

WRAP-UP REPORT FOR BURNING NEST 2023

This year was the 9th Burning Nest, and the largest yet. It was our 4th year at our site in Devon, which we're very happy to be able to enjoy.

As mentioned, this year was our largest Nest yet, with 680 attendees (out of 753 tickets sold oddly). This breaks down as follows:

Type of Ticket	Tickets Sold	Number Checked in as Gate	Ticket Price
Adult	646	587	£140
Low Income	63	59	£83
Carers	6	6	£1
Under 18s	38	28	£55 (£1 if under 14)
TOTAL	753	680	-

21% of all attendees at this year's Nest were first time burners.

We were lucky this year to be able to recruit (& retain from the 2022 event) a great organising team of circle links (leads) and also sub-department leads. Link meetings were carried out via Google Meet on a monthly basis and Asana was used as an organisational tool, along with Signal chats for more informal collaboration.

Our DPW (Department of Public Works) crew this year really excelled with an incredibly smooth build, supported by a universally acclaimed DPW Crew Kitchen, which also provided meals for volunteers during the event. Strike, as ever, was more challenging with a much reduced complement of volunteers compared to build. Regardless everything was down, packed up, the site clear with no trace left by the end of the 2nd day after the end of the burn.

We had 15 theme camps this year, 3 of whom made their first appearance at Nest. Over 300 events were listed in our What Where When guide, with a number of additional unscheduled events occurring.

Our Temple & Effigy burns went off without a hitch due to our team of Fire wardens, and we had more fire arts and fire spinning than any previous year. As in previous years, there were some issues regarding location for viewing the Effigy burn, due to the nature of the site. Our attempts to secure a new location on site for this burn fell through at the last minute, though we'll continue to explore options for next year. As the number of attendees grows it becomes increasingly necessary to secure another location for Effigy burn, to ensure everyone is able to experience this without overcrowding the current area.

This year we ramped up our commitment to consent, appointing a new Consent Link who put in place a new Consent Team. This team (recognisable by their pink Fedoras) was responsible for education on consent expectations, supporting participants before, during & after Nest with mediation and investigating any reported consent violations.

The Consent Team consisted of 7 people covering 53 scheduled hours, with significant time being put in prior to the event for planning, organising and facilitating community engagement.

20 official consent reports were received which resulted in 17 recorded incidents. A number of investigations were conducted and will be presented in the final consent report, which will be available on the website. In addition, the consent team also carried out a lost child drill to test and improve our processes which has led to a number of learning points resulting in an improved procedure for future events.

Our Ranger volunteers also made a huge contribution to the event, handling a number of incidents and providing a helpful and constructive presence throughout the event. Ranger numbers were improved on last year, though this is still an area which requires additional volunteers. Shifts lasted for 4 hours, with all Rangers sober throughout. Rangers were active for the whole duration of the event with 127 volunteers, some covering multiple shifts.

This year saw the introduction of the WAR Zone (Waste And Recycling) where Aluminium cans, glass and hard plastics were collected for recycling. In general this worked well, though there was some confusion on what could be collected where.

It was our intention to recycle all our collected aluminium with a local firm, however they rejected our aluminium this year as they found some non-aluminium items, which is unfortunate given the mass amount of aluminium we had collected. The 2-3 dumpy/tonne sacks we filled weighed probably about 100kg, meaning we'd have received around £40 for the waste. This has led to new ideas to improve our recycling effort for next year.

To encourage sustainable practice, £7,176 of bulk food orders from Theme Camps were centrally coordinated by the DPW Kitchen team, using mainly local suppliers to reduce CO₂ transport costs and also to reduce waste packaging by purchasing larger bulk quantities. Spare ingredients were collected during Strike and donated to support local food banks.

We experienced considerable difficulties with accessibility issues this year, largely due to a lack of volunteers to lead this area. In particular, issues with disabled toilets and difficulties getting to the Temple burn were highlighted. We can only apologise for this and say we hope to do better & expect to have an excellent human taking the lead on this for the next event.

Post-event we carried out a survey to collect feedback on people’s experience of Nest. This was overwhelmingly positive (although admittedly with a response rate of 11% of attendees) but did, as intended, highlight a number of areas for improvement next year. The results have been shared and are available on www.burningnest.co.uk together with a password protected document showing in full all comments received.

A full financial report for this year is also available on the website, though a visual summary of our spending is provided below

