

Dear Members,

Each month, we submit an article to some 80 local parish magazines. Sometimes we think of something topical. The article offered for publication in early November focused on the background to the traditional bonfire night.

“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 his young Catholic children could assume the throne, thereby restoring a Catholic monarchy.

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.

Like 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 by 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.

There is a second 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.

Turning to more everyday matters, we continue to extend the list of walks that may be downloaded from [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk). We recently added walk number 173, just over a mile around the centre of Ickleton. If you would like a short amble with lots of information about history and heritage, I commend this route.

Walk 173 passes Caldrees Manor, a rather large house behind a high wall. For those with an inquisitive nature, open gardens can offer insights not usually available. I hope I was not the only member to spot the recent Caldrees open garden on the What's On page of our website.

The extensive garden was astonishing and the visit offered a rare glimpse of the former home of Sir Robert George Wyndham Herbert. He grew up in Ickleton and had the unusual distinction of being elected as the first premier of Queensland, Australia. He served in that role from 1860 to 1866 before returning to Ickleton.

Sir Robert's father was the 5th son of the Earl of Carnarvon and was born at Highclere (better known today as Downton Abbey). Robert was aged 9 in the 1841 Ickleton census but my research failed to establish if home was then Caldrees Manor as it certainly was later in his life.

I shared this story with a Society member who lives in Queensland. He advised that there is a Queensland parish called Herbert, after our man, and a town called Bowen after the first governor of Queensland who also features in the walk description. It's a small world.

You can read more of this story on the walk 173 description.

The What's On page is now relatively sparse as we enter winter, but do keep watch for future opportunities. If we have missed an appropriate event, please get in touch.

*Ken McDonald*

Ken McDonald, Secretary