

"Remember, Remember... ...the 5th of November"

The words 'Remember Remember' refer to Guy Fawkes, who on the 5th November 1605 was caught in the cellars of the Houses of Parliament with several dozen barrels of gunpowder. Guy Fawkes was later tried as a traitor, along with his co-conspirators for plotting against the government. Fawkes was sentenced to death and the form of the execution was one of the most horrific sentences to be ever practised, he was eventually hung, drawn and quartered which reflected the serious nature of the crime of treason.

The following year in 1606 it became an annual custom for the King and Parliament to commission a sermon to honour the event. Lancelot Andrewes was the first to deliver a Gunpowder Plot Sermon. This practice, along with the nursery rhyme, was enforced to ensure that this crime would never be forgotten! Hence the saying 'Remember, remember the 5th of November'

Bonfire night is a tradition held every year in the UK to celebrate the prevention of a plot to kill King James I. It was from this historical event that the poem 'remember, remember the 5th of November' originated. It is tradition to light a bonfire and throw a 'guy' made by children into the fire, to commemorate this day. A fireworks display is also put on show.

The rhymes and chants which people also participate in are another fundamental part of the celebration of Bonfire Night. In certain counties they are as integral to the custom as the burning of the Guy and the lighting of fireworks in the UK.

The most well known rhyme that is used to honour this ritual is the 'remember, remember' poem;

*Remember, remember the fifth of November
Gunpowder, treason and plot.
I see no reason, why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot.*

*Guy Fawkes, guy, t'was his intent
To blow up king and parliament.
Three score barrels were laid below
To prove old England's overthrow.*

*By God's mercy he was catch'd
With a darkened lantern and burning match.
So, holler boys, holler boys, let the bells ring.
Holler boys, holler boys, god save the king*

*And what shall we do with him?
Burn him!*