Gunpowder Treason & Plot: Timeline Factsheet

1564-1616 William Shakespeare's lifetime

24 March 1603

Queen Elizabeth I dies and James I takes over the throne.

1604 The Plot takes shape

20 May

Robert Catesby, Thomas Winter, Jack Wright, Thomas Percy and Guy Fawkes meet in a London pub called the Duck and Drake. Catesby reveals his plan to blow up Parliament.

24 May

Thomas Percy rents a small house next to the Lords' Chamber.

December

The plotters start digging their tunnel under the wall of the House of Lords.

1605 The Gunpowder Plot fails

March

The plotters rent a storeroom under the House of Lords and begin to smuggle in barrels of gunpowder.

26 October

Lord Monteagle receives the mysterious letter warning him of the evil plan.

4 November

King James orders a search of the Houses of Parliament. Guy Fawkes is found in the storeroom with the gunpowder and is arrested.

5 November

The rest of the plotters leave London, most of them headed for the Midlands.

7 November

Fawkes makes his first confession in the Tower of London.

8 November

Catesby, Percy and the Wright brothers are killed in a shoot-out at Holbeach House.

9 November

King James makes a speech about the Plot at the Opening of Parliament.

1606 Trials and executions

27 January

Digby, Grant, Fawkes, Keyes, Rookwood, the Winters and Bates go on trial at Westminster Hall.

30 January

Digby, Robert Winter, Grant and Bates are executed in St Paul's Churchyard.

31 January

Fawkes, Rookwood, Thomas Winter and Keyes are executed in Old Palace Yard, Westminster.