

## REGIONAL CYP LEGACY NEWS UPDATE AUGUST 2011

I'll start by saying that I hope all those who read this update had a great summer and are feeling refreshed ahead of what ought to be a most thrilling year for all of us. You'll all be well aware that the last school year in the build-up to London 2012 has begun and with it a concerted push is needed from us all to ensure consolidation of the Legacy outcomes that we have already achieved and the securing of those outcomes, that, as yet, we have only laid foundations for.

Many exciting things will come our way in the next three terms and in this update I will highlight those that I know of as well as looking back at some tremendous things that happened in our region over the summer. It was also an exciting time for us as a host nation with One Year to Go on July 27<sup>th</sup>, just after a lively Open Weekend then a host of Test events, part of London Prepares, and most recently One Year to the Paralympics and very soon we'll have the Paralympic tickets going on sale.



One of the best things I had the pleasure of attending this summer was The Grove School, **Nottinghamshire's** Olympics-flavoured Summer School. Teachers Mrs Smith and Mrs Beardsmore had clearly put a lot of effort into an action-packed week for dozens of youngsters from local primary schools, some of whom will now have started as Year 7s at The Grove. They were ably supported by colleagues and partner organisations but most especially by some fantastic young leaders. Groups were given host city names and, supported by the young leaders, took part in a wide range of sporting and cultural activities. Talent was unearthed, friendships forged and when, at the celebration events for parents and local dignitaries, the children gave the teachers a standing ovation there was not a dry eye in the house. Thanks go to England U21 hockey player Lucy Dawkins who joined me on stage for a question and answer session and handed out awards and thank you gifts. Lucy has ambitions for the GB side at Rio 2016 and is hoping to ball-girl at London 2012.

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**Open Weekend** was supported well around the region with **Lincolnshire's** So Festival perhaps taking pride of place. It included the spectacular premiere of *Games Time* (see left) and drew 46 000 visitors to Skegness. One local said: "SO Festival has put us on the map. It's great

for the town and for the people who live here, work here and come on holiday here to see things like this." 11 000 followed the *Games Time* procession alone.

**Leicestershire's** Patchwork Pledge blanket (phase 1), inspired by the Cultural Olympiad's Lionheart Project, was unveiled at **Leicester's** New Walk Museum. People of all ages have been contributing 6" x 6" squares as part of My Games, My Legacy and these were joined together and displayed in one of the museum's galleries.



Culture and sport were side by side at **Northamptonshire's** Althorp House. On one of the sunnier days of this disappointing summer Northamptonshire Sport and the county and district council teamed up to offer a range of free activities and access to the fantastic grounds of Althorp House.



As well as spotting the Earl of Spencer, families could meet Olympic mascot **Wenlock**, now starring alongside friend Mandeville in a short advertising film being shown in cinemas.

Football, tennis, a climbing wall, health walks, lantern painting, face painting, Spots v Stripes challenges and the chance to hold a beautiful owl or two were amongst the many activities on offer at this great event.

**Derby** hosted a spectacular event alongside its Live Site to mark One Year to Go called **On Your Marks**. The London 1948 Torch and the 2012 prototype were on view and people could sample a wide range of sporting and cultural



celebrate one year until the start of the Olympic Games. The next year is incredibly exciting for those of us lucky enough to work in sport and seeing all of the activity and enjoyment in the Market Place made it even more real. The live coverage on BBC News, BBC East Midlands Today and BBC Radio Derby helped to build a great sense of excitement across the Market Place throughout the day – as well as showing the rest of the country brilliant work that clubs and groups across the city are already doing.”

opportunities. Will Evans, PDM of the Derby Moor School Sports Partnership, took a lead role and was able to make use of the talents of Judah Simpson and Naomi Reid – both GB Juniors and on the Talented Athlete Scheme coordinated by Derbyshire Sport. He said of the day: “On Your Marks was a great way for Derby to



I was delighted to be able to support some youngsters from **Nottingham** (above) who are part of an Inspire Mark project called *Once in a Lifetime* which looks to use the inspiration of London 2012 to help children improve fitness and change lifestyle. The children worked with Notts Athletics Club and those who had tried hardest were rewarded with a fantastic visit to the Olympic Park in July, which I brokered for them.

And so to this school year...as I write there are just **326** days to go to London 2012 and one year today we will be watching some amazing Paralympic action. We go into this school year having just slipped behind South East (26% to our 25%) in terms of **Get Set Network** applications, third of all twelve nations and regions, one of the measures by which my steering group is gauging the engagement of the region's children and young people in London 2012. I am pleased to advocate for Get Set which goes from strength to strength.

Watch out later this month for the launch of projects under the heading **Get Set Goes Global**. Those schools that have included an international focus in their London 2012 work already know that the global aspect provides rich learning opportunities.

Look out too for news on **Big Dance 2012**. Despite being a contestant in *Strictly Not Dancing* I am on the regional steering group and know that so many of the region's children will love the dance opportunities coming their way for 2012 and some of them could be very high profile indeed. You'll find out more about Big Dance at <http://getset.london2012.com/en/get-set-plus/pe-and-sport> especially the Big Dance Schools Pledge which will hopefully see every school in the country signing up to dance at 1pm on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2012. I plan to update you at the end of September by which time we should also know more about **School Games 2012**.

Don't forget to encourage colleagues to join the Get Set Network in order to be eligible for free tickets in Ticket Share. Get blogging so that the Get Set team knows about your commitment to London 2012 and let me know if there is anything I can do to support your work or celebrate your success. Contact me at [g.nash@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:g.nash@lboro.ac.uk)

Finally, at the end of July I said I had some news regarding BT Storytellers. I was delighted early in July to hear that I had been picked as one of just 100 people invited to be a BT Storyteller alongside celebrity Storytellers like the Brownlee brothers, Dame Kelly Holmes and Oscar Pistorius. I was invited to London St Pancras for the launch on July 14<sup>th</sup> and would have got to meet Daley Thompson and Sebastian Coe and visit the actual Olympic stadium. Instead I was at the Lincolnshire School Games, making do with Jonathan Edwards – it's a tough life. Basically, I have been given the opportunity to journal my year of the Games and my blogs will be added to their website. I am hoping for some special moments along the way which in turn I can share with the region's youngsters. You can follow the Storytellers at <http://www.btlondon2012.co.uk/storytellers/index.php>



Don't forget that Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> is International Paralympic Day and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> we can begin to apply for Paralympic tickets.

Here's to a year of inspiration and excitement for all of us but especially the children and young people of the great East Midlands.

*Gagnor*