



Don't miss out – get your Paralympic tickets

Tickets for the Paralympic are on sale!

- The application process is open from 9am on 9 September 2011 until 6pm on 26 September 2011
- 20 sports and 312 sessions
- 75% of tickets £20 or under, 50% of tickets £10 or under
- More details on page 4

This month has been very busy for the Ready for Winners team; we have hosted another of our award winning business breakfast events 'Win Business Gold' with the fabulous keynote speaker Paralympian Giles Long MBE (more details on page 6). We have also had the pleasure of welcoming three Commonwealth Youth Teams to Hertfordshire during their travels to the UK to compete on the Isle of Man, you can read all about it on page 1 and 2.

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

Caribbean Youth Teams make themselves at home in Hertfordshire

Olympic hopefuls of the future stay and train in Hertfordshire as they travel to compete in the Commonwealth Youth Games.

The Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners Partnership has attracted four National Olympic Committees to train in Hertfordshire before the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games next year. All four sent teams to the Commonwealth Youth Games on the Isle of Man from 7-13 September and three of them decided to incorporate a visit to Hertfordshire in their trip to the UK this month.

The St Vincent and the Grenadines Commonwealth Youth Team enjoyed a week-long stay in the county living in Broxbourne Housing Association accommodation, Grove House in Cheshunt and training at Wodson Park in Ware. The visit was to get over their jet lag and also to acclimatise before the competition. The team of four track and field athletes includes 400m and 800m runners Keron Arthur and Brandon Valentine Parris, shot put and javelin thrower Shaquille Branker and long and triple jumper Nicky Ann Stephens along with their coach Rosmund Griffith.

The St Lucian Commonwealth Youth Team arrived in Hertfordshire on Friday 2 September to take part in a home stay arranged by the Partnership and Bishop's Stortford High School. The team stayed for five days and consists of a swimmer Runako Daniel who trained at Grange Paddocks in Bishop's Stortford, three athletes, Talberc Poleon, Marbeq Edgar,

Verlyn Taylor who were training at Wodson Park and two coaches Jamie Peterkin and Denise Herman.

Finally, the British Virgin Islands Commonwealth Youth Games Team visited the village of Aston near Stevenage and three schools across Hertfordshire which have formed friendships with the BVI – Aston St Mary's School, Chauncy School in Ware and Turnford School in Cheshunt. Aston is to host the BVI Olympic team next year. The BVI delegation consisted of two cyclists Clifton "Tito" Forbes and Shaquil Samuel and track and field athletes Tarique "Tweety" Moses, Natisha Claxton, Winston Potter, Chenaki Samuel Rojas, Shaquoy Stephens and Team Leader Angeleta Bernard.

Chairman of the Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners Partnership, Derrick Ashley said, *"This mini-pre games training camp has given us an invaluable trial run as to what next summer will be like and we are relishing the opportunity to build on these strong friendships. It has been great to meet some of the up and coming talent from the nations that have signed up to come to Hertfordshire next summer and we look forward to seeing their progress at the Commonwealth Youth Games and beyond."*





Meet the teams



British Virgin Islands
Commonwealth Youth Team



The St Lucian
Commonwealth Youth Team



The St Vincent and the
Grenadines Commonwealth
Youth Team

Meet the hosts

Shirley Parker, attaché for the British Virgin Islands National Olympic Committee and architect of the Aston community hosting scheme, said *"I have really enjoyed making the arrangements for the British Virgin Islands Commonwealth Youth Team, we packed a lot into the short time they were here but I think everyone enjoyed themselves. I have found it a very useful practice before the BVI Olympic team come to Aston next year."*

Jan Stock, General Manager at Wodson Park said, *"We at Wodson Park are delighted to have been able to host the athletics training for St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines as part of their preparation for the Commonwealth Youth Games. As a registered Pre-Games Training Camp we hope that we are able to build our relationship with the teams as well as with the Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners Partnership with the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games now less than a year away."*

Gesture of friendship!



Local firm the **Ashley Wilde Group**, who manufacture and market official collections of London 2012 bed linens, throws, curtains, towels and cushions, presented the Youth Commonwealth Games athletes with a towel as part of their welcome pack. Director, Rob Goldwater said,

"Please accept our gift of Official London 2012 merchandise as a gesture of friendship. We hope it brings you good luck!"

Congratulations

to **Jeanelle Scheper** of St Lucia for getting a silver medal in the ladies high jump and **Adrian Williams** of St Kitts who got the bronze in the javelin at the Commonwealth Youth Games.



St Elizabeth's Centre goes from the Drawing Room to the Podium



Lee Valley Regional Park Authority to host art exhibition showcasing Olympic themed artwork produced by St. Elizabeth's Centre Day Services, Much Hadham.

The exhibition will run for one month from Monday 19 September until Wednesday 19 October, 9am until 6pm Monday to Sunday at WaterWorks Nature Reserve and Golf Centre, Lammas Road, Leyton.

Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners were so impressed by the artwork when they visited the Centre recently, that they set about trying to get the pieces publicly exhibited.

The Drawing Room, and other clients at St Elizabeth's, originally commissioned the artwork for Olympic themed competition 'Going for Gold' and a number of the pieces produced were selected to be exhibited at the Tate Modern. There were 71 entries into the competition, and 30 of those were selected to be exhibited. There were three awards for "Best in Show", and St Elizabeth's scooped all three!

Niki Rice who is the Lead Instructor of The Drawing Room said "The Drawing Room is one of St Elizabeth's four social enterprises, which provides exciting, inspiring and unique opportunities for people with epilepsy and other complex needs to develop new skills, confidence and self expression through the medium of art. I am very proud of all St Elizabeth's college learners, adult residents and day clients involved in creating the paintings and ceramics for this competition; it is a wonderful achievement to be asked to exhibit their work."

St Elizabeth's is a registered Care Home, for up to 104 adults of all ages with physical disabilities and learning difficulties. Since it opened over 100 years ago, the Home has specialised in supporting people with epilepsy and learning difficulties.

Herts 2012 Manager, Gareth Morgan said, ***"The exceptional talent shown by the artists from St Elizabeth's is something that we in Hertfordshire should be shouting about with pride, I am delighted that the exhibition has been awarded an Inspire Mark by LOCOG, we hope the exhibition will inspire local artists of all abilities to express their interpretation of the Games through art."***



London 2012 Paralympic Games tickets to go on sale

Tickets for the London 2012 Paralympic Games went on sale around the world on Friday 9 September 2011. People can apply for tickets between 9am on 9 September and 6pm on 26 September 2011. Approximately 2 million tickets will go on sale to the public between now and Games-time, with 1.5 million being available in the first phase.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) published the full Paralympic Games competition schedule and ticket prices last month. There will be over 300 sessions across the 20 Paralympic sports at 20 venues, including those within the Olympic Park, plus ExCeL, Greenwich Park, The Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich, North Greenwich Arena, The Mall and, outside London, Brands Hatch, Eton Dorney and Weymouth and Portland.

LOCOG Chair Sebastian Coe commented, 'The Paralympic Games are coming home in 2012 and I'm confident that the whole country will get behind them. Alongside the Games come a whole range of opportunities. People will have the chance to see sport like never before, with world class athletes who challenge the notion of "disability"; it's a huge opportunity for Paralympic sport to become part of the nation's consciousness and finally, it will be a moment of extraordinary pride. A fitting end to what promises to be an amazing summer.'

UK residents can apply at www.tickets.london2012.com at any time during the application period. Ticket prices were announced earlier this year with a wide range of prices and ticket initiatives on offer.

Prices start at £10 for adults and £5 for those who are 16 or under and 60 or over on 29 August 2012. Tickets for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies will start at £20.12 with a top end price of £500 for the Opening Ceremony.

Different types of tickets will be available for the Paralympic Games. Tickets to a specific session will guarantee entry to specific sport sessions either on a general admission basis or in reserved seats. Day passes will be available, enabling spectators to see a range of sports taking place in the Olympic Park, ExCeL or The Royal Artillery Barracks on that day on a general admission basis. Tickets for Athletics, Cycling, Swimming and some finals of other sports will be sold on a reserved seating basis only.

Group Organiser tickets will also be available, with group organisers who apply for 20 tickets or more per session and are allocated tickets receiving additional tickets at no extra charge. A group organiser applying for 20 tickets would receive two extra tickets at no extra charge, an application of 30 tickets would receive a total of 33 tickets and so on up to an application for 50 tickets, which would receive 55.

As with the Olympic Games, wheelchair spaces will be available in all price categories for every Paralympic sport, subject to availability and a companion seat is included in the price. Applicants who are deaf, or have a hearing impairment, are visually impaired or have limited mobility can indicate that they have an additional accessibility requirement and every effort will be made to seat them accordingly. LOCOG will also be running the 'Ticketcare' scheme which will enable any successful ticket applicant with high dependency care needs to apply for an additional ticket for their carer or Personal Assistant.



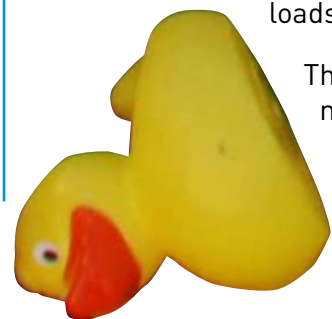
A Summer of Extreme Fun at Lee Valley White Water Centre

The summer of 2011 has seen some extreme fun at Lee Valley White Water Centre with a host of fantastic events and activities hosted throughout the summer months.

On Saturday 13 August over 3,000 visitors headed to Lee Valley White Water Centre for the chance to experience some free, family fun and enjoy a wide range of challenging, extreme sports. The London 2012 Inspire Marked event saw visitors of all ages enjoy rock climbing, parkour, flat water canoeing and a football challenge hosted by Tottenham Hotspur. Also on hand were the Company of Cyclists with their mixture of fun and funky bikes for people to try out, they were a huge hit with families and young ones alike and the skateboards, rollerblades and BMX bikes on hand were also free to try and the dazzling freestyle demonstrations attracted some serious crowds.

A fantastic, youth freestyle canoe event took place on the Centre's Legacy Loop and the current Freestyle Kayak World Champions, Claire O'Hara and James 'Pringle' Bebbington presided. Claire was thrilled with the venue saying: 'The young paddlers had a brilliant day training and competing in the youth freestyle event. It was great to support and be part of this, helping the up and coming paddlers develop, improve and showcase their skills on the Legacy Loop. I had heard great things about the size, power and potential of the Olympic course and it was brilliant to see that it was all true. It is a fantastic centre with a great atmosphere, exciting white water and loads of freestyle potential.'

The event got thousands of people active and experiencing new and challenging sports with over 400 people taking to the water in the Canoe England 'go paddling' sessions on the flat water lake and for those not wanting to get too wet - many enjoyed the physically demanding ergo paddle challenge on dry land.



Ducks attack Broxbourne Mayor, Councillor Eddy Rowland

And as the summer drew to a close the Amwell Duck Race brought some smiles to faces across Hertfordshire as 2,000 ducks were released on the Olympic course at the Centre. The ducks took to the rapids thanks to the Rotary Club of Amwell and raised more than £6,000 for local charities. The fundraising event, which took place on Sunday 4 September, was launched by the Mayor of Broxbourne, Councillor Eddy Rowland and after just three minutes and twenty seconds, the first duck past the winning line belonged to Hertfordshire resident Joyce Clarke.

Lee Valley White Water Centre Manager, Simon Ricketts said: "It is great to support the Rotary Club in its fundraising efforts. Since the Centre opened in April, more than 8,000 people have rafted the Olympic course. Hosting thousands of yellow ducks was certainly one of the most unusual events held here so far!"



And finally...



“If you think the Paralympics is going to be a small event, your business is going to miss out.” This warning came to Herts businesses from keynote speaker Giles Long MBE at the Herts is Ready for Winners ‘Win Business Gold’ business breakfast on Friday 9 September.

The packed room of 50 delegates at the Cheshunt Marriott Hotel enjoyed a cooked breakfast, heard about London 2012 contract opportunities, were given advice on business preparedness, met a Paralympic medallist and local young talented athletes, found out about Hertfordshire’s Olympic venue - the Lee Valley White Water Centre, and networked with other local business people.

The event is the latest in an award winning series of free business meetings arranged by Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners and Business Link.

Broxbourne is a Host Borough for the London 2012 Games with the Canoe Slalom event taking place in Waltham Cross over five days in July next summer. This ‘Win Business Gold’ event, with the help of experts from Deloitte, aimed to encourage businesses in and around the venue to be prepared for this period next summer, to plan accordingly and to make the most of the opportunity.

Paralympian Giles Long MBE, who overcame cancer as a child to compete at the highest level of his chosen sport for 12 years, combined with other speakers inspired local businesses to get themselves ready for the London 2012 Games.



L-R: Broxbourne Councillor Mark Mills-Bishop, Herts Talented Young Athlete kayaker Catherine Robinson, Giles Long MBE, Terry Burgess from Business Link, Leader of Broxbourne Council Paul Mason, Danny Bowerin from Deloitte and Ready for Winners Manager Gareth Morgan.

Long is one of the most successful and well-respected Paralympian swimmers of our time winning three gold, two silver and two bronze medals over three Paralympic Games.