

NEWSLETTER No.1

Did you know that the ancient Olympic Games at Olympia in Greece were held every 4th year, it is thought, from 776 B.C. until 393 A.D.? That's a period of over 1000 years! The last games in 393 A.D. was the 293rd Olympiad. Unlike the modern Olympics, the ancient Olympics included music and poetry as well as athletic endeavour. In those days, competitors had to prove that they were unstained by crime or immorality – the victors were crowned with garlands of wild olive leaves, not gold medals. The London Olympics in 2012 will only be the 30th games of the modern era – just imagine, we will be well into the thirtieth century before we catch-up with the ancient Greeks. (I wonder if they will have the ticketing website working properly by then?)

EVENTS SCHEDULING MEETING

Plans for the Oswestry Games are moving along at an Olympic pace. We are holding a meeting on **Thursday, 12th May**, to which all clubs and schools are invited, where we can discuss what we have managed to achieve so far and start scheduling the events. Some of the early plans are outlined below:

EVENTS

John Sharpe at **Croesoswallt Archery Club** is trying to move the North Wales Championships to fall within the week of the Oswestry Games – that will be a great event to have in Oswestry just two weeks before the Olympic archery starts at Lord's Cricket ground, London.



Oswestry Olympians have started work on the Half Marathon, the course has to be carefully worked out and accurately measured, the necessary permissions and permits have to be obtained. If all goes well, the race will be run on the day of the closing ceremony.

Stagecoach Performing Arts School in Oswestry are working on their routines for the opening ceremony.

Border Counties Gymnastics are choreographing their displays too.

Berwyn and Dee Pony Club are looking at the possibility of an equestrian event in the area. This will be a very exciting and a top class event to have during our games.

The Porthywaen Silver Band have expressed great interest in supporting the games. We look forward to hearing them at the opening ceremony.

SCHOOLS

Nigel Fletcher at **Rhyn Park School** has taken on the role of Schools Liaison Officer. We hope that schools will be able to move

their sports days into the week of the Oswestry Games and have inter-schools competitions too. Please get in touch with Nigel if you would like to discuss your ideas. fletch@oswestrygames.co.uk

MUSIC AND ARTS

Our **Games Anthem** competition has been launched live on BBC Radio Shropshire and they have agreed to play excerpts of the finalists on air. At the moment we are looking for a sponsor for the competition, please get in touch if you have any ideas for this. Music@oswestrygames.co.uk

We are inviting representatives of **Oswestry Arts Association** to our next committee meeting to discuss how we can work together to make Oswestry buzz with excitement during the Oswestry Games.

SPONSORSHIP

We are preparing a sponsorship pack to invite local businesses to contribute to the costs of the Oswestry Games in return for some excellent publicity opportunities. Businesses or even individuals might like to advertise in the Programme, set up their own drinks station on the Half Marathon route, donate the Music Prize, pay for the medals or printing costs. We will be grateful for all contributions so that we can make the Opening and Closing ceremonies truly spectacular! Could your club or school organise a sponsored walk or other activity to contribute?

OSWESTRY GAMES SPORTS CALENDAR

Committee member John Waine is making plans for an Oswestry Sports calendar for 2012. This will consist of 12 action photographs of Oswestry's sports stars and

events taken by 12 different photographers. These will be stunning, dynamic shots depicting Oswestry sport as it happens. Proceeds from calendar sales will help fund the Games. The photographs, along with other shots of the events, will also be put on display at the Games Headquarters during the games week.

QUESTION OF SPORT

In July 2011, to mark the 'One Year to Go' point for the Oswestry Games. We are hoping to have a night of sporting fun in a 'A Question Of (Oswestry) Sport', this will be conducted along the lines of the well known TV show with a very similar name..... We would like a sporting celebrity to come and be the quizmaster for the evening, which will be a chance for us all to have some fun and remind ourselves that the Olympic Games are in sight on the horizon.

OLYMPIC FLAME

The Olympic flame, ignited at the site of the ancient games in Greece will be passing very close to Oswestry on its way down from visiting the World Heritage site at Froncysyllte. Quite what benefit a flame gets from visiting an aqueduct is a mystery to me but I'm sure the flame will enjoy it. We are lobbying to get the flaming route to pass through Oswestry. With a bit of luck, we will be able to cadge a light for our own torch which will burn brightly during the Oslympics.

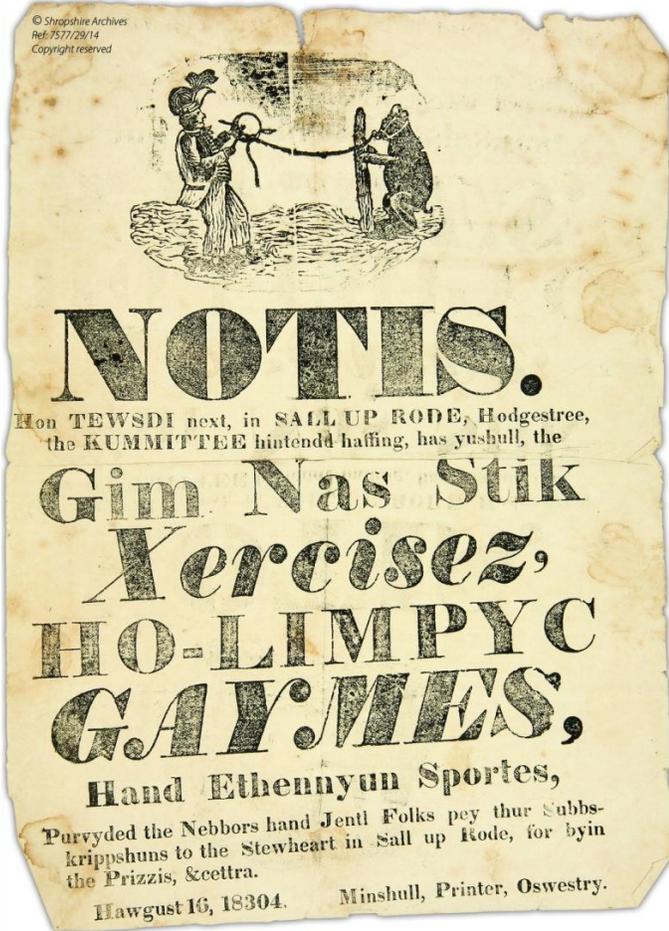
DAVID MOORCROFT SENDS BEST WISHES

This week marked the 500 days way point to the Olympic Games. We had a chance to meet with former world record holder at 5000m, Dave Moorcroft, and tell him about

our plans for the Oswestry Games. Mr Moorcroft is running the West Midlands' Community Games program in which he is hoping to encourage 500 such events throughout the region in the build-up to the Olympic Games. Dave was very encouraging and wished us well with our Games.

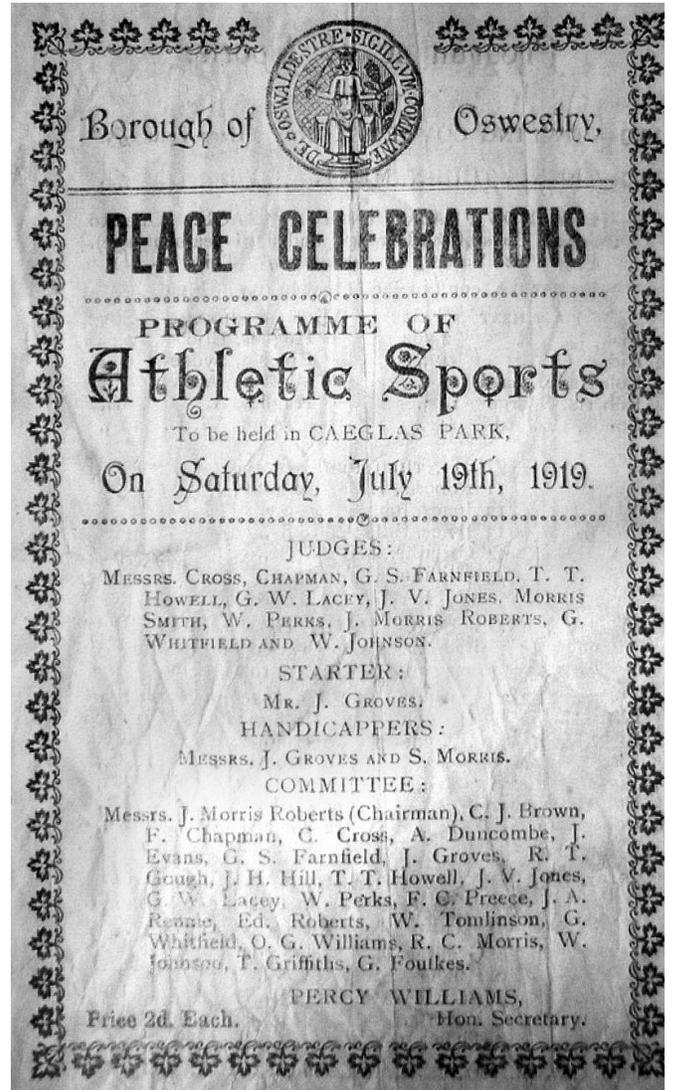
PEACE CELEBRATIONS IN CAE GLAS PARK

John Waine has unearthed a poster in Oswestry Library describing the 'Peace Celebrations' A Programme of Athletics Sports in Cae Glas Park held in 1919. We are hoping to re-create one of the events put on that day, 'The Band Race'. This is a



1834... WE HAD IT FIRST!! 😊

Sleuthing about in the County Archives, we found a handbill that suggests that a form of Olympic Games was held in Oswestry in 1834 – that predates the generally accepted story about the modern Olympics starting in Much Wenlock by nearly 20 years! The sporting 'Gaymes' were held in Salop Road in Oswestry in August 1834.



wonderful event where teams of 2 are given a piece of sheet music. One member of the team has to run to his team-mate at other end of the playing field, who plays the piece of music. His team-mate has to identify it and run back to the finish line and tell the title of

the tune to the judge. The winner is the first man back with the correct answer!

RED ARROWS



We have put in a request that the Red Arrows...Yes, THE Red Arrows make a fly past on the day of the closing ceremony. With a bit of luck and good weather, we might just have a RAF spectacular to finish off a fabulous week of sports and arts in Oswestry.



CONTACTS LIST:

The organising committee all now have unified email addresses to make it easier to remember. You can contact the team as below:

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OUR WEBSITE /

Games information can be downloaded from the Oswestry Games website: www.oswestrygames.co.uk where you can also access the Oswestry Sports Council pages and check up on details of the Awards Evening or see the wealth of sports clubs in Oswestry. If your sports club is not on the list, please send the contact details to Susie@oswestrygames.co.uk.

You can also follow us on Twitter @OswestryGames

SPORTS COUNCIL AWARDS EVENING

The Oswestry Sports Council is holding the annual awards evening on April 8th, there will be plenty of opportunity to talk to members of the **Oswestry and District Sports Council** about the Oswestry Games. We are very, very fortunate to have GB's **Oliver Townend** to come and give us a talk that evening. For those of you who don't know Oliver, he was the winner of the Badminton Horse Trials AND winner of Burghley Horse Trials in 2009 and he has set his sights on the GB Olympic Eventing team for 2012 – Oliver will be at the awards evening ...in person.... to inspire us all.

Jon Hancock – Oswestry Games