

Professional Firework Displays at Thornbury Castle

This document is an outline showing the considerations and processes undertaken by Chase Lane Fireworks, for holding professional firework displays at Thornbury Castle. It is designed to showcase the measures implemented by us as a company, who are the exclusive supplier of professional firework displays at the venue. Our number 1 goal is to be able to conduct professional displays for clients at the venue, whilst mitigating as much disruption to local residents and livestock as reasonably possible.



Introduction

The Company

Chase Lane Fireworks started life as a retail firework shop in Gloucester. Its primary focus was to serve customers in the surrounding areas with a selection of good value and professional quality Fireworks. Having created a team committed to pyrotechnics, it was inevitable that the company would grow into professional displays. Now with a number of years under our belt we want to be recognised as a disruptor in an otherwise same old same old industry. For us a firework display needs to be polished and well executed and the best it can possibly be. We achieve this by combining state of the art digital wireless firing systems with world class pyrotechnic effects sourced from the same supplier as the London New Year display. We have a meticulous eye for detail and safety and all firers are fully qualified persons with specialist knowledge with either the British Pyrotechnists Association or Illuminate Consult (the only 2 accredited qualification providers in the UK industry to date). We keep our team small and focus on designing and firing a display that will not only satisfy our clients, but also ensure we are looking after the surrounding area too.

The Fireworks

All of our Fireworks are sourced from a supplier with whom we have been working for many years. They can provide us with highly reliable and beautiful effects to suit all budgets and requirements. Whether that involves a lower noise selection, a variety of colours or shapes or even extremely large competition effects we are proud to use their product. They also supply the effects used in the London New Year displays, the very same effects that we purchase. We hand pick a range of product that's suitable for displays at Thornbury Castle, a lot of our displays are in the form of set packages.

The People

Chase Lane Fireworks is backed up by an all-star cast of professional firework firers. Each member of the firing team has been through officially recognised "Persons with Specialist Knowledge" training by either Illuminate Consult or the British Pyrotechnists Association. Overall, we have a combined 40+ years' experience firing shows for all different audiences big and small and for both smaller and larger competition winning companies. We are all true pyro-fanatics at heart and above all else are passionate about the audience enjoyment from our art.

Why are we different?

Clean Up

We currently have a selection of venues that we work exclusively with because of the thorough nature of our site clean-up. We want every site to be as clean, if not cleaner than before we arrived. We like to treat our venues as if they were our own property. You can expect us to keep it as clean as is practicably possible during our time on site. Many companies have a “best endeavours” clean up policy and will, by the light of the moon, pick up any rubbish left behind by the fireworks. Whilst we can never say we will find 100% of the debris, we do a very rigorous 4 stage clean up. We have powerful lighting if needed and a variety of tools available to assist with the clean.

Step 1: De-rig all hardware and clean up all firing sites of re-usable equipment and spent cases/tubes.

Step 2: Using lighting thoroughly inspect, and pick up large/medium debris.

Step 3: Pass the area with a garden vacuum system to ensure smaller hard to pick items are collected.

Step 4: Final sweep to ensure all areas are as clean as practicably possible.

We feel it is very important to leave the site as we found it, if not cleaner. Whilst most debris are of a biodegradable cardboard material, it can be unsightly on venues that serve multiple purposes and we appreciate the area is also used by local wildlife for grazing or nesting purposes.

Community/Brand Awareness & Reputation

Whilst we love fireworks, we appreciate not everyone does. It's a fine balance between keeping our business running, the venue being able to offer out the very special service for clients and of course ensuring we do everything in our power to mitigate disruption to a sensible, reasonable level. Below in the next section you will see a detailed list of what we do at Thornbury Castle to keep a level playing field between the venue, ourselves and local residents.

What steps have we taken at Thornbury Castle to reduce and mitigate disruption to local residents, livestock and wildlife?

Thornbury Castle is a large expanse of land situated some distance away from very close by neighbours, however on the outskirts of a local village. With this being said we are under no illusion that sound does travel. Particularly with the direction of the wind.

It has been raised before that it seems some displays may be louder than others, whilst strictly speaking this is correct, we do have a maximum noise level set for the venue and a maximum calibre shell size. However unfortunately it's never possible to control wind directions and atmospheric pressures on any given day a display is being conducted – a very strong wind from the west, will amplify the noise for the houses to the east of the venue, however with this because we have a maximum calibre of firework used, the noise should never be considered extreme or overly disruptive.

Below we have outlined some steps to help you understand that both us and the venue as businesses have considered in depth how we can offer out displays to reduce loss of business to both companies, whilst respecting locals, livestock and other wildlife.

1. For the period between the 1st May – 10th Aug, all displays will have the use of Lower noise fireworks and be complete prior to 10:15pm – these products do still create a bang and an element of travelling noise, however we remove all very high altitude effects, whilst there will still be noise created, the echo is far reduced and the majority of the noise is kept within the confines of the venue. At distances of 500 meters, it's unlikely you will hear the display over the sound of a TV. These dates are the height of the season, however we appreciate that darkness wouldn't occur until past 9:30pm. So to be respectful to locals in closer proximity to the venue, we will only use these lower noise fireworks to mitigate disruption late in the evening. We also consider these months to be the main breeding months for many birds in the local area, as well as much livestock out in the surrounding area.
2. For the period outside of these dates above, the use of normal fireworks will be used. These fireworks do create a louder bang which is likely to be heard over a greater distance; however through our very large selection of calibre available (ranging from 2" right up to 16"!) the maximum shell size we will use is a 4" at the venue going forward (this has been dropped from the previous 6"). We deem this item to be reasonable within the local area and the echo created off this product in the lower limits of what we have available. With this being said, we have made it extremely clear to all clients that outside of the lower noise months, all displays where possible must be completed as soon as its dark enough (as an example if the display fell on August 12th, we would ensure the client has spectators ready

for the display just after twilight which would be approx. 9:00pm) Through the winter months, where its dark sooner we have made it clear that all displays must be concluded as early as possible in the evening.

3. For any displays that fall on a weekday, if it's not dark enough to fire the display prior to 8:30pm, Low noise fireworks with no bangs at all will be used – this is a year round policy we have now created to ensure we are not disturbing residents who may have children trying to sleep for school.

Ecological/Environmental Awareness

Another key point to mention is that whilst fireworks involve fire, smoke and noise, the local ecology and environment has been taken into account with the steps outlined above. All of our fireworks are CE marked / UKCA and legal for use in displays and conform to the noise limits in place. This means that no effect should be louder than 120db at the correct safety distance and many of the effects we use will come in lower than that. We do pay special attention to the local area in terms of wildlife. We fully appreciate that Thornbury Castle is at the top of a rolling valley; for which deer, rabbits, foxes and a vast array of other birds use as a natural habitat. With Slimbridge WWT and many farms nearby, we ensure that none of our fireworks are at risk of severely endangering or disturbing these areas – and whilst when a display is occurring, there may be an element of surprise, the local wildlife always recovers and returns with in only a very short matter. On several occasions we have had Roe deer and Muntjac within only yards of our firing zone, they will disappear whilst the display is firing, yet they always return within 30 mins after the show to continue about their business! We pay attention to the environment around us and where risk of chemical pollution or fire hazard is high, we adjust to accommodate. Being a firework enthusiast does not immediately mean we do not care for wildlife and its true we do everything in our power to respect the areas in which we operate at all times.



Our range of higher altitude effects has a diameter in the ranges below. The large calibre items (8"-16") climb to very high altitude, burst with a huge diameter and the noise from the burst would travel a significant distance. As you come down the calibre size, the impact reduces drastically. The red circle is the calibre size we have previously used at this venue. Following on from discussion due to the potential inconvenience of using the louder items in this category, we have agreed to reduce the calibre to our "quieter" effects and calibre sizes. Please note there is no completely silent option when it comes to fireworks but hopefully it is clear from the graphic below that we have taken significant steps to improve the situation so that the venue, the firework clients and the local community can all find a middle-ground that is acceptable.



Thank you for taking the time to read through our guide, we appreciate that fireworks are not always welcomed by everyone, however we hope with the extensively thought out processes detailed above, that you can be rest assured we do take everything we do seriously and we do consider both business and keeping strong neighbourly relations.

Further Information

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