

# Fireworks Night

5th November

Bonfire night is also known as Fireworks Night or Guy Fawkes Night.

It is a traditional British celebration that is held annually close to or on the **5th November**. It is to mark the anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot.

## Gunpowder Plot

In the early hours of 5th November 1605 a man named Guy Fawkes was found underneath the Houses of Parliament, about to set light to lots of barrels of gunpowder. He was trying to blow up the houses of parliament to try and kill King James 1 because he was a protestant.

The Gunpowder plot was organized by a group of people but Guy Fawkes is the most remembered, because he was the person who got caught with the gunpowder.

## What happens on Fireworks night?

Many towns and villages organize Fireworks displays, where lots of fireworks are set off. These events take place in the evening so it is dark.

There is often food and other entertainment at the events as well.

The events take place outdoors in a large open space. There is a special safe area for people to stand in a crowd to watch the fireworks. Fireworks are then let off one after the other for a short period of time.

Fireworks are very pretty to look at but they are also noisy, and there can be big bangs and screeches.

There may be a bonfire too. This is usually a big pile of wood and other materials, which is then set on fire.

Sometimes people make a 'Guy' to sit on top of the bonfire as well. A Guy is like a scarecrow that is meant to represent Guy Fawkes, and is burnt with the bonfire.



## Sparklers

Some people also buy sparklers. These are small, metal sticks that you hold in your hand. You set fire to the end which creates lots of small sparks. You can then wave them around and create patterns. The sparks then stop on their own after about 30 seconds.

Sparklers make a quiet fizzing noise when lit.

Some people prefer to wear gloves when holding a sparkler.

Once a sparkler goes out, put it down and do not pick it up again. Sparklers get hot and can burn even after the sparks have finished.

Sparklers can be bought in shops and you can use them outdoors in your garden.

If you are going to an organised firework event you need to check if you are allowed to take sparklers, as they are not always allowed.

## Stay Safe

Fireworks can be dangerous.

We do not recommend buying fireworks to use at home as you need a lot of space for them.

It is safer to go to an organized firework event where there are safe places to stand and watch the fireworks being set off by professionals.

