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CROWDS ARE DAZZLED BY BONFIRE BONANZA

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Families were dazzled by stunt shows, fireworks and fairground rides as the Lincolnshire Showground kicked off the Bonfire weekend.

Hundreds gathered to see the entertainment on show and were grateful the weather was kinder to them than last year.

Parents and children alike enjoyed the new idea of a children's firework display.

Organisers put on the display early in the night for those who aren't fond of loud noises.

Kev Russell watched it with his partner Tracy and children Liam (five) and Sophie (two).

"It was a very good idea because some of the younger kids find big fireworks a little too loud and get scared," said the 30-year-old paint sprayer from Ermine, Lincoln.

"The whole event here's good for the kids because there's lots for them to do."

This was the first year a bonfire had been lit at the venue.

It was also the first time families could enjoy a VIP tent, a licensed bar and a performance from a stunt artist.

Organisers were excited by the changes made to the event.

Co-organiser John Armitage said four months of hard work had gone into planning it.

"We managed to organise better weather this year.

"We tried to give plenty for children to do as well as provide a couple of rides for older people," he said.

"To set the bonfire up we had to remove the turf and now we'll resurface it for the 2007 season.

"We thought the children's fireworks were good for the younger kids - quiet with lots of nice colours.

"The VIP section was a complete sell-out and tickets to the event have sold really well this year."

Singer Paula Hallam was one of those to benefit from the VIP tent. She went to the event with her husband Jonny and her three children Kai (11), Canen (eight) and Karis (six).

She said it was a perfect environment for her children.

"They love it - it's well organised, safe and there's lots for them to do," said the 29-year-old from Sudbrooke, east of Lincoln.

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"The organisers have thought about the children and that's really nice to see."

Mrs Hallam's youngest son Canen said he likes the big fireworks. "I love the massive explosions and I also like to slide on the bouncy castle slide and on the carpet slide," he said.

"We've come with a few friends and it's easy to make new friends once we get here."

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