

# Our Journey...

[www.cswp.org.uk/london2012](http://www.cswp.org.uk/london2012)

## Search uncovers Olympic and Paralympic heritage

**A ground-breaking search for Olympic and Paralympic competitors of the past has unearthed some of Coventry and Warwickshire's forgotten heroes and created the first ever C&W Olympic and Paralympic Hall of Fame.**

The search, one of the most comprehensive and detailed regional databases of former Olympic and Paralympic athletes ever created, is designed to recognise and celebrate the achievements of all athletes with a genuine connection to Coventry and Warwickshire, who have ever competed at an Olympic or Paralympic Games.

Dating back over 100 years to the 1900 Paris Games, 106 athletes are now registered with genuine links to our sub-region, with the oldest athletes uncovered so far being three rugby union players that were part of the silver medal winning Moseley Wanderers team which represented Great Britain at the 1900 Paris Olympics.

Researcher Dave Dix is largely responsible for the success of the Hall of Fame after several months of searching through newspaper articles as well as looking through the British Olympic Association, International Olympic Committee and International Paralympic Committee archives.

The records produced an interesting insight into how the region's sport had evolved. He added: "It is fascinating to see how sports and the athletes have changed over time - there is a story behind every person and every sport. A tremendous amount of athletes were produced in the area for the 1988 Seoul and 1992 Barcelona Games - which is indicative of the strength of the area at that time."

The idea to create the Hall of Fame came from C&W partnership manager, Tom Clift.

He said: "Our vision to be part of the London 2012 Games is far more than just trying to attract and secure pre-games training camps. I hope the creation of our Olympic and Paralympic Hall of Fame can act as an inspiration to future generations while providing a valuable record for today's local community and sub-region to be proud of."

"Coventry and Warwickshire has a long history of producing world-class athletes and without this type of record it could be easy to forget rather than celebrate and acknowledge some of the incredible achievements of past Olympians and Paralympians from our area."

The Hall of Fame can be found on the C&W 2012 Partnership's website at [www.cswp.org.uk/london2012](http://www.cswp.org.uk/london2012)



Olympic and Paralympic legends from the sub-region: (Clockwise from top left) Naomi Folkard - Archery, Neil Adams - Judo, Marlon Devonish - Athletics, Nigel Murray - Boccia

## Children promised Olympic role at London 2012



Jamie Talbot shows his excitement at being honoured with a special role for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games with his parents



**Eight children from the sub-region, born on a special date, have come to light after an appeal to track down youngsters who were born on December 20, 2004 (20/12).**

During London's bid for the 2012 Games in 2004, the organising committee (LOCOG) made a pledge entitled "Children's Promise" in which if London was to win the bid, every child born in the UK on December 20, 2004 would be guaranteed the opportunity to have a role at the 2012 Games, either in the opening or closing ceremony, as a volunteer or perhaps in the team welcome events.

Nationally more than 700 children have registered and each year LOCOG will celebrate their birthdays in a different way, leading up to 2012 before their role is confirmed in more detail.

The first youngster to be found was four-year-old Jamie Talbot, from Binley Woods. The Woodlands pre-school pupil is set to be part of the 2012 experience after his mother, Jane, and father, Keith, contacted the C&W 2012 Partnership. "We are really excited, it's a real privilege, and we just cannot wait for him to

fully understand what it means because he is still young at the moment," said Jane.

Other children uncovered so far as part of the C&W 2012 Partnership search include Liam Goodyear from Keresley in Coventry and Elea Stevens from Kineton in Warwick.

Tom Clift, C&W 2012 Partnership Manager, said: "We are delighted that this search has uncovered eight youngsters who may otherwise have missed out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. However we know there are 19 more youngsters in Coventry and Warwickshire that are eligible for the London 2012 Children's Promise scheme and we would urge their parents to contact us if they wish to be part of this unique experience."

The official deadline to register eligible children with LOCOG, who will now be four-years-old, has unfortunately passed.

However, if your child was born on December 20, 2004 the C&W 2012 Partnership still want to hear from you so that you can be involved in our local celebrations and events for the London 2012 Children's Promise Scheme.

## David Moorcroft - Lead Coventry & Warwickshire 2012 Ambassador



**Can you imagine a team playing just one game at a major international tournament, losing that game, but still coming away with a silver medal?**

Well that is the story of Coventry and Warwickshire's first Olympians, who represented the GB rugby team in the 1900 Paris Games.

Herbert Loveitt from Easenhall and the brothers, Claude and Raymond Whittingdale from Kenilworth

were the first of over 100 Olympians and Paralympians, uncovered by local historians, who were either born or lived a major part of their lives in our region and have represented their country at this great sporting festival. Quite what that trio would make of the modern Games, I can only imagine.

Apparently they played in a local game on one day then travelled to Paris overnight before their Olympic experience the following afternoon. Research has shown that in addition to the 27-8 loss to France, the team may not have even known they were competing in the Olympic Games! It could not be further away from the multi-billion dollar extravaganza the Games have now become.

We have a proud sporting heritage in Coventry and Warwickshire and the London 2012 Games gives us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our Olympians and Paralympians through our 'Olympic Legends' project.

Many of those athletes remain dedicated to serving their sport locally, but we hope all of them will serve as an inspiration to young sports men and women from our region with the talent and dedication to ensure our Olympic and Paralympic heritage is as strong in the future as it has been in the past.



- Roll out of Olympic logo and new 'Inspire Mark' brand
- Big build continues on all four major Olympic Park venues

- London 2012 Volunteer Programme launched
- Torch Relay opportunities identified

- 7.7 million tickets for Olympics go on sale
- 1.5 million tickets for Paralympics go on sale

- 27 July - 12 August Opening and Closing Ceremony Olympic Games
- 29 August - 9 September Opening and Closing Ceremony Paralympic Games

### IOC Coordination Commission impressed with London 2012 progress

A recent visit by the IOC Co-ordination Commission has been a huge success. Denis Oswald, chair of the Commission, said: "I must say that I have not been here since May last year. I'm very impressed by how much work has been done. I can also say that I'm impressed by the concept. For me, it was very relaxing to see how much work has been done. All the Big Four venues including the Olympic Stadium, Aquatics Centre, Velodrome and Media Centre are now under construction and on schedule."

### LOCOG announce the return of London 2012 Open Weekend

The London 2012 Open Weekend will take place between July 24-26 2009, and will run every year until 2012. It aims to open up new sporting opportunities, enable access to excellence in the arts and offer the experience of great cultural events to people of all ages across the UK. Over 700,000 people attended events in the UK to mark the 2009 handover. Any organisation with a new or existing event that falls between July 24-26 can register at [www.london2012.com/get-involved/open-weekend](http://www.london2012.com/get-involved/open-weekend)

### Raising the roof on the Aquatics Centre

Work has started to move the 2,800-tonne wave-shaped roof of the Aquatics Centre into position. The lift is considered one of the most complex engineering and construction challenges of the Olympic Park 'Big Build.'

When complete the roof will be 160m long and up to 90m wide. A huge steel support weighing over 70 tonnes has been lifted into place on top of the southern wall. This further supports the great progress that is being made on the Olympic Stadium which is now dominating the East London skyline.

### UK students have been invited to design a new London 2012 education logo

Designers aged 16-21, in full or part-time education, will create an 'infill' for the London 2012 Olympic logo. It must reflect the ambitions and excitement of the London 2012 Get Set education programme.

From September, the winning logo will be awarded to schools, colleges and local authority education providers who join the 'Get Set' network. They will be able to use the logos on headed paper, websites and school signs, as well as on a plaque and certificate.

## Our Plans... Carnivals and Festivals



An Olympic inspired carnival at the 2008 Beijing to London handover celebration

**This issue's project spotlight focuses on our plans to celebrate the Olympic and Paralympic spirit in the carnivals and festivals across the region every year up to and including 2012.**

We intend to achieve this by adopting an Olympic theme for each of the region's carnivals and festivals, focusing on the ethos of the Olympic movement and its multi-national nature.

By working in combination with some of our other projects we are looking to unite Team Coventry and Warwickshire and local sports clubs to offer 'come and try' sessions, highlighting a new sporting culture in Coventry and Warwickshire.

A secondary element to the project is to embrace the artistic nature of carnivals and the internationalism of the Olympic Games by incorporating and promoting the culture of our partner nations within the carnivals.

The first carnival to carry an Olympic theme will be the famous Godiva Festival which will take place between July 3-5, 2009. This year will see the 12th anniversary of the modern festival which is in honour of the origins of the Godiva Procession, dating as far back as May 31, 1678.

Marking the significance of our Olympic and Paralympic sporting legends, the main carnival procession will include a Legends Float celebrating their sporting achievements. On Sunday July 5 there will be an Olympic Sport Zone at the festival in the Memorial Park open from 12-4pm which will be for anyone wishing to come and try a selection of Olympic sports.

This project is intended to grow and build on the strength of each carnival from year to year so that when we reach 2012, all major sub-regional carnivals and festivals have an Olympic theme and the Olympic Games can come alive for each area in a creative and innovative way.

## Region inspired modern Olympic movement



Lord Coe with C&W 2012 ambassador Dave Moorcroft (right) unveiling the commemorative plaque

**Lord Sebastian Coe, Chair of the London 2012 Organising Committee, met young people from Warwickshire as part of a day-long visit to the region.**

The visit to Rugby School saw Lord Coe unveil a plaque commemorating the school's historic links to the Olympic movement. The plaque is in recognition of the contribution the school's famous head teacher, Thomas Arnold, made in influencing Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the Modern Olympic Games.

Lord Coe summarised his trip by saying: "Today's visit to the West Midlands encapsulates everything we went to Singapore to bid for. Young people across the region are learning and developing their skills through their interest in the 2012 Games."

"Here is a region successfully drawing on its Olympic and Paralympic heritage to establish initiatives that celebrate the vision of the Olympic and Paralympic Games as a marriage of sport and art."

## Olympic Legend



**Katharine Merry**  
1996 and 2000 Olympic Games

Katharine's unique career has spanned over 20 years. She was the fastest girl in the world aged 14-years-old, started her international GB career aged just 13 and won bronze in the 400m in Sydney 2000. Katharine retired in 2005 and now mentors British Junior athletes and works for the BBC at major international athletics championships.

## Olympic Hopeful



**Adam Crinage**  
Wheelchair Basketball

Adam's international success with the GB senior squad was highlighted by a test series win over Israel in 2008, leading to him becoming Disabled Sportsman of the Year at the Courier and Warwick District 2008 Sports Awards. With a peak age of about 30 in Adam's classification, he is well on course for a place in Team GB's 2012 line-up.

## Tom's update



We hope you have enjoyed edition nine of Our Journey to 2012. Our Coventry & Warwickshire 2012 Partnership newsletter, is designed to keep you up-to-date and informed on local, regional, national and international developments in relation to the London 2012 Games.

It seems barely a moment ago that we were celebrating London winning the 2012 Games, but shortly in July, we will mark the fourth anniversary of that momentous occasion and we only have three years to go until we welcome the world to the UK for the two largest sporting events on the planet.

This year, our six major projects all begin their delivery with Olympic Legends being part of the region's local carnivals and festivals, young athletes receiving bursaries and support to improve their performance and level of ambition, cultural, sporting and educational links are being made with London and international relationships will be maintained.

New plans are also forming to enable our communities to have the opportunity to learn and try all Olympic and Paralympic sports and understand the health, social and lifestyle benefits that participation in sport, physical activity and active recreation has.

I am also delighted to welcome a new addition to the 2012 Partnership, Will Bastin, our new partnership assistant, 2012 Games, who will support the delivery of all aspects of the six projects in our quest to make London 2012 come alive for communities in Coventry and Warwickshire throughout London's Olympiad.

Tom Clift - C&W partnership manager, 2012 Games

Start your Journey... [www.cswp.org.uk/london2012](http://www.cswp.org.uk/london2012)

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