

# SOUTH HEIGHTON BONFIRE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

## 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) **New** memberships will not be valid unless approved by the SHBS Committee.
- 3) Existing memberships (i.e. persons who had a valid membership in the previous year) will cease on Membership Night (Badge Night) but can be renewed up until South Heighton Bonfire Night that year. Existing members must renew their membership before attending any out meetings or requesting any coach seat reservations.
- 4) No person can walk in a procession with SHBS without valid membership.
- 5) Membership is only valid until the following Badge Night.
- 6) Any existing members who do not renew will have their email removed from the mailing list and be removed from the Facebook Group "South Heighton Bonfire Society (closed group for members only)" by the night of the South Heighton Bonfire Night (around 10<sup>th</sup> November each year).
- 7) Membership will be closed to **new** members between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> January each year.
- 8) Members will only be allowed to march in procession if wearing SHBS themed costume e.g. Smugglers or Barbarian costume. If you are in doubt as to what is suitable please speak to the membership secretary.
- 9) Smugglers costume consists of a royal blue and yellow striped jumper (wool colours available on request) 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.
- 10) All members are responsible for their own safety and that of junior members under their supervision.
- 11) 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.
- 12) Members shall not bring the society into disrepute; anyone found doing so may have membership revoked.
- 13) 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.
- 14) All members shall follow instructions given by marshals and officers of the society or host society when on out meetings.
- 15) 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.
- 16) 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.
- 17) Bookings for coach seats for out meetings can be made via here <http://southheighton.org/bonfire/outmeetings-2/> Booking rules must be adhered to as set out in the rules on the same link.
- 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 but it does not look good to be wandering along with a can or bottle in your hand.
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.
- 8) Be aware that the procession will stop and start with no warning; always look out for the person in front of you. They will not thank you for walking into them and burning their hair because you were not concentrating.
- 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 rules are to help everyone have good time, safely.**

**CHAIRMAN**  
**SECRETARY**  
**TREASURER**

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