

Introduction

There is a long and unbroken tradition in our country of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations with the lighting of Beacons whether they be on the top of mountains, church towers, castle battlements, town and village greens, country parks, estates and farms and along the beaches surrounding our shores.



A Bonfire Beacon celebrating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

In 1897, Beacons were lit to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. In 1977 and 2002 Beacons were also lit to celebrate the Silver and Golden Jubilees of The Queen.



The Queen's Golden Jubilee.
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On Monday 4th June 2012 the aim is to light 2,012 Beacons throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man,

the Commonwealth and other countries around the world in celebration of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, marking an important, historic, moment in The Queen's reign. The Beacon Project by agreement with The Royal Household will form an important part of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations during the Diamond Jubilee weekend - 2nd through to the 5th June 2012.

Her Majesty The Queen has graciously agreed to light the National Beacon on Monday 4th June 2012.

There are two types of Beacons being lit for this great occasion. The traditional Bonfire Beacon and the Church Tower Beacon fuelled by bottled gas. Please see pages 4 and 5. (However, if you already have a Beacon brazier or a Church Tower Beacon erected for previous beacon events, I encourage you to re-light these as part of this celebration).

Those taking part can use their Beacon lighting and any associated organised events as a way of raising valuable funds for local or national charities of their choice. However, you/they may just like to use their Beacon as an opportunity to celebrate with family and friends.

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution whose supporters were responsible for lighting over 650 Beacons for The Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002, are encouraging their supporters to do similar on 4th June 2012. Flash C. of E. Primary School, the highest school in Great Britain with only ten pupils aged between 4 - 11 years old, will be lighting their Beacon in the Village of Flash, Staffordshire. Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Norfolk, are lighting their Beacon Brazier located along their seafront and The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors are inviting their members to light Beacons on the 137 sites used in 2002 as the official Anchor Chain for this project. A Bonfire Beacon is being lit by the Malvern Hills Conservators on top of the ancient Worcestershire Beacon site.

The Cadets of Unit 215 (City of Swansea) Squadron Air Training Corps will be lighting their Beacon on top of Pen Y Fan Mountain, Wales. Church Tower Beacons will be lit on the battlements of HM Tower of London, St. James's Palace, Lambeth Palace, London, and at The Palace of Holyroodhouse, with a similar Beacon

being lit at Killyleagh Castle, Northern Ireland. The Caravan Club are lighting Beacons on their managed sites and His Grace The Duke of Westminster is lighting Beacons on his three estates in Sutherland, Cheshire and Lancashire.

Premier Christian Media are encouraging churches throughout the UK to obtain and light Church Tower Beacons fuelled by bottled gas, with Hadrian's Wall Heritage lighting 60 similar Beacons along the length of Hadrian's Wall, with each Beacon representing a year in the life of The Queen's reign. Huntingdon Town Council, Cambridgeshire are lighting their Beacon on Castle Hills, Huntingdon, and Trinity House will be lighting 15 Church Tower Beacons at 15 selected lighthouse sites, to name but a few of those who have already confirmed their participation.

Those towns or cities etc, twinned abroad, could invite representatives over to the UK to attend these celebrations, thus boosting tourism over the Diamond Jubilee Weekend.

A special book listing all the Beacon sites for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be given to The Queen after the event, so I do hope that you will join with us by uniting the Nation for this joyous occasion so urge you to start your planning now, and would appreciate it if you would complete and return the Registration Form enclosed by no later than 30th May 2012 to enable us to include your Beacon as one of the 2,012 being lit on the 4th June 2012.



Bruno Peek

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The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons

Background picture
Buckingham Palace circa 1850