Calendar Activities

Bonfire Night



Guy Fawkes Night, also known as Guy Fawkes Day, Bonfire Night and Fireworks Night, is an annual commemoration observed on 5 November, primarily in the United Kingdom. Its history begins with the events of 5 November 1605, when Guy Fawkes, a member of the Gunpowder Plot, was arrested while guarding explosives the plotters had placed beneath the House of Lords.

Some people might have small fireworks parties in their back gardens to mark the occasion, while towns and villages may put on organised displays in public parks.

Discussion

Bonfire Night is a good theme for a reminiscence discussion. Have a chat with participants about how they have marked it over the years, with things such as fireworks, bonfire toffee, and penny for the guy.

https://www.britain-magazine.com/carousel/8-facts-about-bonfire-night/

An interesting additional area for discussion is the historical themes and facts behind the day. The gunpowder plot is an important part of British history, which many people learn about at school.

Ask your residents what Bonfire Night traditions are important to them and why?

For Further Research

SOMETHING TO EXPLORE- Many people know the rhyme: 'Remember, remember the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason, and plot.' You may even know the next line: 'We see no reason, why gunpowder treason, should ever be forgot.' Did you know there were more verse to the rhyme?

Have a go at reciting this poem, and see how much of it people already knew.



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Remember, remember the fifth of November,

Gunpowder treason and plot.



We 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!

The 5th of November

THE fifth of November they bid you remember,
These bright little boys with the funny old Guy.
In his chair up and down he'll be borne through the town,
Then burned in a bonfire he'll be by-and-by.



All those who remember the fifth of November
Some money will give to the boys with the Guy.
If all gave a penny, I wonder how many
Wheels, crackers, and squibs they'd be able to buy?

Guy · Fawkes · Day



Fireworks

Fireworks are the most notable part of bonfire night celebrations, every year the country is lit up with displays of all different types.

An interesting reminiscence discussion is talking about what different types of fireworks there are, and how many can be named, such as rockets, roman candles and Catherine wheels..



Bonfire Toffee

There are all sorts of interesting and exciting foods eaten on Bonfire Night, usually in front of a warm bonfire. Perhaps the best of all is the hard bonfire toffee.

If it's appropriate you could consider making some softer toffee if you are doing a tasting. You can also explore what other foods people associate with Bonfire Night, such as baked potatoes, chestnuts, and toffee apples.



Autumn Colours

Autumn is many people's favourite time of year, because of the wonderful array of colours that can found on the trees and falling leaves during this season.

See what other items are associated with Autumn, such as conkers, gourds, harvest time, and more. Explore what colours people associate with Autumn, which could lead to an interesting Autumn arts activity, such as leaf printing.

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Children from Bontnewydd, Caernarfon, collecting for the "Guy" 1962