

## Bonfire Night

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

Everyone knows the rhyme, but does everyone know the story? Why do we celebrate bonfire night?

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1605. Guido 'Guy' Fawkes and a small group of English Catholics, led by Robert Catesby, planned to blow up King James I and his ministers, a plan known as 'the Gunpowder plot'. 36 barrels of gunpowder were placed in the cellars underneath the Houses of Parliament, with the intention to kill the King and bring Catholicism back to England. However, that was not how the night panned out. Fawkes was captured by the King's guards whilst he was watching over the barrels. He was arrested, tortured and eventually executed.

Therefore, every year on November 5<sup>th</sup> we come together with family and friends to celebrate Bonfire Night, and how the Gunpowder plot failed. The night is filled with extravagant firework displays, sparklers and is complete with a homemade Guy Fawkes figure on top of the bonfire. However, you should always prioritise your safety over your enjoyment. A few tips for staying safe include: keep your distance from the displays, keep a bucket of cold water nearby for sparklers and always keep an eye on children.

One of the safest ways to enjoy Bonfire Night is to go to a firework display, and allow the event to be handled properly by a professional/someone with more experience. There are always many advertised and is just as good, if not better than the stress of having it at home. What is more, it gives you the opportunity to meet new people and enjoy this holiday together.

Whether you celebrate at home or travel to a display, it is fun for most of the family. It is important to recognise how your pets can react to the startling noises. It can be very distressing for them, so to minimise their anxiety you need to take proper precautions. Avoid bringing them along to a display, it is advised to leave them at home with someone who doesn't want to go see the fireworks either. Always comfort them and create a safe space for them, like a crate away from doors/windows filled with blankets, treats and their favourite toys, that they can escape to if needed.

Most importantly on this day, have fun and spend time with family and friends.

By Darci Black