

Tekst 9

Bang bang you're banned

1 **G**UY FAWKES night is going out with
a bang. Britain's annual fireworks
festival on November 5th was the last
before tougher measures will be
5 introduced to restrict the size of
fireworks, regulate sales and institute a
curfew. Some police chiefs want to ban
private fireworks altogether.

2 It is a big market. Around 12 million
10 people attended organised displays alone.
Britain consumes around 10,000 tonnes of
fireworks every year.

3 Some of this is just jollity. But there is
a growing menace from firework
15 hooliganism too. British Telecom says
fireworks have been let off in 2,237
telephone boxes so far this year. Some 30
have been destroyed in Liverpool alone.
Royal Mail pillar boxes have also been
20 wrecked, and the letters inside destroyed.
Cars have been targets too. A particularly
nasty and dangerous habit is posting lit
fireworks through domestic letterboxes.

4 The new laws will establish regular
25 inspections of fireworks shops and
depots, financed by an increased licence
fee. Currently a fireworks sales licence
costs only £13 (\$21.70). The new one will
cost about £200. Other measures include
30 limiting the permitted bang to 120
decibels. This would rule out the Giant
Flash Report rocket, a new type of
projectile favoured by those who care
little for pretty coloured stars, but like a
35 really loud noise. And letting fireworks
off after 11pm will be illegal.

5 Will it work? Experience so far
suggests that legal restrictions alone are
ineffective. There are tough constraints on
40 firework sales in Northern Ireland, but
nobody takes much notice. Making life
more expensive for retailers will create
incentives for illegal traders who already
benefit from selling at a lower price than
45 their law-abiding rivals. And the curfew
will be hard to enforce. "If you see a
firework explode 400 feet in the air it is
hard to know who let it off on the
ground," says Tom Smith of the British
50 Pyrotechnists Association.

6 A better approach would be more
confident and vigorous policing. There
are plenty of existing laws to deal with
people who create a public nuisance,
55 whether by letting off fireworks or other
means. Timid, deskbound police are often
loath to make arrests for fear of yet more
paperwork.

7 A second remedy would be to restrict
60 the illegal trade, which helps
irresponsible buyers to get hold of large
and dangerous products. Almost all
Britain's fireworks are imported from
China. At the ports, 10-20% leak out of
65 official distribution channels, and are sold
anywhere, such as in pubs or from car
boots. Liverpool's fire service recently
found 1.7 tonnes of fireworks illegally
stored in a private house.

8 70 Thirdly, enforcing better the existing
law that bans sales to anyone under 18
can make a difference: in Liverpool, the
authorities cut firework-related disorder
by 20% last year by using hidden cameras
75 to film shops that sold fireworks to
children and then fining them.

The Economist

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- “tougher measures” (regel 4)
- 1p **31** In welke alinea worden deze strengere maatregelen in nader detail besproken?
Noteer het nummer van deze alinea.
- 1p **32** ■ Which unwanted side-effect will “an increased licence fee” have according to paragraphs 4 and 5?
- A Certain types of fireworks will not be available any more.
 - B Fewer shopkeepers will be willing to sell fireworks.
 - C Fireworks dealers will put their prices up.
 - D Illegal trading in fireworks will become even more attractive.
- 1p **33** ■ What is the function of the examples in paragraph 5?
- A To condemn the course of action the police have taken so far.
 - B To emphasise the urgent need for the tougher fireworks laws.
 - C To explain the difficulties in upholding the new fireworks laws.
 - D To show why the competition among fireworks dealers corrupts the trade.
- 2p **34** Geef voor elk van de onderstaande uitspraken aan of de schrijver deze wel of niet noemt als zinvolle maatregel bij het aanpakken van vuurwerkoverlast.
- 1 Betere ordehandhaving door de politie.
 - 2 Douane meer arrestatiebevoegdheden geven.
 - 3 Hogere boetes opleggen.
 - 4 Strenger optreden tegen de verkoop van vuurwerk aan minderjarigen.
- Noteer het nummer van elke uitspraak, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.
- 1p **35** ■ Which of the following reflects the writer’s opinion on the new fireworks laws as a whole?
- A They are too complicated to work effectively.
 - B They are unlikely to make much difference.
 - C They could help change people’s attitudes.
 - D They will give the police more authority.