

Governor's Address

The Queen's Jubilee Beacon Lighting

The Wharf, Jamestown

2 June 2022

The lighting of our Platinum Jubilee Beacon this evening here in Jamestown is the first official community event of the coming Jubilee Weekend.

A weekend of celebrations of Her Majesty The Queen's seventy years of service to the United Kingdom and her overseas territories and realms.

An achievement unique in the history of the British peoples and a powerful symbol of her dedication as our monarch.

And, a source of constancy in a turbulent world.

Jubilee Beacons are the opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom, Crown Dependencies, UK Overseas Territories and the Commonwealth, to come together to celebrate this historic milestone.

There is a long tradition of celebrating Royal Jubilees with the lighting of beacons.

Historically, they were used as a means communication, including here on St Helena.

They have now become a symbol of unity across towns, borders, countries and continents.

So, this beacon is the unifying focus for our jubilee celebrations.

It is a wonderful sight to see so many of the community of St Helena here this evening.

You are the visible proof of the island's motto 'Loyal and Unshakeable'.

Saints have a long history and deep allegiance to the United Kingdom. It is our natural partner and a home to our many friends and relatives.

We are an island who stands up freely when called to do its duty, as it did during the World Wars, the Falklands Conflict and, at this time, in its solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

We are a community, who through the lighting of this beacon, in unison with over 1500 other places around Britain and the world, celebrate that most special person, Queen Elizabeth the Second.

God save the Queen.

Dr Philip Rushbrook
Governor