

# The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Beacons



4th June 2012



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## Your guide to taking part



*Constructing the bonfire for Berkswich Parish Council's celebrations for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.  
The bonfire stood on one of the hills bordering Milford common*

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# Foreword

Windsor Castle



In 2012, Her Majesty The Queen will become the second Monarch in British history to celebrate sixty years on the throne, the previous Monarch to achieve this was Queen Victoria. The Queen has reigned through some of the most profound and breathtaking changes ever to have taken place in our history. So it is absolutely right that The Queen's achievements - her hard work and dedication across this extraordinary time - be celebrated by all of us, both in this country and across the wider Commonwealth.

Individuals and communities will, of course, mark the Diamond Jubilee in any number of different ways. The Government, however, is working closely with Buckingham Palace to ensure that there are truly 'national' celebrations taking place of which we can all be proud.

As part of these celebrations, a series of beacons will be lit across the UK to celebrate this Jubilee. In 2002, over 1,800 beacons were lit to mark The Queen's Golden Jubilee. Communities across the UK and around the globe, including as far flung as Antarctica came together to light a beacon and celebrate this very special occasion. In 2012, the plan is to have even more with 2,012 being lit, with Her Majesty lighting the National Beacon on Monday 4th June.

As the Minister in Government responsible for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, I am therefore delighted to endorse this project, honouring this very special and rare occasion.



Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP

# 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.  
©Press Association Images.

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 and 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. The Beacons will be lit between 10pm and 10:30pm on Monday 4th June 2012. Exact times will be sent to coordinators nearer the date. Her Majesty The Queen will be lighting the National Beacon in London at around 10:30pm that night.

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 from 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 choice. Alternatively, you/they may just like to use the event 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 60 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. I urge you to start your planning now and be kind enough to complete and return the enclosed Beacon Registration Form by no later than 30th April 2012.

You can also register your Beacon location online by going to [www.diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk](http://www.diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk) to enable us to include your Beacon as one of the 2,012 being lit on 4th June 2012.

*Bruno Peek*

Bruno Peek OBE MVO OPR  
Pageantmaster  
The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons



# Bonfire Beacon

## How To Construct And Safely Manage A Bonfire Beacon

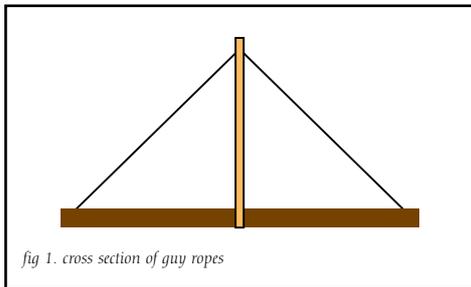


fig 1. cross section of guy ropes

**1** Prepare site by removing top layer of turf and stack away from fire area. Obtain seven poles, 5-6m in length. Attach four guy ropes to top of one pole and anchor as shown.

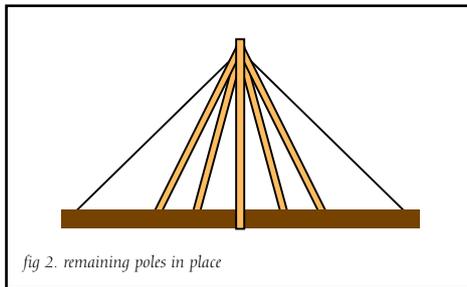


fig 2. remaining poles in place

**2** Erect remaining poles as shown, ensuring tops are secured in place.

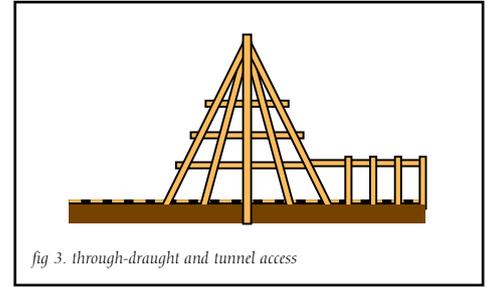


fig 3. through-draught and tunnel access

**3** Use either pallets or suitable lengths of timber, spreading them over ground area of beacon for a good through draught. Secure timber horizontally between poles as shown, preventing material placed over the framework from dropping through. Construct access tunnel to the middle of the beacon. Keep middle empty until required. Always construct the bonfire so it collapses inwards as it burns.

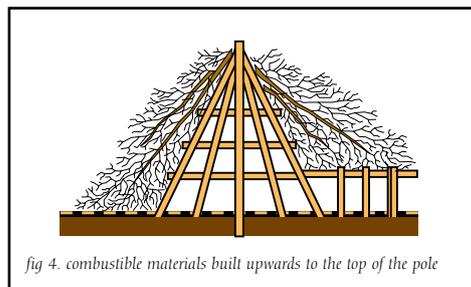


fig 4. combustible materials built upwards to the top of the pole

**4** Use only wood for combustible materials. Do not burn dangerous items such as foam-filled furniture, old tyres, aerosols or tins of paint. Build upwards until height of centre pole is reached. Materials around top should be loosely packed to allow air flow. Cover bonfire to keep it dry.

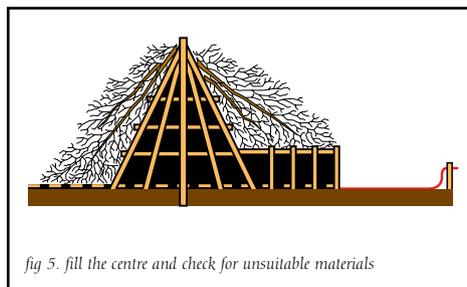


fig 5. fill the centre and check for unsuitable materials

**5** Fill centre with suitable, dry combustible materials. Check construction is stable and remove any unsuitable materials that may have been added. Look specifically for fireworks, aerosols, highly inflammable materials or containers with such materials.

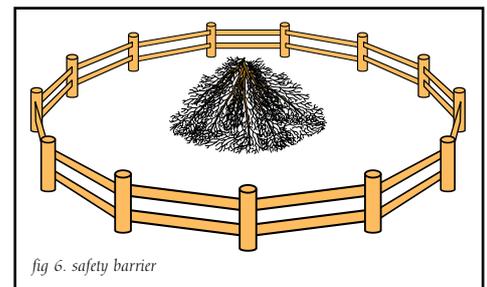


fig 6. safety barrier

**6** Construct a safety barrier out of ropes and stakes or scaffold poles to ensure public is kept at a safe distance from the fire.

**7** In daylight, and just before lighting, check that there are no children or animals playing or hiding in the bonfire. Arrange for, and brief sufficient numbers of marshals.

**8** The person looking after the fire should not wear lightweight clothing that could ignite easily. They should wear a substantial outer garment of wool, or other material of low flammability, and stout boots. They should know what to do in the event of a burn injury, or a person's clothing catching fire, and should have a fire blanket ready in the bonfire area along with a number of fire extinguishers.

**9** Lighting: the safest and recommended approach is to use paper and solid firelighters in six places just inside the walls of the beacon to ensure an even burn. Never use flammable liquids such as paraffin or petrol to get it going as this can result in uncontrolled spread of fire or explosion.

**10** To light the beacon: from poles 2m in length, prepare hand torches for lighting with paraffin-soaked rags wired around one end. Remember, paraffin is dangerous and great care should be taken. Paraffin can be used as directed, but it is still dangerous and should at all times be treated with great care - for example, always ensure all excess paraffin is drained off rags before use. If spilt on your clothes during the preparation of your beacon lighting you should replace those items of clothing before approaching any naked flames. In particular, always remember to replace the lid on any container of unused paraffin and store it in a safe place away from naked flames. Do not use an accelerant on the fire itself.

### Before the Event:

- ▲ Locate the bonfire at least 30m away from buildings, roads, railways and public rights of way, and a safe distance from dangerous materials and overhead power lines
- ▲ Ensure it has good access for the transportation of materials for the bonfire and sufficient space for spectators to stand upwind
- ▲ Obtain the landowner's permission and involvement
- ▲ Liaise with local fire brigade and emergency services, presenting them with your plans, and seek their advice and support

### After the Event:

- ▲ Extinguish fire thoroughly and collect remaining debris
- ▲ Dig over site and re-lay turf
- ▲ Leave site clean and tidy

# Church Tower Beacon



Churches, chapels and cathedrals up and down the country will be joining the celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee by the lighting of Church Tower Beacons.

In 1953 Church bells rang across the whole country to herald the Coronation of The Queen and it is fitting that on the 4th June 2012, the Church should again give thanks for her reign by lighting these beacons.

We are encouraging every church with suitable buildings or land to take part in this nationwide event. Our vision is that thousands of churches up and down the land will gather their communities together for this happy occasion. Premier Christian Radio are working with the organisers of this unique project to assist in the co-ordination of the Church Beacons throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

The Beacon is relatively light and comes fully assembled and complete with the exception of the gas cylinders that will need to be sourced separately. Two 19kg propane cylinders are recommended to give a full flame for one hour but if there is restricted access then two 11kg or 6kg cylinders will be adequate but this will reduce the period for a full flame (to only half an hour for the smallest size). These cylinders can be sourced/purchased from Flogas UK Ltd by going onto their website [www.flogas.co.uk](http://www.flogas.co.uk) which allows you to find a local stockist by putting in your post code. You may also download a Propane safety data sheet from the Flogas website.

The Church Tower Beacon package will contain the following:

- Burner unit in shape of a diamond
- 2m high stand with brackets for fixing to the ground
- 4m hose with the regulator for connecting to the gas cylinders
- Lighter on end of a wand (2 off)
- Spanner
- Hose assembly and Y manifold to link 2 cylinders
- Lighting and safety instructions
- The above items are packed in a strong carton approximate size 2.0m x 0.5m x 0.5m

The beacon is connected to the two gas cylinders (with hose assembly and Y manifold) with the spanner provided. The lighting wand contains a lighter primed with butane fuel. The wand should be lit just before the lighting of the beacon. A spare lighting wand is provided.

The Beacon is stable in the wind and can be used on a tower, castle battlement or a building with a flat roof. However it must be supervised at all times when lit and a fire extinguisher must be provided. It is important that the supervision should be by someone who is competent and it is essential that a trial be undertaken before the event to ensure that everyone is fully trained and familiar with the operation.

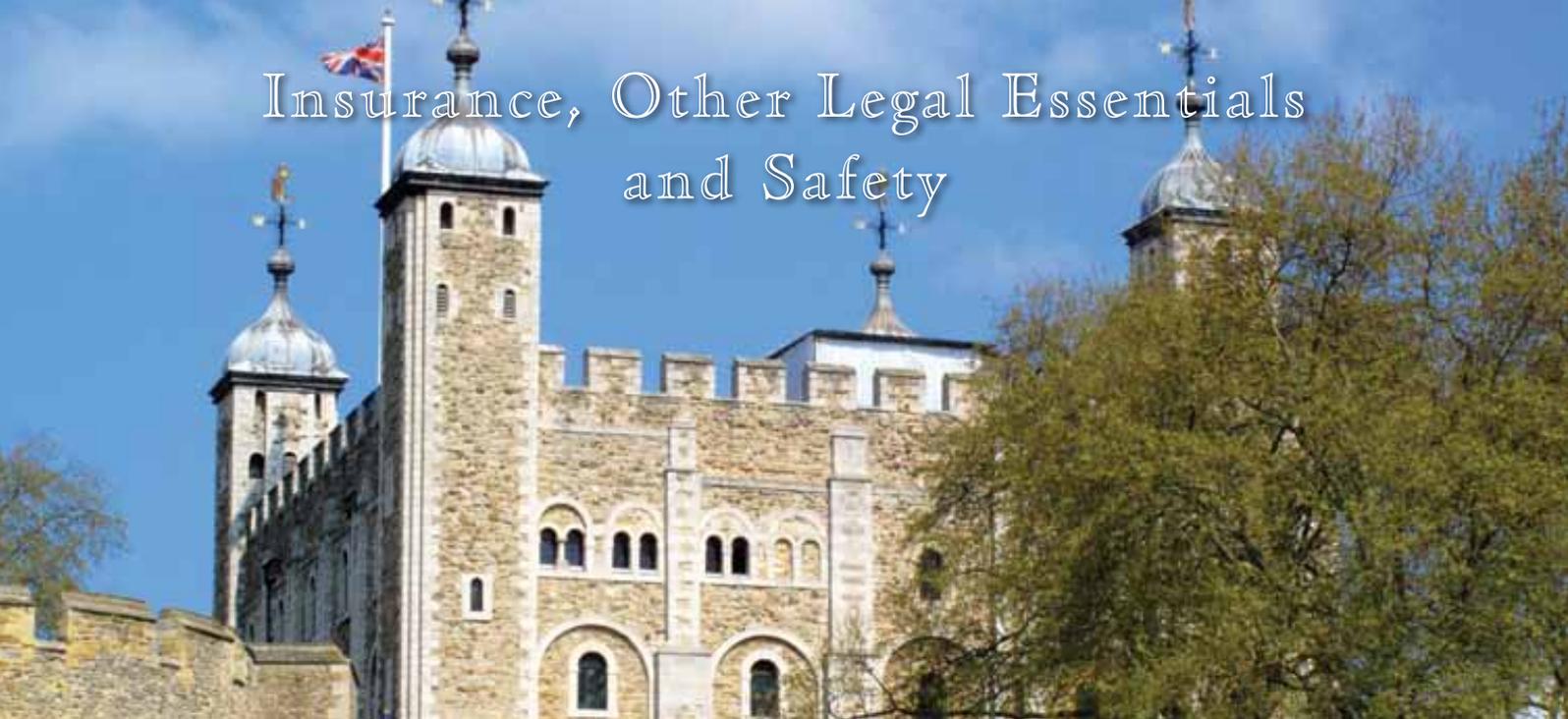
The price is £299 plus VAT, plus post and packaging. You can view a Church Tower Beacon alight by going to the following website: [www.bullfinch-gas.co.uk](http://www.bullfinch-gas.co.uk)

In 2012, Premier in partnership with The Diocese of London will launch a project aimed at getting young people active in their communities and reaching out to people in need. We are inviting young people to join the '2012' group with Premier providing media resources and events that aim to equip and inspire a generation to a greater level of social involvement, with the aim being to generate a wave of activity across the country. **From every Church Tower Beacon purchased, £30 will be given to the '2012' project to create the resources, hold events and coordinate teams.**

To order please contact:  
Bullfinch Gas Equipment,  
Kings Road, Tyseley,  
Birmingham, B11 2AJ.  
Tel: 0121 765 2000  
Fax: 0121 707 0995  
Email: [sales@bullfinch-gas.co.uk](mailto:sales@bullfinch-gas.co.uk)

Payment by Cheque to Bullfinch (Gas Equipment) Ltd or credit card. Last date to order to guarantee delivery by 25th May is the 12th March 2012. However, please enquire after this date for availability.

# Insurance, Other Legal Essentials and Safety



The Tower of London built by William the Conqueror in the early 1080s. Through the centuries, successive monarchs have added to the fortifications

If you are inviting personal guests to your home it is worth checking with your household insurer that you are covered in the unfortunate circumstance that there should be an accident. If your event includes inviting the public, or it is at a third party venue then, where applicable, the following advice should be heeded, to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable event for everyone involved.

## Licensing

Generally, all public entertainment has to be licensed by the local authority. The law on this aims to ensure the safety of the public and performers. Local authorities treat each event individually, and what one will allow another will not. Do not be put off by the length of some of the forms - the licensing officer is there to help you.

The licensing officer's job is to advise the local authority's licensing committee on the granting of public entertainment licences. For small scale events he or she, in effect, makes the decisions. Only if your event is contentious will the licensing committee decide to consider the application in detail. Talk to the licensing officer as soon as possible. In Northern Ireland, if you plan to sell alcohol at an event, you will need to apply for an occasional liquor licence from the Northern Ireland Court Service.

## Insurance

Unfortunately accidents can happen at even the best organised events. Therefore you will need to consider insurance cover.

Whether you're holding an event on your own premises or someone else's, Beacon events require specialist public liability cover. If you hire a park or venue or use land owned by a third party for your event, they are likely to require you to have your own suitable insurance to cover your liability for any injury to the public or damage to other people's land or property.

If hiring equipment for the event, you may need to insure these items; you may

also need to consider cover for loss of any financial outlay you incur if the event has to be cancelled for reasons beyond your control, or loss of money, particularly if you are holding a fund-raising event.

To help you obtain the appropriate insurance, and risk management advice, we are working with Unity Insurance Services, which is a specialist insurance broker in the voluntary and non-profit sector. They have developed a range of bespoke insurance covers specifically for the Beacon events, underwritten by Ecclesiastical Insurance. Both Unity and Ecclesiastical are owned by charities and donate all their available profits back to charity.

To obtain a quote or for more details or advice on the insurance cover you may need, please visit Unity's website, [www.unityinsuranceservices.co.uk/jubilee](http://www.unityinsuranceservices.co.uk/jubilee) or telephone them on 0845 0945 702.

Alternatively, the licensing officer may be able to direct you to a suitable specialist company or broker, but you should not try to source this kind of insurance from a non-specialist.

## Emergency services



Tell the police well in advance about the type of event you are planning and get in touch with your local community police officer. Write to the fire brigade and ambulance service, particularly if you are planning to have a beacon, fireworks, or an event that will attract large crowds. St John Ambulance and the Red Cross will provide first aid and sometimes a vehicle. In some areas they are simply happy to receive a donation. In others, expect a fee to be charged.

## Food and drink



Basic food hygiene guidelines should be followed if you are providing food and drink. Caterers must have food hygiene certificates.

Advice on this subject can be obtained from your local council environmental health officer.

## Alcohol



If you want to sell alcohol you will need to secure a licence. From February 2005, licences are granted by the local authority rather than the Magistrates Court. You should therefore contact your local authority licensing section and seek information from them on how to apply. During 2005 all existing licences have to be renewed and this will inevitably lead to long lead-in times. Please apply as early as possible.

## Site clearance



The local authority will arrange for clearance and disposal of litter after your event if it is on public ground (check for charges). You can help this process by arranging litter bins or recycling bins around the site, and a crew to clear up throughout the event.

## Hiring or borrowing equipment



Your local authorities, Scout Group, Guide Unit, or local event organisers may be able to help you with contacts for supplies such as marquees, portable toilets, barriers and bunting, or may in some cases have these for you to hire or borrow. You may also need to consider generators, a public address system, and emergency flood lighting. If you need to arrange insurance for your hired in equipment, Unity Insurance Services can arrange this for you.



**All ability access**  
Access for disabled groups is very important. Many local authorities run community transport schemes. Talk to them about arranging transport. On green field sites access can be improved by cutting the grass before your event.



# Acknowledgements

*Buckingham Palace showing the Queen Victoria Memorial*

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ABF The Soldiers Charity  
 Air Training Corps  
 Association of Lord-Lieutenants  
 Association of Town Centre Managers  
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 Build (Building Understanding Through International Links for Development)  
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 The Duchy of Lancaster  
 The Farmers' Club  
 The Inter Faith Network for the UK  
 The National Association of Round Tables of Great Britain and Ireland  
 The Royal Warrant Holders Association  
 The Scout Association  
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 Lord Shuttleworth  
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 The Earl of Caledon  
 The Marquess of Cholmondeley  
 The Viscount Coke

For further information contact:

Bruno Peek OBE MVO OPR  
 Pageantmaster  
 The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons  
 62 Suffield Road, Gorleston-on-Sea,  
 Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 7AL

Telephone: +44 (0)7737 262 913  
 Email: [bruno@diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk](mailto:bruno@diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk)

[www.diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk](http://www.diamondjubileebeacons.co.uk)

