

The Story of *Guy Fawkes*

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In the year 1605, in England a group of conspirators plotted to kill King James I. They decided to put barrels of gunpowder in the cellars of the Houses of Parliament and blow them up when the King was visiting for the opening ceremony of Parliament on 5th November. The most famous of the conspirators was Guy or 'Guido' Fawkes, a soldier and expert in explosives. On the eve of 4th November he went to the cellars to check the gunpowder and it was here that he was caught and arrested. The King had discovered the plan by an anonymous letter sent to Parliament.

Guy Fawkes and the other conspirators were tortured and put to death. Guy was made to write his name before and after he was stretched on a rack to show the effects of torture! A copy of these signatures remains in the Tower of London and his original lantern is in a museum in Oxford.



Guido fawkes

Guido

This is Guy Fawkes signature before and after torture!

After Guy Fawkes was executed, people made bonfires in the streets to celebrate the fact the King had not been killed. English people have carried on this tradition and now every 5th November in villages and towns throughout the United Kingdom huge bonfires are built, with an effigy of Guy Fawkes made to sit on top. In the evenings the fire is lit and the 'Guy' is burnt. People gather round the fires and eat food cooked on the flames. Fireworks are let off into the night sky to represent the gunpowder that didn't explode.

Even today, every 4th November the cellars of the Houses of Parliament are checked by the yeoman of the guard to make sure that nobody tries to commit this terrible crime again.



Remember, remember the fifth of November
Gunpowder, treason and plot;
We see no reason why gunpowder treason
should ever be forget.