

Manorfield Detectives.



This photograph shows a completed bonfire in Stoney Stanton, ready to celebrate our Queen's Coronation in 1953.

We usually see bonfires on November 5th to mark the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMNOYxhpOY>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zd8fv9q/articles/zdrrcj6>

So, we have marked Bonfire Night since 1605, that's 415 years.

An Act of Parliament was passed as a result of the plot called the Observance of 5th November Act.

The law required everyone to celebrate...

“...with unfeigned thankfulness this joyful day of deliverance as a perpetual remembrance for all ages to come.”

Everyone in the country was expected to attend church and hear and say prayers of thanksgiving, behaving at all times in a sober and orderly way. In other words they were ordered to enjoy the celebration, but not too boisterously!

That law remained in effect until 1859!

Throughout both volumes of the surviving Churchwardens Accounts of Stoney Stanton, covering the years from 1714-1765 one payment is consistent.

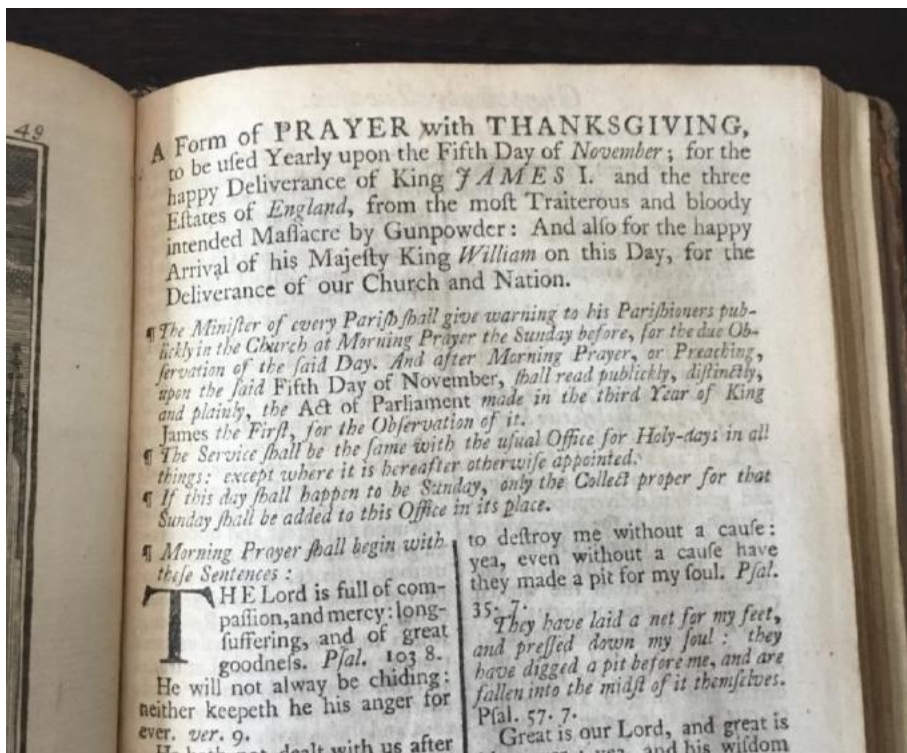
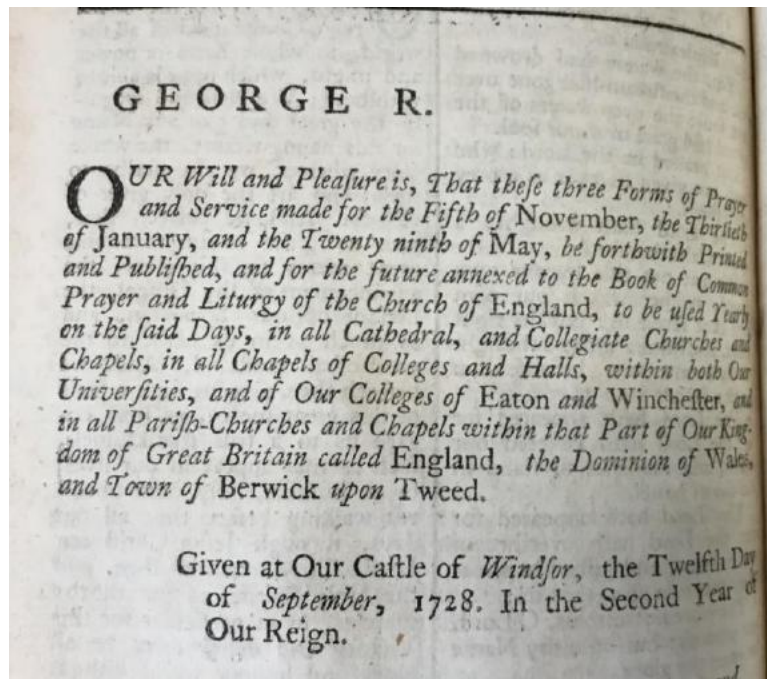
Every year on November 5th the bell ringers of St. Michael's church were paid 3 shillings for ringing the church bells to mark remembrance of the Gunpowder Plot.

A prayer book, printed in the early 18th century (1700-1799) shows images printed and instructions given as to how the church service should be delivered.



This image from the prayer book shows they believed that God was looking down from Heaven and saw the traitor Guy Fawkes as he approached Parliament.

These instructions from King George II were printed in the prayer book. They showed that King George still wanted the church services on 5th November to carry on during his reign, some 123 years later.



This is the page opposite the picture of Guy Fawkes in the prayer book, setting out exactly how the vicar should conduct the service.

“The minister of every parish shall give warning to his parishioners publicly in the church at morning prayers the Sunday before, for the due observation of the said day. And after Morning Prayer, or preaching upon the said fifth day of November, shall read publicly, definitely and plainly the Act of Parliament made in the third year of King James I for the observation of it.”

In other words, on the Sunday before November 5th every year the vicar had to remind everyone in church what would happen on the day. Then on the day, after Morning Prayers had been said, the vicar had to read out to the villagers the Act of Parliament from James I.

The bonfire would then have been lit after dark and an effigy (model) of Guy Fawkes was burnt on the bonfire.



This is a famous image of the conspirators in the Gunpowder Plot.

There is a connection to Leicestershire within the plot, although he isn't named here in the image, the owner of Donnington Le Heath Manor House was one of the conspirators and was arrested, charged with High Treason, found guilty and hung, drawn and quartered along with the others.

Here is a link, have a look and maybe you could visit when lockdown is over.

<https://www.donningtonleheath.org.uk/site-history/>