

## Buxted Bonfire Society Monthly Meeting Minutes



**Date:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**Location:** The Buxted Inn

**Attendees:** Debbie Elliott (Chair), Monica Ross (Costume Coordinator), Sue Ovens, Alex Butcher, Hayley Elliott, Jan Hiscock, Mandy Dasilva, Kevin Clarke, Angela Clarke, Jim Ovens, Liam Willaims, Ellie Musham, Corinne Coles, Rick Mudie

### **Agenda:**

1. Apologies
2. Official appointment of new Society Secretary.
3. Confirm minutes of last meeting.
4. History of the Society for new members.
5. Vision for 2017/18 updates.
6. Bank Account etc.
7. New Invitations to Parade
8. Costumes and Ideas
9. Christmas Fundraisers
10. Summery/conclusions/closing questions
11. Next Meeting
12. AOB

Agenda Item Number	Description
1.	Christine Sullivan, Michael Lunn, Jackie Love, Sabrina Mudie, Mick Gosden (H&S + Acting VC), VP's x 2, Karen Fordrey (Secretary), Emily Timlin, Will Timlin, Natalie Axford, Clive Hiscock
2.	Debbie the Chair explained that Karen Fordrey is stepping into the Assistant Secretary role (Hayley Elliott noted that Karen had agreed), and Sue Ovens was officially elected as Society Secretary, seconded by Kevin Clarke and Angela Clarke.
3.	Minutes of the last meeting correct Hayley Elliott and Alex Butler seconded.
4.	New members were offered a brief overview of the Society by Debbie, the Chair but all were familiar with the details. Hand-outs were distributed if required.
5.	Scouts, no change in their position as yet, still awaiting information from a meeting with their committee members meeting which was held 17 <sup>th</sup> August. No BONCO meeting until Nov/Dec. No updates other than to confirm that the earliest Buxted hosting event will be 2018.
6.	As previously stated the Societies bank account, and Paypal are now live and members can pay by these methods or Cheque and bacs. Paypal takes 5% from all payments, so not the preferred option. Cash always welcome. Currently Debbie is the only signatory on the account, an unacceptable position. Debra has asked Mick Gosden, Hayley Elliott, Rick Burton, Karen Fordrey and

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	<p>Sue Ovens to also act as signatories. All have agreed, and 2 signatures will be required at all times.</p>
7.	<p>Parades – BBS was represented at their first procession in <b>Uckfield</b> and took home 2 trophies Best Dressed Visiting Society and Best Dressed Banner Carrier. A great launch for the Society. BBS also attended the <b>Crowborough</b> Procession, a longer and hilly walk, more challenging than Uckfield, which was more compact. Both Societies were very welcoming to the new Buxted Bonfire Society. The <b>Mayfield</b> Procession is next weekend, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September from 6.30 onwards, further info to follow. Hoping to attend Debbie Elliott, Alex Butcher, Hayley Elliott, Jim Ovens, Sue Ovens (non-parading) Liam Williams, Ellie Musham, Rick Burton, Natalie Axford &amp; Aaron + child. It was confirmed that no set numbers are needed. Mayfield is a big parade. Natalie has 2 spaces in her car if needed. Jim can take 2 but may need to leave early. Debbie requested confirmation of attendees for</p> <p>Burgess Hill 23/9, Rotherfield 30/9, Eastbourne 7/10, Hastings 14/10, Isfield 27/10.</p> <p>Debbie asked for any feedback from the 2 parades so far. The single banners need to be on long poles. A hat should be worn for fire banner carriers. Alex Butcher also pointed out that participants need to be careful when waiting with torches, it is easy to turn to talk to somebody and turn with a torch. Torches should be held on the crowd side. It was pointed out that enough space needs to be left in lines, the torches give out a great deal of heat. There is no specific distance, use common sense. Members of the public Must Not lift torches, take them from them as they are not insured. Torches should be disposed of in gutters, never in the middle of the parade. When parading it is ideal to carry 1 lit torch and 2 spares. Alex Butcher pointed out that at some points in the Crowborough parade BBS members moved from ranks of 3 down to 2 due to parked cars. This is not good practice and should be avoided when possible, as in an emergency St. Johns Ambulance or the police will expect ranks of 3. There was a detailed discussion regarding the perfect composition of a torch. Crowborough torches were not as good as Uckfield. Debbie will feed back comments to Crowborough BS. It was suggested that children could have fire resistant gloves. Another suggestion was children under 10 to carry torches with artificial dancing flames or covered in lights. Alex Butcher noted that Eastbourne had used these this year. Jan Hiscock investigating on Ebay.</p>
8.	<p>Costumes and Ideas. The knitting contingent was working away during the meeting! Jan Hiscock has made head dresses with antlers on wire covered in string and is offered to make a few more for those requesting them, cost to be advised. Several members took her up on the offer – gratefully. For those still looking for inspiration Hobbycraft have suede to make a jerkin, use belts and fake fur. Charity shops can be a useful source. Rick is asking a friend who may have access to antlers. Boxes of antlers can be bought online for £35. Jim Ovens asked when smugglers jumpers could be worn, Debbie Elliott (Chair) said that they are really only for those not wishing to dress up or maybe for some occasions where they are more practical.</p>

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9.	<p>Christmas Fundraisers. The <b>First event</b> will be Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup> switching on of the Christmas Tree lights with carols led by Buxted School and the Church and with the Vicars wife Ella Barker. Drinks available with an outside bar area and a Bar-B-Q to be supplied by an outside company. Kevin thought that we might need some gazebos/marquees, (Alex can supply) Debbie asked for volunteers in costume (Our BBS costumes etc.) to go round with collection buckets. Maybe also a raffle using donations from a few selected local companies such as Buxted Park or East Sussex National. So far attendees expected to be Debbie, Corinne, Hayley, Monica, Mandy, Ellie, Jack, Kevin, Angela, Jan H. Possibly Rick and Sabrina. Jim and Sue will attend asap due to other commitments.</p> <p>The <b>Second Event</b> is the kids' party now booked for Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> in the Buxted Reading Room.</p> <p>The Hall will be available on the day to prepare the room and decorate Santa's grotto. Volunteers welcome. Kevin has kindly offered to act as Santa with his trusty assistant Angela. Anyone who can assist please let Debbie know, preferably in elf or Xmas costume! Alex has a Santa suit for Kevin to use. Debbie thought that we could ask local businesses to donate some small presents. Tickets will be £5 per child and for BBS children will be at the lower price of £4 to include food, disco (Alex supplying) and Santa's visit with gift. Hayley Elliott is the chief organiser of the event with the help of BBS volunteers. If there is a keen take-up on tickets there will be 2 sessions 12-2 pm. and 3-5 pm. First advertising to be in the Buxted Talk pages.</p> <p>The <b>Third Event</b> is the parade through Uckfield to include local Bonfire Societies on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December starting at 2.15 pm. The participants attend a short service at Holy Cross Church.</p>
10.	<p>AOB. Corinne asked do the parades continue in the rain? Debbie, Liam and Alex said definitely yes, so wise to take a change of clothes. No umbrellas!! Also keep towels in the car.</p> <p>Rick asked about outsiders parading and Debbie said that all participants must pay the £12 membership fee for insurance purposes.</p>
11.	<p>Next Meeting. Monday October 9<sup>th</sup> at the White Hart. The pub does not open on a Monday, but is opening a room for us to use for the meeting.</p>

Other Agenda Items:

- Angela's boss has a large galvanised tank for BBS to have. It needs to be moved and stored.
- Debbie to contact Nigel in the Crowborough Society to discuss torches quality.
- Debbie to email BONCO regarding a general request to other societies regarding transport to other events such as Hastings.