

# Hastings Borough Bonfire Society Website Archive

## 2018

This year we are looking forward to an very special year. 2019 is our 25th anniversary Bonfire of the current reforming of HBBS. In the past there used to be many Bonfire Societies in Hastings and St Leonards but they all died out in the early twentieth century and particularly after the two world wars. In 1995 Hastings Borough was reformed and has grown into the thriving society we see today. Hastings Bonfire Celebrations are famous for having single longest Bonfire procession in the county- and therefore the world! We have been busy planning some extra pizzazz for our 25th Bonfire Celebration- 19th October. Look out for

- The 25 gun salute, taking place on the harbour arm during the day.
- Wonder at the fireworks- these will be heard all through the day.
- Attractions in the town centre- especially the America Ground.
- Buy a souvenir 25th anniversary programme which will have all the details in.
- Buy themed goodies from our merchandise stall.
- Enjoy our famous procession AND big bonfire AND amazing fireworks.

### Collecting for Charity

A big thank you to the 6 charities that came and collected at this years Hastings Bonfire. Two Towers Trust £214.41, Surviving Christmas£238.10, St Michaels Hospice £182.57, Hastings and Rother Voluntary Association for The Blind £1174.31, Demelza £198.22 and Jakes splash of Delight £266.90 and HBT: £1093.85. Just under £4000 was collected which was a great amount. Every charity that collects keeps most of their total amount raised. We are always looking for new local charities to come along and collect during the procession and have lots of fun along the way. If your charity would be interested in collecting at our next event please contact Michelle Captain of Collectors on [collections@hbbs.info](mailto:collections@hbbs.info) Thank you.We would like to thank the town for its support, the family friendly crowd in front of the fire-site area were most good natured. They cheered all night and put money in the collecting buckets. The collection goes towards charity.

### A message from the chairman

We would particularly like to thank the emergency services, local businesses for their continued support and the residents on the procession route for their understanding with the road closures. Most especially we would like to thank our volunteer marshals and Hastings Borough Council who give untold guidance and help in so many areas.

The fireworks, which included the effigy, were amazingly good this year to celebrate various 100th anniversary events that have taken place in 2018 - the WW1 armistice, the RAF being established and in the grand finale the final large explosions were in the colours of the suffragettes- violet, white and green. Also on the effigy were the red arrows as a final tribute and farewell.

HBBS is run by volunteers and [always welcome new members](#) to make our town proud as each year we host the largest single Sussex Bonfire procession in Sussex and therefore the world. Next year 2019 is an especially exciting year for HBBS as it's our 25th Bonfire.



HASTINGS BOROUGH BONFIRE SOCIETY

# 25th Anniversary

Saturday, 19th October 2019



SOUTHERN SKIRMISH ASSOCIATION

## American Civil War 1863 Artillery & Infantry

Day time display schedule on the harbour arm

Sponsored by

**OAKRIDGE GARAGE**

01424 431810

Designed and printed by

**fastprint**

01424 440204

### TIME TABLE

**11.30**

EVENT OPEN

#### Colours Parade, Infantry

Drill to include blank firing

**12.30**

INFANTRY & ARTILLERY

#### Walk through Old Town

**14.00**

#### Artillery display & drill (no firing)

Harbour arm

**15.00**

#### Fire 25th Anniversary salute

**16.00**

EVENT FINISHES

## Chairman's Thoughts

Our exciting event is not just a procession; it presents one of many enormous Sussex Bonfires that take place at this time throughout the county and even into Kent. Though Bonfire Celebrations are hugely supported by the people of Sussex, they are little known outside the county and so are constantly under threat from wider legislation and commercialism. Make no mistake Sussex Bonfire Celebrations are important for remembering an infamous occasion in history when the democracy of the country was under attack. They are as relevant today as they were in the past as a statement against oppression and for democracy. From the infamous Gunpowder Plot came the national celebration we know as Bonfire Night held, appropriately on 5th November. Today the Bonfire boys and girls must march first to show that the will of the people is strong and that democracy is a sign of people power. The Bonfire and fireworks are a sign of celebration and the effigy- well, we wait to see on the day what the effigy might be. Sometimes an effigy is blown up in mockery and sometimes in thanks and as a mark of respect. Work out which you think it is for 2018. Hastings Bonfire takes place because of the few loyal and hardworking volunteer members that work tirelessly through the year; they have made it happen. This is a community event run by people from within the community who have been participating in smaller fund-raising activities in order to present a rousing and successful Hastings Bonfire for everyone to enjoy for free. Please support in whatever way you can- buy a programme, a badge, [donate on our website](#) or at the firesite. Please put money in the charity buckets, keep safely back from the fire -both the lit torches in the procession and the bonfire itself and especially keep clear of the firework area. Look out for each of the visiting Bonfire Societies clearly identified by the banner they carry in front, their "stripes" and their chosen costumes. Hastings Borough Bonfire Society leads the whole procession, wearing the red, gold and blue of the Cinque Port colours. Look for the giant Guy Fawkes pulled along the route, the mayor and visiting dignitaries, the town criers and the drummers. This is great evening which showcases Hastings and its people. Enjoy and an exciting evening and maybe you might even join us. [New members are always welcome.](#)

Beacon of Remembrance

<https://vimeo.com/303074703>

Other videos

[https://youtu.be/\\_8u9MKtZgWw](https://youtu.be/_8u9MKtZgWw)

<https://youtu.be/tmLK6jgZvfQ>

<https://youtu.be/3eSeeYk8Hqs>

<https://youtu.be/3eSeeYk8Hqs>