

Ashfield Valley Primary School— Year 2—History— Should we still celebrate Bonfire Night? Did the Great Fire of London make London a better or worse place?

Key Knowledge

- Bonfire night is celebrated in the UK every 5th November.
- It is to remember a time when a group of people tried to blow up King James I and the Houses of Parliament in London.
- This happened in 1605. This is over 400 years ago.
- This was known as the Gunpowder Plot. It was planned by Robert Catesby.
- Guy Fawkes tried to light the gunpowder under Parliament buildings but was caught.
- They tried to do this because they were unhappy with the way that Christians called Catholics were being treated.
- The plot did not work and the men involved in the plot were killed.
- The Great Fire of London started on 2nd September 1666.
- It started in a bakery in Pudding Lane when a spark jumped out of the ovens at night.
- The fire spread quickly because the houses were made from wood and it was windy.
- Also houses were built very close together.
- Thousands of homes and churches were burnt down.
- London was rebuilt after the fire using more stone and streets were made wider. It took many years to rebuild the city.



Samuel Pepys wrote a diary . He wrote about the fire in his diary . He was an



The Houses of Parliament in 1603.



King James I. He was from a family called the Stuarts.

Vocabulary

treason—When someone tries to kill or overthrow the king or queen or government.

plot—A plan made in secret to do something harmful.

Stuart— The family name of King James I

parliament— Where the people who rule the country meet.

Catholics — A group of Christians who follow the church in Rome, Italy.

cause—The reason why something happens

water squirt—A piece of equipment used to put out fires.

fire hook—A long pole with a hook on the end used to pull down the houses during the fire.

diary—A book where someone writes about what has happened that day.

impact—How something changes because of an event.

eyewitness —A person who was there when an event

