

*“I think guy Faweks is not very nise because there are some people who are stupid enough to stike bangers in animals ears. If they would stop and be sensible Guy Faweks would be nise and happy.”*

*“Guy Forks, alias Guy Fox, was a wise guy. He was under the kin’s room messing about with gunpowder, trying to blow up the Houses of Parlement. But his plane did not suck seed. He was caught and lied to a post and burnt on the fived of November.”*

## **Gunpowder, Treason & Plot**

Above are the writings of some 11 year olds. But how many of us could remember any better, why so much is wasted in terms of both money and life on the fifth of November each year?

James I succeeded Elizabeth to the throne in 1603. Although he had been brought up an Anglican, his mother had been brought up a Roman Catholic. Hence the Catholics expected favours of James. When these were not forthcoming, a small body of Catholics lead by Robert Catesby, a Warwickshire squire, planned to destroy the whole government, king, lords and commons, when they assembled for the state opening of parliament on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1605. In the inevitable confusion, the Catholics would seize power.

Catesby enlisted the help of one Guido Fawkes, a 35 year old Catholic Yorkshireman, who had spent much time as a mercenary in the Spanish army. It’s doubtful whether Guido was politically motivated at all.

A cellar was rented beneath the House, and there Guido secreted his gunpowder. (To make any sort of impression on a building of that size, would have required several tons of powder. Quite how such a load could have been smuggled in unnoticed remains a mystery. It has however lead Hugh Ross-Williamson and others to speculate on whether the Plot ever took place at all. It has been suggested that it was a put-up job to scare the king.)

The story goes, that at the last moment, one of the plotters lost his nerve and sent a letter to his cousin, Lord Mounteagle, warning him not to attend the state opening, “... *they shall receive a terrible blow and yet they shall not see who hurt them ...*”

A search of the premises revealed Guido and all his powder. After interrogation and torture, he was hanged, drawn and quartered as an act of public entertainment. The others in the Plot were eventually captured by the Sherriff of Worcester after a fierce fight at Holbeach House. They were similarly executed.

*So please **do** remember,  
The fifth of November  
Was full of corruption and strife.  
If you’re so full of ire,  
That you must have a fire,  
Then protect God’s most precious gift - LIFE!*