

# Information for people new to Barcombe Bonfire

If you are joining us for the first time – please contact one of the committee and let us know you are coming so that we can make your first procession as safe and fun as possible.

## **Before you go:**

### Costumes:

Try to use material that is not hugely flammable and spray it with flame retardant spray.

And whatever your costume try and aim for a black and red theme.

Although costume needs to be authentic (ish) it needs to have lots of bling – so the more sequins and shiny stuff the better!

Please see our costume policy on the Facebook page for more information

- First pioneer (which means you will be marching first in the Barcombe procession) is Japanese.
- Second pioneer (which means you will be marching second in the Barcombe procession) is Victorian costume.
- Kind of a third pioneer (third in the procession) is red and black fantasy costume, but this is only if you really struggle to sort a first or second pioneer costume.
- Smugglers/stripes (which means you will be marching at the back of the Barcombe procession) this is white trousers, red spotted scarf and red and black jumper/ Guernsey (not a rugby shirt). Belts, tankards and hats encouraged. Bear in mind that if you are in smugglers/stripes you will be expected to help out with the work!

### What to take with you

Basically – what you can carry.

Both hands need to be free to carry torches.

So bring a bag – either a bum bag or a shoulder bag – preferably small and black.

A lot of people have army surplus bags.

### Food and drink

You can usually buy food there – but it will be expensive. We recommend that you bring your own water, and that snacks for the firework display can be useful – especially for the kids.

### Extra layers

You will get warm walking, and then cold at the fireworks. There is also often waiting around between marches. So bring hats and gloves for later. Again, especially for the kids.

### Footwear

Comfy, warm, and sturdy footwear that will withstand a dropped torch and mud!

## **Meeting up:**

The instructions by email or on Facebook should explain where to meet.

Please be there in good time.

### Toilets

Bear in mind there is not going to be a lot of toilets (where they exist, there will be queues)

## **When marching with Barcombe:**

### Order

Form up in the order specified above in the costume section.

There should be three in a rank, utilising the whole width of the road.

Each rank should be at least 6 feet apart.

### Torches

Carry torches at shoulder height, with outside walkers holding torches on the pavement side.

Unlit spare torches should be held in your other hand, they should always be held pointing downwards (so paraffin does not run down the handle). We recommend only ever having one spare as there are dumps en route.

Lighting torches should be from the row in front of you.

When your torch is running low light find a safe place on the side of the road (not on the pavement) to place your lit torch. Once you have put it down, light your spare from a member of the procession with you.

### Children

Children should only carry one torch – no spares and no bag.

It is down to the responsible adult at what age the child can carry a torch.

We would recommend 6 or 7 as the minimum age.

Bear in mind the torches feel heavier over time.

There is no obligation for children walking in the procession to carry a torch.

It is fine for them to walk without one.

Often, it is sensible for the child to wear ear protectors and/ or eye protectors.

As far as possible, please try to hide these within the costume.

Ideally, we should line up with adults on the outside and child in the middle.

Or, one rank of children in between 2 ranks of adults.

With responsible adults behind to oversee their charges.

As we are dealing with fire please be aware that if other adults see your child/ charge misbehaving they will speak up. Safety is paramount.

Under no circumstances should anyone run up and down the procession while people have lit torches.

If your child is upset put torches down and walk without torches, or (after putting down torches) step out of the procession and join in again later.

Hopefully, having read this you are feeling reassured. However, if there is anything else you need to know then please contact us via the Facebook page or e-mail Charlie at [secretary@barcombebonfire.co.uk](mailto:secretary@barcombebonfire.co.uk).

**We look forward to walking with you!**