

The Clarion

Issue 284 Nov 2019

To sponsor the next issue of this newsletter please contact cliffecclarion@gmail.com



**This issue of the Clarion is sponsored by
The Mighty Tubthumpers
(a.k.a. Skulldrummery)**

Editors note:

Hello lovely Cliffe members,

I don't know about you guys but have you noticed the weather is changing? I can feel it in the air, there is a slight chill on my hands in the mornings and the nights are drawing in quicker. It means one thing... bonfire season is well and truly here!

The yard is bustling with workers, the fire is being built, there are Cliffe members on Cliffe bridge selling programmes, fundraising still taking place, all the people behind the scenes are working their butts off and Committee meetings have been weekly for a month now. It is definitely bonfire and we have lots still to do.

So to all members new and old please make sure you read this newsletter carefully. There will be clear instructions and expectations as well as important safety information for the night. Do not ignore this stuff.

Have fun stay safe and listen to your Marshals they are there to support and guide you safely through the night.

Until the next Clarion, regards to you all Amber Richardson (Editor)

Message from your C in C - Lucy Wilson

Well, it's that time of year again! The nights are drawing in and the costumes seemed to have shrunk in the wardrobe again!

It has been a difficult year again liaising with the authorities, particularly the police. The days of just saying "we know what we are doing" are long gone and we now have to prove that we are capable. I know we are. We have loads of experience and we have had year after year of safe and successful 5ths and aim to have many more. However, they are looking for any excuse to shut us down. As I write this I am well aware of how the authorities are trying to catch us out so PLEASE let us not play into their hands. Do not get me started on injury and arrest statistics and the fact that events with higher rates of both are deemed a success but bonfire is naughty and dangerous!

Fireworks and Flares- the usual still applies- letting of fireworks and flares are illegal to do so on a public highway. There will be 530 (yes, you read that right) police out on the night.

Bands- they are paid musicians and please treat them with the respect they deserve. Absolutely no one is allowed to walk through their ranks. Please listen to the band marshals.

Continued next page

Message from your C in C - Lucy Wilson

St John- we have two groups with us providing medical support for our members. They will be behind the Uckfield and Heathfield Bands. There are several static medical units around town. At the time of press I haven't had all of the locations confirmed but there will be a unit at Cliffe Corner and at Lewes Football Club Car Park.

Marshals and my team of runners and senior marshals. Please listen to them. They have attended briefings and should know what is going on throughout the night.

The Police. Yes, 530 of them. The only 2 allowed in the procession are my two Bonfire Liaison Officers. One is always with me and the other is with Mark Greenwood. They have clear ID on them that says Liaison Officer. We are more than likely going to be followed by several police this year (don't ask, it'll set me off again!) and they know that they cannot come into our procession unless it is deemed an emergency by myself and my liaison officer. Politely ask any police standing on the road to stand on the pavement. They have all been briefed to do this.

Meetings-

Band Marshals 6pm Sunday November 3rd at the Dorset Marshals Meeting 7.45pm Sunday 3rd November at the Dorset.

Speaking of marshals, anyone fancy stepping up this year? It is a great honour and quite good fun! Contact me on 07917127845 or lucy.crook@email.com

General ramblings- we march in ranks of three for a reason. It provides the procession with 2 clear channels for marshals and any personnel to walk up and down relaying information or fetching St John, etc. In narrower streets it is difficult to maintain these so please "take the whole road". Marching on the outside as close to the pavement as is safe to do so maintains the proven method of having ranks of three. My marshals and team can relay any "pinch points" to me so we can work to keep the roads as clear as possible. Select Security (who steward the crowd) and the police have been briefed to stand on the pavement so I need to know if they aren't!

Let's not play into the hands that want to close us down by messing up. We DO know what we are doing. Let's prove it in the way the Cliffe know best, by proudly processing around our town holding our heads up high.

Have a safe one and thanks for listening to the tired and stressed ramblings of the C in C. Lucy Wilson.

From the Chairman

Are we nearly there yet? Very nearly, it's just round the next corner! I know everyone is madly busy, whether down the yard using all the hours God gives them or trying to get those last little bits of costume ready. The nights are drawing in, and the air of expectancy is increasing. It's the Fifth! It's our night!

Unfortunately, as you will no doubt see from others' contributions, it's been very hard work dealing with the 'authorities' this year, particularly the police, who deem it necessary to curb our unique traditions in order to make them safer. As echoed by our Commander-in-Chief, they have provided very little evidence for their concerns, but we need to be vigilant of the fact. They will be looking out for any excuse to stop all bonfire celebrations, particularly ours. They will be making their presence felt by watching out for anyone using hand held flares of any description (which are definitely banned both by us, the Fire Brigade and the Police), and 'dealing' exhibiting 'poor behaviour', in other words the letting off rookies and crackers – after all it is against the law. Quite what this means in practice remains to be seen. So please be aware of this as you enjoy your night in the only way you all know how!

Remember, we take to the streets for one night each year to celebrate the deliverance of King James I and Parliament from the Gunpowder Plot in 1605, to mark the remembrance all those who have given their lives for their beliefs or for their country and sometimes to protest against over zealous local 'authorities', whoever they are! Finally, we march to uphold our right to walk through our streets, unimpeded by those who wish to stop us celebrating these things that we hold so dear. Our unique traditions and integrity must be respected and valued.

So, this year of all years make sure you march with your heads held high, in your straightest ranks of three, in your best costumes, and holding your torches, banners and fiery pieces with pride. Last but not least, stay safe and have a great night!

**We are the Cliffe. We are the Biggest and the Best.
Our Cause is Just and Must Prevail.**

The Book.

The Book: I shall be opening the Book on my return from holiday on 18th October. Anyone who would like to contribute to the Society's coppers through the Book will be welcome to do so.

Just to explain what the Book is about, at the the start of organised Bonfire processions over 160 years ago it was common for Bonfire Societies to visit local Traders, Publicans and Inn Keeper's to ask for contributions towards the Society's expenses. When contributions were received the Subscriber's name was entered into the Book and a promise was made that the subscriber's business would come to no harm on Bonfire Night.

Of course, those day's when protection was needed on November 5th are long past but in the Cliffe we still maintain the tradition of taking the Book to local Traders and Publicans asking for a donation. Hence the reason why in our Programme you will see a list of Subscribers and of course if they donate more than £25.00 then their donation makes them a Vice President.

To make a donation contact me at paulmockford@live.com or text me on 07899917078. I will also be down the yard on the last few Sunday's before the 5th.

Paul (Official Collector)

COLLECTORS NEEDED PLEASE!

Anyone young or otherwise who would like to collect for the charities that we support.

Please either phone/text me on 07866 837915 or email me on a.brinkhurst@sky.com

I usually give out the boxes on Badge night, but if you can't collect a box then, I can arrange with you to collect it from me on the night in the car park.

Have a really great night everyone.

Angela



Safety

Hi all...so along with many other changes over the past year, 'I' has become 'we' and I am pleased to have been joined by my co-Safety Advisor, Simon Barr. Welcome to the party Simon!

With no time to waste we have both been kept busy over the past few months, dealing with numerous statutory document updates; policy changes; and requests for information or change from our friends on the Bonfire Safety Group and Lewes District Safety Advisory Group. All of these have the potential to have a significant impact upon our bonfire celebrations, and without the efforts of ourselves and the Committee, we could easily be added to the list of local Societies unable to run their bonfire celebrations this year.

There is much still to be done, and we remain committed to ensuring that we have everything needed to carry us through the difficult times that we face. BUT, without the support and co-operation of the wider membership all of these efforts will be in vein. So please, on the 5th.....

- DO NOT use (or even carry) marine flares
- DO NOT use (or even carry) bunged rookies or other such devices
- DO NOT smoke or discharge fireworks next to torch dumps, fiery pieces, the tab, and other street fireworks
- DO NOT act irresponsibly or inappropriately at any time

- DO follow the instructions given by our Marshals; Aides; and Officials
- DO report to your nearest Marshal any action or situation that you feel to be un-safe
- DO consider how what you do, and don't do may affect you, your families, and those around you
- DO remember that the use of fireworks and/or marine flares in a public place is illegal, and over 500 Police Officers are watching, on duty, on the night. Just saying!
- DO.....BE SAFE AND HAVE FUN

continued next page

Safety continued

Those who seek to destroy what we have and hold dear are continually looking for evidence that they can use against us. 'Safety' is one of their easy targets, and there are all manner of regulations; guidance notes; and best-practices that can be used against us when we don't operate to plan. Please, if you want to fuel a fire, offer Mockers some pallets..... don't offer the authorities what they need to destroy us on a plate.

Lastly, for the first time this year we are to be joined by an additional 7 specialist PSU Police Officers on each of our processions. We didn't ask for them; we don't want them; and believe us when we say that everything possible has been done and said to try and reverse this decision. Sadly, we are stuck with them!

This unit will be positioned behind our rear barrels, and have been told that they are not to enter our procession ranks other than under specific instructions or agreement. We are assured that they are there in a supporting role only, to assist our two dedicated BLOs if required.

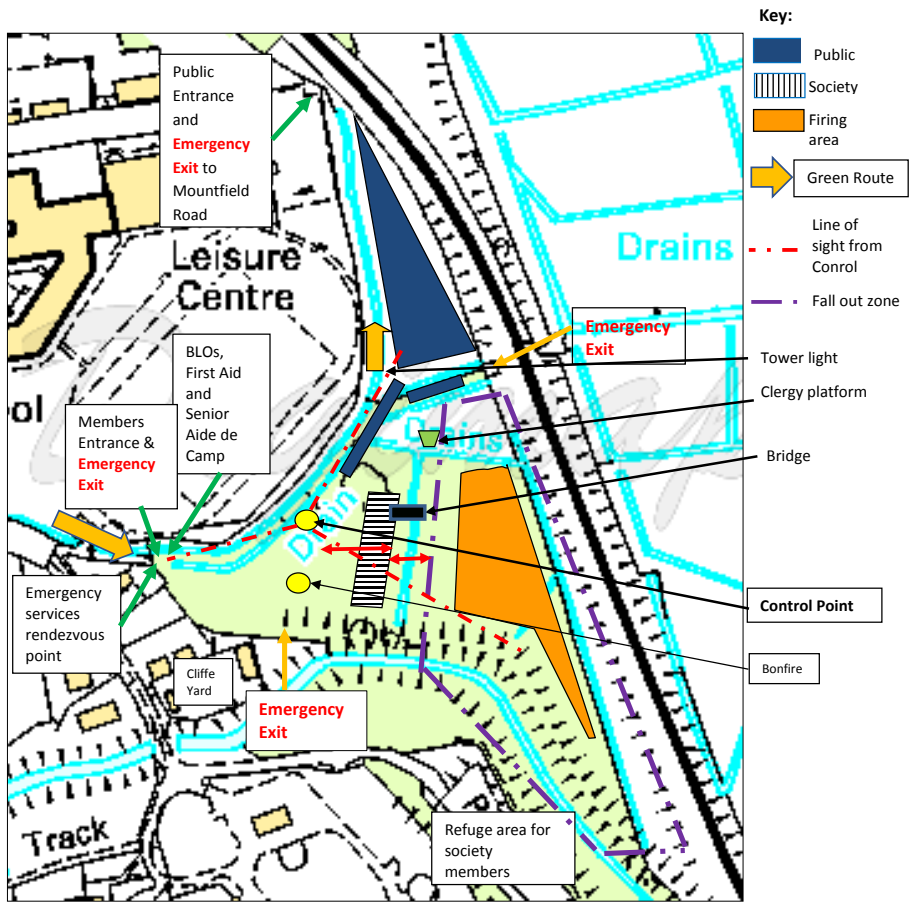
Let us try to keep distance and peace between them and us, and avoid a need for them to come into the ranks. If you do experience or witness any issues with these officers, or other Police, please inform a Marshal or other Aide or Officer so that this can be properly dealt with.

Thanks for reading. We wish you all a successful, enjoyable, and above all SAFE bonfire night.

Mark Greenwood and Simon Barr
Safety Advisors



BONFIRE SAFETY INFORMATION



This map is provided to help you identify areas on the Cliffe firesite. Ham Lane is to the left indicated as Member's entrance and emergency exit.

T h e T u b T h u m p e r s

Your Clarion sponsors:

As has now become traditional, this pre-Fifth Clarion is sponsored by the Society's own drumming band; the Mighty TubThumpers (aka SkullDrummary). As well as making an annual donation, we also like to sponsor a couple of Clarions a year, as we often have funds available when others don't. You may not believe it, but we do get paid for the majority of gigs that we play throughout the year, both at Bonfire events and at numerous fetes, weddings, steam & bike rallies, and festivals. Unfortunately, like the Society itself, a large part of our earnings has to pay for our public liability insurance. Yes, bands have to be insured too, as we need to be covered in case Little Jimmy gets ruptured eardrums or a broken drumstick pierces a valuable cashmere coat!

We'd like to take the opportunity to thank the Society's Band Marshalls, who always do such a fantastic job ensuring that all the musicians, and us, have a smooth and enjoyable evening. If they are as good as the ones that we had last year, we'll all be very happy. We'd also like to welcome Christine Sullivan in her new role as Captain of Bands and thank Paul Mockford, an ex-TubThumper himself, for all the hard work he has put in to ensure the wellbeing of ALL the bands.

This will be our 11th year playing in the Cliffe ranks, and as always, it will be a great privilege for us to be included. We hope that we'll add something to the atmosphere of The Night; even if it's just a lot more noise! If any of you would like to join our ranks for the 2020 season, you'd be more than welcome to come and give it a go. Just follow the link on the Cliffe website or email us at: skulldrummary@gmail.com



Captain of Torches - John Cross

Hello, Well another bonfire night is nearly upon us and your help is needed:

Torch Dipping is on Sunday November 3rd starting at 10am.

Loading the Skip is on Monday November 4th again to start at 10am.

Finally Tuesday November 5th please make sure that NO Fireworks are let off anywhere near the torch dump or the torch carts.

Procession Marshals please can you ask your groups to collect their torches from the torch dump ASAP as we will only be there for a limited time.

Wednesday November 6th once again I am looking for helpers to clear up down Ham Lane and Malling Street car park both start from 8am.

I wish you all a great and safe evening. JC

Captain of Aerials - Sonya Blake

Here we are again doesn't time fly when you're having fun.

A huge pre thank you has to go to my team - they have even been practising how to run in wellies whilst carrying an umbrella and a portfire. If this rain continues we may be looking for a boat and some aqua shells.

We prove every year we know how to take over the streets without any interference so a well done to everyone, lets do it again! Please listen to your Marshals (they're on your side) and they will have a reason for asking you to do or not do something.

Good luck to my fellow Captains, their teams and I would like to wish everyone a very safe and fantastic 5th.

Don't forget clearing up on the 6th is a lot more fun than you think it is and then you can justify going for a well deserved pint at the Dorset. See you there!! Sonya Blake, Capt of Aerials

Captain of Firesite - Steve Mockford

Just a few words to thank all those who sacrifice their time throughout the year to make this Bonfire thing happen!

Thank you all for your time and dedication for doing the shit stuff that no one knows that happens!
(the silent gears of a well oiled machine)

At the moment the firesite looks as though it is going to be far wetter underfoot than last year,
You have been warned!

I have no idea at the moment how large the fire will be. It depends how much material we get to create the monster! or when the scum have fatigued, and we have all had enough of the project manager!(DB)

As to how hot it will be this year, who knows! only the God of Hell Fire can decide! as to whether you will suffer the siring heat or not!

You all have a great night now.
Mockers,
Captain of the Scum

Captain of Fiery Pieces - Richard Wilson

Hi everyone!

So far, I've thoroughly enjoyed my first year as Captain of Fiery Pieces - and we haven't even got to the glorious Fifth yet!

I'd like to say a huge thank you to my amazing hardworking team, and another thank you to all the workers that make this society something I'm incredibly proud to be part of.

Have a great night, have a safe night, but most importantly -
BURN THE POPE!!
Rich

Captain of Street Fireworks - Trista Fife

Hi all, firstly I hope everyone has a safe night, and a massive thank you to my team for all they do!

Now for the nagging bit please try and keep torches as far away as possible from the street stuff, we'd really like it to go off where it's supposed to not before.

Also on the 7.10 procession we are doing our best to let you all know when our minutes silence is, so please listen when you are stopped in the high street for the air raid siren then the whistles, the bands should have stopped playing as well at this point to make it easier to hear! If don't manage to hear either of these once you get past the war memorial or stop on school hill assume that it's going to be soon! Good luck to all the Captains and teams.

Lets hope it's a dry one too!

Captain of Programmes - Gary Edwards

The best day of the year is almost upon us and after months of hard work I would like to thank all the workers of our society for making it possible.

Thanks to all the businesses who have advertised in the Programme this year and to all the sellers who have joined me on the Cliffe Bridge so far.

There is plenty more selling time though as I will be out on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and of course the 5th November (and the remaining Saturdays in October) to shift those programmes. So the more people the merrier, especially new members. I would like to wish all the bonfire boys and girls a safe 5th November.

Gary Edwards, Captain of Programmes.

Captain of Tar Barrels - Chris Bassett

I would like to say a quick thank you to those that have offered help and advice to me in my new role.

Good luck to all Captains and their teams, I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable night.

Barrel Race:

Still looking for a couple more runners for this year's men's race. If you are interested contact me on 07722 055226 or crimbo3@yahoo.com

Captain of Bands - Christine Sullivan

I am still looking for a few new Band Marshals. I am therefore appealing to the general membership, in particular to our newer members who might be looking for a responsible position on the Fifth. Band Marshals are the eyes and ears of the Band. It is the job of Band Marshals to ensure that the Bandsman are not obstructed in any way while they are marching in our Processions; whether it be a discarded torch, the crowd or from fireworks.

It is a fun job and we work together as a team; but of course, you need to enjoy band music. We have refreshment breaks with the Bands and our Band Marshals have a good comradery with their Band; but you are required to be vigilant all evening until the Bands go home.

If you are interest in being a Band Marshall, please contact me on chrissullivan2506@gmail.com or on 07766744415

Best Wishes Chris (Captain of Bands)

Captain of Banners - Vicky Funnell

This year has absolutely flown by and it's hard to believe the 5th November is upon us once again! Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered to carry a banner this year, either on an outmeeting or on bonfire night itself. The banners are such an important part of our procession and without carriers we wouldn't look nearly so impressive nor make such a powerful visual statement. So thank you!

There are a few banners that are still in need of carriers so, whatever your costume, please do get in touch if you would like to volunteer. My email again is victoria.funnell@gmail.com

Wishing everyone a fantastic night!! Thanks, Vicky

Captain of Effigies - Mark Allen

Thank you to all my team - you got there! I would also like to wish all the other Captains a fabulous and spectacular night. See you on the other side. Mark. Captain of Effigies. We will burn the Pope.

Captain of Tableau - Gavin Ward

Bonfire just is not the same without Tim. Be LOUD for our President and Brother. Burn the 'Effin Pope! Gav

2019 Membership Subs Dates

At Dorset Arms, Malling Street, Lewes, BN7 2RD

Friday 1st November 7-9pm

Monday 4th November 6pm - 9.30pm (hopefully!)

Payments can be by cash, cheque or card (yes we have a card reader now!)

If you would like to renew by post then email me for my address and bank details, or send me a cheque made payable to Brightnight Ltd.

This needs to be before 27th October to give time for the return of membership badge. You will need to send me a SAE for return of badge please.

My usual reminder - if you have changed your address or contact details please let me know - just email me on membership@cliffefonfire.com with your new details.

And finally if you have received a paper copy of this Clarion then please consider changing to email. Again just email me and I can change for you - bonus is that you get your Clarion quicker you save the planet by having paper and of course you save the Cliffe money in postage and administration costs.

Alex Hunt

Membership Secretary Cliffe Bonfire Society

membership@cliffefonfire.com

07709302779



Merchandise

A quick message from Charlotte to say that merchandise is available down the yard on Sundays and also on Subs night Friday Nov 1st and Badge night.

Some of the new items include Tin Badge, No Popery and the fabulous new Red/Gold Enamel badges, Embroidered Hoodies, Travel Cups, Coffee Mugs & Key Rings. Also remember there are deals to be had on old stock.

Ladies Barrel Race

Ladies of the Cliffe the time has come to throw down the gauntlet and I challenge you to make the start of the evening in 2019 the very best race for the Phylis Steggall Cup ever.

You do not have to have been a member forever to qualify, I know there are a lot of new members out there as well. You just need sturdy boots (not trainers) a willingness to step up to the line and run (or jog) those barrels.

If you want to know more or you want to take part give me a call on 07801474357 or email me blacpaul1066@gmail.com we need to be at the Dorset on the 5th for around 5.15pm on the 5th to kick off the best night of our year. As always, in faith and confidence, Paula.



For those young at heart here is some colouring in



Popey McCrossburn our Junior reporter wishes all the junior Cliffe members a fun and safe Bonfire night!

"If you guys manage to take any pictures or would like to tell me your bonfire stories, maybe even draw us a picture! Ask your folks to contact Amber at the Clarion." cliffeclarion@gmail.com



Message from our treasurer

Hi everybody!

As we stand on the cusp of the 5th and all the months of preparation come together for the most spectacular celebration of Bonfire anywhere on the planet, in all the excitement do please try to remember that none of what we do would be possible without the efforts of those members who help with our fundraising throughout the year. Putting on our celebrations isn't cheap and the membership fee we all pay doesn't even cover the cost of the night itself, let alone our ongoing costs like insurance and business rates for the yard so every year we rely on our membership to raise thousands of pounds to ensure we can continue our activities in the style to which we have become accustomed.

Whilst we do have a core of people who are always willing to help, compared to the number of members we have it really is a rather small group and it would be so much easier to raise the money we need if more of the people reading this could get involved in some way.

One of our major sources of income these days are the bars we run at people's weddings and parties. These are often however the hardest events to get helpers for! Working on a Cliffe bar is always a fun night out and no experience is necessary. There are plenty of jobs to do besides serving drinks and we can show you very quickly what you need to do. You don't even need to give us much time, a few hours help is always welcomed!

So do please keep an eye out on the pages of the Clarion, on the weekly emailed ECN and on our Facebook pages for requests for help and if you've never helped with a fundraising event before, put your name forward and come and give us a hand! You'll have fun, meet some fellow, helpful members and get that warm, fuzzy feeling inside that comes from knowing you've raised a load of money for the Cliffe.

Have a fun and safe 5th,
Burn the Pope.
Ed

Cliffe Annual Dinner

We invite to this year's extravaganza, The Cliffe Annual Dinner. It will be held on

Saturday 7th December 2019

at the new lower price of £30.00 per ticket. The venue again will be White Hart in Lewes. We have the wonderful delights of Jon Borthwick entertaining us from the DJ booth this year.

Due to reduced menu options this year enforced by the Venue, the Committee have agreed to reduce the ticket price accordingly. Because this has taken a while to sort out, please accept our apologies for providing the booking information so late in the year.

Please see the menu choices below:

Starters

Prawn Cocktail with brown bread and butter
Ham Hock Terrine with Red Onion Marmalade
Chef's Leek and Potato Soup with herby Croutons

Mains

Roast Chicken with winter vegetables and roast potatoes
(V) Roasted Mediterranean Tart with Winter Vegetables

Dessert

Banoffee Pie and cream
Lemon Meringue roulade with red berries
Honeycomb Cheesecake

Afters

Cheese board
Tea and coffee

If you would like to book your ticket to hopefully another fabulous fun-filled evening, please do one of the following:

Email Pete on: korma84@hotmail.co.uk or call on: 07856 866933

Please state your name, menu choices and if you have any dietary requirements. Payment can be made by cash cheque or bank transfer. Cheques to be made payable to: Cliffe Bonfire Society or CBS. Bank Account number: 00-57-73-66 and sort code: 30-95-01 Ref: Your name & Dinner. Cash or cheques can be dropped into 94 Blois Road, Lewes, BN7 2TS or 7 The Rose Walk, Newhaven, BN9 9NH. Please let us know if you would like to be seated with (or far away from!) anyone – we will try our best to accommodate requests.

Closing date for bookings to be confirmed via ECN.

We hope you to see you there! Many thanks, Jenny & Pete Bassett.

CLIFFE CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR



Saturday 14th December 2019
10.00am - 4.00pm
Lewes Town Hall, Lewes,
East Sussex BN7 2QS

Entrance 50p

Cliffe Christmas Craft Fair
is taking place on Saturday 14th
December in Lewes Town hall and if you would
like a stall or know someone that would please fill in the
attached form and send it in to the address shown. Although
we do still have stalls available they are going at a
steady rate so get in quick!
fairs@cliffebonfire.com

In other news...

A decorative border of colorful fireworks in shades of blue, red, and yellow surrounds the title.

The Bonfire Societies Firework Championship

Plenty of support turned out on an icy cold windy August day in Wiston and I am pleased to say that the Winners of the 2019 Bonfire Societies Firework Championship were Cliffe Bonfire Society. Congratulations to Sonya and the Aerials team well deserved!

Archive night

The archive night was a huge success. Over 100 people visited throughout the night with lots of positive feedback. In the words of Lucy Wilson "Next time, bigger, better and longer!" Thanks to all of those who contributed their time and especially to Ann and Pete for bringing the beautiful archives and selling lots of old programmes.

Stoolball

On a beautiful sunny Sunday in July a few Stoolball teams got together down the Paddock for the 1st inter-society Bonfire Cup. Well attended and enjoyed by most. The final was between Commical Square and Heathfield bonfire societies with a superb win by Commical Square. Great fun and so popular that teams were signing up for 2020.

**THE NEXT COPY DATE FOR
THE CLARION WILL BE
15ST NOVEMBER 2019**

Remember the Clarion is always after new writers, pictures, quizzes, tales, interviews and sponsorship. If you can help with any of these things. Please don't hesitate to contact me:

Amber Richardson Cliffeclarion@gmail.com or 07866 847938 Thanks

Oak tubs and barrels for sale

Contact Malcolm Bassett on 07881747912 or 01273 477485



Tankards for sale - new stock in

Contact Steve Burtenshaw on 07944466636

I shall have a dozen or so at each outmeeting & outside the Gardener's during programme selling.

Cliffe Contacts

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