

Guy Fawkes

5th November: Bonfire Night

After Queen Elizabeth I died in 1603, English Catholics hoped that her successor, James I, would be more tolerant of their religion. But, James did not turn out to be more tolerant than Elizabeth and a number of young men, 13 to be exact, decided to kill him .

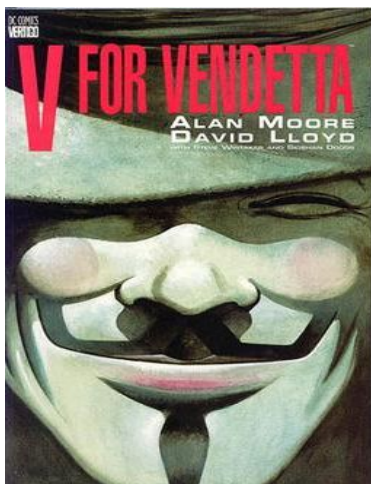


Robert Catesby was the leader of this group and he wanted to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Today, these conspirators would be extremists, or terrorists.

They hid 36 barrels of gunpowder in a cellar just under the House of Lords. But some members of the group thought some innocents would die . One of the group members even sent an anonymous letter warning his friend, Lord Monteagle, to stay away from the Parliament on November 5th. The warning letter reached the King, and the King's forces made plans to stop the conspirators.

Guy Fawkes, who was in the cellar of the parliament with the 36 barrels of gunpowder shop in the early hours of November 5th, was caught, tortured and executed.

On November 5th, 1605, bonfires were set alight to celebrate the safety of the King. Since then, November 5th has become known as Bonfire Night. The event is commemorated every year with fireworks and burning effigies of Guy Fawkes on a bonfire.



Nowadays, protesters all over the world use the mask of the main character of a famous comic “V for Vendetta” as the symbol of resistance and strength against the abuse of the power of some governments(“Anonymous”) .

Guy Fawkes inspired this character. (reference: Wikipedia)

