



Dinton Bonfire Boys

The Dinton Bonfire Boys Banner

The banner on display in the village hall has the original date 1890 on the left and just visible on the right, is the date 1912. This banner depicts the capture of Guy Fawkes in the cellars of the Houses of Parliament. It is just possible to make out the helmets and pikestaff of the guards in blue, on the left and right, under the arches. This banner was found having been dumped under the old village hall after Malcolm Gerry told Mike Glover about it. Mike recovered it and stored it for about 20 years. An application to the Lottery Heritage Fund to preserve the banner was successful, and the work was completed in 2005.

The Bonfire Boys were inactive between 1930 and 1945 and recommenced their activities in 1946, although no records exist from these events. What is known, is that at some stage the village hall trustees took over the organisation of the annual bonfire night celebrations and used the National Trust field opposite the old village hall.

This arrangement continued until, at a meeting of the village hall trustees on 18th August 1981, a decision was made not to continue with the event, because of the costs involved. Richard Crouch, a hall trustee, felt it was a tradition worth preserving and approached Mike Glover with a view to continuing the event. Mike had worked for Pains Wessex during the 70's, and was trained to set up and fire large displays. They hurriedly gathered a group of friends and planned for a show that November. Using the same small field, they just about succeeded in covering their costs, but too many people could stand on the pavement and watch, without contributing, which made it difficult to continue the tradition of fundraising for good causes.

The use of this site continued until, in 1989, Mike realised that 1990 would be their centenary. He and Richard decided to stage a much larger event and approached the National Trust for their agreement to move the firing site to Phillips House. This house was, with Hurdcott House, one of the great houses visited by the procession during the early years to receive refreshments before returning to the school grounds for the bonfire.

With the procession resurrected for the centenary show and with a lot of publicity, an audience of close to 1500 people attended the event. It was such a financial success that £950 was donated to the fund to build the new village hall.

With the continuing success of the event, a new banner was commissioned. This is the one you see in the photograph below.

The banner was designed by a local resident Paul Culley, and depicts part of the scene from the second banner on the left, and the new logo on the right. The dates signify the founding of the Bonfire Boys and the date the new group revived the tradition, with Guy Fawkes in pride of place in the centre.

By Mike Glover



Back row L to R: Godfrey Townsend, Robin Hope-Jones, Jerry Faithfull, Richard Crouch, Vince Hibbert, Eric Fardell, Emma Domoney, Jackie Parr

Front row L to R: Justin Fry, Alan Lee, Gary Domoney (and son Jamie) Leon Smigielski, Mike Glover, Robin Hibberd



1981 - 2009

In 2009, the current team of Dinton Bonfire Boys decided that the November celebration would be their last.

This team had organised the previous twenty-nine bonfire night shows and two village events; the 50th anniversary of VE day in May 1995 and a party to commemorate the Millennium.

To end a remarkable chapter in the history of the Bonfire Boys it was agreed that the proceeds of this last show would go to the military charity Help for Heroes. This charity provides support for personnel wounded fighting for our country.

A record crowd of 2500 attended the night of November 7th and £5636.23 was donated to this worthy cause.

Mike Glover