



## Hertfordshire's moment to shine!

This month we at Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners are celebrating after LOCOG confirmed which communities are on the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay Route. Hertfordshire has the honour of hosting the Olympic flame on the weekend of 7 and 8 July 2012.

The Torch provides a perfect opportunity for our recently launched Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners Volunteering scheme. Local community groups can use the scheme to extend the reach of celebrations focussed on the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay Route through Hertfordshire.

Herts is Ready for Winners Volunteering Coordinators are in place throughout the county armed with advice on branding, promotion, signposting to funding opportunities and also to support events taking place in their area.

Individuals or groups wanting to get involved in Games inspired events and activities, including the Olympic Torch Relay, should register for HRFW Volunteering at their local Volunteer Centre and then the Coordinators can get to work matching volunteer opportunities to Games inspired volunteers.

Further details on volunteering opportunities are available on our website:  
[www.hertsisreadyforwinners.co.uk/volunteering](http://www.hertsisreadyforwinners.co.uk/volunteering)

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

## Hertfordshire to be part of the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay Route



**Hertfordshire will be welcoming the Olympic torch in July and everyone is invited to join in the celebrations.**

Ten locations in the county have been announced as communities on route and will be celebrating the achievements of the Torchbearers chosen to carry the flame.

The Olympic flame will travel through Waltham Cross, including the Lee Valley White Water Centre, Hertford, Ware and Bishop's Stortford on 7 July and Letchworth, Stevenage, Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield, St Albans and Hemel Hempstead on 8 July.

More than 1,000 villages, towns and cities have been announced by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) through which the Olympic Flame will be carried by Torchbearers during the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay, presented by Coca-Cola, Lloyds TSB and Samsung. LOCOG has worked closely with representatives from a number of sectors in the eastern region to devise the route.

Derrick Ashley, Chair of the Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners Partnership said: *"The London 2012 Olympic Games brings a wealth of excitement to Hertfordshire and the torch relay will provide opportunities for communities to get together and celebrate not the only the Games, but to show support for the achievements of local people chosen to run with the Olympic flame.*

*"We are fortunate that the torch will visit ten towns in the county, giving plenty of cause for celebration. This is a great opportunity for local communities, and all of Hertfordshire residents will be within just a few miles of the torch at some point during the weekend celebrations."*



Sebastian Coe, Chair of LOCOG said: *'We are thrilled to confirm that Waltham Cross, Hertford, Ware, Bishop's Stortford, Letchworth, Stevenage, Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield, St Albans and Hemel Hempstead will act as host locations for the Olympic Flame, extending an invitation to people in Hertfordshire to welcome the Olympic Torch Relay during its journey around the UK.'*



*"This is the UK's moment to shine and I want to encourage people across Hertfordshire to start planning how they can be part of this once in a lifetime opportunity and show their support for the inspirational Torchbearers chosen to carry the Olympic Flame as we count down to the start of the Olympic Games."*

The 70 day Olympic Torch Relay will start at Land's End, Cornwall on the morning of 19 May 2012. On leaving Land's End, the Olympic Flame will travel an estimated 8,000 miles around the UK giving thousands of communities and individuals their moment to shine as the Olympic Flame comes to a place near them.

In announcing the villages, towns and cities LOCOG has realised the aspiration of taking the Olympic Flame to within an hour's journey time of 95% of the population. In fact, over 95% of the population will be within just 10 miles of the Olympic Flame next summer. The street by street detail of the route will be confirmed next year.

People are invited to view the interactive map at [www.london2012.com/olympictorchrelaymap](http://www.london2012.com/olympictorchrelaymap) to find their nearest community through which the Olympic Flame will be carried.

## Hertfordshire wins gold at British Travel Awards 2011

**Hertfordshire took first place at the British Travel Awards 2011, winning the award for 'Most Innovative 2012 Olympics Local Tourism Partnership'.**

The British Travel Awards recognise excellence in the tourism industry and are considered the 'Oscars' of travel.

Enjoy! Hertfordshire, the county's Tourism and Leisure Partnership, won this prestigious award for their 2012 Games marketing campaign that includes the Enjoy! Chequebook, which gives visitors over £500 worth of discounts and deals at attractions, restaurants and hotels in Hertfordshire.

Tim Hutchings, Chair of Enjoy! Hertfordshire, the county's Tourism and Leisure Partnership, said: *"We are thrilled to have won this award. This is fantastic news for Hertfordshire and it acknowledges the hard work of the Enjoy! Hertfordshire Partnership in promoting our county as a great tourist destination and also speaks volumes about the quality of our local tourism businesses."*

*"Receiving this award is a particular honour as it is one of the few British Travel Awards that is judged by the British Travel Academy and presented on stage at the ceremony by Paralympian and World Champion, Bethany Woodward."*



Derrick Ashley, Chairman of the Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners Partnership, said: *"We are very excited that Hertfordshire, a host county for the 2012 Olympics Games, has been honoured with this award."*

*"Having the Lee Valley White Water Centre in our county means we are already attracting more visitors to the county. The Enjoy! Chequebook is a great way of encouraging visitors to make the most of our beautiful county while they are here and to enjoy the many outstanding tourist attractions and hotels we have to offer."*

To find out more about things to see and do in Hertfordshire, visit:  
[www.enjoyhertfordshire.com](http://www.enjoyhertfordshire.com)



# Hertfordshire schools get set for London 2012 with funding to plan their Games

Schools across England that are engaged with the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games are invited to apply for a grant of up to £8,800 to support other schools in their area to also get involved in London 2012 and make the most of opportunities available through the official London 2012 education programme 'Get Set'.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) have worked closely with the Department for Education, who are funding the scheme, called 'Plan your 2012'. 'Plan your 2012' will offer schools that join the London 2012 'Get Set network' reward and recognition scheme the chance to share their passion for the Games, inspiring and engaging other schools, young people and building partnerships across their community.

One Get Set network school in Hertfordshire, Turnford School in Cheshunt, has already received funding as part of a pilot for the scheme.

Chairman of the Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners Board, Derrick Ashley said, *"As the number one county in the country for Get Set registrations schools in Hertfordshire really have the advantage. 89% of Hertfordshire's schools are signed up and we have 257 Network Schools. Having the expertise of a local school that has been through the process also puts us in a strong position. I encourage every school in the county to sign up so they can have access to these fantastic opportunities."*

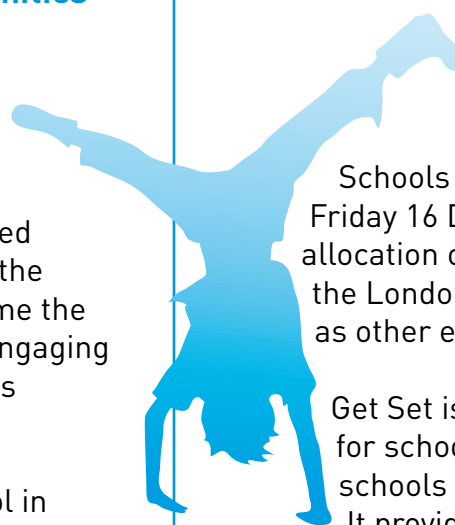
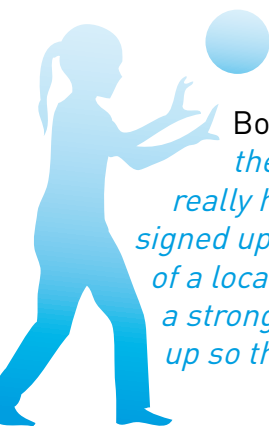
Schools can find out more about the scheme and how to apply on the London 2012 'Get Set' website [www.london2012.com/getset](http://www.london2012.com/getset); assistance is also available from us, email [herts2012@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:herts2012@hertsc.gov.uk).

The second round of applications will open on 28 November and close on 6 January 2012.

Schools that join the 'Get Set' network before Friday 16 December 2011 will also secure an allocation of tickets to the Games at no cost through the London 2012 Ticketshare initiative, as well as other exclusive rewards and opportunities.

Get Set is the official London 2012 education programme for schools and colleges across the UK. More than 20,500 schools have already registered with the programme. It provides students and teachers with access to free resources including films, activity and fact sheets to support young people to explore the Olympic and Paralympic Values and play their part in the London 2012 Games.

Over 8,000 have gone one step further to join the Get Set network reward and recognition scheme by demonstrating their commitment to living the Olympic and Paralympic Values.





## Haileybury sailor chosen for the National Youth Squad. Next stop Olympics for Rhiannon?

Haileybury pupil and member of the Herts Talented Athlete Scheme Rhiannon Massey (15) has been selected for the Volvo Laser Radial National Youth Squad (NYS) for 2011/12, the highest level national sailing squad for Under 19s, the next squad being the Olympic Development Squad.

This programme is designed to enable the best British sailors to develop their racing skills so they can achieve on the international stage. It is aimed at sailors with the potential for world-class performance and only the top ranked six or seven girls in Britain are selected.

Says Rhiannon: "This was my big target for the year. My selection was based on my performance at the Youth Worlds in the summer plus the two recent Autumn Qualifier events."

Sailors are invited to join the RYA Volvo National Youth Squad if the selectors feel they may have the potential to achieve one of the following criteria:

- To win a medal at World or European Championships
- To qualify for Team GBR for the ISAF Youth Sailing World Championships
- To successfully follow an Olympic pathway

The RYA employs a specific National Class Coach and contracts a series of performance specialists to oversee the development of the sailors under the direction of the RYA Youth Racing and Pathway Managers.

## Olympic Hockey Centre pitch unveiled

The Olympic Hockey Centre was unveiled last month and Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners' Annie Thomas was there to see it.

The pitch is blue and pink and a yellow ball will be used during the Hockey competition for the first ever time at an Olympic Games. Annie described the Hockey Centre as "looking absolutely stunning."



Annie with GB Goalkeeper, Beth Storry.

The Hockey Centre in the Olympic Park will host over 780,000 spectators during London 2012 staging both Olympic Hockey and Paralympic 5 and 7-a-side football competitions. The Great Britain women's hockey squad got the chance to train on the water-based pitch, allowing them a taste of what to expect next year. The main competition pitch is now complete and will be used for Olympic Hockey and 7 a-side Paralympic Football. The Hockey warm-up pitch which doubles up as the 5 a-side Paralympic Football competition pitch is due to be completed in November. The erection of the stands and infrastructure will follow in early 2012.

The Hockey Centre is a temporary stadium based at the northern end of the Olympic Park. The centre will be the only full outdoor venue with seating for 16,000 spectators who will enjoy stunning views south across the Olympic Park.

After the Games, the temporary arena will be dismantled and elements will be moved to Eton Manor in the north of the Olympic Park which will offer multi-purpose sport and leisure facilities including two hockey competition pitches.



# Shining a spotlight on winter white water sports

**Lee Valley White Water Centre in Station Road near Waltham Cross has been named as a host location for the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay.**

The centre will provide a dramatic backdrop to the Flame and will mark the countdown to the start of the Games. Details are yet to be finalised but a plan is to have the lucky torchbearer carry the Flame down a section of the course on Saturday 7 July 2012.

Chief Executive of Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, Shaun Dawson said: "It is fantastic that the Flame will be visiting Lee Valley White Water Centre and that we are helping it along its journey to the Olympic Stadium. This is a great opportunity to shine a spotlight on the centre as an Olympic venue and the water sports that are available to the public to come and try."

The announcement coincided with a three week training session at the centre involving top canoeists from 25 countries. The elite athletes from countries as diverse as Australia, USA, Nigeria and Tonga have been getting to know the rapids that will decide their medals fate. Leading the training for Britain's best are 2012 medal hopefuls David Florence, who won silver in Beijing, Richard Hounslow and Laura Blakeman.

Members of the public will still have a chance to raft before the Games start. A new season will run from 19 January to 9 April, welcoming adrenalin fans bold enough to brave the 300m long Olympic Standard Competition Course in the middle of winter, plus those who like the water a little warmer who can take on the rapids in March and April. Prices start at £49 per person for a half-day Winter White Water Rafting Adventure.

To book or for more information, visit [www.gowhitewater.co.uk](http://www.gowhitewater.co.uk) or call **08456 770 606**.



## And Finally...

The latest event in the Partnership's 'Win Business Gold' series will take place on Monday 5 December at Paradise Wildlife Park in Broxbourne.

The free business breakfast event enables delegates to enjoy a cooked breakfast, hear about London 2012 contract opportunities, meet Paralympian Danny Crates and local young talented athletes, find out about Hertfordshire's Olympic venue and network with other local business people.

Places are limited and these award winning events are very popular so register your interest as soon as possible by emailing us at [herts2012@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:herts2012@hertscc.gov.uk) or download a registration form from our website [www.hertsisreadyforwinners.co.uk](http://www.hertsisreadyforwinners.co.uk)