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inside

THE LEGENDARY RIPLEY BONFIRE



*Last year's Bonfire Queen, Zelda Whittern, with her daughters, Karen (left) and Tania (right).
Unfortunately there was another daughter, Clare, who was unable to travel in the coach*

© Charlie Cocks - Mitcham Camera Club

SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER 2025

Fireworks • Fairground • Refreshments

FREE PROGRAMME

www.ripleybonfire.co.uk

All proceeds go to the Over 60s and other local organisations

Free valuations 9am-5pm
every weekday

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UPCOMING AUCTIONS

PRE-LOVED, VINTAGE & ANTIQUE INC. JEWELLERY

7 NOVEMBER

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SPORTING MEMORABILIA 12 NOVEMBER

ENTERTAINMENT & MEMORABILIA 13 & 14 NOVEMBER

TOYS & MODELS 18 NOVEMBER

COMIC BOOKS 19 NOVEMBER

VINTAGE POSTERS SINGLE OWNER COLLECTION

20 & 21 NOVEMBER

JEWELLERY, WATCHES & COINS 3 DECEMBER

SILVER, FINE ART, BOOKS & STAMPS 4 DECEMBER

ANTIQUES, MILITARIA, ASIAN ART, CLOCKS & FURNITURE

5 DECEMBER

WINTER CARS, MOTORBIKES & AUTOMOBILIA

12 DECEMBER

COMIC BOOKS 17 DECEMBER

TRADING CARDS & RETRO VIDEO GAMES

18 & 19 DECEMBER

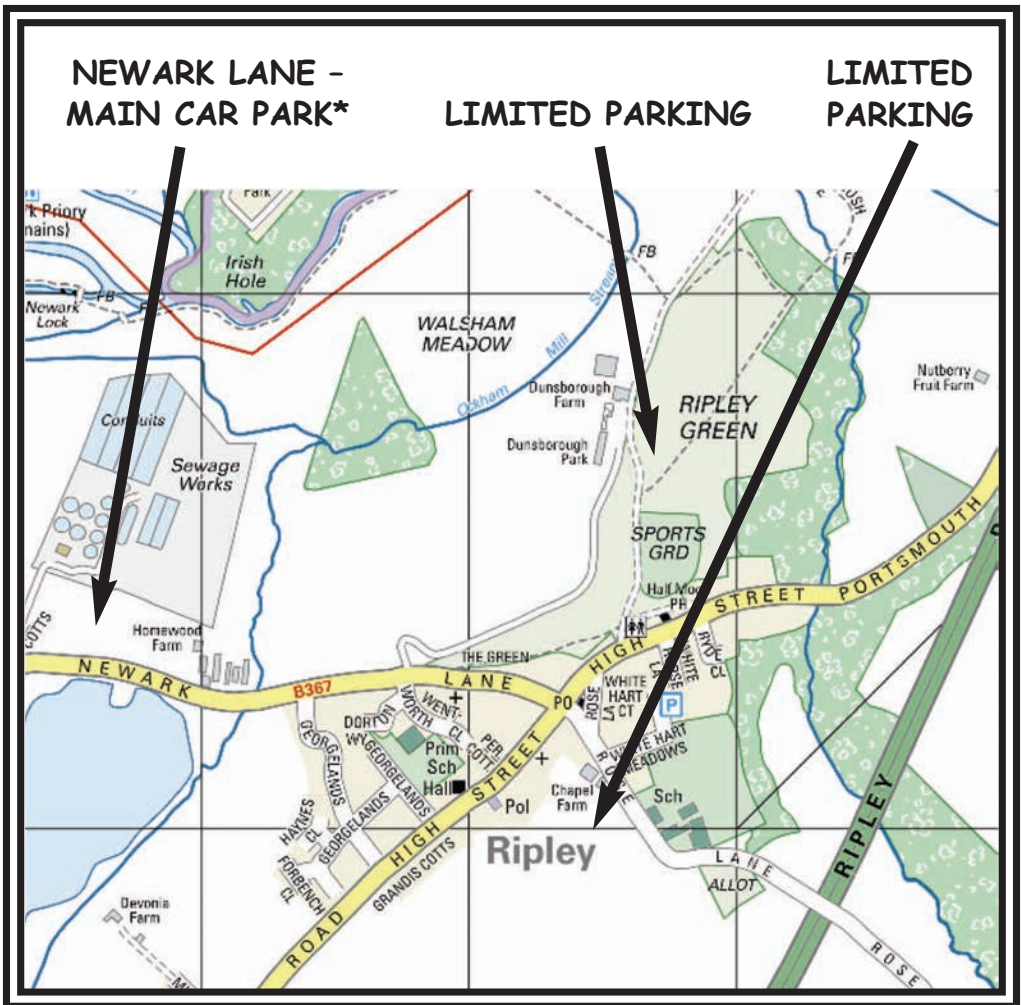
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www.ewbanks.co.uk

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CAR PARKING



There will be a charge of £5 per car for parking at all of these car parks

* After the bonfire, upon exit from Newark Lane car park, there will be a one way system in operation

RIPLEY BONFIRE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman & Safety Officer
Vice Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer

Steve Hill
Peter Hookins
Steve Lock
Tony Miller

Event Manager
Deputy Safety Officer
Assistant Treasurer
Electrical/Comms

Joe Ayears
Dan Hill
Alex Williamson
Graham Cornell

Nigel Bruder
Alex Carapiet
Clive Carter
Linda Carter
Matt Cliff

Diane Dean
Chris Lane
Geraldine Lock
Harriet Hill
Stuart Shoesmith

Co-opted Member
Social Media

Robyn Dean

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THANKS TO:

All Marshals and Collectors	- Without their help we couldn't continue
Mr Mark Ayers	- For housing the coach and equipment
The Baron	- For the lighting of the Dunsborough car park
The Bonfire Builders	- For turning up in all weathers to help build the bonfire
John Cornell	- For providing the 2-way radios
Steve Cowland of noisyspace.com	- For the design and housing of our website
Joe Gervasio, Sarah Harrison and Ross Buchanan	- For managing Rose Lane car park
Richard Goddard	- For the use of their truck
Grayshott Farm Ltd	- For the use of the field in Newark Lane
Jo and Pat	- For providing tea and biscuits for the bonfire builders
Phil Kite & Family	- For selling the wax torches
Ripley Court School	- For making the Guy
Ripley Scouts	- For managing the Dunsborough car park
S.E.R.V.	- For managing the road closures
The Ship PH	- Fund raising by organising pub quizzes
Sophie and Davina	- For the sausage and bacon rolls for the builders
Surrey Search Volunteers	- For managing the Newark Lane car park
TH Contracting & Maintenance and The Hill Family	- For the use of a telehandler for the three weeks of the bonfire build and for driving the tractor for the Queen's coach

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY OTHERS THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK FOR THEIR DIRECT OR INDIRECT HELP

This programme has been compiled by Steve Lock, who would like to thank all who have contributed to it this year. For the last few years he have been finding it very difficult for you nice people to come forward with your memories. If you have any or you may wish to advertise next year please contact:

Steve Lock - 07854 017362 or

Email - steve_lock47@btinternet.com

Don't forget you can also contact us on our website (www.ripleybonfire.co.uk), Facebook (Ripley Bonfire Association) and Instagram (@ripleybonfireassociation)

COLLECTION BUCKETS – 28th October 2024

Chris Arnold	Rowland Cornell	Chris Lane	Clare Porter
Lyn Arnold	Diane Dean	Chris Lee	Ripley Cricket Club
Richard Ayears	Robyn Dean	Jo Mattock	Ripley Scouts
Ian Baker	Oliver Field	Ben Miller	Malcolm Robertson
Brian's Bar	Peter Gelardi	Kim Miller	Stu/Gloria Shoesmith
Alex Carapiet	Joe Gervasio	Dan Morris	Sultana – the band
Clive Carter	Clare Grimes	Andrew/Jack Paulson	Alex Williamson
Graham Cornell	Paul Jackson	Lucie Paulson	

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of the Ripley Bonfire Association Committee (RBA), those associated and our fantastic collectors. In 2024 we collected a grand total of £10,009.45. The RBA would also like to thank all of those involved in making this such a special event. It is through their help and other fundraising activities, which the Association does throughout the year, that allows us to stage the bonfire and fireworks.

Other than enabling us to give to the Ripley Over 60s, we also try and donate money to other worthy organisations, in and around the village. Again we will be using Card Readers, which ensures we don't miss charitable contributions, as people's transition from cash to card. Special thanks to Joe Gervasio who managed our card operation and without whom, it would not have been the success it was.

Tony Miller
Treasurer

If we have forgotten anyone please accept our sincere apologies as we appreciate all the donations and fund raising that is done for the Association.

Can you PLEASE keep a close eye on your children and family members. It would be unfortunate, if after a wonderful evening of fun and entertainment, some of you went home thinking 'why did we come'.

**IF YOU LOSE A CHILD PLEASE GO TO
THE 'LOST CHILDRENS' TENT
(SITUATED AT THE TOP OF POND DIP,
OPPOSITE THE FIRST AID POINT)**

BONFIRE QUEENS/KINGS THROUGH THE YEARS

1938	Betty Cox	1988	Haley Irvine
1949	Pip Roberts	1989	Kerrianne Parsons
1950	Audrey Bashall	1990	Lucy Fairbrass
1951	Shelagh Carter	1991	Vicky Shoesmith
1952	Audrey Strudgwick	1992	Amanda Milne
1953	Jaqueline Strudgwick	1993	Kim Biard
1954	Elsie Haines	1994	Nicola Jones
1955	Mary Pullinger	1995	Lisa Churchill
1956	Jill Mussell	1996	Holly Puttock
1957	Susan Wilkinson	1997	Beverly Griffin
1958	Betty Lamb	1998	Hazel Phillips
1959	Joan Hyde	1999	Abigail Brown
1960	Vivian Forehead	2000	Amy Cornwall
1961	Lena Smith	2001	Amy Goodman
1962	Jill Brown	2002	Rose Ayears
1963	Avril Bibby	2003	Jordan Styles
1964	Shirley Chandler	2004	Georgia Meek
1965	Rita Beauchamp	2005	Demi Gunner
1966	Cathy Weller	2006	Robyn Dean
1967	Susan Fry	2007	Verity Ayears
1968	Carol Reynolds	2008	Charlotte Gallacher
1969	Sara Smith	2009	Kendel Styles
1970	Pat Treadwell	2010	Tilly Grimes
1971	Allison Harman	2011	Sophie Baker
1972	Ruth Sapsford	2012	Helen Masters
1973	Susan Sayers	2013	Maddie Hart
1974	Karen Winstanley	2014	Emily Williamson
1975	Jackie Parsons	2015	Zoe Zapp
1976	Dawn Gibbs	2016	Lexie Hyde
1977	Sharon Sapsford	2017	Lily-Mae Hardy
1978	Tania Whittern	2018	Emma Doughty
1979	Susan Clark	2019	Philippa Bimson
1980	Suzanne Wernham	2020	Covid Year
1981	Joanna Hughes	2021	Covid Year
1982	Nicola Wernham	2022	Diane Dean
1983	Helen Porter	2023	Vernon Wood
1984	Alexis Bowler	2024	Zelda Whittern
1985	Debbie Shoesmith		
1986	Angela Marshall		
1987	Nicola Marshall		

If you would like to add any memories of an old bonfire night, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with Steve, either on 07854 017362 or by email steve_lock47@btinternet.com

The Chairman's Address – 2025

Welcome to this our 70th Anniversary of the 'Ripley Bonfire Association' and to this year's annual Celebrations on Saturday 25th October 2025.

Whilst, the Annual Bonfire Celebrations have been part of this village's life for many years (it was probably 25 years ago in this programme), that my farther – Ron Hill wrote of his 'Memories of the beginning of Ripley Village Bonfire' as a child, post First World War. It was not until 1955 when the present Bonfire Association was formed by a group of like-minded elders of the village.

The Associations remit back in 1955 was to put on an event for the enjoyment of the village. Should there be any excess of funds then this would be distributed to 'Ripley Over 60s Club'. This is still the case today, although through the popularity of the event over the years, we are now able to also give donations to other charitable causes such as: Woking Hospice, Surrey Air Ambulance, Surrey Blood Runners, Surrey Search Volunteers as well as other village organisations.

The current Associations Committee is made up of a small group of volunteers, who with other community volunteers (not just on the night, but also on the build up to the night) work tirelessly to put on what has now become the 'Legendary Ripley Bonfire'.

Last year, the weather was good to us (unlike previous years) and we were not only able to re-coup some losses from previous years, but were able to give £8,460 to charitable causes, as I previously mentioned above.

Let's hope this year, the weather is kind to us. We can cope with the cold; we just need it dry. It is the rain that affects us the most, especially if it is raining at 5pm and those with all good intentions of supporting the event, look outside the window, see a bit of rain and decide to stay indoors for the night.

So, 'Come Rain or Shine' I look forward to seeing you all this year and with your kind donations, let's make sure we can put on another fantastic community event and support those charitable causes, with much needed funds.

Steve Hill
RBA – Chairman & Safety Officer

As the current Association's Chairman, I am sure I also have the support of our previous and long-standing Chairman - Vernon Wood, in giving thanks for the life of Margaret Field, who sadly passed away earlier this year. She was a wonderful lady who loved Ripley and was passionate about Ripley Bonfire and its associated celebrations.

Margaret served and assisted the Association for many years: from those early days in the 60s when she was involved with the Public Meeting at the Methodist Church and subsequent fund raising, which ensured the future of our village Bonfire Celebrations for future generations to come. Right up to last year, when whilst she could not participate in the street collection, due to her health, she was there at the end of the evening, collecting in the buckets from an army of collectors.



They say that behind every good man there is a good woman. Well Margaret, as a good woman, certainly had a good man in Graham (Flapper) who again we have sadly lost. Both will be remembered for their tireless street collecting on the night and in a variety of fancy dress costumes over the years.

I am also pleased to announce that this year's Queens Carriage Royal Party and the subsequent lighting of the bonfire will be in memory of Margaret and I thank her children, Christian and Elizabeth, for their assistance and support.

REMEMBER: Enjoy the evening and please 'Stay Safe'. When you are looking up into that dark night sky at the fantastic Firework Display, just peak past those fireworks and look at the stars remembering those that we have loved and lost. I am sure they will be looking down on you.

Steve Hill



ripley christmas fair 2025

Sunday, 7th December 2025
11am - 3pm
Ripley High Street and The Green



A great spectacle unfolds for all family... Step into a world of wonder with 100 magical stalls, offering everything from sparkling jewellery to handmade decorations and charming toys.

Support Ripley's beloved Christmas festoon lights by purchasing a raffle ticket for just £1. Don't forget to sample our warming mulled wine as you soak up the festive cheer of the Ripley Christmas Fair.

And yes, Father Christmas himself will be making an appearance!

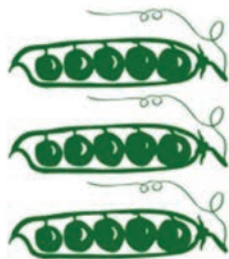
Raffle tickets are available in advance from Richardsons or the Parish Council office at Victory House, High Street.



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Photo credit Natalia Prykhodko

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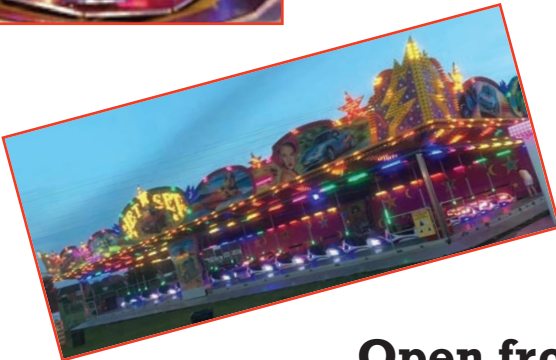


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Valid for ONE ride:

Friday 24/10/2025

Saturday 25/10/2025 – valid until 5 pm



RIPLEY ANCHOR

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BONFIRE DINNER

SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER

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Arrival Before
The Event
17:00-18:30

Arrival After
The Event
20.30-21:30

HIGH STREET PROCESSION AT 7.10 | BONFIRE 7.30
FIREWORKS 20.00 | MUSIC 20.30

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RIPLEY

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

ALL TIMES ARE

1.00pm BENSON'S FAMILY FUNFAIR

Thanks to Mr and Mrs Benson for their great and continued help in making the bonfire a succes

4.00pm BRIAN'S BAR OPENS

Official bar of the Association. Proceeds go towards the event and the community

4.00pm FOOD OUTLETS WILL BE OPEN

**7.00pm THE GROUP 'SULTANA' WILL
START, NEXT TO THE BAR**

**7.10pm TORCHLIT PROCESSION LEAVES
VILLAGE HALL**

Led by the Royal Carriage and Regal Guest of Honour, preceded by The Surbiton Royal British Legion Youth Marching Band

CAR PARKING DETAILS ON

BONFIRE

SATURDAY 25th OCTOBER 2025

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**7.30pm LIGHTING OF THE BONFIRE BY THE
BONFIRE QUEEN/KING**

8.00pm FIREWORK DISPLAY COMMENCES
Thanks to **DYNAMIC FIREWORKS**,
who have been providing our fireworks
for 25 years



FIRST PAGE AND OUR WEBSITE

Dynamic Fireworks – 25 years

It was whilst I was giving consideration to our Associations 70th Anniversary, that I thought that Dynamic Fireworks (our current firework display company) had been with us for a number of years.

So, a quick telephone to Nigel, my contact at Dynamic Fireworks, who was a founder of the company some 30 years ago with his father, he confirmed that we had been with them since 1998 and as such, taking out the Covid years, makes this year their 25th display for us on Ripley Green.

It was following several issues with the firing of our display back in the 90s, that the then Bonfire Committee, decided to go out to tender for a Professional Display Company. We drew up a short list and it was my job as Safety Officer to then meet these display companies on site, obtain their risk assessments and receive their quotations.

I remember the day well when I met the 'Dynamics' representative on the village green. He was an old boy (well I was a lot younger then) and he introduced himself 'Roy Bernie', he also reminded me of my old dad. As we walked across the football pitch with Roy from the car park to the firework display area behind the cricket nets, I could not help but notice, he was walking with his feet at 10 to 2, this made me smile, as it reminded me so much of Henry Wood (Vernon's dad) who was not only heavily involved with the bonfire, but a man I had a lot of respect for.

Chatting away, I remember Roy saying that whilst 'Dynamic Fireworks' may not currently be a first division football team, they were most definitely top of the second division. That was something both myself and my old dad could relate to at the time.

Having had met the other companies, there was no doubt in my mind that our preferred Display Company should be 'Dynamic Fireworks' and following confirmation from the Bonfire Committee, they were invited to provide our forthcoming display.

I remember that first year, Roy actually came down to Ripley with the display team, for which Gareth was the then team leader, incidentally Gareth is still with 'Dynamic Fireworks' 25 years on and is actually the team leader on this year's 25th display for us.

Every year their display has been fantastic and an experience for all that have watched, the spontaneous applause from the vast crowd at the end of the display, confirms this year on year and brings a tear to many of us.

We have never had any issues with either a display or the display team and each year the displays just seem to get better and better, I sincerely believe they are now a top premier league club, I congratulate Nigel and the team on their achievement.

This year, Nigel, and the Dynamics team, in recognition of our 70th and their 25th Anniversaries they will be doing something special for us, so come 8pm on Saturday 25th, keep your eyes fixed to the stars and await a Spectacular (and Dynamic) display.

Steve Hill
RBA - Chairman & Safety Officer



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A tribute to Margaret Field, who very sadly passed away on the 27th April 2025

Back in the late 60s, the then committee of the Ripley Bonfire Association, on which Margaret served, called an extra ordinary meeting at the Methodist Church in the High Street. The financial situation was dire and there wasn't sufficient funds to buy the fireworks. I was at this meeting and a local business man funded the fireworks until the money was raised.

It was at this meeting a team of volunteers, headed by Margaret, were to begin a fund raising plan. She was tireless on this mission. Successful barn dances and a jumble sale raised enough to eventually purchase the fireworks. At that time one of the main sources of income was from collection buckets, so she went about the village to cajole and plead for people to collect and my goodness collect they did. It became a competition amongst a few to see who could collect the most.

Her passion for the bonfire celebrations to succeed was phenomenal and the whole community were thankful for her continual hard work for many, many years. Even at the end of her life, when not expected to, she survived to share two more bonfire nights.

The Ripley Bonfire Association are grateful beyond words for the years of dedication she showed in her love for the village and its community.

Special memories - Gloria Shoesmith

RIPLEY BONFIRE ASSOCIATION

1. Mr. S. Paice outlined how the present Bonfire Association was first formed:

Ripley has had a bonfire since time immemorial. At the end of the Second World War the bonfire was re-started and it was first carried on by the organisations in the village. Owing to the failure of this system Mr. Pullen organised a Committee meeting to discuss organising a bonfire night and that was how the present Bonfire Association was formed. No Annual General Meetings were held to choose the Committee which would mean a different Committee each year. It was then decided profits would go to Over 60's funds. So we do not choose a Committee each year but choose individual members who serve as long as possible. Mr. Paice said he hoped that this system will continue in the future. Members present agreed.

2. Ripley Bonfire is run mainly for village fun rather than to raise money.
3. New members are generally selected by past work carried out for the Bonfire Association.
4. It has been decided to take down minutes of future meetings.

These are the first recorded minutes for the Bonfire Association



HAVE YOU ENJOYED YOUR EVENING AT THE RIPLEY BONFIRE EVENT?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO 'GET INVOLVED'?

CAN YOU SPARE A LITTLE TIME DURING THE YEAR, OR JUST A COUPLE OF HOURS ON THE NIGHT?

EITHER WAY, THE RIPLEY BONFIRE ASSOCIATION WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR COLLECTORS AND MARSHALS FOR THE EVENING AND FOR PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE COMMITTEE AND HELP TO SET UP AND RUN THE EVENT.

WHICHEVER IT MAY BE, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS BELOW OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.ripleybonfire.co.uk, we are also on Facebook (Ripley Bonfire Association)

Steve Hill (Chairman) - 07774 177771
Steve Lock (Secretary) - 07854 017362



Ripley Bonfire Association

The Ripley Bonfire Association was established in 1955 and has been responsible for running the bonfire and fireworks event ever since. It is made up of volunteers, from all walks of life, who all give up their time freely to ensure that the event continues to run each year.

The event itself is free to anyone who wants to come along, however, the money made each year pays for next year's event. It is therefore essential that sufficient money is raised each year to ensure that this happens. Any surplus money is donated to the local community organisations such as the Over 60s Club, Cricket Club, Scouts, S.E.R.V. and Surrey Air Ambulance.

DONATIONS

There are various ways that the Association raises money, such as selling advertising in the programme, but more importantly collecting donations from members of the public attending the event.

COLLECTION BUCKETS

The Association has adopted the marketing campaign '£1 per person, please chuck it in the bucket'. This has proved quite successful and shall be continuing this year. So when you see a yellow bucket - Chuck it in!

CARD READERS - QR CODE

Again this year we will be going hi-tech, whereby you can scan your cards on a card reader, or use your mobile phone to donate via a QR code. You will be able to donate as much as you wish, it will be entirely up to you. THANK YOU.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP!!!

Walking amongst the crowd you will find a group of volunteers, either in fancy dress or wearing tabards, who all have the official collection buckets. Please keep an eye out for our Collectors and give as much as you can afford, especially in these hard times. We aim to collect a minimum donation for £1 per person, but would ideally like to collect more as not everyone donates or finds a Collector. There will also be collection buckets at the bar and where the band is playing, so if you can spare some loose change, please, **Chuck it in the Bucket!!!**

**RIPLEY BONFIRE ASSOCIATION WISHES EVERYONE
AN ENJOYABLE AND SAFE BONFIRE NIGHT!**

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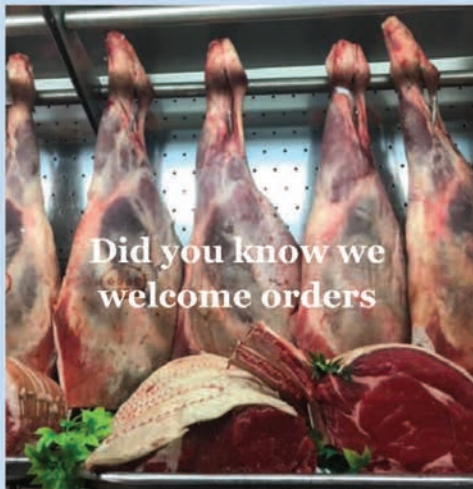
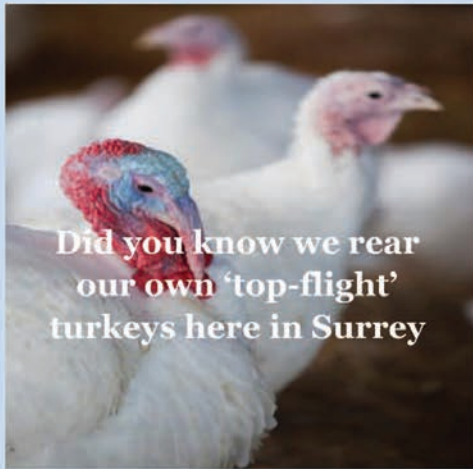
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East Horsley 01483 282073

Ripley Bonfires as recalled by Anne Cornell

I miss the magic of working hard (perhaps for a whole week) on helping to produce a winning entry - the main competition was usually between Ripley First School, The Guides and 1st Ripley Scout Group. Wisley Garden's students always joined in, so did Barratt Sheds (of free erection fame) and British Red Cross along with other independent entries.

My favourite, was the year after we moved to Ripley - 1984 - Saturday must have fallen very close to **Halloween**. We entered a creepy grave yard scene with a creaking door, cackling laughter and special effects cauldron with smoke (dry ice) and flames. Bats everywhere and various children all in character, including ghosts and a 'little devil'. No prize but a lot of fun for 'incomers' to the village.

Another great year - 1st Ripley Scouts won with the wonderful Red Arrows tribute entry, '**The Blue Barrows**' - the troop had practised +++ to perfect the formation manoeuvres to the tune of 633 Squadron and were rewarded with a win.

Another year we entered a **H. G. Wells** tribute with a huge Martian - unfortunately that didn't win.

Two other entries treasured in my mind are:

Firstly, '**Dads Army**' (another win to the Scouts) - a huge whole troop entry with all the boys and parents fully involved - Tony Wallis as the vicar was perfect, I can't recall who was Captain Mainwaring or Jones, the butcher, but we had the butchers van, complete with sausage trail (balloons), a cardboard tank, a real armoured vehicle and John's Reo lorry with all the boys aboard, with their tin hats (papier mâché) and gas masks etc. Another well deserved win for the Troop.

And secondly, '**The Phantom Scout**', where Mr Roy Chubb, a scout parent, took a whole week off work, to supervise the Cubs and Scouts building and decorating a fantastic entry. The truck was parked down at the Rio Café, where it was safe, until the night when we weighed anchor and proceeded around the village blasting out Rod Stewart's 'We are Sailing'. There was almost a catastrophe, as the Parade (and it really was a great spectacle) entered Georgelands, our mast was in danger of taking out the telephone wires. Thank goodness we had a daring adult aboard to climb the mast, and help us continue the route without incident. That year judges took exception to a small advertising pendant to Mountpoint Scaffolding and the entry was penalised for this - we had made a very safe structure to build on, but the work and effort was all the boys, so disappointing not to get a win.

My memories flow on . . . the same year that our Nat. West Bank moved to its current location and transitioned into a Museum we (C & C Autos) provided a trailer and the Chevrolet Breakdown for the Scouts to build a replica bank and entered '**The Ripley Bank Heist/Hoist**'. It was part of the fun dressing up as a policeman with party helmet and was even approached by a confused visitor to the village asking me for directions . . . or, that might have been '**The Pink Panther**' year with Clueso . . . all the years merge after a while **Noddy and Big Ears, Pocahontas**.

Finally, a plea to any reader who knows the whereabouts of a video recording I made many years ago, capturing a lot of fun year on year. Please own up and let me have it back - it needs to go on Youtube to help advertise another year.

Regards Anne - 01483 225003 or 07393 471520



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*Top: Last year's band preceding the procession from the Village Hall to the Green
Bottom: Some of the procession following the Queen's coach*

These two pages of pictures are © Charlie Cocks - Mitcham Camera Club



Top: The fire well under way with the huge crowd watching on at last year's event

Opposite: The amazing end to a terrific evening





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