

THANK YOU!

Skinningrove Village Hall, Skinningrove Link-Up, The Chapel, Cleveland Police, HM Coastguard, Cleveland Fire Brigade, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Loftus Town Council, G2 Fireworks.

Kaskane, Shelly's Shack, Beach Road Fisheries, Sheila's, The Maynard Arms, Carlin How Mini-Mart, Loftus Co-op, Knit and Natter.

Sponsors: Thirteen Group Community Fund, BHD Partnership Ltd,

Cleveland Ironstone Museum, Skinningrove History Group, Peter Appleton, Simon Chapman, Stephen Chance and Roger Pickles.

Badger Hill, Handale, Hummersea, St Josephs and Whitecliffe Primary Schools.

Geoff Robinson, Martin Robinson, Dave Sewell, Brian Bullen, Pat O'Hare, Tony Prudon, Steve Jardine, Gareth, Jim Morrison, Tim.

Spuggy, Nick, Pip, Morgan, Zack, Callum, Derek Marshall, Zara, Andrea, Duncan.

Tommy Evans, Barry Hunt,, Pat Bringloe, Kath, Alec, Alan Daniels, Barbara Tenerife.

Dawson-Robinson Haulage, Palmer's Scaffolding Ltd, Yorwaste, Garbutts, Greens, Huntsman Pigments, Lumsden and Carroll, I. V. Dawson Ltd.

Alan Whitehead, Rowland and Dee for organising the parking.

Skinningrove Bonfire Committee:

Adrian Hill - Chair.

Chris Joy - Treasurer.

Lynn Peacock - Secretary.

Tina Dowe, Simon Boyd, James Boyd, Ian Macdonald, Doff Pollard, John Roberts, Marie Shields, Margie Cox, Ricky Carter.

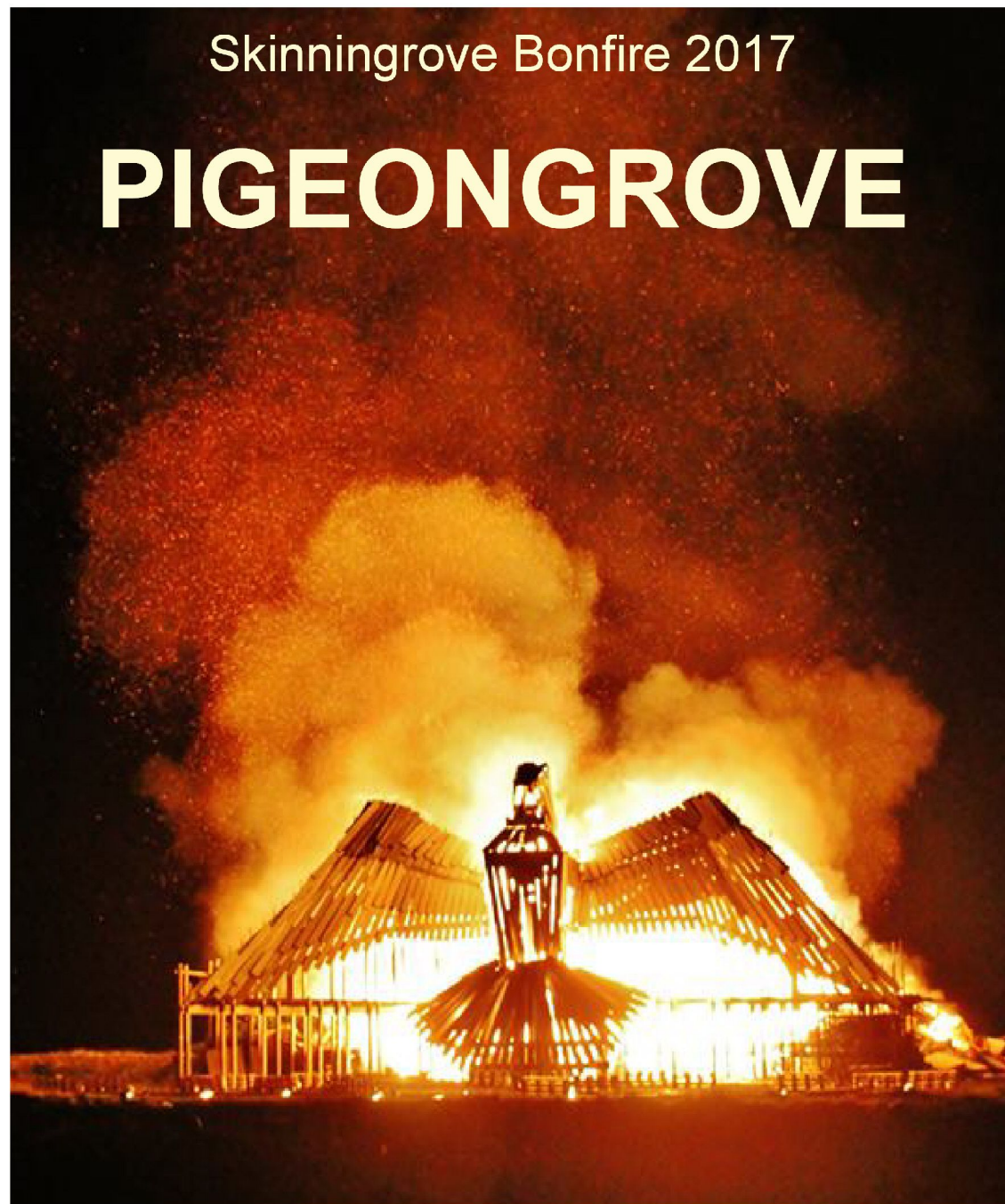
The Team:

Marie Shields, Margie Cox, Kirby Welford, Mandy Ewen, Bub Bacon, Bozz Halliday, Ste Iredale, Teresa Lumb, Carter, Stacey Noble, Joe Guy and Mandy Hamilton.



Skinningrove Bonfire 2017

PIGEONGROVE



Annual Report

Introduction



When the going gets tough.....

As the warm glow and excitement of the 2016 Skinningrove Bonfire began to fade, our thoughts and actions quickly turned to 2017. Once the theme has been decided, the event always seems to take on a very real presence and this year was no different. The rich history of pigeon keeping in the village along with the opportunity to further our previous collaboration with the Skinningrove History Group immediately suggested a suitable subject. The name of "Pigeongrove" sealed the deal and Steve Iredale was asked to again create a bonfire to reflect our chosen theme. All we had to do was deal with the practical aspects of putting on an event for the thousands who choose to join us every year.



Whilst the bonfire and fireworks always take centre stage, the infrastructure needed to accommodate so many visitors to our little village requires funding, and it was apparent that this was going to be an issue in 2017 with the bonfire bank account severely depleted. Word quickly spread of our financial plight and the village stepped up with their own fundraising efforts. A special mention must be made to Mandy Gill and friends for their tireless efforts to make the 2017 Skinningrove Bonfire possible. Sponsored walks, dress down days in local schools, raffles and various other efforts encouraged the people from within Skinningrove and beyond to dig deep and support their bonfire. It's fair to say that without these efforts the 2017 Skinningrove Bonfire wouldn't have taken place.

As an organising committee, we give our time and efforts freely to the Skinningrove Bonfire, but we have all been humbled by the support we have received from the entire village during our fundraising efforts for the 2017 Bonfire. We cannot thank those who have supported us enough.

The fundraising efforts within the village were further boosted by the announcement of a £2500 award for the second year running from the Thirteen Group Community Fund. This was the final push we needed to ensure that we were able to fund the various workshops and children's activities that are so central to putting on this event.



Income

Events	£871.27
Collections	£3,294.99
Donations	£390.00
Bonfire Food Sales	£605.10
Schools fundraising	£479.00
Knit and Natter	£380.00
Other fundraising	£2,080.74
Loftus Town Council	£300.00
Redcar & Cleveland BC	£2,400.00
Thirteen Group	£2,500.00
Total Income	£13,301.10

Expenditure

Fireworks	£4,216.00
Insurance	£928.16
Workshop Leaders & Materials	£2751.63
Room Hire	£400.00
Medics UK	£396.00
Speedy Hire (fencing)	£579.91
Nixon Plant Hire (toilets)	£540.00
Garbutts (Skip Hire)	£810.00
Food (Community centre)	£117.75
History Group (films)	£45.00
Total Expenditure	£10,784.45

Balance 2016	£810.47
Total Income	£13,301.10
Balance	£14,111.47
Less Expenditure	£10,784.45
Balance to carry forward.	£3327.02

Feedback

The feedback we get from our visitors is always something we look forward to. We encourage direct feedback via social media and our Facebook page and see it as a valuable tool to understand what we get right, as well as what we can improve. From what our visitors are telling us on Facebook, we seem to be getting it right so far!



Superb!
Brilliant!
Incredible atmosphere
Great event,
well done
Skinningrove
A fab night, thank you

Amazing bonfire well done everybody!

Fantastic!

Gets better each year.

First time been brilliant night lovely people and great chippy xxxx

1st time I have been tonight, didn't expect it to be that busy...it was fab! Well done to everyone who was involved to make it happen. Great family time

Fabulous family night!

Superb, as always! Thank you all. Brilliant x

Fantastic evening and we can't wait for next year's bonfire

Fantastic night and display, we will be back x

Thank you for such an amazing evening.



With the fundraising efforts ensuring that the bonfire would go ahead, all that was left was to build it. We've been creating our beach structures for many years now, and the team involved seem to almost instinctively know what needs to be done and the build itself progressed very well, with Steve Iredale's vision quickly taking shape on the beach. Meanwhile, the children were kept busy making the festoons which always decorate the sea front for our visitors to enjoy.

Just when everything was going so well, we had a potentially catastrophic setback on the beach. Some youthful mischief had got a bit out of hand and we were alerted to a small fire on the beach which had grown into something far more threatening to our almost completed structure. Fortunately, prompt action by local residents quickly had matters under control and Cleveland Fire Brigade were soon in attendance. Fortunately, no lasting damage was done, but we had lost a lot of wood.

Once again, our plight brought a very positive response from the community and the following day saw an almost constant stream of deliveries, large and small, which soon replenished the lost materials.

On the big night, all of our efforts were rewarded by the record crowd we welcomed into our small village. The bonfire looked fantastic in the moonlight and the fireworks were a huge success. Our collection jars certainly proved popular, which bodes well for the future, and the feedback we have received has been very positive.

The Skinningrove Bonfire Committee would like to say a huge thank-you to everyone who has given their time and effort to make the 2017 Bonfire such a successful event.



“Pigeongrove”

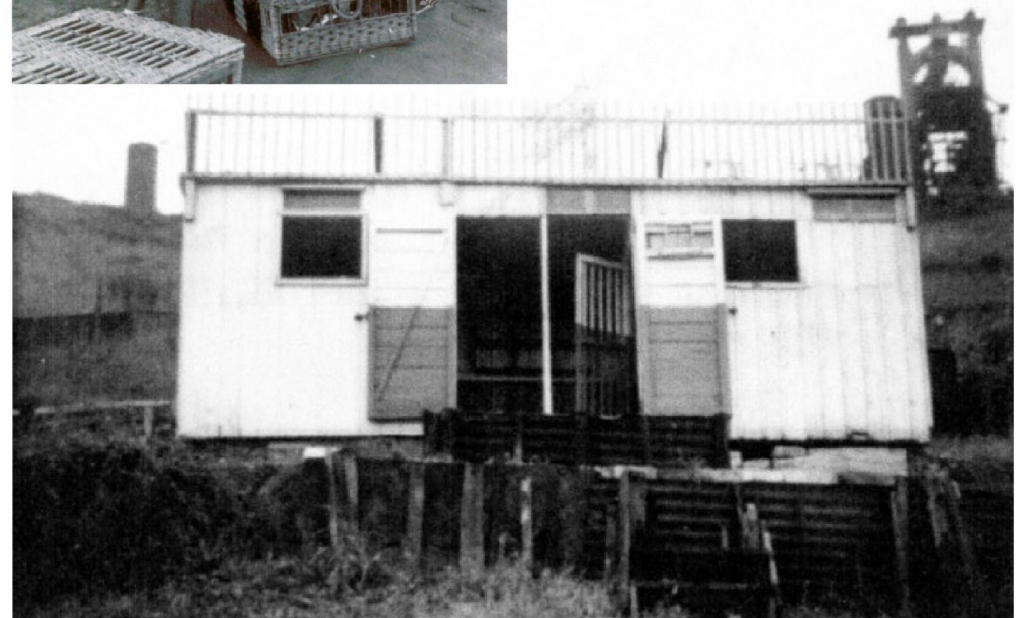


For the second year running, local artist Steve Iredale took the creative lead during the building of the Skinningrove Bonfire structure. This was the first year for Steve to have complete creative control from start to finish and there was a certain trepidation as the build got underway. This soon faded as the usual build team descended onto the beach and set about the first delivery of wood from Palmers in the calm and assured way they have been doing for so many years.

The quicker the basic structure is built, the more time there is for the details which always bring our bonfires to life. Making the most of the good weather, and the good supply of materials, the team soon had the solid frame of the bonfire complete and work could move on to our giant pigeon. The fanned tail was the first part of our pigeon to be constructed and this gave everyone a sense of the scale the finished structure would have.

The attention to detail is always extraordinary, and this is particularly true when we build our more organic structures. Creating a 3 dimensional sculpture with almost no straight edges from a collection of old scaffolding boards is no mean feat, and we always have to keep in mind the placement of fireworks. But the “Pigeongrove” pigeon, with each wooden feather so meticulously placed, could so easily be imagined landing on our beach.

All that was left was to watch all that hard work go up in flames!



With thanks to the following for their support:

Cleveland Ironstone Mining Museum
R&CBC Loftus Branch Library
Skinningrove Homing Society
East Cleveland Image Archive
Teesside Archives
Stan Binks estate
Dawn Holliday, Chris Killip, Derek Smith

Skinningrove History Group

For the 2017 Skinningrove Bonfire we continued our association with the Skinningrove History Group. John Roberts, Committee member of both the Skinningrove Bonfire and the Skinningrove History group, organised presentations at the Cleveland ironstone Mining Museum, which included screenings of the film "Time on the Wing" and "The Fancy". There were also readings and talks by members of the local pigeon keeping community as well as a static display.

Two well attended tours of local pigeon lofts with their owners available to answer questions and explain their pursuit were very well received.

Loftus Library kindly hosted a display containing some fascinating insights into the history and continued relevance of keeping and racing pigeons with a particular focus on the local pigeon scene both past and present.



Workshops



As ever, the village workshops were well attended this year with many eager hands creating the village decorations which are such an integral part of the Skinningrove Bonfire.

For many of the children, pigeon keeping is already an integral part of their family life so there was no shortage of enthusiasm for the theme.

Their efforts were further supported by children from local schools who, in workshops provided again by Bub Bacon, enjoyed producing our lanterns for the sea-front.

Thanks to our fundraising team, the schools were also able to support the bonfire with some sponsored activities such as "dress down" days.

For all of the children involved, their contributions to the Skinningrove Bonfire have become a much anticipated part of the year and the delight they express when seeing the many visitors to our village commenting so positively on their efforts is always rewarding.

The Skinningrove Bonfire is, and always has been, an event in which the whole community can get involved, and the efforts and enthusiasm of the children continues to re-enforce this community spirit.



There was a significant change in the fireworks in 2017. This is the first year we have let off the big shell bursts in the sky using an electronic firing system. Due to personal circumstances Doff was not able to be in the village as much as usual in the run up and preparation for the event and so other people had to step up. Mandy Ewens showed that he had understood the training and she took on a great deal more of the organisational plan especially the training on the new equipment, she demonstrated her powers and skills as well as providing leadership and example in planning the display.



There was a really big commitment in the village through local sponsored fundraising to enable us to buy the new system and thanks are especially owed to the team of people who worked with Mandy to raise the extra funds for this new equipment which will last us for years to come.

Tina Dowey has returned to the team along with Stacy Noble in her second year joining Chris and Jen and Lyndsay and Carter.



Fireworks



G2 Fireworks did the bonfire proud this year. The quality and variety of the fireworks was exceptional. Each year people do say that this is the best year for fireworks yet so there is a feeling that we have to do better each time while being aware and compliant with the ever health and safety tightening regulations. The association with G2 Firework has been the key to the bonfire display continuing as the association with them has been key to the training and the advice as well as the fireworks themselves.

The shape of the structure offered some strong and powerful shapes on which to put the fireworks. The wings had been so carefully clad in planks by Ben who had sort to have a flow reflecting the feather shapes that it was important that the fireworks embraced, enhanced and emphasised the careful work. The finale was a real moment of satisfaction when the fireworks went off as planned at the end and also it was possible in the photographs to see the same care and evenness in placing the flares to reflect the same things. This unity between the build and the laying out of the fireworks is what makes the Skinninggrove Bonfire Firework display a really demanding and thought provoking undertaking for those short moments of spectacle.



Painting the Bonfire.



The Saturday before the bonfire has traditionally been the time for the painting of the bonfire and this year was no different. The day on which the big event takes place often dictates how much of a structure there is to be painted and, with 6 days construction still to go, 2017 was one of those years when there seemed little competed to paint. We did have a huge tail to keep paintbrushes occupied and, with a good turn-out of keen hands, both young and not so young, we were able to put their enthusiasm to good use by also painting some of the timbers before they were added to the bonfire. As always, we were extremely grateful for their contribution to the bonfire.



Beach Workshops

The Drop in sessions were yet again a great success! The children, lead by Community Artist, Bozz Halliday, made sculptures from scrap wood to decorate the beach. They did a great job helping build & paint the bonfire structure. The generations of bonfire builders continues!



Press and Media

As with previous years, the 2017 bonfire received widespread coverage in the local media. The Evening Gazette produced a number of articles prior to the bonfire as well as a fantastic spread of photos of the event itself. The Northern Echo also featured our bonfire in a round-up of events in the region and there was also some good coverage from the broadcast media, including our pigeon featuring as the weather photo!

The national press also noticed us with the Spectator including us in their "Top 10 Bonfire Night events" feature.

More unusual was the inclusion of a picture of one of our previous displays in the very London based City AM.. We know our display is good, but we didn't realise you could see it from so far away!

CITY.A.M.

Evening
Gazette

The Northern Echo
Local. Regional. National.

SPECTATOR

BBC
NEWS



Skinningrove Bonfire 2017

