

Press Release

Date: 03 April

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Radcliffe woman gets a chance to shine as Local Leader for Olympics

Marion Rubins, xx and from Radcliffe was disappointed to hear that she had not been selected as a torch bearer but is now celebrating having been given the role as a Local Leader for the community.

The London 2012 'Local Leaders' role is to bring their friends, family and communities together to help make the most of the London 2012 Games by creating celebrations for their village, town or City.

Marion said, "I was overwhelmed with the nominations as a torch bearer and the words written about me. At first I felt gutted that I did not get to carry the torch. Since a young child I always wanted to excel at sports. My childhood asthma restricted my sports development and as I grew up I was determined and able to improve my swimming, running and cycling and participate in triathlon, cycling, windsurfing and skiing events. My asthma is still an issue as is osteoarthritis in my joints. I'm so proud that I've managed to get my own role as an ambassador for my local area, I'll be pulling out all the stops to make sure everyone I know gets right into the swing of things during the Olympics!"

Marion is organising a special from event on the day that the torch passes through which will be at 3 pm at Cookdons Cycles, Whitefield. In partnership with renowned Patisserie Slatterys, they will be raising money for the charity Action against Cancer.

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Once the Olympic Torch flame arrives in the UK on 18 May, Local Leaders are provided with ideas and tools to help bring the community together to welcome the flame and celebrate their local heroes by lining the streets and showing what makes their community special for the 70 day UK wide relay.

The 4 August is Super Saturday - the day when the most medals are awarded during the Olympic Games. Local Leaders will access recipe ideas to help host barbeques and a day of activity in their homes, gardens and community centres. 'Garden for the Games' provides Local Leaders with hints and tips from gardening experts, including Blue Peter Gardener Chris Collins and Olympic Park Gardener Des Smith, on how to plant seeds now that will turn window boxes down your street red, white and blue, or to 'grow gold' by planting marigolds to flourish the route of the Olympic Torch route.

For the Paralympic Torch Relay, Local Leaders can help celebrate the national flame lightings in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales by lighting up every corner of the UK with a lantern. Local Leaders will be able to access hints and tips on how to take part in a lantern procession and decorate lanterns with good luck messages for their local Paralympic athlete.

Finally, for the last day of the Paralympic Games on 9 September Local Leaders will be provided with ideas to bring together friends, family and neighbours for a Sunday get-together to see out an unforgettable summer in style.

People can sign up to be a Local Leader at www.london2012.com/localleaders and can play an active part now in preparing their community for international attention when the Torch arrives in the UK.

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Seb Coe, LOCOG Chair, said: 'Local Leaders are brilliant organisers in every community around the country and play an active role in celebrating national events at a local level. Through this programme Local Leaders will help provide opportunities for everyone around the UK to join in with the London 2012 Games.'

ENDS

Press release issued:

Picture attached:

For further information please contact Peter Doherty or Ellie Langton in the council press office on 0161 253 6096 or 5394. Alternatively please email communications@bury.gov.uk