

Guy Fawkes Fact File

“Remember, Remember the 5th of November. Gunpowder, treason and plot...” Guy Fawkes is the man we think of on Bonfire Night in the UK. We even burn ‘Guys’ on our bonfires. So who is the he?

Childhood

Guy Fawkes was born in York in April 1570. His father died when he was eight years old. After that, his mother married again and Guy became a Catholic like her.

Adult Life

When Guy grew up, he became a soldier in the Spanish Army and went to fight in a war called the ‘Eighty Years War’. He fought for the Catholic side as this was his religion. Whilst in Spain, he was given the nickname ‘Guido’ and met some friends who returned to England with him to be involved in the plot.

The Gunpowder Plot

A man called Robert Catesby was the leader of the gang of thirteen men who were in The Gunpowder Plot. Guy Fawkes was one of them. These were all Catholic men who did not want a King who was not Catholic. So, they made a plan to blow up Parliament when King James I was there. They rented the cellars underneath the House of Lords (just next door to where the King would be) and it was in the cellars that Guy Fawkes was found and arrested with the barrels of gunpowder on the 5th November, 1605.

What happened next?

Guy was found guilty of trying to kill the King. He was sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered on 31st January, 1606. However, as he was about to be hanged, he fell and broke his neck, which killed him anyway. The other men in the plot were also found guilty and sentenced, but Guy Fawkes is the one we remember at Bonfire Night.

Fawkes Facts:

- Guy Fawkes was with 36 barrels of gunpowder, this was enough to blow up the Houses of Parliament and everything else within a mile.
- There is an island called ‘Guy Fawkes’ in the Pacific Ocean where nobody lives. No one knows why it was named after him.
- Beefeaters still search of the Houses of Parliament before The Queen visits.



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“Remember, Remember the 5th of November. Gunpowder, treason and plot...” Guy Fawkes is the name that will forever be associated with Bonfire Night in the UK where we even burn ‘Guys’ on our bonfires. So who is the man behind Bonfire Night?

Early Life

Guy Fawkes was born in York, probably around 13th of April, 1570 (the date is unknown as there are only records for his christening). His father died when he was eight years old, after which his mother remarried and Guy became a Catholic like his mother had become.

Life before The Gunpowder Plot

When Guy grew up, he became a soldier in the Spanish Army and fought in the Eighty Years War for the Catholic side. This is where he gained the nickname ‘Guido’, and met Thomas Wintour and an old school friend, Christopher Wright, with whom he would eventually return to England.

The Gunpowder Plot

Led by a man called Robert Catesby, Guy Fawkes was one of thirteen men involved in the Gunpowder Plot. These were Catholic men who wanted rid of King James I, who was not Catholic, so they decided to plan to blow up Parliament when King James I was there. The group rented the cellars underneath the House of Lords (just next door) and there it was that Guy Fawkes was guarding the barrels of gunpowder when he was caught on the 5th of November 1605.

What happened next?

Guy was arrested and found guilty of treason (a crime against the country, or killing of the king or queen). He was sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered on 31st of January 1606; however, as he was about to face his punishment, he fell and broke his neck, which killed him anyway. The other plotters were also found guilty and sentenced, but Guy Fawkes is the one remembered at Bonfire Night.

Fawkes Facts:

- Guy Fawkes was watching over 36 barrels of gunpowder when he was found. This was enough to blow up the Houses of Parliament as well as a mile-wide area around them.
- There is an island called ‘Guy Fawkes’ just North of Santa Cruz where nobody lives. No one knows why it was named after him. Was this an escape plan?
- There is still an annual search of the Houses of Parliament before the state opening of Parliament when The Queen visits.



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“Remember, Remember the 5th of November. Gunpowder, treason and plot...” Guy Fawkes is the name that will forever be associated with Bonfire Night in the UK where we even burn ‘Guys’ on our bonfires. So what’s the story of the man who is credited with it all?

Early Life

Guy Fawkes’ birth date is presumed to be around the 13th of April, 1570 (the exact date is unknown as there are only records for his christening). He was born and lived in York. His father died when he was eight years old, after which his mother remarried and Guy converted to Catholicism like his mother.

Life before The Gunpowder Plot

In adulthood, Guy enlisted as a soldier in the Spanish Army and fought in the Eighty Years War for the Catholics against the Dutch Protestants. This is where he gained the nickname ‘Guido’, and met Thomas Wintour and an old school friend, Christopher Wright, with whom he would eventually return to England and plot.

The Gunpowder Plot

Headed up by Robert Catesby, Guy Fawkes was one of thirteen men involved in the Gunpowder Plot. These were Catholic men who plotted the regicide (killing a king or queen) of King James I, who was not Catholic, so they decided to plan to blow up Parliament when King James I was there. The group leased the cellars underneath the House of Lords and it was there that Guy Fawkes, whilst guarding the barrels of gunpowder, was caught (after an anonymous tip off) on the 5th of November 1605.

What happened next?

Guy was arrested and found guilty of treason for which the punishment was being hung, drawn and quartered on 31st of January 1606; however, at the gallows, he tried to escape but he fell and broke his neck, which killed him anyway. As for the others, they were also found guilty and sentenced, but Guy Fawkes is the name that will forever be remembered at Bonfire Night.

Fawkes Facts:

- Guy Fawkes was watching over 36 barrels of gunpowder when he was arrested. This amount of gunpowder was enough to blow up the Houses of Parliament as well as everything else within a mile-wide radius.
- There is an uninhabited island called ‘Guy Fawkes’ in the Galapagos Islands, but no one really knows why it was named after him. Was it an escape plan?
- Yeomen of the Guard still carry out an annual search of the Houses of Parliament before the state opening of Parliament when The Queen visits.

