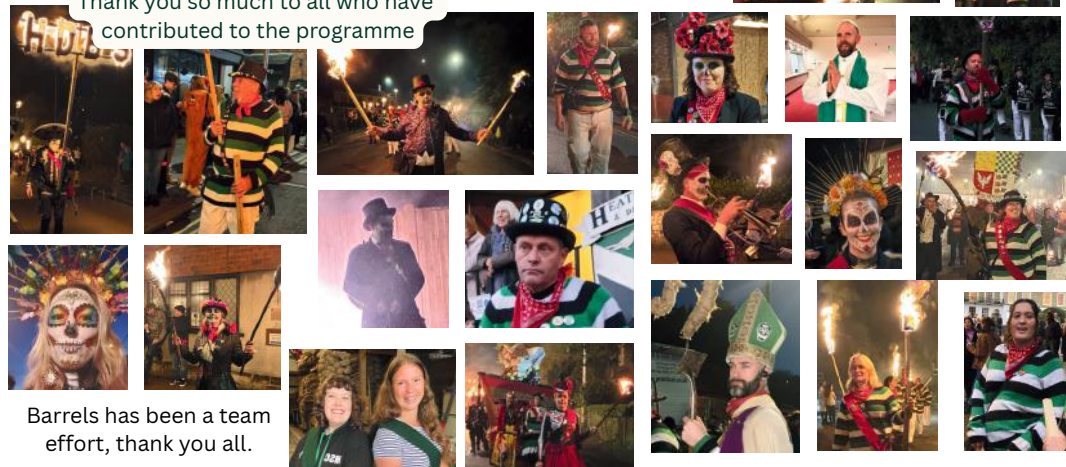
Our Committee, Captains & Deputies would like to extend a huge thanks to all of the volunteers who make our night possible.



A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who have worked on the tab!



Thank you so much to all who have contributed to the programme



Barrels has been a team effort, thank you all.



Our illustrious President loves to get involved in all aspects of Bonfire. He's hiding in his cartoon form amongst the remaining pages of this programme, can you find all 10?



Become a Member

If you have a passion for bonfire,
Want to make friends and bring our community together?
Join our society as it grows and develops.



For more details please scan the QR code



or visit our website: www.heathfieldbonfiresociety.co.uk



Heathfield & District Bonfire Society

THE MARTYRS BAR

We Wunt Be Druv



Our popular Bar will be open again

Opposite the fire station at the rear of Pennells Carpets

Serving:

*Draught Harvey's Best Bitter, Draught Stella Artois,
Bignose and Beardy Cider, Wine and soft drinks.*

Cash & Card Accepted

Under 25?

Please be prepared to show proof of age when buying alcohol



****NEW THIS YEAR****



GUN BREWERY AIRSTREAM BAR

On the firesite - Sheepsetting Lane
An original 1970's Airstream Land Yacht
converted into a stylish bar.

With eight keg lines and gravity dispense for cask,
as well as the usual soft drinks and wine offerings,
it's as if the Taproom has taken to the open road!



Heffle Juveniles



I wanted to start the Juvenile section of the society so that I could walk with my friends regardless of outfit, and to provide a space that shows younger members that they are an important part of the society.



I enjoy the bonfire society as I get treated like an adult and get responsibility that I wouldn't get in any other circumstance.

It means a lot to me...without the juniors, bonfire would not carry on: we can keep the tradition alive and the juvenile society means children can have the experience of taking bonfire in their own strides.



I like wearing colourful face paint, dressing up in my costume and walking with a fiery torch and my friends.
(Sophie, aged 6)



I love helping to build the tableaux and being given the opportunity to use tools. I especially love watching the tab explode! (Seb, aged 10)



I love Bonfire because I can see so many costumes that people put time and effort into getting, and detailing and the commitment for most weeks, putting on entire costumes - whether it's small or large...And being able to represent your society.

To be HDBS means to be accepted and not have to suppress your uniqueness because we join together to celebrate bonfire.



The 2024 season UCKFIELD

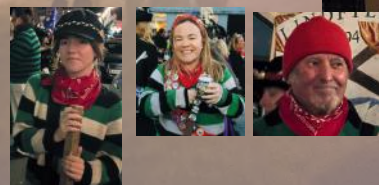


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FLETCHING



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NEWICK

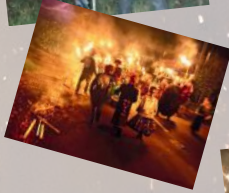
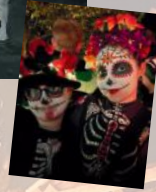


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Christmas in Heathfield

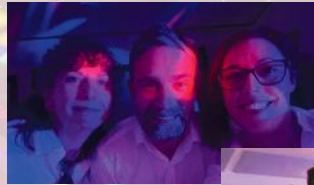


Annual Bonfire CHRISTMAS SERVICE, Uckfield



FUNdraising in 2025!

Our Valentine school disco was held at Horam Village Hall. Over 70 members and guests, all dressed for the occasion, enjoyed a night of 70's and 80's music with Disco Dave. (Liz and the Disco Team)



Question writer Jo and quiz master Dave leading the fun at the Tavern!



Who doesn't love a bit of Bingo?
This year we had another sell-out event, helping to raise over £2,000!
It was an evening of lots of prizes and fun, all made possible by the generous donations and volunteers of our local community.
Thank you to all involved.
(Faye and the Bingo Team)





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HDBS celebrated **VE80** with the community





VE 80 Tunnel Celebration



Chairman Steve sent me a video of a worker playing the bugle inside the Queensferry Crossing bridge, demonstrating the incredible reverberation. I was extremely keen to do something similar and immediately thought of the disused train tunnel running underneath Heathfield.

With the 80th anniversary of VE day approaching, I surmised we could satisfy my desire to play there as well as suitably honouring the fallen.



With help from WDC's Jo Heading, as well as many members of HDBS we gained access to the tunnel (after a surreptitious test of the acoustics by playing through the locked gates). The Parish Council's Gill Snook was tasked with making an official proclamation in the morning and was included in our ceremony.



After her reading, I played The Last Post. The echoes had barely faded away by the time the ensuing minute's silence had passed, leaving an eery quiet save for the sound of dripping water. This was broken by The Rouse and we paraded out in dignified fashion into the bright Spring sunshine.



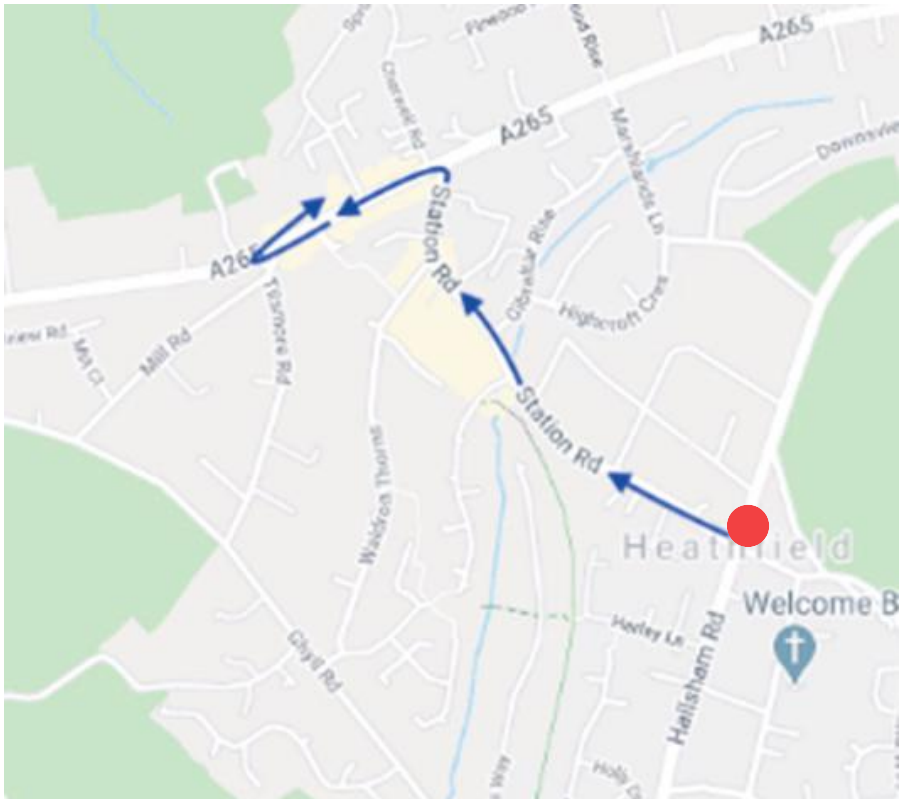
It was a unique, evocative and fitting occasion where once again, the members of HDBS did the community proud

2025 Route

Societies to form up to start procession at 19.15 approx.

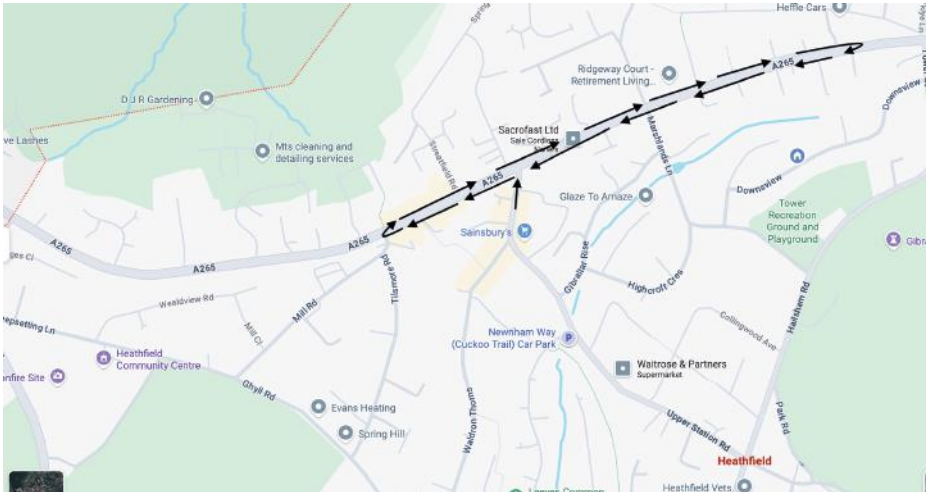
● **START POINT** - The Heathfield Tavern

The procession will walk up Station Road and turn left onto the High Street



2025 Route

Procession will turn around at the fire Station then walk up the High Street on to Mutton Hall Hill, up to Tower St junction before turning and heading back



Walking back down the High Street and up Mill Road to the fire site at Heathfield Community Centre



Local Event Information

To help you navigate your way around Heathfield and stay safe on 11th October, please find below some useful information. More information can be found on our website: www.heathfieldbonfiresociety.co.uk/pages/2025-event

Road Closures

The following roads will be closed from 18.30 until 22.00

- High Street
- Station Road
- Mutton Hall Hill
- Sheepsetting Lane
- Wealdview Road
- Mill Road & Mill Close

All roads will re-open by 22.00

Car Parking

Parking will be available in the following locations but please note there will be no entry or exit between 18.30 and 22.00

Station Road West

(rear of Tesco)

Station Road East

(rear of State Hall)

Cuckoo Trail

(opposite Waitrose)

Other Information

- This event is NOT suitable for dogs or those of a nervous disposition
- **DO NOT PICK UP DISCARDED TORCHES**
- DO NOT bring your own fireworks or sparklers
- Wear suitable footwear as the ground at the fire site may be muddy
- Please listen to any instructions from marshals, they are there to ensure your safety
- DO give generously to street collections, they are for local causes
- DO enjoy this Sussex spectacle and help us to keep it going
- If you have any feedback, please email: heathfieldbonfire@gmail.com
- If you fancy getting involved, there is a QR code in this programme and you can join on our website: www.heathfieldbonfiresociety.co.uk

Entry to the fire site is by PRE-PAID wristband ONLY!

Wristbands priced at £4 each available from:

Farrago, Heathfield Waldron Parish Council office, Albion House Bakery in Cross In Hand, and the Mermaid Lounge in Horam.

Full T's and C's available on our website.

Also look out for our Smugglers selling wristbands on Heathfield High Street.

Lost Child or Vulnerable Adult

If you have lost a child or vulnerable adult, please report to the nearest marshal to where they were last seen, giving as much description as possible (i.e clothing etc.)

Marshals can be identified by the yellow or orange high-viz vests they will be wearing.

The marshal will contact Event Control to put into action the lost child/vulnerable adult procedure to help locate the missing person.

At the Firesite there is a Lost Child point located at Event Control, and clearly marked 'Lost Child' signage.

You will need to confirm your identity and the relationship to the child before being reunited.

If you have reported a child or vulnerable adult as missing and they are subsequently found, please ensure that you inform a marshal so the search can be stood down.

If you have serious concerns about a lost child or vulnerable adult the please call 999 immediately.



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Peter Oliver

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Lettings 01435 511287

info@peteroliverhomes.co.uk

Animal Welfare Tips

We want everyone to enjoy our bonfire celebrations on Saturday 11th October, including our animal friends. Local vet and animal behaviourist Vicky Payne has some advice to help you keep your animals safe this bonfire night.

Cats and Dogs

- Calming plug-in diffusers, collars with herbs or pheromones, or herbal supplements should be started before the date to help calm your dog or cat (a vet can advise you).
- Make sure you have walked your dog before dusk. Avoid letting them out for toilet breaks between 7pm and 10pm as there may be loud bangs.
- Make sure your cat is shut indoors well before dark.
- Prepare a cozy den where your dog can hide away, close curtains, put the lights on, and have music or the TV on as a distraction. Cats are more likely to hide away so prepare a snug den for them with their favourite snacks and toys.
- If you have a dog that is afraid of fireworks, stay in with them and try doing something they love to take their mind off things such as playing a game, hunting for treats, grooming, or just snuggling on the sofa. Act normally to help keep your dog calm.
- If your dog is very scared of fireworks ask your vet for medication that can be given on the night, or take a trip out of the area for the evening.

Small Pets

Outdoor caged pets like rabbits and guinea pigs should be under cover all evening. Indoor small pets may appreciate being moved to the quietest part of the house.

Livestock and Horses

- Ensure livestock is in a paddock with safe and secure fencing, and check them before and after the display. Housed livestock may be more at risk if they panic and should be monitored.
- Horses are often safer outdoors than shut in a stable, but the paddock should have safe, secure fencing. Rugs and boots are a sensible precaution.
- A radio may help soothe stabled horses and ear plugs/muffs are available to dull the sound. Herbal calmers in the feed may be appropriate and your vet can advise on sedation if required. Horses should be monitored during the display.

Lastly, please do not bring your pets to bonfire night, it will be loud and crowded, and they will be much happier curled up at home.

By supporting organised displays, which publish the dates and location of the event, the impact on animals can be managed and reduced.



Four Seasons

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Remembering our MARTYRS 21st June



PROTESTANT MARTYR MEMORIAL
ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF
Richard Chapman & George Stevens
OF WEBBINGTON
Margery Harris & James Adams
HER SON
OF CARE STREET HEATHFIELD
WHO WITH SIX OTHERS WERE BURNED
TO DEATH AT LEWES
(BY THE ROMAN CATHOLICS)



Lift high your torches all good folk , And march beneath their light
They burn for Heathfield, burn for Sussex, On this our bonfire night
We march in remembrance of our martyrs, For Margery and James,
Never forgetting how they perished, Midst a choking mass of flames
So raise those torches in the air, And hold them high above
Take the road, striped band of friends, And prove we wunt be druv.

Out and About in the Community

HDBS volunteers were pleased to provide marshals and also run stalls at numerous fairs in the area including the Heathfield Show, Horam Fun Day, Waldron Car Show and Le Marche





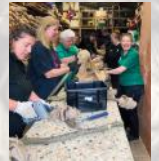
Torchlight on Captain of Torches Paul Hodgman

A Member of HDBS since 2022



The role includes acquiring materials, such as handles , hessian, fuel, wire, staples etc. I arrange torch making sessions and oversee the volunteers as they make the torches, ensuring everyone is working safely. I also do the calculations for our night, working out how many torches are needed, how much fuel is needed and I liaise with team to plan the distribution of torches to our procession members.

As well as liaising with the Event Team, I work most closely with the Captain of Barrels. They need to know how many discarded torches there will be, and where they are likely to be dropped. We need to plan where points will be along the route, to ensure everyone involved has fun and stays safe.



The fun part for me is seeing the end result, a river of fire twisting through our High Street.

I love the social aspect of creating the torches with an army of volunteers, and it keeps us in touch through the summer months.

You'll see me as a smuggler on our night, but at some out meetings, I do like to get my Day of The Dead costume and make-up out.





Torchlight on Captain of Barrels Ben Weston



A member of HDBS since 2019.

My role as Captain of Barrels is to maintain all of the fire barrels and dousing barrels throughout the year. For our HDBS night my role is to co-ordinate the barrel team members to pick up all of the spent torches from the highways, and put them into the fire barrels. I am also proud to be making sure the newest member of our team, Milly, burns bright.

The fun part of my role is the camaraderie and friendship among the Barrel Team.



For the build up and planning of our night, I don't see different areas, I see it as ONE society, and we all muck in to help. From cutting torch handles, to helping the tab team create their tableau...everyone works together.



Hands down, I'm a
Smuggler, I'm not
one for dressing up.



Doing the barrels is hot, hard work and often goes unnoticed but I know as a team, we have a laugh and always have each other's back. We are known as the anarchists of the society, with a splash of spirit, a hint of ash, get down & dirty, and you've pulled.

10% OFF
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(sample size - excludes food & canned beer)



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**Dates for
the rest of
2025...**

**October
17th - 19th**

**November
14th - 16th**

**Check socials
for times,
extra dates
& promos!**

Community Hub @ Union Church



**November 21st
State Hall**

**December 13th
State Hall**



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Heathfield & District Bonfire
Society
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social media.

New members always welcome.

LET THERE BE DRUMS!

Stoolball

2025 saw another great stoolball year for our HDBS team. We attended the Annual Cliffe Charity Tournament in Lewes and although we did not retain the winners trophy this year we did pull off a convincing victory in the fancy dress section as well as playing some cracking games, winning 2 out of 4 and having a lot of fun in the process.



The 2nd match was our home game to The Lewes Arms. Despite some very impressive batting from previously less enthusiastic members (think Rambo armed with a stoolball bat) the win was snatched away from us in the last over by a strong Lewes Arms team.



Our final game was away to The Lewes Arms. Happily everything came together for us and it was our turn to take the win on the last over thanks to some great batting and wonderful fielding by all our team. Although maybe our mascot toad that accidentally made its way to the match nestled in my folding camping chair brought us some degree of luck too!

Lots of fun had by all and many thanks to The Cliffe and Lewes Arms for some great stoolballing, The Runt in Tun for such delicious food after our match, and Horam Scouts for loaning us their wickets.

We are always open for more players, so please get in touch if you'd like to join, all abilities welcome.



Fiona Lines
Captain



We were involved in the early discussions about commemorating VJ 80 - 80 years since victory over Japan and the official end of WWII.



VJ day is a milestone that often gets overlooked, while people across the world celebrated Victory in Europe 'V.E' day, brave members of our armed forces were still enduring inhumane treatment, starvation, torture and suffering.

We were pleased to help source the memorial piece, tree, assist with logistics, and were honoured to be present at the official planting of the tree and unveiling of commemorative plaque.

A permanent reminder to us all, of the sacrifices made by many local people to allow us to enjoy the freedoms that we do today.



80th Anniversary of VJ Day

This tree is dedicated to the memory of those who served in Burma and the Far East in World War II.

*'When you go home, tell them of us and say:
for your tomorrow we gave our today'*

Kohima Epitaph

This was made possible by:

Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council, Heathfield Union Church,
Heathfield & District Bonfire Society, Heathfield Chamber of Commerce,
Burma Star memorial fund.

15th August 2025

White Feather FUNERALS



As an independent, local family run business, you will only ever have one point of contact at White Feather.

Lucy will bring your loved one into her care; look after them at her Heathfield premises; guide you through the arrangements and be your funeral director on the day.



Providing a familiar face every step of the way. She puts her heart and soul into helping families create a funeral, as unique as the person was.

From traditional to modern and everything in between, whatever is best for YOUR family.

Their funeral, their way.

Things to consider when choosing the right funeral director for your family:

- Will you be dealing with the people that own the business? If not, who will be your contact?
- Is the business owned & run by local people, that know your community or is it owned by a large corporate chain?
- Who will be conducting the funeral?
- Will we meet them beforehand?
- Are they a member of a trade association that assures me of high standards and accountability to a strict code of practice?
- Do you know someone who has had a great experience using them?
- Have you looked at their reviews on-line?

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CHARITY OF THE YEAR

Each year HDBS members vote for a local charity to support.
This year, we have voted for...

Chestnut Tree House, a children's hospice supporting over 300 families and children with life-limiting illnesses.



Chestnut Tree House is the children's hospice for Sussex and South East Hampshire. Thanks to support from the local community, children and families who know they don't have long together have the chance to live life to the full and say goodbye in the way that is right for them.

The generosity of the local community makes this happen.

Almost £6 million is needed every year to provide hospice care for local children and their families. Very little of this comes from the government. The rest comes from the amazing donations we receive, fundraising, gifts in wills, shops, the Chestnut Tree House lottery and volunteering.

Volunteering is a great way of trying something new, gaining new skills and experience, meeting people and giving something back. Maybe you're interested in volunteering in one of our shops or at our warehouse – helping pre-loved items find their new homes? Perhaps, soaking up the fun atmosphere at a charity event, or helping to keep our gardens ship shape is more your thing? Whatever you choose, you'll be making a big difference to your local children's hospice charity.

For more information, contact: Lucie.Richardson@stbh.org.uk



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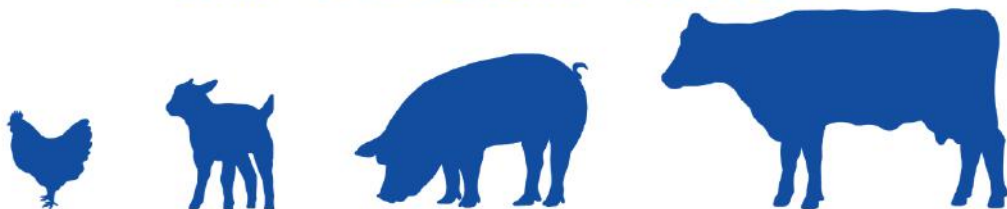
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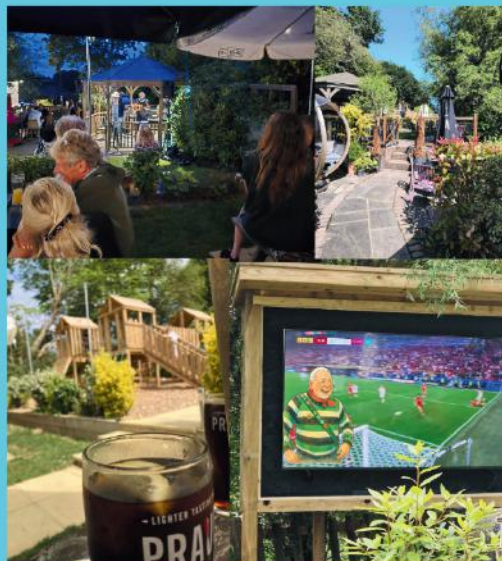
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**We are a local community group putting on a local
community event for the local community to see and enjoy.**

heathfieldbonfire@gmail.com

www.heathfieldbonfiresociety.co.uk



Bonfire Prayer

Remember, remember the Fifth of November
The Gunpowder Treason and plot,
I see no reason why Gunpowder Treason
Should ever be forgot.

Guy Fawkes, Guy Fawkes 'twas his intent
To blow up the King and the Parliament,
Three score barrels of powder below
Poor old England to overthrow.

By God's providence he was catch'd
With a dark lantern and burning match,
Holler boys, holler boys, ring bells ring
Holler boys, holler boys, God Save the King!

Sussex By the Sea

Now is the time for marching, Now let your hearts be gay,
Hark to the merry bugles, Sounding along our way.
So let your voices ring, my boys,
And take the time from me,
And I'll sing you a song as we march along,
Of Sussex by the Sea!

For we're the men from Sussex, Sussex by the Sea.
We plough and sow and reap and mow, And useful men are we;
And when you go to Sussex, whoever you may be,
You may tell them all that we stand or fall
For Sussex by the Sea!

Oh Sussex, Sussex by the Sea!
Good old Sussex by the Sea!
You may tell them all we stand or fall,
For Sussex by the Sea.

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