

Community Action Officers Report February 2012

The Olympic Torch Relay in Shropshire

On Thursday 24th and Wednesday 30th May the Olympic Flame will be passing through Shropshire on its journey from Greece to the London 2012 Olympics.

The Torch Relay is to be carried by a number of inspirational Torchbearers and will pass through the communities of Ludlow, Clee Hill and Cleobury Mortimer on **Thursday 24 May** and Oswestry, Pant, Llanymynech, Shrewsbury, Cressage, Much Wenlock, Benthall and Broseley on **Wednesday 30 May** 2012.

While the torch does not go through this LJC area, the organisers of the event are keen to see all Shropshire communities, particularly schools, take part in events to mark the torch visiting Shropshire. Routes into the towns visited by the torch will be lined with flags and bunting made by local people, and a series of workshops to help make these decorations are being run between now and May. Organisers are also keen that people wanting to view the torch attend events in these towns, where road closures, viewing points and events will be taking place, so that people can easily and safely view the torch.

This gives local people a once in a lifetime chance to welcome the Olympic Flame, share in the excitement of the Torch Relay and celebrate the fantastic achievements of the Torchbearers.

More information about the Torch Relay route, times, places and activities on those two dates that the Torch visits Shropshire will be released in the coming months, but any schools or community groups who want to take part in the events are encouraged to contact the Shropshire Council arts officers for details of how they can get involved, and to plan travel arrangements if there school wants to visit a town and view the torch.

Email: arts.services@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 252252

Shropshire Council

Community Services

Shirehall, Abbey Foregate

Shrewsbury

SY2 6ND

Further details are also available on the Council website at

www.shropshire.gov.uk/arts

The Council is also encouraging people to host their own "Community Games" during the summer of 2012 to mark the Olympics. Details of how to set up and run Community Games are available from

Alison Evans - Energise Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin

Telephone - 01743 255091

Email - Alison.j.evans@shropshire.gov.uk

www.communitygames.org.uk

Support for community projects from the probation and youth offending teams

Shropshire and Telford Councils work in partnership with the probation service and youth offending service to run community payback schemes across the county.

These teams are available to carry out work in the community, such as litter clearing; tidying verges and ditches; painting and maintaining community buildings or basic gardening and landscaping tasks. All of the offenders are supervised during the work, and a pre visit inspection of the site is carried out by an officer ahead of the work taking place.

Where materials are needed such as paint, plants or stone for footpaths, this needs to be supplied by the community group themselves, but the community payback team's work is free of charge and they do have their own tools and basic safety equipment. Projects that have used these organisations have given positive feedback on their work, and using them can be a good way of reducing the costs of a project.

If you are interested in using the community payback schemes in your area please contact the Community Action Officer for full details.

Bus Passes

In 2009 Shropshire Council issued thousands of people with new concessionary bus passes. These were issued with a three year life span and are therefore, coming up for renewal during the next 12 months.

We are running a year-long campaign to get the message out, so that people are aware of the need to check the expiry date on their pass and apply for a replacement at the appropriate time if they require one. We are looking for assistance in spreading the word to try and manage the process as smoothly as possible.

Posters promoting how and when to renew the passes are available from the Community Action Officer. These will be displayed in Shropshire Council buildings and on buses and would be very grateful if you could **forward to your own networks** if relevant or simply display a copy somewhere prominent, if you think this is suitable.

All the information and contact details are on the poster. Below is the link to the information on the website:

www.shropshire.gov.uk/buspass

Mathew Mead – Community Action Officer Stretton Dale Local Joint Committee
Telephone: 01743 252534 Email: mathew.mead@shropshire.gov.uk