



FuseNews

Your regular update to all that's going on with Nevill Juvenile Bonfire Society

The NJBS Newsletter

August 2017

Badge Night and Membership Evening

*Want to know when you can renew your membership? See **page 1** for more details.*

Need a Bar?

*If you're planning an event then use the NJBS Bar Team! Please see **Page 3** for more details.*

Farewell to Fletching Bonfire Society

*We say goodbye to one of the oldest Sussex Societies. See **page 2** for details.*

Dates for the Diary

*Think Bonfire starts in October? Think again! See **page 3** for what's coming up.*

50th celebrations

*As it's our 50th, we've got some special events planned, starting with the Bonfire. See **page 3** for more details.*

Nevill Extravaganza 2017



Well, it was a great day and a fantastic evening as ever on the Green. Thank you to everyone that supported the Society.

Not only is the Extravaganza an important day in our calendar, but it also raises significant funds for the Society so that every member can enjoy subsidised membership fees.

The increasing cost of fireworks and insurance means we have to raise more money than ever before just to maintain the same level that our members have come to expect.

Many thanks to Steve Franklin and Starfish musicians as well as Full House for providing a great day of music. Also, thanks to the Sussex Ghostbusters, Mr Pineapple Head and Mrs Brown for entertaining the crowd. Thank you to the suffragettes for running the tea stand.

Thanks go to the Cliffe, Waterloo and Southover Bonfire Societies for participating in the Bonfire Tug O' War and thank you to Commercial Square Bonfire Society for helping with the setup and providing the marquees.

Thank you to Richard Edwards for judging the Tug O' War and the Mayor for presenting the trophies.

Finally, thank you to all the Nevill Juvenile Bonfire Society members that helped with the Extravaganza, whether you were dressed as a suffragette or in your civvies. And congratulations to the Nevill men's team and Cliffe ladies on winning the Tug O' War competitions.

We hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did and look forward to the next big event which is, of course, Our Night!



Badge Night

Badge Night will be on 2nd September from 7:30pm at St Mary's Supporters Club on Christie Road (behind St Mary's Social Centre).

This is the time to renew your membership and find out what we have planned for our 50th celebrations. If you wish to help out then come speak to a committee member or one of the officers.

Alternatively, we'll have membership evening on 13th October from 3:00pm until 8:30pm at St Mary's Hall on Highdown Road.

For further details please contact our Membership Secretary at membership@njbs.co.uk.



Trevor Gearing: A Tribute

Trevor Gearing, who passed away earlier in the Summer, was a long time supporter of Nevill Juvenile Bonfire Society. NJBS President Phil Amey has written the following tribute.

I first met Trevor when I was 14, however, I suspect that Trevor knew me from the day I was born. I think the phrase "I know your Mum and Dad" was quite prevalent back then. I met with Trevor to get his help with the forming of the Nevill Juvenile Bonfire Society.

I'm a founder member and its current President. Julia and Trevor would invite us to have dinner, in relays, while preparing for our night. During Dinner Trevor would tell us about Bonfires Past and his families involvement.

Trevor was a wealth of knowledge, on many subjects, as I've found out through the years. I've spent many hours with Trevor learning the History of Lewes Bonfire and how integral his family has been to the celebrations.

He told me how his Father and Uncles went off to the First World War in the ranks of the Royal Sussex Regiment. It was soon learned that this group of men had a secret; They, between them, could make the Lewes Rouser. I am led to believe that they spent some of their time in the war crawling through No Man's Land and dropping their homemade devices into the Front-Line Trenches of the Enemy.

As long as there is Lewes Bonfire, Trevor's name will be remembered. Like all the lifelong bonfire boys their spirit

will continue to fire the flames of tradition.

From my very first meeting with Trevor, some 50 years ago, we have remained firm

friends. He was there for my Wedding to Jane Amey and offered to drive us in his Morris 1800 (see photo), causing congestion on School Hill, outside the registry office.



He would always send cards to our Daughter, Cassandra, often addressed to "Ruth", Cassandra Aitchison's middle name and was my Mother's name, always saying to me - I hope you don't mind.

I moved away from Lewes with my job but, whenever I returned I would do my best to find the time to call in to see Trevor, Julia and Margaret. Trevor was my Mentor and my friend.

There is a quote by Terry Pratchett

"It has been said that a man is not dead while his name is still spoken. That we are only truly gone when we disappear from the memories of those who loved us"

Well, Trevor is alive in my Memory and that of my Family and we loved him.



Farewell to Fletching Bonfire Society: 1854-2017

Fletching Bonfire Society are one of the oldest Sussex Bonfire Societies tracing their history back to 1854. However 2017 will, unfortunately, be their last.

Fletching Bonfire Society's night has long been an important date in the bonfire calendar having fantastic displays and a long and rich history.

Despite the great night they put on, active help amongst residents within the village has fallen in recent years to the extent that it is no longer viable to run the Society. Other Societies are also finding it difficult.

We at Nevill Juvenile are not immune to this as we have also seen a drop in active help despite the fact that membership numbers have never been higher.

If you wish to see Nevill Bonfire continue in the future then we need members to come forward and help out in preparation for Our Night. There are many roles that people can take on (see June's FuseNews) and even just a few hours can make a big difference. If you're willing to help contact us at news@njbs.co.uk.

Several Fletching Bonfire Society members help Nevill Bonfire on a regular basis and we wish them well on Fletching's night which will surely prove to be a fantastic and memorable evening.

Need a Bar for a Private Function?

Running bars is one of our major fundraisers throughout the year. We do weddings, anniversaries, parties or any social occasion.

We provide the drink, the bar, the staff and the glass to take away all the hassle of organising your night. So if you know of anyone that is planning a special occasion then please email us at secretary@njbs.co.uk.



Start of the 50th: The Cutting of the Centre Pole

The cutting of the centre pole is traditionally the first act in building the Bonfire. This year we're reviving the tradition for our 50th.

All members are welcome to come join us on the 8th October to signify the start of the 2017 celebrations. The time is yet to be confirmed but we'll give you an update nearer the time.

Out-meetings!

One of the great benefits of being a member is you get to go on the out-meetings across Sussex. We'll be running coaches from the Black Horse pub which will cost £10 per person, coaches normally leave early evening.

The out-meetings for this year are:

- 16th September:** Mayfield
- 23rd September:** Burgess Hill
- 30th September:** Rotherfield
- 14th October:** Hastings
- 28th October:** Ewhurst & Staplecross
- 4th November:** South Street (no coach!)
- 11th November:** East Hoathly
- 18th November:** Barcombe
- 25th November:** Hawkhurst

If you are interested in joining the coach please contact Roger Palmer on 07535 495556 or Kate French on 07708 837176. Of course, you can always travel under your own steam.

Committee & Officers

PRESIDENT

Phil Amey

COMMITTEE

Chair: Norma Thompson
Vice-Chair: Kevin Brown
Secretary: Mike Fisk
Treasurer: Clare Pritchard

OFFICERS

Safety Adviser: Mick Stevenson
Captain of Effigy: Luke Brown
Captain of Tableau: Ben Overton & Darren Parker
Captain of Aerial Fireworks: Kevin Brown
Captain of Set Pieces: Bob Thomas
Captain of Firesite: Caroline Lipscombe
Captain of Bonfire: Andy Brown
Captain of Torches: Keith Brown
Commander-in-Chief: Chris Isted
Captain of Banners & Street Pieces: James Isted
Captain of Tar Barrels: Sarah Ellis & Kate French
Membership Secretary: Sarah Earl
Captain of Programme: Phil Duncan
Captain of Bands: Anne Stevenson
Chief Collector: Hannah & Steve Crowhurst
Merchandise Co-ordinator: Roger Palmer & Norma Thompson
Clergy: Ben Edmonds & Silvy Johnson
Out Meeting Co-ordinator: Roger Palmer
Out Firework Displays: Luke Brown
Publicity & Press: Ben Overton

Additional Committee Members: Andy Brown, Keith Brown, Luke Brown, Charles Field, Ralph Johnson, Kevin Miller, Ben Overton, Darren Parker, Anne Stevenson, Mick Stevenson, Bob Thomas and Luke Vuillemeay

Dates for the Diary

Every Sunday - We will be down the Land torch-making as well as effigy and tableau building from 9:00am to 1:00pm

2nd September - Badge Night, St Mary's Supporter's Club, Christie Road. From 7:30pm.

3rd September - Helpers BBQ. We'll be having a barbecue down the Land for all members. From 1pm.

9th September - Jumble Sale, Ringmer Village Hall. Sorting starts at midday, doors open 2:00pm.

8th October - Cutting of the Centre Pole, Firesite. Time TBC.

13th October - Membership Evening, St Mary's Hall, Highdown Road. 3:00pm - 8:30pm.

21st October - Our Night, the Nevill Estate.

4th November - We will be processing with South Street Bonfire Society. Please see the South Street programme for details