



The Hundred Parishes

An introductory article about BONFIRE NIGHT

The traditional bonfire night, on or about November 5th, has local connections.

*“Please to remember the Fifth of November, gunpowder, treason and plot.
We know of no reason why gunpowder treason should ever be forgot.”*

This traditional rhyme appeared soon after the failed plot to ignite barrels of gunpowder beneath the House of Lords on the occasion of the state opening of Parliament by King James I on 5th November 1605.

The man found with the gunpowder was Guy Fawkes, one of a group of English Catholics whose intention was to assassinate the Protestant King James so that one of the king’s young Catholic children could assume the throne, thereby restoring a Catholic monarchy. This ancient sketch shows the prime conspirators.



Some 400 years later, the preservation of the monarchy and parliament is still celebrated by many with a bonfire and the burning of a “Guy” – a crude effigy of Guido, or Guy, Fawkes.

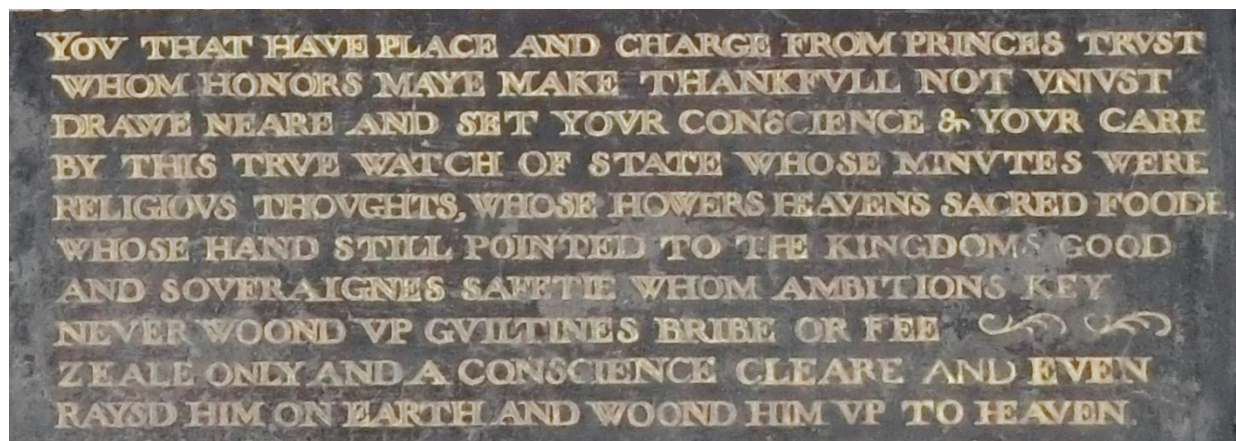
Like several other major events in British history, there is a link with The Hundred Parishes. In this case, the primary link is Sir William Waad (pronounced *Wade*) of 17th-century Battles Hall in the parish of Manuden.

Waad, who lived from 1546 to 1623, had pursued a distinguished career in the service of the Crown and in 1605 held the position of Lieutenant of the Tower of London, responsible for those held prisoner there and specifically for the interrogation of prisoners. The king gave permission for the use of torture, including the rack, to assist in this questioning.

It was not long before most of the plotters were rounded up, interrogated, tried and executed alongside Fawkes - all being publicly hung, drawn and quartered for their involvement in the Gunpowder Plot.

Manuden's most famous former resident is remembered on a tablet inside the parish church. The inscription is mostly in Latin.

It finishes with a rather elaborate rhyming conclusion, in English, which is extracted below.



There is a second possible local link to the Gunpowder Plot. It is believed that Tiptofts, a 14th-century house in Wimbish, may have been used as a meeting place by the conspirators although it has never been proved.

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