

# South Heighton Bonfire Society Rules & Recommendations

## Rules

- 1) To become a member of South Heighton Bonfire Society you must be aged 18 or over, unless you are attached to an over 18 adult membership.
- 2) All membership payments are to be paid by badge night. If this is not done then you will no longer be considered part of the society until membership is paid.
- 3) Existing members must renew their membership before attending any out-meetings. Non-members cannot walk in procession without membership.
- 4) Membership is valid for one year from badge night to badge night. If you join after badge night your membership will still only be valid until the badge night following.
- 5) Membership will be closed to new members between 1<sup>st</sup> Oct and 1<sup>st</sup> Jan each year.
- 6) Members will only be allowed to march in procession if wearing costume (including smugglers costume.)
- 7) Smugglers costume consists of a royal blue and yellow striped jumper and **white** (not beige) trousers. Members who do not wear the correct coloured jumper/trousers will not be allowed to march until the problem is rectified.
- 8) All members are responsible for their own safety and that of junior members under their supervision.
- 9) Junior members (under the age of 16) are not allowed to march in the procession without the close supervision of an adult at all times.
- 10) Members shall not bring the society into disrepute; anyone found doing so may have membership revoked.
- 11) Members of the society shall march in ranks of three during processions with adequate spacing in front and behind each rank; this not only looks good but is safe for all and allows for moving to the side if required for emergency services.
- 12) All members shall follow instructions given by marshals and officers of the society or host society when on out meetings.
- 13) It is illegal to throw fireworks in a public place. South Heighton Bonfire Society can take no responsibility and cannot be held liable for the dropping or throwing of fireworks at any time by its members.
- 14) South Heighton Bonfire Night is a strictly banger/drop down free evening. Any members found throwing/dropping bangers either during the procession or on the fire site will have their membership revoked.
- 15) Bookings for coach seats for out-meetings must be made by date specified and payment made on time. Bookings are made through South Heighton Bonfire Society Facebook page, SMS Text to the Treasurer or via email. More details and full terms are at [www.southheighton.org/bonfire/outmeetings](http://www.southheighton.org/bonfire/outmeetings)
- 16) Cancellations for coach bookings must be made at least 7 days prior to the booking date as per the above rule 13. Cancellations made thereafter will still be payable regardless of the reason for cancellation.
- 17) Anyone who is sick/spills food/drink on the coach will have to pay for the coach to be cleaned.
- 18) Membership is not transferable.

## Recommendations

- 1) Wear strong boots (preferably leather), a head covering and leather gloves.
- 2) Make costumes out of fire retardant fabrics (or spray with a fire retardant spray.)
- 3) Remember, during the early season processions it is usually quite warm but by the middle of November there is a definite chill in the air so dress appropriately.
- 4) Don't drink too much too quickly, remember it's a long night, enjoy it.
- 5) Don't drink openly during the procession, whilst it's ok to take a surreptitious slug from a hip flask it does not look good to be wandering along with a can in your hand.
- 6) Torches will occasionally flare and flame run down the stick. DON'T PANIC, hold the torch with head down and away from you and it should settle.
- 7) When in procession hold torches tilted away from you, if you are in an outside rank hold torch in outside hand slightly in front of you. This looks better and ensures the safety of those around you.
- 8) When discarding torches drop in the gutter at the side of the road if possible, or on the road directly in front of you if you are in the middle rank of the procession.
- 9) If you see a member of the public with a torch relieve them of it if you feel able, remaining polite but firm.

**Bonfire is fun; the above are rules/guidelines are to help everyone have good time in safety.**

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