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THE LEGENDARY RIPLEY BONFIRE



*Last year's Guest, Elizabeth Berman (née Field), with her brother, Christian Field,
and her daughter, India*

© Charlie Cocks - Mitcham Camera Club

SATURDAY 31st OCTOBER 2026

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 —

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TOYS, MODELS & COLLECTABLES	16 NOVEMBER	WINTER CARS, MOTORBIKES & AUTOMOBILIA	10 DECEMBER
SPORTING MEMORABILIA	17 NOVEMBER	VINTAGE POSTERS	11 DECEMBER
MUSIC MEMORABILIA	18 NOVEMBER	TRADING CARDS & RETRO VIDEO GAMES	16 DECEMBER
MOVIE PROPS	19 NOVEMBER	COMIC BOOKS	17 DECEMBER
FILM & TV MEMORABILIA	20 NOVEMBER	FINE WINES & SPIRITS	18 DECEMBER



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A map of the Newark Lane area in Ripley, showing various landmarks and parking locations. The map includes the following features:

- Newark Lane:** The main road running horizontally across the middle of the map, labeled B367.
- Ripley Green:** A large green area to the right of Newark Lane, with a black arrow pointing to it from the text "LIMITED PARKING".
- Sports Ground:** Located south of Ripley Green, with a black arrow pointing to it from the text "LIMITED PARKING".
- Irish Hole:** A green area to the north of Newark Lane, with a black arrow pointing to it from the text "NEWARK LANE - MAIN CAR PARK*".
- Walsham Meadow:** A green area to the north of Newark Lane, with a black arrow pointing to it from the text "NEWARK LANE - MAIN CAR PARK*".
- Other Landmarks:** Includes Dunsborough Farm, Dunsborough Park, Chapel Farm, Prim Sch, and various residential streets like High Street, Rose Lane, and Lane Allot.

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

Welcome to Ripley Village Bonfire Celebrations 2026

Welcome to this year's Celebrations, it does feel strange sitting here at the beginning of September, writing a welcome for our forthcoming bonfire night, in the middle of an official 'Draught' and 'Hosepipe Ban' and having just experienced 'temperatures of 35 plus' as well as 'over 60 consecutive days without rain'.

I must admit though, at this stage of the summer and with only 5 to 6 weeks before we start building the bonfire, the Committee may have to consider, that without any significant rain, that there may have to be a delay in building the bonfire on safety reasons, as the area of the green and around our village it is like a tinder box. Hopefully, by the time you read this, our concerns will have passed and we have got on with the 'Legendary Ripley Bonfire' as normal.

Safety, as mentioned above, is always at the forefront of our planning, for which the Local Authority (GBC) chair a Safety Advisory Group (SAG), specifically for our annual Village Celebrations. Other members of this group include: Surrey Police, Surrey Fire & Rescue, Southeast Ambulance Service and SCC Highways. As a result we are required to submit the following policies and procedures, for approval:

- Operational Plan/Statement of Intent
- Contingency Plan (including Safeguarding Policy)
- Traffic Management Plan
- Concessions Policy
- Fire Risk Assessment

As you can see, whilst we take all reasonable steps to ensure Public (visitor) Safety, ultimately visitors are responsible for their own safety. So please when enjoying this year's celebrations, think about your own and your families safety, i.e.:

- Always wear the right clothing and footwear for the conditions
- Always be aware of the ground conditions (slips, trips and falls)
- Do I need a torch or a walking aid (it could be wet or slippery underfoot)
- Always be aware of moving traffic (especially when leaving the event)
- Always be aware of drifting smoke and embers
- Keep young children safe (especially when in close proximity of the fire)

We do have a fully manned and equipped 'First Aid Point' at the entrance to the green, as well as an adjacent 'Lost Children and Vulnerable Person Point', which are there to assist you.

Finally, it only leaves me to say have a great night and remember, that whilst this is a free event we do have considerable costs, so please donate at one of our collection points as you enter the village or one of our many street collection buckets throughout the evening, also please support our bar and other adjacent food outlets, every little counts.

Remember - Stay Safe

Steve Hill
*Chairman and Safety Officer
Ripley Bonfire Association*



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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
Electrical/Comms

Joe Ayears
Dan Hill
Graham Cornell

Nigel Bruder
Chris Butler
Alex Carapiet
Clive Carter
Linda Carter
Matt Cliff

Diane Dean
Harriet Hill
Chris Lane
Geraldine Lock
Stuart Shoemsmith
Josh Smith

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THANKS TO:

All Marshals and Collectors	- Without their help we couldn't continue
Mark Ayers	- For housing the coach and equipment
Mr Bangash	- 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 and friends	- For managing Rose Lane car park
Richard Goddard and Ross Buchanan	- For the use of their trucks
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 and Family	- For selling the wax torches
Ripley Court School	- For making the Guy
Ripley Explorers	- For managing the Dunsborough car park
S.E.R.V.	- For managing the road closures
The Ship PH	- For their fund raising
Sophie and Davina	- For the breakfast on the Friday prior to the event for the crew
Surrey Search and Rescue	- 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 Royal Coach
Seymours, Ripley	- For their sponsorship of the car park signs

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 - 27th October 2025

Justine/Richard Ayears	Chris Heath	One Stop	Andy Rowe
Brian's Bar	Issi	Andrew/Jack Paulson	Gloria/Stu Shoesmith
Clive Carter	Paul Jackson	Clare Porter	Julie Simmonds
Graham Cornell	Josh	Joel Prior	Sultana - the band
Rowland Cornell	Chris Lane	Richardsons	Jo/Matt Whaley
Charlie/Diane Dean	Chris Lee	Ripley Cricket Club	Whaley family
Peter Gelardi	Gerry Lock	Ripley Scouts	Nicky Wilson
Susan Hayes	Jo Mattock	Malcolm Robertson	

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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of the Ripley Bonfire Association Committee (RBA), those associated and our fantastic collectors. In 2025 we collected a grand total of £11,249.07. 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, without whom it would not have been the success it was . . . but don't forget your silver coins as cash is still very important to us.

The role of RBA Treasurer is an interesting one! A summary follows as to how each year develops:

- July - first job of the year is to apply to GBC for the Collectors' permits, supported by an authorisation from the Ripley Over 60s to collect on their behalf
- Permit received from GBC and handed over to Peter Hookins, who manages our Collectors. (We will always welcome newcomers to the Collectors' family!)

- Various suppliers to pay before the big day:
 - Programme printing
 - Website management
 - Village Hall hire for the Bonfire Queen (or King!) and attendants
 - Portaloos
 - Waste containers
 - Our fantastic fireworks
 - Ambulance services
 - Event insurance
 (This all adds up to a significant spend, using proceeds accrued from our previous year's event)
- Come the big day, my team, Claire Miller and Sarah Casey, receive the buckets and card readers and counting begins!
- Our committee then meet to decide which charities we will support
- End of January/early February, recipients of our donations are invited to our home, the Cricket Club, to receive notification of the amount RBA have awarded to them
- Annual accounts are then finalised, then we take a break before everything starts again in July

Whilst behind the scenes, much work is undertaken by the committee, bonfire building, sponsor searching, collectors' management etc., it is a privilege to work with a great committee team, rewarded by smiling faces on bonfire night and the knowledge our charitable contributions make a difference.

We always need more help, so if you want to contribute in anyway, please don't hesitate to call me or one of my committee colleagues.

Tony Miller
Treasurer
T: 07801 334441

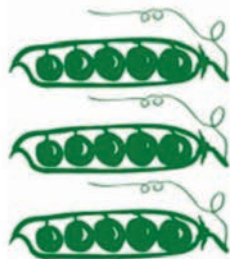
Can you PLEASE keep a close eye on your children and family members. It would be unfortunate, if after a wonderful evening of fun and entertainment, some of you went home thinking 'why did we come'.

**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/GUESTS 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	2025	Margaret Field's Family
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



**Ripley
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on the second Saturday of every month
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Photo credit Natalia Prykhodko

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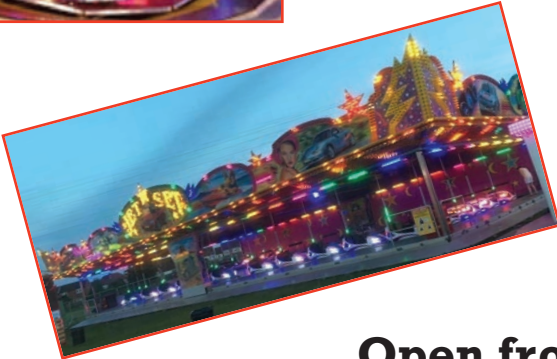
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Ripley Bonfire Night 2025

For several years now, Stu and I have manned the 'Lost Children' post where troubled people can come and seek help during the bonfire celebrations. This year we thought we would give you all an insight of what can happen.

Shortly after we had arrived on the green a lovely lady came along to say she had lost her sister. With the many visitors that Ripley sees on the evening it is an easy happening. Fortunately the 'lost' sister saw our post and there she was reunited. Good first result!

A young girl gave her phone to her mum, while she went on a fair ride, when she returned she couldn't find her. Our mobiles helped her contact her mum, so all was well.

Then a gentlemen approached us with a worried look, he had lost his dog!! It took some time, but a caring visitor caught the little dog and headed for our post. Another happy outcome!

A young boy came to us in tears, he had been separated from his family. We were lucky to have special police officers nearby so we asked for their help. They were brilliant in consoling the young boy. He had a phone but really didn't know how to use it. The officers were able to find a contact number to call. Relief on the lads face was immense.

Finally, we had several items handed in to us. A handbag with car keys were handed in. There was one car left in the car park the next morning and the handbag happened to belong to the owner.

Altogether the evening was a safe success and it really proves how important it is to have our help at hand on such a busy evening.

I would also like to thank Debbie, my daughter and Sarah Savage, for the help they gave us on the night.

We hope you all have a safe evening, but we will be at our usual spot if you lose anyone or anything.

Gloria Shoesmith

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RIPLEY

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

ALL TIMES ARE

1.00pm M&L PLEASURE FAIRS OPENS

Thanks to Mr and Mrs Benson for their continued support and help in making the bonfire a success

4.00pm BRIAN'S BAR OPENS

Official bar of the Association. Situated on the green, serving the cheapest beer in the village. Proceeds go towards the event and the community. (Please note, bar service is suspended during the firework display.)

4.00pm FOOD OUTLETS WILL BE OPEN

7.00pm THE GROUP 'SULTANA' BEGIN TO PLAY

The group will be next to the bar, until around 10.00 pm, with a 20 minute break at 8.00 pm for the fireworks

7.10pm TORCHLIT PROCESSION COMMENCES

The torchlit procession leaves the Village Hall to make their way to the green. Led by the Royal Coach and Regal Guest of Honour, preceded by The Surbiton Royal British Legion Youth Marching Band

CAR PARKING DETAILS ON

BONFIRE

SATURDAY 31st OCTOBER 2026

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

7.30pm LIGHTING OF THE BONFIRE!

The torchlit procession arrives on the green and the Regal Guest lights the bonfire

8.00pm FIREWORK DISPLAY COMMENCES

Thanks to **DYNAMIC FIREWORKS** for, year on year, delivering such an outstanding display.



FIRST PAGE AND OUR WEBSITE



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Appreciation of the Village Community

My son, who was 15 at the time, and I had both helped to build the Ripley bonfire. As you can see from the photos he really enjoyed being involved and was proud that he had played a small part in such an important village tradition.

When I told him that the bonfire had been deliberately burnt down, I had never seen him so upset. He knew how much hard work had gone into building it and simply could not understand why anyone would want to destroy it.

Unfortunately, he was not able to help with the rebuilding, but it was amazing to see how the whole village came together the day before Bonfire Night. So many people turned up to help and they managed to rebuild the bonfire in time. What had happened was awful, but the way the community responded showed what a special place Ripley is.



This is my son, Samuel, helping with the first build

James Tomich



Samuel adding greenery



The finished first build

The TALBOT



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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 a non profit Association and 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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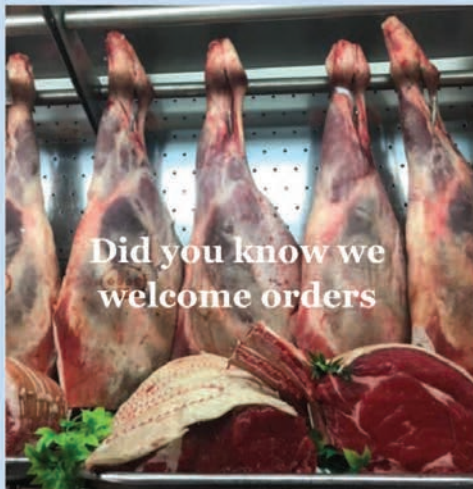
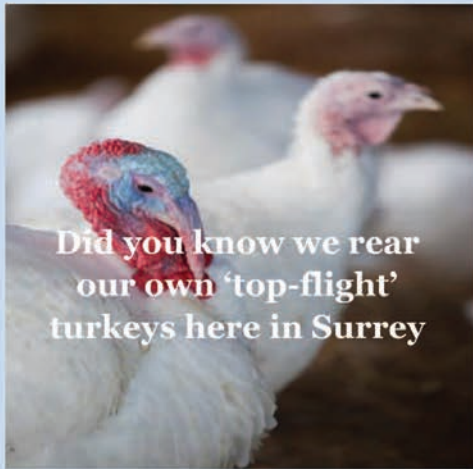
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Teamwork, creativity and community spirit. Ripley Court School's Year 1 pupils had great fun helping build the Guy for this year's Ripley Bonfire Night and playing their part in a wonderful Ripley village tradition



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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 Guest's coach*

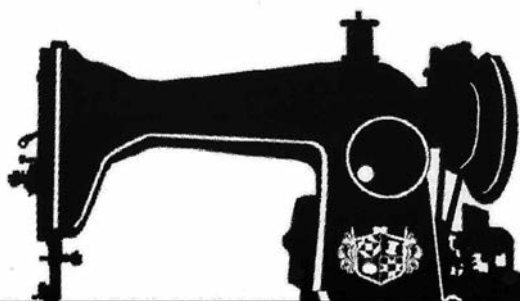
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