

THE 36TH OSLYMPIAD?

The ancient Greeks generally reckoned time by Olympiads, that is to say, the period of time between celebrations, hence, every fifth year they held the Olympic Games. We have Dr William Penny Brookes to thank for the modern Olympics. He was a Shropshire GP and exercise fanatic who, in the late 1800s, thought it would be a fine idea to re-instate the ancient Greek Olympic Games - Bravo!

But wait.... there seem to be plenty of examples of Olympic events in this country going back centuries before Penny Brookes. Robert Dover, a Lawyer from Norfolk, started the Cotswold Olimpiks exactly 400 years ago, after King James I gave him royal permissionand some cast-off clothes, so that he might preside with greater dignity.

The Cotswold Olimpiks continues to this very day. Working to the Greek 5 year rule, this year is their 80th Olympiad! Of course, we had the Ho-limpyc Gaymes in Oswestry in 1834 which unfortunately means that we are 3 years early for the 36th Oslympiad! Do you think anyone will notice?

NEWSLETTER NO. 3

Oswestry
Games
6-15 July
2012


www.oswestrygames.co.uk

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OSWESTY SPORTS PHOTOS

Richard Stonehouse of **StonehousePhotographic**, took such a wonderful photograph of Tom Gulliver and Bridie Lloyd of Oswestry Fencing Club that we decided to stage a photographic exhibition at **Milanos Café** during the Games. More news of that next time. Richard's photograph above, has attracted the attention of **British Fencing**, the sport's governing body, who have used it on the front cover of their magazine 'The Sword'. Download it at: www.britishfencing.com/news/thesword/

OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

The Olympic Torch cavalcade will be passing through Oswestry sometime on Wednesday morning, the 30th May. This will be a chance to line the streets and cheer as the flame makes its way to London for the Olympic opening ceremony. A small group of us are trying to coordinate plans for this once-in-lifetime event. If you or your school would like join in, please get in touch with:

Alexa.Pugh@shropshire.gov.uk or
Susie@oswestrygames.co.uk

The Oswestry Games mascot, **Olly M** will make his first public appearance during the torch relay celebrations, distributing hand waving flags and generally making a nuisance of himself!

**TOWN'S
OLYMPIC
TORCH
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OSWESTRY/GENERAL
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SPONSORSHIP



Rotary Club of Oswestry

We are fortunate to have received two very generous grants for the Oswestry Games. **The Rotary Club of Oswestry**, who administer the **Mary Hignett Bequest** have underwritten the Games to the extent of £5000! This is fantastic news which took us all by surprise.



The Charlotte Hartey Foundation in Oswestry has given us £2000 which really gave us a huge boost – a massive vote of confidence in the Games. They have offered to help in other ways too.

With this funding firmly in place we can concentrate on putting on a fantastic celebration for the town.

We are still on the look-out for a kindly local company who is prepared to make the Olympic Podium(s). We'll need about six units for the Games...can anyone help?

We are grateful to Nigel Woodward of **Cold Move** in Oswestry for allowing the 10k road race to pass through his premises on the industrial estate.

The **Oswestry Framing Company** have kindly offered help too, thanks guys.

The Oswestry Games are officially registered as a 'Community Games'. The West Midlands Community Games, headed by former 5000m world record holder David Moorcroft, have also awarded us a small grant to help get things going. www.communitygames.org.uk

We're still looking for **sponsors for the Oswestry Games**, you can secure some high profile publicity on posters, banners and newsletters from as little as £50!

The Oswestry Games, instigated by Oswestry & District Sports Council, is organised by local volunteers. It is a community event conducted on a not-for-profit basis. We would welcome your involvement.

For more information and copies of previous newsletters go to: www.oswestrygames.co.uk
Email: Jon@oswestrygames.co.uk
Telephone: 01939 260308

HALL OF FAME!

Wouldn't it be great to leave a legacy behind when the Oswestry Games are over? With that in mind, we thought that it would be a good idea to create an **Oswestry Hall of Fame**. In a nutshell, we find our top sports men and women, Olympic competitors, World Champions, or other true international stars and create a Hall of Fame Photo Gallery permanently based at the new **Leisure Centre**. We will unveil the Hall of Fame at the Oswestry Games opening ceremony. So far we have the following candidates:

John Disley – Olympic Bronze medallist at the 3000m steeplechase in the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games. He attended Oswestry High School and was a founder member of Oswestry Olympians athletics club.

Alan Ball – member of the 1966 World Cup winning team. He also attended Oswestry High School. His father ran Oswestry Town Football club (and a local pub).

Ian Woosnam – top golfer, won the US Masters in 1991 and many other titles.

Tom James – Olympic Gold medallist in the Coxless Four at Beijing in 2008. Olympic hopeful for London 2012. Although he lived in Wrexham, Tom went to Packwood Haugh School in Ruyton XI Towns.

Gee, Rachel and Dan Atherton – Each have won World Championships at Downhill Mountain Bike Racing over the last few years.

Robert Topham – ex-pupil of Oswestry School, he went on to play for Wolverhampton Wanderers football team and won two caps for England in 1892 and 1894.

Glyn James - from Weston Rhyn, attended Oswestry Boys High School, played football for Gobowen Juniors, went on to play almost 400 games for Blackpool and internationally played for Wales in the 1960s and 70s.

Andy Lloyd - from Whittington, attended Oswestry Boys High School, played local cricket for Whittington and Oswestry, then Warwickshire, and internationally for England in 1984.

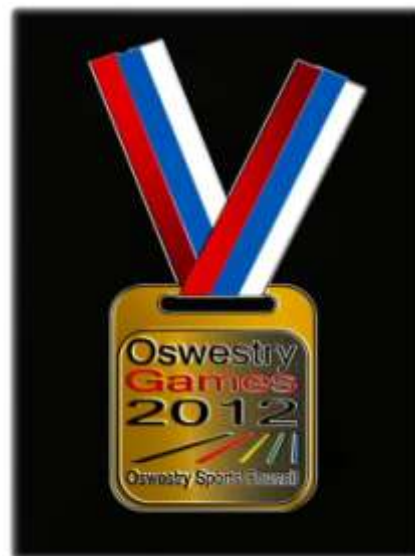
Harry Weetman, - was a member of Oswestry Golf Club and captain of the Ryder Cup Team in 1965.

George Antonio – distinguished footballer from Oswestry who had a long career with Stoke City where he played alongside Sir Stanley Matthews in the 1930s and 40s.

There must be more 'Heroes' out there! Please send in your nominations to: jon@oswestrygames.co.uk
01939 260308

OSLYMPIC MEDALS—REAL GOLD

We have managed to secure a really good deal on our Oslympic medals from a supplier that I know well. Not only that, we are really thrilled to be able announce that, as with the Olympic Games, our Gold medals will be plated in real Gold! If you or your team are lucky enough to win an event at the Oswestry Games, you will take home a beautiful **18ct Gold medal** that you can treasure for years to come.



MUSIC AND ARTS

Having reported last time that we were struggling with our anthem competition, we are delighted to report that we now have a wonderful anthem composed for us by **Julian Cattley** – director of music at Oswestry School. Julian has scored a beautiful and uplifting piece of music for the Games and he is also working on a fanfare, based on the anthem, that we can play at all medals ceremonies.

Plans are afoot for a community choir to perform the anthem with the **Porthywaen band** who have very generously joined in with the project. Keep an eye on our website for news of the **community choir**.

Oswestry Drama Project have won the support of the **Royal Shakespeare Company** for a production of 'The Tempest'. Yes, that is **the RSC!** ODProject are making good progress with this fantastic project. There will be four performances on the 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th of July. The next ODproject rehearsals are 28th Jan. and 25 Feb. It's not too late to join in! You can call Debbie Glen for more information 01691 653413. Visit the **Oswestry Drama Project on Facebook** where you can find all the latest information about 'The Tempest' production.

The **Attfield Theatre** will be holding themed Shakespeare reading during the Games.

The **Willow Gallery** are holding an Olympic themed art competition and an International Art exhibition during Oslympics week too.

There will be embroidery exhibitions at Willow Gallery, The **Memorial Hall** and the **Library**.



OLYMPIC EXHIBITION AT THE QUBE IN OSWESTRY.

The **Qube** gallery in Oswald Road is hosting an exhibition of Olympic posters and memorabilia starting on the 5th July and running through to 6th August this year....that's going to be really worth seeing. The Qube are also putting in a bid to work with schools to design and make Olympic torches. The project will coincide with the torch relay which will be wending its way through Oswestry on 30th May. They hope to have the best school torches on display during the Olympic exhibition.

SPORTS EVENTS

Our list of events for the games is growing steadily, you can see the latest schedule of events by visiting our website www.oswestrygames.co.uk. Recent additions include: a water polo match in the Leisure Centre pool on finals day and an **Oswestry Team Tennis** tournament.

We are having trouble finding a suitable site for an **equestrian** event. We were looking at the fields behind the Leisure Centre but unfortunately, they will still have crops growing at that time. If anybody has suggestions for a good venue in the area please get in touch.

Ellesmere Cricket club are thinking about organising a Paralympic event during our games. That would be great if you can manage it guys!

Thank you to all clubs who have volunteered to host events. Can we come and see you? One of us would like to come to a club committee meeting to discuss with you, plans for your Oswestry Games events and see how we can help coordinate the events during the week.

DISPLAY STANDS

As a way of raising the profile of local sports clubs, we are inviting clubs to have a display stand on the final day or put on some sort of activity – much like the day that we had at the opening of the New Leisure Centre. That could be a good opportunity to show off your club and recruit new members.

OPENING/CLOSING CEREMONIES

Our plans for the Opening and Closing ceremonies are falling into place. There is always a lot going on in Oswestry, especially in the Summer months and we have to try not to clash with other events. We have decided to have the opening ceremony in two parts. The first part will be a parade through the town on Saturday afternoon, 30th June 2012. This is just a week before the official start of the Games on the 6th July but it would mean that we don't clash with the preparations for the **Oswestry Food Festival**. We would like the parade, led by the Porthywaen band, to be attended by all clubs involved in the Games – dressed in their club kit and carrying bats, clubs, rackets and helmets. That would be an impressive sight! We had intended to have a parade on Friday evening, the 6th July but realised that a Saturday parade on the 30th June would be much more successful because there would more people in town to see us.

On the opening evening 6th July, we will have a ceremony at the Leisure Centre. This is where we will hear the Oswestry Games anthem, with the Porthywaen band accompanied by a local choir. Then, we will unveil the Hall of Fame, hopefully, with some of our sporting heroes in attendance, followed by the 'lighting' of the Oswestry Games flame which will burn brightly all week at the Leisure Centre. We intend to have a light buffet supper and drinks and some short speeches to officially open the Games.

The Closing Day, 15th July, will be packed full of fun. We are planning to get started at about noon. There will be a 10k road race starting at **The Pedigree Pub** across the road from the Leisure Centre. There will also be a 2012 metre fun-run around the college for youngsters and those for whom a 10k race would be too much. The basketball final will be in the sports hall as will the fencing competition. In the pool, **Shropshire Paddle Sports** are hoping to have a water polo exhibition match and perhaps a have-a-go kayak session. Outside, weather permitting, there will be archery, a laser goal and a Mass Zumba workout. The British MiniGolf Association are hoping to deploy a portable MiniGolf course at the Leisure Centre and we have invited a Zorbing sphere specialist to set-up too.

To end the afternoon, there will be medals ceremonies and a mass parade of the weeks' Oslympic medal winners so that we can give them a richly deserved cheer! The Porthywaen band will be performing.

A flypast by the **RAF Red Arrows** is still on the cards for later on in the afternoon. They haven't published the 2012 schedule yet, all we can do at the moment is keep our fingers crossed and wait.....wouldn't it great to see them flying down the Salop Road heading for the Leisure Centre? (The Leisure Centre is so new that it isn't on the Google aerial mapping yet. I have it on good authority that the Red Arrows refer to Google maps when planning their displays. It would be terribly embarrassing if they couldn't find us.)