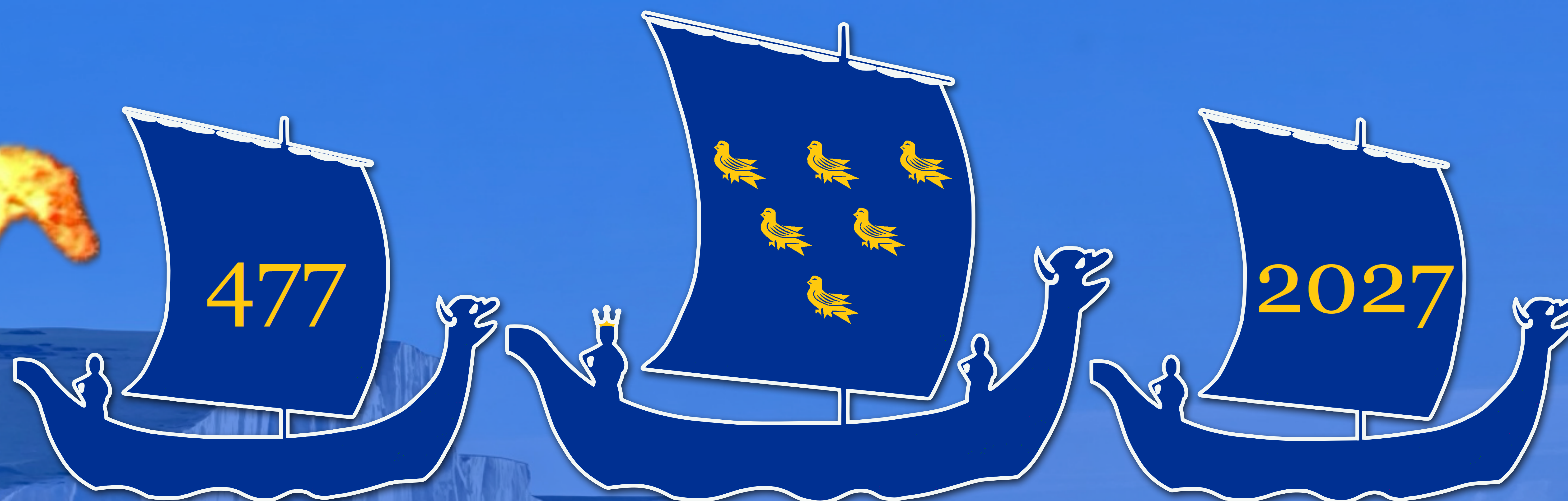




SUSSEX 1550

—SUSSEX DAY—WEDNESDAY 16TH JUNE 2027—

BEACON & BONFIRE LIGHTING GUIDE



Given Sussex's deep-rooted bonfire traditions and its position along the South Coast, there's no more fitting way to observe its 1550th anniversary than the co-ordinated lighting of beacons and bonfires, together on Sussex Day.

WEDNESDAY 16TH JUNE 2027

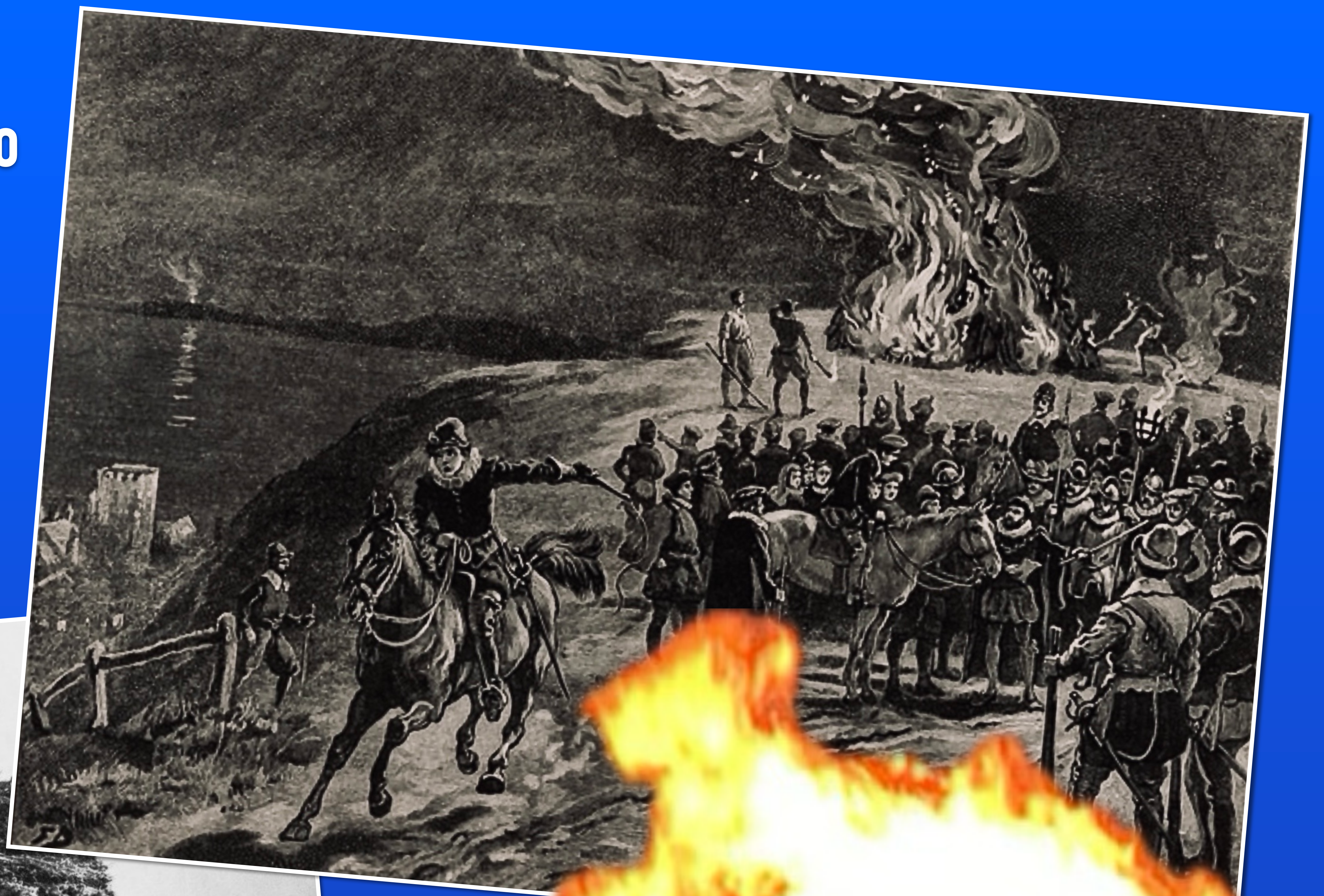
@ 9PM

A unifying simultaneous symbol – marking this milestone year in Sussex's rich and illustrious history!

To register your beacon or bonfire, please contact beacons@sussex1550.com

Disclaimer: The co-ordinators of 'Sussex 1550', the 'Sussex Flag group' or their supporters can not be held responsible for individual events, and remain the responsibility of their respective organisers to ensure they have the relevant insurance and risk assessment in place for the event they are running.

Local bonfire in Sussex, courtesy of Bliss Griffin



'Lighting the Beacon Fire', Edward Whymper, 1888



Crowborough Beacon, 1897



BBE



Cade Street Beacon, courtesy of Bliss Griffin



INSURANCE

Even a well-run event can have accidents, so organisers should arrange appropriate cover. Using a park, third-party venue, or someone else's land will usually require you to hold public liability insurance, and hired equipment may need its own cover for loss, damage, or cancellation costs. Obtain the landowner's permission and ensure they are involved in the planning and delivery of the event. Anyone hosting guests privately should also check with their home insurer about liability if the public are involved.

If your event involves members of the public or is being held at a third-party venue, you should, where applicable, follow the advice below to help ensure a safe and enjoyable event for everyone involved.



LICENSING

In general, public entertainment events may require a licence from the local district, borough or unitary council. Licensing requirements are designed to help protect the safety and wellbeing of the public, performers and those working at the event. Each event is considered on its individual circumstances, and requirements may vary between local authorities. If the application process or forms appear lengthy or complex, do not be discouraged – the licensing officer is available to provide guidance and support.

The licensing officer advises the local authority's licensing committee on applications for public entertainment licences. For smaller events, the licensing officer may be able to deal with the application directly. More complex or contentious applications may be referred to the licensing committee for further consideration. It is recommended that you contact the licensing officer as early as possible to discuss your event and establish what licences, permissions or other requirements may apply.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

Notify Sussex Police (or your local police service) in advance of any event expecting a crowd, and contact local fire and ambulance services too, especially for bonfires or fireworks. Voluntary first aid and response organisations can often provide first aid cover, sometimes free or for a small donation.

[Sussex Police – Events & Processions](#)

[East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service](#)

[West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service](#)

[South East Coast Ambulance Service](#)



FOOD & DRINK

Anyone serving food must follow standard hygiene practices, and caterers need valid food hygiene certificates – your local council's environmental health officer can advise. Selling alcohol requires a license from the local district, borough or unitary council. Applying as early as possible is recommended.



SITE CLEARANCE

Local authorities typically handle litter clearance on public land after an event (sometimes for a fee); organisers can help by placing bins around the site and having a clean-up crew on hand.



ALL ABILITY ACCESS

Ensuring disabled access is important. Assisting with transport, and cutting the grass beforehand can improve accessibility.



BEACON / BONFIRE SAFETY GUIDANCE

Position the beacon / bonfire well clear of buildings, roads, railways, and public footpaths – at least 60 metres away – and keep a safe distance from hazardous materials and overhead power lines. The site should allow easy access for bringing in materials, with enough open space for spectators to stand upwind of the smoke. Only clean, and suitable materials should be burned, and used for lighting.

Well before lighting time – during daylight hours and for several hours beforehand – inspect the beacon / bonfire site to make sure no children or animals are playing in or around it. Have at least 12 marshals on hand, and make sure everyone involved gets a proper safety briefing before the beacon / bonfire is lit.



ADVERSE WEATHER

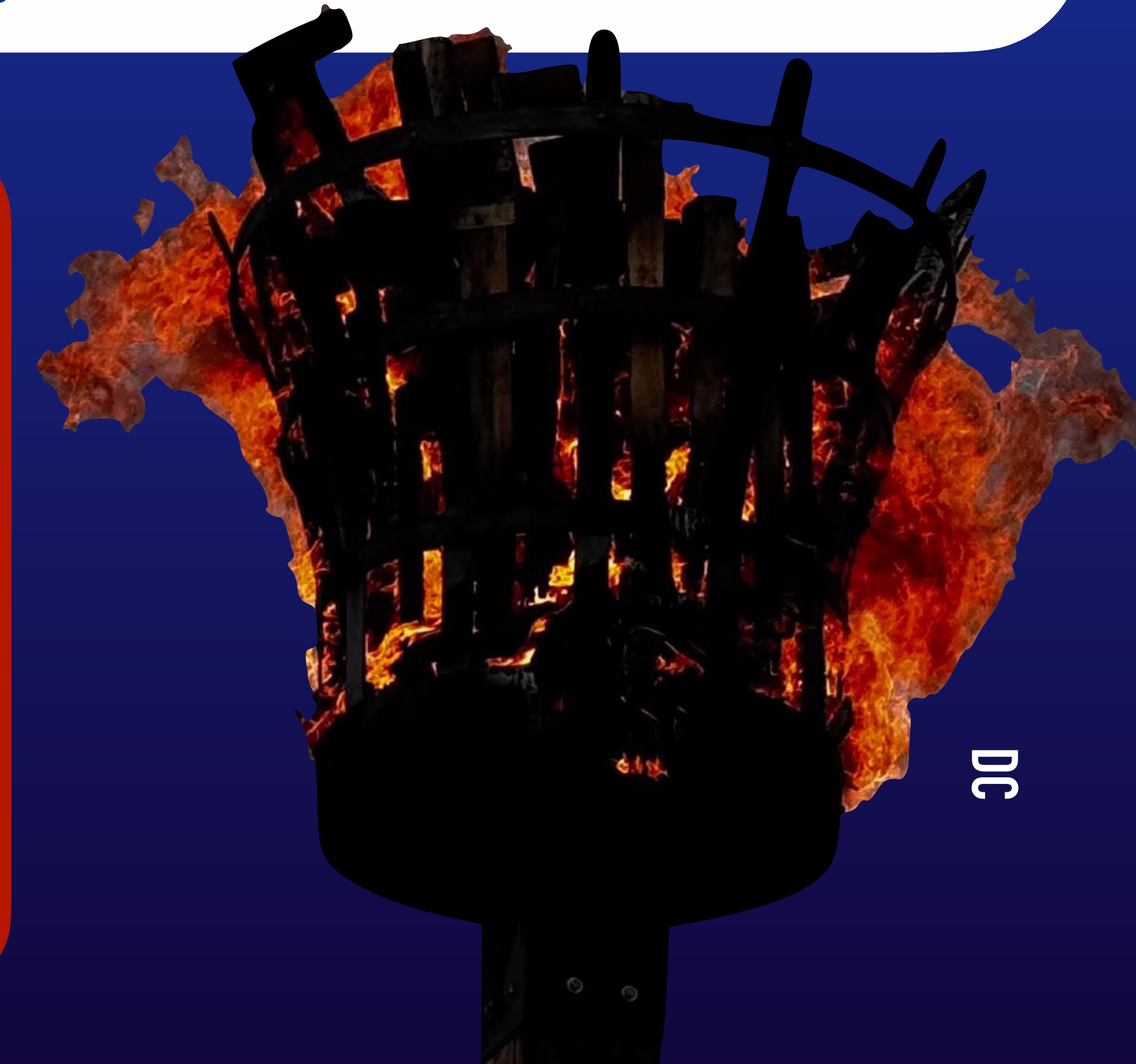
Beacons and bonfires have traditionally been lit in June to mark significant occasions such as Jubilees, with the most recent example being the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

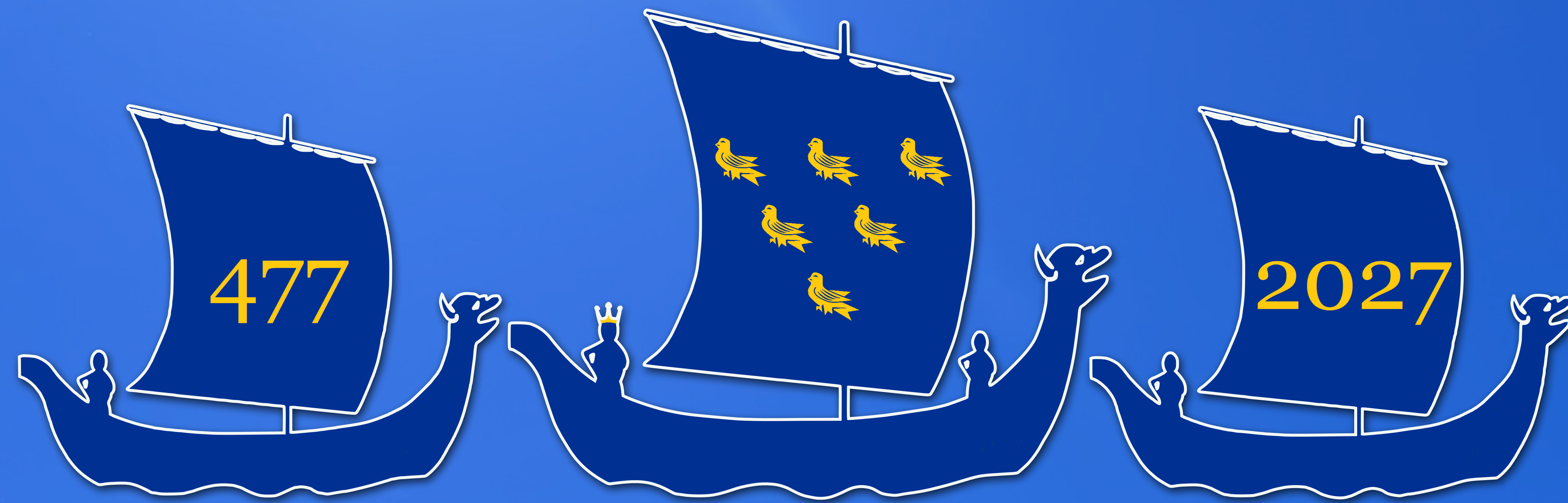
All beacons and bonfires should be registered in advance so that organisers can be kept informed of any changes to the county-wide simultaneous lighting arrangement. To register your beacon or bonfire, please contact beacons@sussex1550.com, or visit www.sussex1550.com.

Weather and ground conditions should be monitored closely – this is the responsibility of individual event organisers. In the event of extreme dry conditions, or strong winds, or other adverse weather, the simultaneous county-wide lighting may be changed from bonfires and beacons to beacons only, as these are generally easier to contain, or cancelled entirely if conditions are considered unsafe.

Organisers should therefore ensure their contact details remain up to date and be prepared to follow any changes to the planned arrangements. Sussex's emergency planning guidance also highlights the importance of considering weather conditions when assessing wildfire risk.

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WE · WUNT · BE · DRUV

Celebrating the 1550th Anniversary of Sussex

www.sussex1550.com

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