



Celebrating one year to go!

Hertfordshire's residents marked Open Weekend 2011 with a series of events to celebrate London 2012 being only one year away! At 'One Year and Counting', on Saturday 23 July, 4,000 people enjoyed six hours of free entertainment in Waltham Cross Town Centre. Some were lucky enough to meet Team GB paddler David Florence and Harry Potter star Rupert Grint (pictured below)! On Sunday 24 July people flocked to 'OFest' at Paradise Wildlife Park where they enjoyed local talent performing on stage and taking part in various Beat the Pro competitions.

The Partnership is also celebrating after hearing that the Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners Volunteering Scheme has been awarded an Inspire Mark by LOCOG. As part of the Partnership's commitment to closer and healthier communities the Scheme has been developed to enable local communities of Hertfordshire to embrace the magic of London 2012 and organise events and activities that will involve volunteers. The Scheme is being rolled out through the Hertfordshire Volunteer

Centres and will also develop a bank of 2012 inspired volunteers who can be deployed across the county during Games-time in activities and events inspired by London 2012.

Remember to visit our website for all the latest news and events!



The Herts 2012 Team: Jon, Sophie, John, Sally and Gareth visit us online at www.hertsisreadyforwinners.co.uk or follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/readyforwinners

Hertfordshire attracts a fourth team for Pre-Games Training

We are delighted to announce that, with less than one year to go until the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, St Vincent and the Grenadines will join St Lucia, St Kitts & Nevis and the British Virgin Islands living locally and training in county training camps during the build up to the Games.

President of St Vincent and the Grenadines National Olympic Committee (NOC) Trevor Bailey said, "Hertfordshire is ideal for us in the lead up to the Games. Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners have been very helpful in putting together a training package. The facilities on offer, the expertise and the location were all winning factors for us."

The British Virgin Islands (BVI) were the first team to commit to Hertfordshire in June 2009 and since then a strong bond has developed. Last summer discus thrower Eric Matthias stayed in the village community of Aston near Stevenage and trained locally and last month BVI

musician and artist Quito Rymer held a day of workshops with Hertfordshire school children.

Both St Lucia and St Kitts & Nevis signed up in October 2010 after the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi. The St Lucian Youth Team will be coming to Hertfordshire on route to the Commonwealth Youth Games in The Isle of Man next month.

Over 600 facilities across the UK are approved Pre-Games training camps for Olympic and Paralympic teams. Hertfordshire has 17 training camps, which offer wide ranging sports facilities from athletics to gymnastics and fencing to wrestling.

Each NOC is offered up to £25,000 to spend on training camps in the UK to give their athletes the best opportunity to train, prepare and experience what the country has to offer before the Games in 2012. Having four NOCs training could generate up to £100,000 of income for the county.



L-R: Herts 2012 Ambassador John Fuller, CEO of Herts County Council (HCC) Caroline Tapster, President of St Vincent NOC Trevor Bailey, Chairman of HRFW Board Derrick Ashley and Chairman of HCC Jane Pitman.





Hertfordshire's Olympic Venue the Lee Valley White Water Centre passes test

175 elite athletes from 30 nations competed at one of the first competitive Canoe Slalom events at the Lee Valley White Water Centre, the London 2012 Canoe Slalom venue in Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire. The event was part of the London Organising Committee's "London Prepares" series, to test arrangements for the Olympic event next year. Arrangements such as the field of play, athlete conditions, the condition of the water, and how the team worked together were being looked at.

"This is a fantastic venue" said David Luckes, head of Sport Competition at LOCOG. "It is a venue that really shows legacy in action with the Centre already open to the public. This was a great opportunity for us to see the venue in use and look at important issues such as the

flow of the water, timing and scoring systems and how our teams worked together."

In the Kayak Single (K1) Men's race, Vavrinec Hradilek (CZE) came out on top followed by Peter Kauzer (SLO) and Fabien Lefevre (FRA). In the Canoe Single (C1) Men's race, Michal Martikan (SVK) won the race and in second place was Jan Benzien (GER). Denis Gargaud Chanut (FRA) came in third. The Slovaks dominated the Canoe Double (C2) Men's race with Pavol and Paul Hochschorner winning and team mates Ladislav and Peter Skantar coming in second. Third place went to Germans Marcus Becker and Stefan Henze. In the Women's Kayak Single Melanie Pfeifer (GER) took top spot with Katerina Kudejova (CZE) and Ursa Kragelj (SLO) taking second and third place respectively.

The event ran from 28-31 July. Young people from three local Hertfordshire schools attended the event and had a chance to see international athletes in action a year ahead of the Games. Pupils from Turnford School and Sports College in Cheshunt, The John Warner School in Hoddesdon and St Mary's C of E High School in Cheshunt enjoyed world class sport.

Shaun Dawson, Chief Executive of Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, said: "We're delighted with the success of the event and the positive comments athletes and officials from across the world have made. In addition, for local young people to have witnessed world class athletes right on their doorstep a year before the Games, has given them a real taste for the competition of London 2012."



Broxbourne Housing Association helps Olympic hopefuls

A multi national group of six Olympic hopefuls have made Broxbourne Housing Association's Grove House in Cheshunt their home during 2012 preparations at the Lee Valley White Water Centre.



Organised by Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners, the group of paddlers are part of the International Canoe Federation's Talent Identification Programme and are trying to gain experience on the best white water facilities in Europe during a two month period.

The group were competing at the first competitive Canoe Slalom event at the Lee Valley White Water Centre which ran for four days from 28 July to 31 July.

Each paddler in the group has contributed a small amount of

money to the communal pot to hire a minibus and travel across Europe attending open international events. They rely heavily on the support of national governing bodies, communities and sport enthusiasts for their board and lodgings during the trip.

The paddlers are paying a subsidised rent to Broxbourne Housing Association to enable them to stay at Grove House, a former retirement housing scheme.

All the selected paddlers are the national champions for their country. Babacar Daoust-Cissé (pictured below right), a paddler staying at Grove House said:

"It's really helped to have a good place to stay and rest. This is our first time using the white water facilities. The first day was hard - lots of moves and tricky waves. We're pretty excited to race there too."

Pierrick Gosselin who is coaching the group of paddlers on their tour round

Europe said, "Without this support with accommodation we would not have been able to come to this race."

Ken Goodsell, Deputy Chief Executive of Broxbourne Housing Association said: "We are delighted to support this initiative as we want our residents to share in the excitement of the build up to the 2012 Olympics happening here in the Borough."

Gareth Morgan of the Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners Partnership said: "The Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners Partnership were delighted to help when we were approached by LOCOG to see if we could support this group of aspiring athletes.

"This is an excellent example of the principle of Olympic friendship extending beyond the glitz and glamour of the Games themselves. Through our Partnership we are demonstrating our desire to work with young athletes from across the globe to help them try and fulfil their

ambitions and potential to compete in London 2012."

There are nine paddlers in the group however three have relatives in London and have opted to take advantage of that and stay with them during their time in the UK. The paddlers are: Sebastian Rossi (ARG), Nicolas Sierra (MEX), Chang Yun-Chung (Jason) (TPE), Pan Hung-Ming (Ming), (TPE), Herman Husslein (THA) and Babacar Daoust-Cissé (SEN) and are coached by Pierrick Gosselin (FRA).





Local athletes destined for big things!



Young athletes from Hertfordshire with the potential to represent England or Great Britain in their sport have the chance to receive top specialist support to help them reach the top.

The Hertfordshire Talented Athlete Programme (HTAP) has been supporting talented athletes for five years and can count its alumni as recent Golf Open Championship silver medallist for best amateur Tom Lewis and National and European Junior sprint Champion Jodie Williams, both from Welwyn Garden City.

Athletes selected for the Hertfordshire Talented Athlete Programme gain access to top class service providers at Bodybalance Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Clinic who have experience working with athletes at Olympic and Commonwealth Games. Strength and Conditioning Coaches at Performance Hertfordshire currently work with the English Institute of Sport, this partnership brings a wealth of knowledge to the programme.

Other services which enable these athletes to reach the top in their sport include workshops in nutrition, sport psychology, injury prevention and awareness of drugs in sport. Current athletes include Stevenage pole vaulter Daniel Gardner and 1500m runner James McMurray from Broxbourne who both qualified to represent Great Britain at the recent World Youth Games in Lille, France. Both put in fantastic performances at the games, contributing to Team GB's overall place of 8th.

Daniel (17) believes the scheme helped him win the title of National U17 Champion in 2010. He says: "As a pole vaulter it is vital for me to be both mentally and physically strong. The HTAP has helped in both areas – providing specialised conditioning sessions as well as sports psychology, which helped me greatly in the run up to winning the national title."

The HTAP has supported 62 athletes since 2007; 20 of whom have gone on to gain higher levels of support through National Governing Body programmes and University Scholarships.

Follow the success of the county's top young athletes over the next year by visiting www.hertssportsvillage.co.uk/hertstalentedathletes

Round-up of the recent achievements of Herts Olympic hopefuls

As mentioned in last month's e-newsletter former Herts Talented Young Athlete Tom Lewis created quite a stir at The Open in Sandwich last month. The young amateur golfer was leading the tournament after the second day.

Lewis finished the tournament with the silver medal as the leading amateur but even after his amazing start to the tournament feels he has a lot to do before he turns professional; saying **"if you're going to play with the best players in the world, you have to chip and putt like they do. So I've just got to keep grinding at that and work on my swing a little bit."**

17 year old sprint sensation Jodie Williams finished 7th on her Diamond League debut this month. She completed the 200m in 22.95 seconds, 0.01 seconds outside her season's best at the Aviva London Grand Prix in Crystal Palace.

Reflecting on her performance, Williams said, "it was an incredible experience. I'm quite happy, for my first Diamond League I can't complain. I was hoping for a PB [personal best] but there was a headwind and these guys are so fast but I just came here for the experience."

Two local athletes were selected by the British Olympic Association to represent Team GB at the 11th European Youth Olympic Festival in Trabzon, Turkey on 23-30 July, one of them even brought some silverware home!

Gymnast Gabrielle Jupp from Borehamwood won silver on the beam. **"It went really great, I was so pleased with it because it was the last day of competition and I was quite tired.**

"I wanted to do well, but getting a medal is totally unexpected. I didn't expect to get second and I knew I just had to go clean and do my best. If that is enough for a medal then great," Gabrielle said about her medal winning performance.

15 year old Lewis Roskilly of Stevenage got through to the last 16 in the tennis tournament. Of being selected Lewis said, "I've had many highlights playing this season, and after watching another exciting Wimbledon Championships I am sure that Trabzon 2011 will surpass any other experience I've had".



CALLING ALL HERTS PERFORMERS, ARE YOU READY FOR THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH?

London 2012 Ceremonies has announced the campaign to recruit volunteer performers to participate in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Performing in front of a live audience of 70,000 and a broadcast audience of more than one billion people this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to be part of one of the largest events ever staged in the UK.

Artistic Directors, Danny Boyle and Kim Gavin are searching for 10,000 volunteer performers to fill roles as dancers, percussionists and general all-round performers in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies respectively. To be eligible you must be aged 18 years or older on 1 March 2012. Performing opportunities for Under 18's will be facilitated through a separate process, at details to be announced at a later date.

Previous performance experience is not required; Ceremonies Volunteer Performers simply need lots of enthusiasm, personality, a positive attitude, huge amounts of energy and a willingness to perform in front of a stadium audience and to millions of people around the world. However, to deliver Ceremonies of this scale to a world audience a substantial commitment is required. You must be able to participate in:

- Up to two auditions that will take place evenings and weekends in November and early December of this year;

- Up to two or three rehearsal sessions each week of up to four hours per session from March 2012, and a number of all day rehearsals in the three weeks leading up to each Ceremony.

All of these rehearsals will take place in East London. Whilst it is possible for us to offer assistance with public transportation to and from rehearsals between certain zones within the Transport for London transportation network you will be responsible for covering the cost of your own transportation outside these travel zones.

If you would like a chance to take part in the greatest show on earth, register your interest by completing the online application form at www.london2012.com/ceremoniescasting.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Wednesday 31 August 2011. You can apply at any time during these three weeks. This is not a first come first served process and only one application per person will be accepted. If we are lucky enough to receive over 15,000 applications a computerised draw will be used to randomly create the short list for auditions.

And finally...



The latest in the Partnership's award winning 'Win Business Gold' business breakfast event series will be on 9 September at the Cheshunt Marriott Hotel.

Local businesses can come along and find out about:

- London 2012 contract opportunities and the CompeteFor portal
- Getting your business prepared for London 2012
- Hertfordshire's Olympic Venue, the Lee Valley White Water Centre
- Hear a presentation from a guest Olympian; and
- Meet Hertfordshire's Talented Young Athletes

Book your place online at www.bookevents.org and search 'Win Business Gold'.