



The Gunpowder Plot

In 1605 a group of thirteen men planned to assassinate King James I of England, who was also King James VI of Scotland. The thirteen plotters were Roman Catholics. They thought James I was a bad king because he wasn't good to Catholics. The leader of the conspirators was Robert Catesby. His servant, Thomas Bates, was also in the group. Catesby planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament with the king in it on 5th November. He bought a house next to parliament. This house had a cellar which went under the parliament building. The group put thirty-six barrels of gunpowder in this cellar ... and waited.

Guy Fawkes

Guy (some people say his real name was Guido) Fawkes was one of the thirteen men. He was born in York – a city in the north of England. Most people in England were Protestant. When he was sixteen years old, Fawkes became a Catholic. The name for people who refused to go to Protestant church services was 'recusant'. When he was older, he was a miner and later a soldier in France. When he came back to England he saw that life for Catholics was not good. He met Catesby and the others in an inn (or pub) called 'The Duck and Drake'. The group said Guy Fawkes should blow up parliament.

The trap

One of the group had a friend, Lord Monteagle, in the Houses of Parliament. He sent him a letter. In the letter he told Lord Monteagle not to go to parliament on 5th November. Lord Monteagle showed the letter to the king. The king's men found the gunpowder and arrested Guy Fawkes. He told them that his name was John Johnson. They put him in prison. Later the king's men killed Guy Fawkes and the others. The letter was put in the Public Record Office.

Vocabulary

anniversary = Jahrestag/Jubiläum
 (to) arrest = verhaften
 (to) assassinate = ermorden
 (to) avert = vermeiden
 barrel = Fass
 (to) blow up = sprengen
 cellar = Keller
 conspirator = Verschwörer
 false = falsch
 gunpowder = Schießpulver

inn, pub = Kneipe
 miner = Bergarbeiter
 plot = Komplott / Verschwörung
 plotter = Verschwörer
 prison = Gefängnis
 Public Record Office ≈ Landesarchiv
 servant = Diener
 soldier = Soldat
 (to) take place = passieren
 The Strand = Name einer Straße in London