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## THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE BEACONS

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## THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE BEACONS

Bullfinch has designed a diamond shaped lpg beacon to be used as part of a series of over 3,000 beacon lightings to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee on June 4.



Over 3,000 beacons will be lit on June 4.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June will include the lighting of over 3,000 beacons around the world to commemorate Her Majesty The Queen's 60 year reign over the UK and as head of the Commonwealth. Her Majesty The Queen will light the National Beacon at around 10.30pm following a Diamond Jubilee concert outside Buckingham Palace on June 4.

Bullfinch (Gas Equipment) Ltd, based in Birmingham, was asked to design and manufacture a special diamond shaped lpg gas church tower beacon that could be used safely as part of the beacon lightings that night.

Andrew Williams, managing director at Bullfinch, said: "During 2010, we were asked to make some beacons to light up the length of Hadrian's Wall to mark the 1,600th anniversary of the end of Roman rule. We devised 250 beacons to be lit by a team of volunteers at dusk whilst a helicopter flew overhead to record the event. It went very well and gained a lot of interest for the wall.

"Following that, Bruno Peek OBE MVO, OPR Pageantmaster, The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons, approached us to see if we could make a beacon for church towers to mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. He planned to organise a large number of beacons to be lit at dusk on June 4. Many will be traditional bonfire beacons, but a good number will be the beacon we have designed and are manufacturing."

The beacon had to produce the largest and most colourful flame possible using a propane cylinder that could easily be carried up a church tower or similar building.

Andrew said: "We decided that it would be best to have two smaller cylinders than one large one, and so we are recommending two 19kg cylinders or even two 6kg cylinders in more difficult situations. Bruno Peek also wanted the burner on the beacon to be diamond shaped, which was a concern, but the diamond burner has proved to be distinctive, whilst giving a colourful, stable flame.

"Another challenge was to

keep the flame alight in windy conditions, which we achieved by adapting one of our standard blowtorch burners and restricting the air intake to give a good yellow flame, which is the opposite of what is required in a good blowtorch! The Hadrian's Wall burner stood up well to the wind and these jubilee burners do too.

"The beacon needed to be as easy to use as possible and to have the minimum number of lpg gas connections, and so the beacon comes fully assembled with a standard folding stand to support the burner. The user only has to connect the two lpg cylinders together and connect the regulator to the manifold on

one of the cylinders, which is normal practice with lpg gas appliances.

"Safety is very important and so, in addition to the beacon being simple to set up, we are providing two ignition wands with each beacon in case one fails at the vital moment, a spanner, leak detecting fluid, a manifold and pigtail to link the cylinders together and full safety lighting instructions. The beacon must be attended at all times when it's burning, and we are stressing that it must be tried out first at ground level to ensure that the operators are fully aware of what is required.

"We're producing just over 500 beacons, and we feel privileged to have been asked to undertake the project. We trust it will help make the celebrations in June a fitting tribute to our 'long to reign over us' monarch."

The only other British monarch to achieve a reign of 60 years was Queen Victoria, who reigned for nearly 64 years from 1837 to 1901. Britain has a long history of beacon lighting spanning many hundreds of years. A beacon chain, once used for communication, has become a symbol of unity and is often the focus of national celebrations.

Bruno Peek said: "I'm absolutely delighted with what Bullfinch have produced for this special, unique occasion and the company has been a pleasure to work with."

**Contact Bullfinch  
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The diamond shaped burner gives a colourful, stable flame.