

Ref: 074/09
Author: Tony Taylorson
Date: 16/07/09

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO COUNTDOWN TO THE OLYMPICS?

With the whole country beginning to gear up for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the London 2012 Open Weekend supported by BP, a three day national celebration, from Friday 24 – Sunday 26 July, will be promoted throughout East Cambridgeshire.

A number of events will be taking place across the District to promote the Cultural Olympiad from medieval feasts to art exhibitions and open air concerts.

London 2012 Open Weekend enables everyone to share in the excitement of the Games, be inspired to get involved, unleash their creativity and try something new by accessing excellence at events across sport, art and culture taking place over the weekend.

Cllr Anthea Davidson, who leads on the Olympics at East Cambridgeshire District Council said: “The Olympics is going to be a life changing event for us all. It will inspire a whole generation of people to get involved in sport whether it is for fun, competition or just watching. The Games will be an event of global significance that will have profound on the nation for years to come.

“However bringing the Olympics to London was not just about sport. It was creating a strong cultural legacy in the country. This is what the events next weekend are all about. Last year the Lantern of Ely Cathedral was lit up in the colours of the Cultural Olympics and this year the aim is to get people involved in as many activities as possible.

“London 2012 is the first Organising Committee to create such a wide platform of public participation in the Games, taking the values, ideals and benefits of the Games to people and communities like never before. Opportunities such as London 2012 Open Weekend are encouraging participation and recognising the contribution people, places and projects are making to the success of the 2012 Games. “

Events lined up for the Open Weekend include:

Friday 24th July

Medieval Feast. Cathedral Centre, Palace Green, Ely. 7pm. £22 (includes food). Illustrated talks on aspects of medieval life and authentic dishes served in the Lady Chapel of Ely Cathedral. Period costume optional. All proceeds to Cathedral Education Trust.

Saturday 25 July

Open Monastic Ely! Ely Tourist Information Centre, St. Mary's Street, Ely. 11am and 2pm. £4. Join our informative guides as they take you on a tour around Ely's monastic buildings and discover its heritage in places not normally open to the public. Tickets must be pre-booked.

Transformers on the Bandstand. Jubilee Gardens, Ely. 1 – 4pm. Free. Two of ADeC's youth projects – The Garage Youth Theatre and Fenland Jam come together to showcase their work as part of the Cultural Olympiad celebrations.

Gallery Launch event: Sarah Sabin 'Domestic Science'. Babylon Gallery, Waterside, Ely. Works from UCL Institute of Archaeology Residency 2008-9. During her residency the artist 'dwelled' in the Wolfson basement laboratories, slicing, pounding, milling, melting and analysing materials from a domestic dwelling. In 'Domestic Science' she has manipulated these materials, creating her own works within the debris and detritus found.

Sunday 26th July

Traditional Crafts and Trades at the Dumphouse. Prickwillow Museum, Main Street, Prickwillow, Ely, 11:00 – 16:30. All ages. £4 Adult, £3 Concession, £1.50 Child, £10 Family. Demonstrations of various crafts including eel trap weaving, lace making, wool spinning, traditional printing, woodturning, stained glass window and clay pot making – try coiling your own pot. Engines running during the afternoon. Relax by the fairground organ with a beer or wine, with hot or cold food. Fun and games for all the family.

Honey, I Shrank the Museum! The Farmland Museum, Denny Abbey, Ely Road, Waterbeach. 10.30am - 5.00pm. Adult £4, Concession £3, Children £2. Celebrating the "Life in Miniature" exhibition there will be model boats, aeroplanes and steam train layouts to inspire you, a toys display, other specialist stalls and children's activity - "Models in Motion" - get technical and make your own!

Friday 24th July – Sunday 26th July

Antarctica. Angela Mellor Gallery, St. Mary's Street, Ely. Art Exhibition and Open Studio. Free. 11am – 6pm. Translucent bone china ceramics by Angela Mellor. Satellite images of Antarctica by Peter Fretwell and Andrew Flaming. Photographs of icebergs by Stephen Roberts. Glass by Ana Robinson and Marion Hewitt. Silver by Rebecca Hill

Saturday 25 July – Sunday 26th July

Illustrating Success. The Stained Glass Museum, The South Triforium, Ely Cathedral, Ely. 10:30 – 5:00. All ages. Cost of Museum entry. Visitors will have the opportunity to contribute to the design of a 'stained glass window'. The theme of the window will be Success. Each person will be able to draw their vision of Success on to an individual 'pane' on a large piece of Perspex, which will be displayed in the Museum for the following month.

Ted Coney's Family Portraits. Waterside, Ely Tours at 2pm, 2.45pm, 3.30pm, 4.15pm (please arrive 15 minutes before) £3 Adults, £2 students and children (not suitable for children under 8 years of age). Situated in a three hundred year old house nears the river. You will be taken on a half hour tour of the house by the artist, Ted Coney, who will explain some of the ideas behind his paintings, involving family life and family relationships.

For more information on the countywide programme of events go to: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/olympics2012/.

ENDS

Notes for editors:

For further information contact Tony Taylorson in the Press and Public Relations Office on 01223 699285.

Contact for Cllr Anthea Davidson - 01638 507203