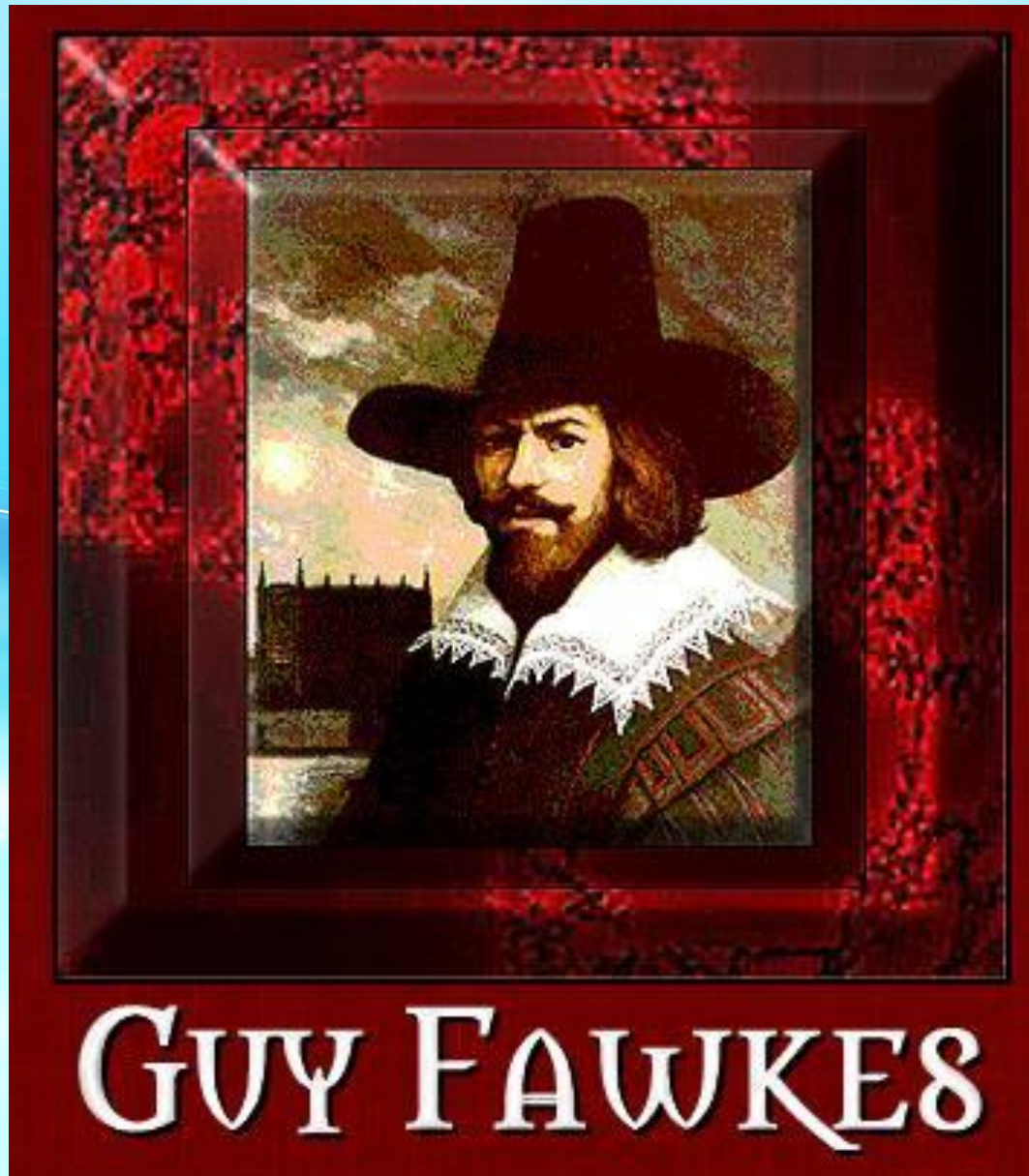


# Guy Fawkes Night



*Guy Fawkes Night*

Guy Fawkes Night is celebrated in Britain annually on November 5th. The event is accompanied by firework displays, the lighting of bonfires and the ceremonial effigy-burning of one Guy Fawkes.





The origin of this celebration stems from events which took place in 1605 and was a conspiracy known as "The Gunpowder Plot," intended to take place on November 5th of that year (the day set for the opening of Parliament). The object of The Gunpowder Plot was to blow up English Parliament along with the ruling monarch, King James I.



King James I



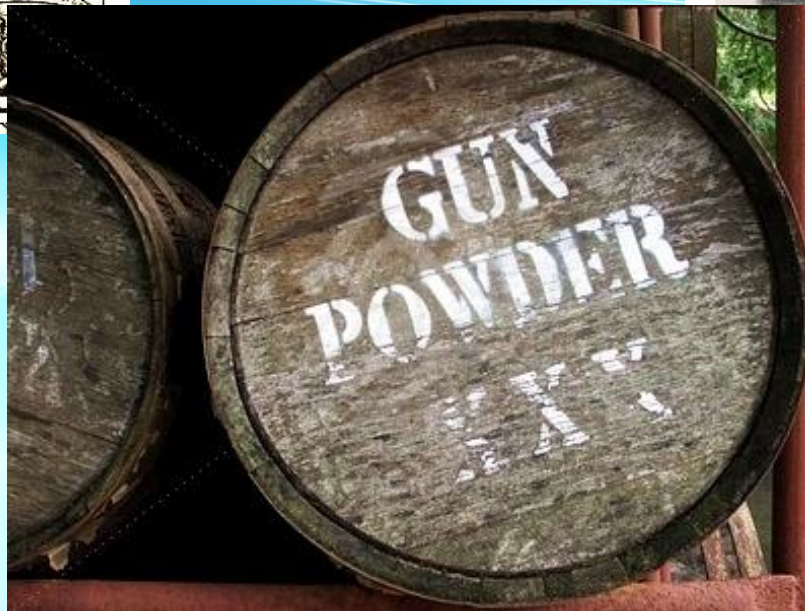
The Gunpowder Plot



Thomas Percy (who had contacts at the Court of King James), hired a cellar beneath the House of Lords. Within this cellar were secretly stored 36 barrels (almost two tons) of gunpowder, overlaid with iron bars and firewood.

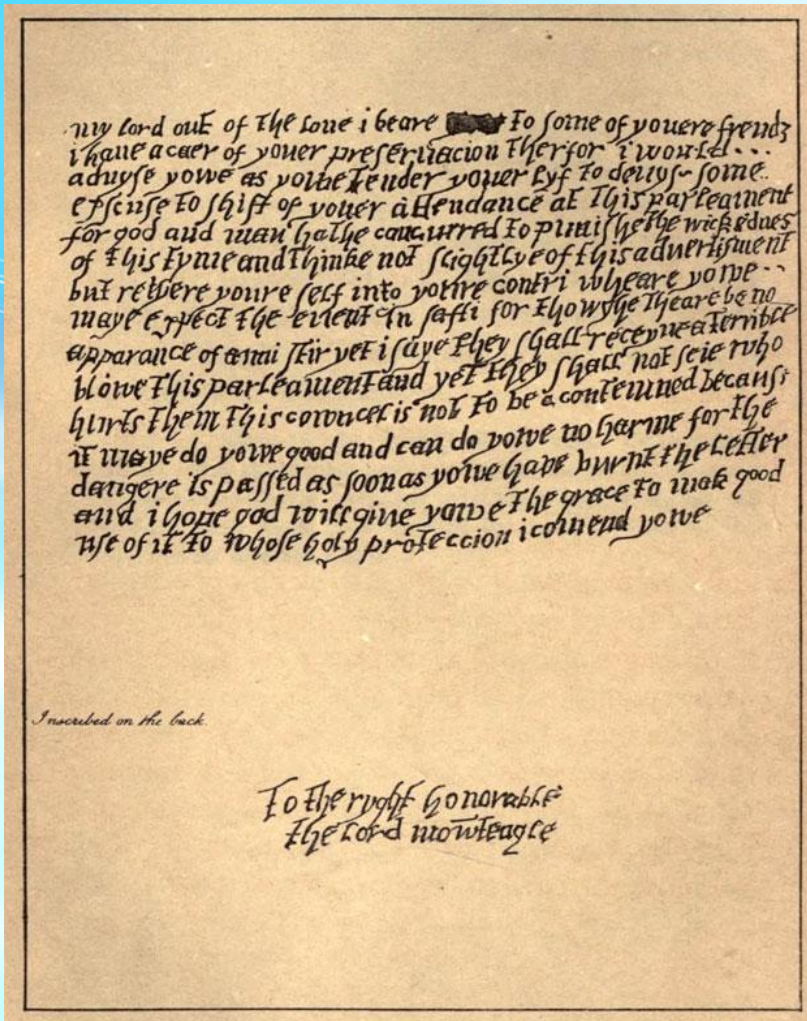


Thomas Percy





The plan went wrongly, however, by way of a mysterious letter received by Lord Monteagle on October 26th (10 days prior to the opening of Parliament). Monteagle, brother-in-law of Francis Tresham (the author of the correspondence...although it was not proved), was urged in the letter not to attend Parliament.



Francis Tresham



Lord Monteagle



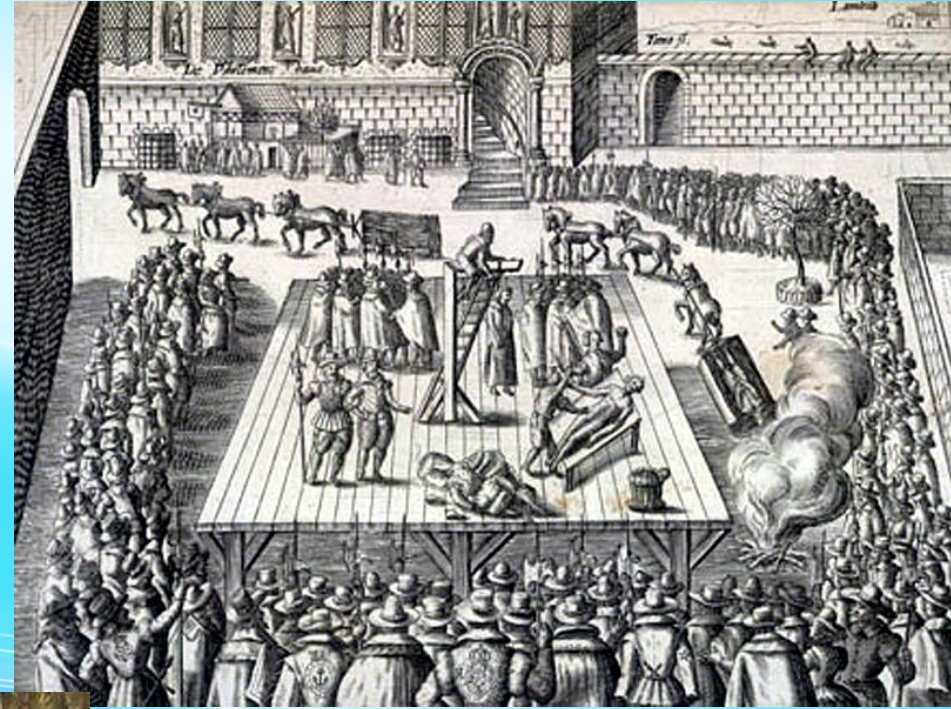


When the message was received by Lord Monteaule and others, they took steps which led to the discovery of the hidden cache and the arrest of Guy Fawkes on the night of November 4th as he entered the cellar.





The majority of the other conspirators, either overtaken as they attempted to flee or seized shortly thereafter, were killed, imprisoned or executed.





Today, one of the ceremonies which accompanies the opening of a new session of Parliament is a traditional searching of the basement by the Yeoman of the Guard.



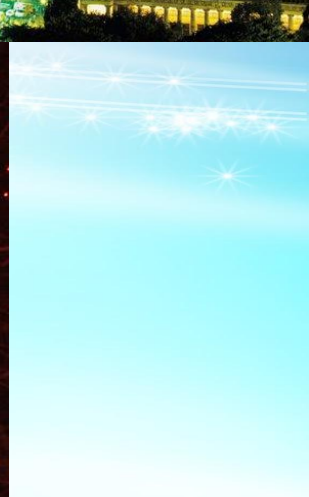
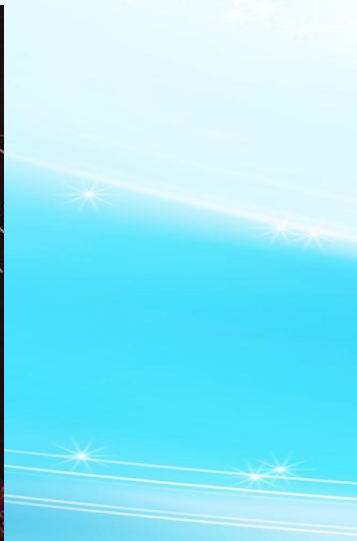


Also known as "Firework Night" and "Bonfire Night," November 5th was designated by King James I as a day of thanksgiving for "the joyful day of deliverance." On the very night of the Gunpowder Plot the people of London celebrate the defeat by lighting fires and taking part in street celebrations.





Guy Fawkes Night is not only a British celebration. The tradition was also established in the British colonies by the early American settlers and actively celebrated in the New England States under the name of "Pope Day». Today, the celebration of Guy Fawkes and his failed plot remains a tradition in such places as Newfoundland (Canada) and some areas of New Zealand.







**The traditions and symbols  
of Guy Fawkes Night .**



**The Bonfire:** It is believed that the very night the Gunpowder Plot was failed in 1605, bonfires were lit in London to celebrate its defeat. As early as 1607, there is a record of bonfire celebrations taking place in Bristol on November 5th and it was traditional for children to black their faces with the ashes in imitation of Guy Fawkes who, it was believed, performed a similar function in order to try and camouflage himself.



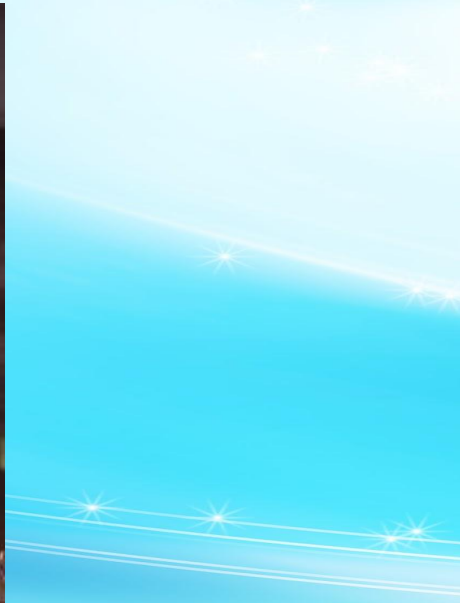


**The Guy:** The exact date when "guys" were first introduced into the November 5th celebrations is not known, but it would have been while James I was still on the throne. Later, after the reign of Charles II, children began making guys a few days prior to the event and then parading their creations in the streets while chanting: "Penny for the guy." The money collected was later used to buy fireworks.





The custom of burning the guy had become an integral part of the celebrations by the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The model guys are usually grotesque with a clumsy air about them. The face is often wicked and may wear a brightly-colored mask. The Guy (effigy) is made out of old clothes stuffed with paper or straw.





**The Fireworks:** Fireworks have been a traditional part of the celebrations since 1677. The fireworks are a reminder of the gunpowder Guy Fawkes hid in the cellar of Parliament.





## Traditional Bonfire Night Food

As well as burning effigy of Guy Fawkes, the bonfires are used to cook potatoes wrapped in foil and to heat up soup for the crowds that come to watch the fireworks.





The traditional cake eaten on bonfire night is Parkin Cake, a sticky cake containing a mix of oatmeal, ginger, treacle and syrup.





Other foods include sausages cooked over the flames and marshmallows toasted in the fire.





## Flaming Barrels

Teams of strong men carry flaming tar barrels on their shoulders down the length of the town's High Street. When one man's 50-pound barrel gets too hot to handle, another man takes over - then another, and then another, until the flames die out and the barrel crumbles into ashes.





**The chants and rhymes** which accompany the celebration of Guy Fawkes Night are as integral to the custom as the burning of the Guy and the lighting of fireworks.

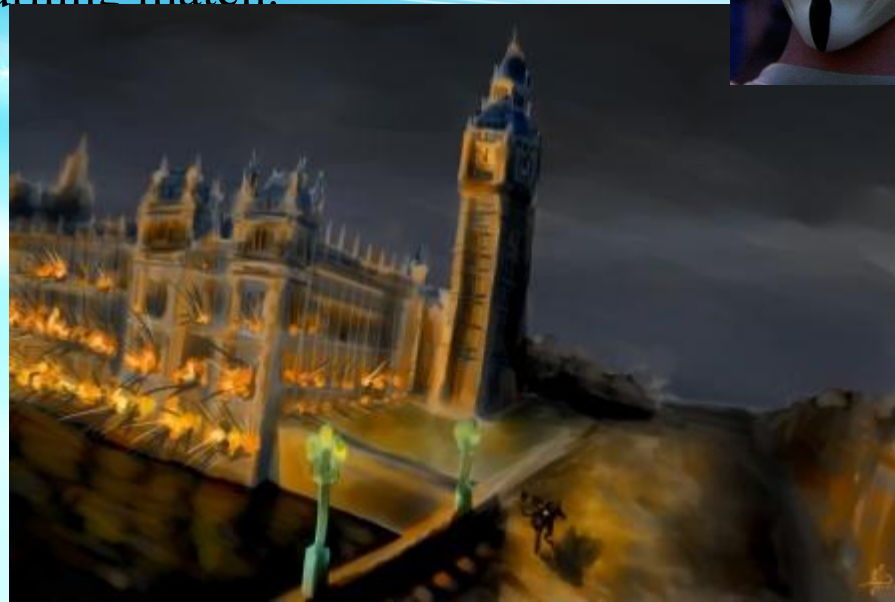
Rumour, rumour, pump and derry,  
Prick his heart and burn his body,  
And send his soul to Purgatory.  
(Usually sung by children around the burning bonfire with the guy on top)





Remember, remember the fifth of  
November  
Gunpowder, treason and plot.  
I see no reason why gunpowder treason  
Should ever be forgot.  
Guy Fawkes, Guy Fawkes,  
'Twas his intent  
To blow up the King and the  
Parliament.  
Three score barrels of powder below,  
Poor old England to overthrow.  
By God's providence he was caught  
With a dark lantern and burning match.  
Holloa boys, holloa boys,  
God save the King!  
Hip hip hooray!  
Hip hip hooray!

A penny loaf to feed ol' Pope.  
A farthing cheese to choke him.  
A pint of beer to rinse it down.  
A faggot of sticks to burn him.  
Burn him in a tub of tar.  
Burn him like a blazing star.  
Burn his body from his head.  
Then we'll say ol' Pope is dead.  
Hip hip hooray!  
Hip hip hooray!





# Happy Guy Fawkes Day !

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