

# London 2012 Olympics

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May, Saffron Walden Museum** – this event promises to be a very busy one with the added fun of a wedding at St Mary’s at 3pm. *If you are able to assist the local band with ringing out the bride and groom from approx 3.30pm, please contact Roger Collins on 01799 521991 or 07917 022007, email: [rogergr.collins@btinternet.com](mailto:rogergr.collins@btinternet.com).*



There is also an offer for some local hand bell ringers to join in with the Grand Union Orchestra to combine efforts and play a couple of pieces generally based on African, Caribbean and Latin American numbers, using very simple melodies and harmonies. Very little rehearsal is required and a quick get together on the morning should be sufficient. *If you are interested in taking part in this element, again please contact Roger.*

If you can help with the mini ring in the afternoon, then please contact me on 01255-507357 email: [pro@eacr.org.uk](mailto:pro@eacr.org.uk). The Sparks Will Fly Champion ‘Marina Mightier’ will process through Saffron Walden and the procession will also include 120 primary and 50 secondary school children putting on a dance display Morris dancers from Thaxted, Nepalese dancers from the Tang Ting Twinning Association, Saffron Walden skate boarders and the Grand Union Orchestra. At Walden Castle there will be an exciting range of music, arts, dance, circus skills, storytelling and tennis workshops and performances and the opportunity to participate in building Uttlesford’s very own Giant. There will be refreshments and entry to the event will be free of charge.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May, Cliff Park, Harwich** – this event coincides with the *Tour de Tendring*, which for those of you that don’t know is a very well supported local cycle ride. Adults and children alike cycle the particularly lovely NE Essex countryside, visiting local landmarks along the way, and raising money for charity as they go. Hundreds of riders will saddle up and head off from Dovercourt Swimming Pool. A choice of routes is available including a family friendly cycle ride to a more challenging route for the experienced rider. On the route, participants can enjoy picturesque scenery, low hills and quiet roads around the Tendring District. For those not taking to their saddles, a colourful procession led by the Sparks Will Fly Champion ‘Marina Mightier’ will depart from Cliff Park, Dovercourt to the Tour de Tendring Cycle Festival site by the Swimming Pool to kick start the celebrations. Family entertainment throughout the day will include various stage entertainments, taster sessions from local sports clubs, displays, food and drink stalls plus much more. *If you can help with the mini ring or handbells in the afternoon, then please contact me on 01255-507357 email: [pro@eacr.org.uk](mailto:pro@eacr.org.uk).*



**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June – Waltham Abbey Town Show** – this day also promises to be a busy one at the Abbey, with the installation of the new incumbent at a special service in the afternoon. Precise timings for the service have yet to be released, but *if you are able to help the local band by ringing for the service, please contact Jane Walters on email: [janelwalters2003@hotmail.com](mailto:janelwalters2003@hotmail.com).*



The town show consists of a lively fun fair, stalls selling a variety of goods, a food court, displays, demonstrations and even helicopter rides. The Town Mead Sports and Social Club with its fully stocked bar will be open during the event. People of all ages and abilities from around the district have been involved in ‘Make a Move’, coming up with dance moves and preparing for the huge, en-masse performance taking place at 1.50pm. Organised by Epping Forest Arts, it will link with Sparks will Fly, as the Make a Move dancers join the procession led by the Sparks Will Fly Champion ‘Marina Mightier’. *If you can help with the mini ring or handbells in the afternoon, then please contact me on 01255-507357 email: [pro@eacr.org.uk](mailto:pro@eacr.org.uk).*

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**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July – Sparks Will Fly Finale Daytime Festival, Chelmsford** – this spectacular event for the whole family will commence with the county's only London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay Evening Celebration. It is a live stage show, one of 66 performances that will take place around the country as part of the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay. It will feature exciting entertainment by the three Olympic Torch Relay Presenting Partners, as well as specially choreographed performances by Pinpoint Create and Walk the Plank working Chelmsford community groups and large-scale audience participation. The show will also include the unveiling of an extraordinary glass bead representing Chelmsford, created by local artists. The bead will be presented to one of the Sparks will Fly champions in preparation for the finale. The culmination of the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay Evening Celebration will of course be the arrival of the Torch and the lighting of the onstage cauldron from the Olympic Flame.



## **Feast, Drink & Play!**

Following the Torch Relay Evening Celebration, the audience will be invited into an adjacent area of the event site to feast, drink and play. A huge variety of refreshments will be available to purchase including the best of Essex food and drink. There will also be plenty to do with displays of community sports and arts suitable for all the family. Local music, dance and other performances will mix with inspiring examples of physical prowess, accessible have-a-go sports sessions and an abundance of arts and crafts activities. As the sun begins to set, the world-renowned Red Devils Parachute Display Team will descend on Hylands Park carrying with them the final glass bead to enable the game to begin in the Sparks will Fly: Essex Finale. *If you can help with the mini ring or handbells in the afternoon, then please contact me on 01255-507357 email: [pro@eacr.org.uk](mailto:pro@eacr.org.uk).*

## **Sparks will Fly: Essex Finale**

Two great champions Boreas Zephyr and Marina Mightier complete their marathon journeys across Essex and come face-to-face for the first time. The expectant crowd will be led towards the performance arena where Marina and Boreas will compete to become the 2012 champion of the great Glass Bead Game, played for the first time in one thousand years. Enter an outdoor arena for an astonishing performance that mixes giant characters and a carnival atmosphere with stunning pyrotechnics and special effects to create a breathtaking showdown. Created by outdoor arts specialists Walk the Plank, expect to be immersed in an other-worldly game where your participation helps define the outcome.



**Please bring a torch, bike light or small flashlight with you, and be ready to use it in the finale show - we may need your help to make sparks fly!**

**Sparks will Fly: Essex Finale & Chelmsford welcomes the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay is free to attend however a ticket is required. Tickets are available towards the end of March as follows:**

Online by visiting <http://www.sparkswillfly.org.uk> (live from the end of March)

By telephone on 01245 606505

In person at the Civic Theatre Box Office, Fairfield Road, Chelmsford;

## **Box Office Opening Times for telephone or personal callers:**

Monday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm and closing at 2pm on Saturdays when there is no theatre performance.

**Tickets are limited so book early to avoid disappointment - please only book the number of tickets you require to enable as many people as possible to enjoy the event. There will be no tickets available on the gate at Hylands Park.**

## **Please note:**

Tickets booked online or by telephone will be subject to a £3.50 transaction fee and must be posted out - there is no collection facility.

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## Saturday 7th July 2012 Olympic Torch Relay – Chelmsford

The Olympic Flame will arrive in the UK from Greece on Friday 18 May 2012 and the 70 day Torch Relay will start at Land's End, Cornwall on the morning of the 19 May 2012. On leaving Land's End, the Olympic Flame is expected to travel an estimated 8000 miles across the UK, giving thousands of communities and individuals their moment to shine as the Olympic Flame comes to their doorstep. The Olympic Flame will arrive at the Olympic Stadium on 27 July 2012 for the lighting of the cauldron at the Opening Ceremony, signifying the start of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

<http://www.london2012.com/games/olympic-torch-relay/where-is-the-olympic-flame-going/>



## Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012 - 19.30-22.30 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony

The Olympic Games start on 27 July 2012 and run until 12 August 2012.

<http://www.london2012.com/>



## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 – 19.30-22.30 Olympic Games Closing Ceremony

The Closing Ceremony, currently being developed by Kim Gavin and his team, will take place on 12 August 2012, and marks the end of the Olympic Games.

<http://www.london2012.com/>



## Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2012 - 19.30-22.30 Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony

The Paralympic Games begin on 29 August 2012 and close on 9 September 2012.

<http://www.london2012.com/>



## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012 – 19.30-22.30 Paralympic Games Closing Ceremony

The Paralympic Closing Ceremony, 9 September 2012, will signal the conclusion of the Games as a whole. Kim Gavin has been appointed Artistic Director for the Closing Ceremonies of the Paralympic Games.

<http://www.london2012.com/>