

# Information for people new to walking with Barcombe Bonfire Society

If you are joining us for the first time please contact one of the committee (details are on our web page) and let us know you are coming so that we can make your first outing with us as safe and fun as possible.

To walk with Barcombe Bonfire Society (BBS) both at Barcombe and at our meetings you must be a member of the Society. Proof of membership is your membership badge, and this **MUST** be worn when you are walking with BBS.

## **Before you arrive:**

### Costumes:

Try to use material that is not flammable and make sure to cover it with flame retardant spray.

Please see our costume policy on the Facebook page for more information regarding what to wear

- People in our first pioneer costume will be walking first in the Barcombe procession.
- People in our second pioneer will be walking second in the Barcombe procession.
- Exceptionally, there may be other fancy dress between those in second pioneer and the Smugglers. Please refer to the costumer policy for more information.
- Those wearing what we call smugglers or stripes will always be walking at the back of the Barcombe procession. Bear in mind that if you are in smugglers/stripes you will be expected to help out with the work of carrying torch bags and making sure the Barcombe banner is always topped up with torches.

We are actively encouraging all our members to wear a costume rather than Smugglers – having everyone in black and red does not always present the interesting and fun procession that people come to see.

## **What to take with you on the night:**

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 and not too obvious. Remember we want to be as authentic as possible.

### Food and drink

You can usually buy food there – but it may be expensive. We recommend that you bring your own water. 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 processions 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!

## **Out Meetings:**

These are meetings of other Bonfire Societies that Barcombe attends – please do not turn up at the event and expect to walk with Barcombe unless the Barcombe Bonfire Society has sent out formal communication that we will be attending. Most Out Meetings are invitation only. BBS usually attends four or five Out Meetings a year. Usually our Captain of Out Meetings will be in attendance and s/he will be responsible for dealing with any issues.

Remember that good behaviour at Out Meetings is important, your behaviour reflects on our Society. If we receive complaints, they will be dealt with.

## **Meeting up:**

Once you join Barcombe Bonfire Society you will be added to the email distribution list and will be advised of the Out Meetings the Society is attending. Please follow the joining instructions on these emails. Our Facebook page is also a good source of information. **Please be there in good time.**

### Toilets

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

## **When walking with Barcombe:**

### Order

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

There should be three in a row, utilising the whole width of the road, especially on corners.

Each row should be at least 6 feet apart.

The look of the procession reflects on BBS and it is important to maintain ranks and follow instructions from Marshalls/Captain of Procession

### 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 taking the number of spare torches that torch Marshalls specify, there are often torch 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

See our separate document regarding children and Barcombe Bonfire Society

### Safety

Safety is paramount. If we see members misbehaving and causing danger to others we will speak up. e.g. Running up and down the procession while people have lit torches.

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.

We look forward to walking with you!