

the OLYMPIAN

ISSUE N°32

SUMMER 2009



*Let's rekindle that spirit of optimism for London 2012
– see page 3*



The Guildhall – Much Wenlock

Our AGM weekend

Saturday August 8 at 12 noon

© PHOTOGRAPHY BY SABINE



This year we are returning to a summer date for our Annual General Meeting and maintaining our practice of combining the meeting with a sporting event or venue. The Committee was delighted to accept an invitation from the Much Wenlock Olympian Society to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of William Penny Brookes, the founder of the Wenlock Olympian Games which in turn inspired Baron de Coubertin to create the modern Olympic Games in 1896.

Much Wenlock is a very compact, beautiful and historic town in Shropshire and we hope to see many Olympians, particularly those living in the Midlands, in attendance and enjoying the local hospitality. Full details of the programme were not available at the time of going to press, but are contained in the enclosed leaflet.

The Olympians has developed an excellent relationship with the Society in recent years and apart from our reunions, the town receives a steady flow of overseas visitors who are interested in the origins of the modern Olympic movement. If you would like to learn more, have a look at www.wenlock-olympian-society.org.uk and www.muchwenlocktourism.co.uk.

Members only visit

Olympic Park



© COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

Arrangements have been made with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) for a bus tour for 30 members to view progress of the Olympic Park construction.

Because of the short lead time given from the newsletter's publication date, the first trip in July will be taken by regular attendees at Olympians' events. However, another trip is being arranged for late August or early September.

Members interested in taking part should register with our (much over-worked) secretary: Shirley Berry, The Olympians, 16 The Green, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3JN or email: shirleyberry@compuserve.com. To facilitate communications, please do not fail to give your email address.



Chairman's Message



Obtaining tickets for 2012 will be a major challenge for Olympians. It will then come as no surprise to learn that this is very high on your

Committee's agenda, a matter we shall continue to pursue.

Members will also be interested to hear of a recent Parliamentary exchange on this issue when Tessa Jowell, the Olympics Minister, was asked by David Taylor (MP for NW Leicestershire) if she believed that

retired Paralympians and Olympians, that "body of fine sports people from past years should have special consideration when it comes to access to the Games and, in particular, should have complimentary entry to their discipline." Yes, replied the Minister: "I think that the proposal would find a lot of support and I am sure that the organising committee is planning on that basis." Let's hope so, but we shall be checking! [Editor's comment: "It's because you're worth it!"]

Looking to next year's AGM, it seems likely that this will be held in Aldershot where the Army Physical Training Corps will be celebrat-

ing their 150th anniversary. For this, thanks are due to John Moore, the second of three generations of Moore family members who have been Olympians. He is also a former Commandant of the Army Physical Training Corps.

The Corps has trained many Olympians over the years, and Aldershot is also the proposed holding camp for Team GB in 2012. A number of special activities are planned and our AGM will be included. More information will be made available over the coming months.

In 2011 it is hoped that it will be possible to identify a suitable location for the AGM in the Olympic Park when a number of the venues are due to have been completed.

Chris Baillieu

THE OLYMPIANS

President: HRH The Princess Royal

Founder & Life Vice-President:
Dr Liz Ferris

Life Vice-President:
Dame Mary Glen Haig CBE

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(rowing '76, '80)

Paul Anderson (sailing '68)

Guin Batten (rowing '96, 2000)

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Lorna Boothe (athletics '76, '80)

June Carroll (athletics '52, '56)

John Court (canoeing '72)

John Disley CBE (athletics '52, '56)

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Treasurer: Eric Hall (athletics '56, '60)

David Luckes (hockey '92, '96, 2000)

Company Secretary: Veronique Marot
(athletics '92)

Liz McVeigh (rowing '80)

Bill Tancred MBE (athletics '68, '72)

Editor *The Olympian*: Doug Wilson
(athletics '48)

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Graphic Design & Print: RSB design

The opinions expressed are those of the writers and interviewees and should not necessarily be taken as those of The Olympians.

June wants to hear

Amateur athletics ... those bygone days



Nostalgic emotions experienced by June Paul, bronze medallist in '52 and silver medallist in '56 in 4x 100m relay (pictured left at our AGM), have inspired the production of a film documentary. It will focus upon the vast contrast of those strictly amateur pre-1960 days in athletics with today's high achievers acquiring a passport to riches.

She is therefore asking readers if they have any film or photos from that era that they consider interesting or relevant to get in touch with her on 020 7433 3145 or email: junecarroll1@mac.com.

Photo SOS

Can you help?



Sylvia Lunn, née Jackson, 1968 Mexico canoeist, wishes to contact Mexico British Olympians from other sports she met in Bermuda in 1968 on the return journey to the UK and with whom she toured that Island on hired scooters. Sylvia has lost her prized collection of slides taken at that time and thinks those colleagues may be able to help with copies of photos they took on that occasion.

If this strikes a chord, then please contact Sylvia on 01932 889337, 07814 606033, or email: sylvialunn@hotmail.com.

2005 – let that spirit of optimism rekindle

London 2012 – I can't wait



Euphoria greeted the award of the 2012 Olympic Games to London four years ago. That now appears to have vanished, replaced, perhaps, by muted and dampened enthusiasm. Obviously the credit crunch has not helped. Adverse publicity (some justified) has also been a factor. But the carping and pessimistic forecasts permeating the media do, we think, need addressing. It's time now to be positive and let some optimism rekindle as we anticipate the arrival of the Olympic torch in 3 years time. JUDITH WILSON, a first time participant in this year's London Marathon, thinks this event gives us a reassuring forecast of what we will offer the world in August 2012.

London on Marathon morning 2009: The sun shines in a promisingly clear blue sky. Transport runs efficiently, lively crowds gather with warm, infectious support for the dedicated thousands intent on their goal. The day is out of the ordinary: It's Marathon Sunday. Our capital city at its very finest proving its citizens to be exceptional in their enthusiasm and willingness to celebrate this annual event. Communities and neighbourhoods throw impromptu pavement parties. Pubs spill out onto the route, Sunday drinkers congregating, glass in hand, to watch. All along the marathon route Londoners are lined up to support complete strangers sweating and panting their way past. Jelly babies, wine gums and quartered oranges supplement the bottles of mineral water and sports drinks already provided. And there's the music too, of course – a live steel band around mile 7 or was it 10, recorded old 60's hits, a touch of karaoke, strains of a tenor saxophone – all wonderful diversions from the increasing muscular twinges of

the runners. The long, long route to the Mall is alive with sound and people only too happy to join in with the spirit and thrill of the moment.

And it's easy to imagine that all those vital ingredients that make the London Marathon so exceptional will be there for 2012. For when London wants to do something well, it does it superbly. Take the renowned reputation for organisation that the Marathon rightly boasts – over 35,000 runners are welcomed, registered, timed and supported without queues, without regimentation. Efficiency rules, yet is presented with a smiling, friendly face.

London 2012 obviously poses larger logistical hurdles with around 200 nations expected to take part. Our capital's previous experience of hosting the modern Olympics in 1908 and 1948, with the attendance of 22 and 59 countries respectively, is hardly comparable, but their success is undisputed.

The so-called austerity Games in 1948, held at a time of appalling post-war deprivation, saw the country pool scarce resources. Wembley stadium, Henley, Torbay in Devon, Aldershot, Sandhurst, all adapted to provide venues for the competing athletes finally able to come together in a world free of war. These Games ended with a modest profit and a tribute from Sweden's J. Sigfrid Edstrom, the then president of the International Olympic Committee declaring: "...Wembley surpassing in magnificence any previous home of the Games ... the organisation rose gloriously to the supreme challenge."

Yet the soul and spirit that enthuses Marathon day will surely be the same. In fact, it will be magnified across the country with street parties, themed village fetes, picnics and large screen showings in local parks and city squares. As a nation we're great at grabbing a chance to celebrate, throwing our normal reticence and shyness to the wind in a warm embrace of the moment. London 2012 is going to be an Olympics to remember for reasons that will outlive the record books. I can't wait!



David Luckes' 2012 talk

AGM & social highlights

Our 14th AGM at Sport England, Bloomsbury Square, London, last December was combined with a supper and stimulating talk by David Luckes on preparations for 2012.

A three times field hockey Olympian and member of the Organising Committee (LOCOG), David, without glossing over many problems which have arisen, stated that all of the various projects are on target and that

we have every reason to feel optimistic that London will stage a very successful and historic Olympic Games in three year's time.

Far left: David Luckes talking 2012; Left: Dorothy Tyler, left, silver medal winner at '36 and '48 high jump is surprised to meet Sheila Hoskin, long jump at '56 Games; Right: Edna Child, 6th springboard diving at '48 Games, about to dive into a hearty meal (see also page 7). Our thanks to Sylvia Disley for photos.



© DAVID WOOLFALL

Watch the birdie!

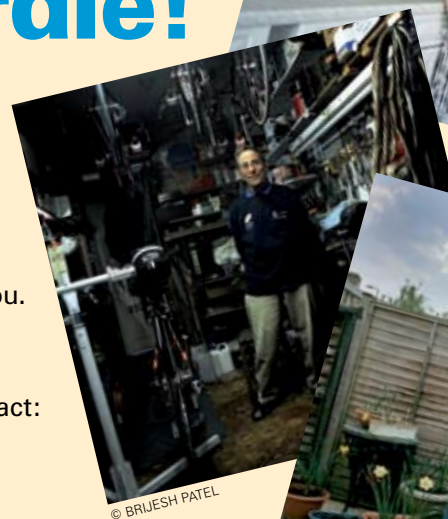
If you competed in the 1948 Olympics, then David Woolfall, a portrait photographer wants to photograph and talk to you about your experiences from those far-off days.

Should you be the proud winner of an Olympic medal from any Olympic Games, then Brijesh Patel, a documentary photographer, would like to hear from you.

Both are engaged in producing Olympic features and seek your cooperation. So if you would like to participate, qualify and are not camera-shy, then contact:

David Woolfall on 07802 819308 or david@davidwoolfall.com;

Brijesh Patel on 07861 369336 or contact@brijesh-patel.com

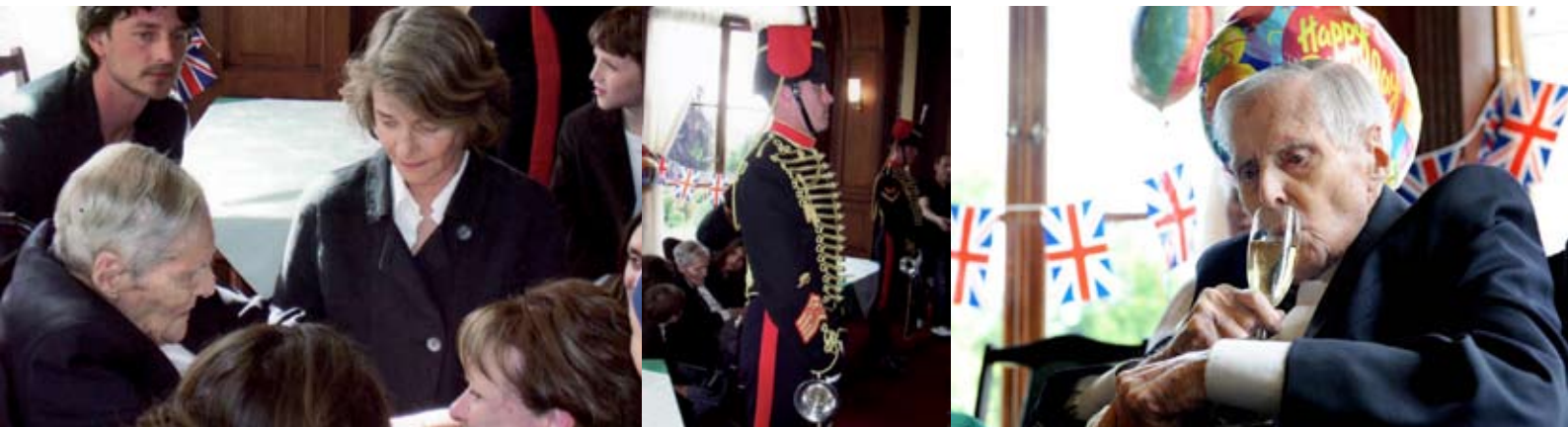


© BRIJESH PATEL



Godfrey Rampling – Britain’s oldest living Olympian

What a great party it was



Godfrey Rampling, Britain’s oldest living Olympian and gold medallist in the 4x 400m relays in ’36 and silver medallist in ’32, celebrated his 100th birthday in style at Beaumont House, Bushey, Herts, his residential home on May 16 last.

With his daughter, actress Charlotte, grandchildren and great grandchildren by his side, the party was attended by over a hundred guests including Olympians Kriss Akabusi and John Moore (organiser of the event at 80), plus a flurry of TV crews and press photographers.

Godfrey with actress daughter Charlotte and family; Retired Army Colonel Godfrey received a fanfare on arrival from trumpeters of the Kings Troop; Godfrey drinks a toast

The Queen’s telegram and over a hundred letters and cards were received from well wishers including The Princess Royal, Jacques Rogge, President of the IOC, the BOA’s Colin Moynihan, Roger Bannister and the Master Gunner.

For more on Godfrey Rampling, please see Neil Allen’s feature on page 7.



Mary – our congratulations!



Congratulations to Dame Mary Glen Haig CBE, a founder member and recently elected life vice-president of the Olympians, upon winning the Jean Borotra World Fair Play Trophy granted annually by the International Fair Play

Committee, based in Paris and part sponsored by the IOC. This is yet another accolade for Mary during a lifetime of service to sport and Olympism in particular.

An Olympics fencing finalist who represented Britain in the ’48, ’52 and ’56 Games, Mary, 91 this July, can look back on an outstanding record in sports administration, equalled by few, if any.

Elected a member of the IOC in 1988, and previously awarded the MBE and CBE, she was made a Dame of the British Empire in 1993. Over the years there must be very few major sports committees on which she has not served.

In her professional career, Mary held senior administrative posts at Kings College and the Royal Northern Orthopaedic Hospital.

2012 Games

Chance to serve



The Diocese of Southwark (the Church of England in South London and east Surrey) are keen to engage with the 2012 Games. There are four Olympic sites within their area and they want to encourage church members to volunteer for appropriate forms of Olympic service, provide hospitality and pastoral chaplaincy support for athletes and visitors.

Any Olympians interested in helping by presenting prizes at youth events or being interviewed at church meetings about their Olympic experiences are very welcome to get in touch with Rev Nigel Stone on 020 7582 6424 or nigel.stone@southwark.anglican.org.



British Olympic Association UPDATE

www.olympics.org.uk

Britain's Olympic future looks bright as youth stars shine



Following Team GB's outstanding success at the Beijing Olympics where they recorded Britain's best performance for 100 years, 2009 has seen the BOA turn its attention to the development of potential athletes for Vancouver 2010, London 2012 and beyond.

In January the BOA took a team of 120 of our most talented young athletes to Sydney to participate in the Australian Youth Olympic Festival (AYOF). A month later the focus turned to developing young winter talent at the European Youth Olympic Winter Festival (EYOWF) in Slask-Beskidy, Poland. This year's European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) for summer sports takes place in Tampere, Finland on 18-25 July and the BOA expects to take a team of up to 100 athletes.

The Youth Olympic Festivals provide young Team GB athletes the rare opportunity to compete in a multisport event and supply many of them with their first taste of the unique Olympic environment.

The European Olympic Committee founded the EYOFs in 1990 and a separate winter and summer edition of the Festival has taken place every two years since 1991. Additionally, the Australian Olympic Committee followed up the success of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games by organising and hosting Youth Olympic Festivals occurring biannually since 2001.

The Youth Festivals strive to provide a true Olympic experience to the young athletes, including living in village accommodation, drug testing and all the Olympic traditions such as the ceremonies, athlete's parade and taking of oaths.

The 2009 AYOF involved over 1,500 young athletes from more than 20 nations. It is the second time Great Britain

has been involved and Team GB consisted of athletes aged between 13 and 19, competing in 11 different sports. After five days of intense competition, Team GB departed Sydney with a tremendous haul of 26 gold, 16 silver and 26 bronze medals from the 2009 AYOF – 68 medals in total. This comprehensively beats Team GB's 2007 medal tally of 14 gold, 20 silver and 14 bronze medals.

Reviewing Team GB's outstanding performance at the AYOF, Team GB Chef de Mission, Mark England said: "This is a very talented group of young athletes. To come to the other side of the world, and to compete in temperatures over 40 degrees, against top class opposition is a huge undertaking. To do that and win 68 medals is exceptional. Whilst it's pleasing to see our traditionally strong sports producing new talent, I'm also delighted that sports such as archery, diving, fencing, hockey, shooting and triathlon have a real depth in talent at this junior level. I'm very proud of the whole team."

At the EYOWF in February Team GB's winter youth athletes performed well, winning two medals with gold and silver in women's and men's curling respectively. This represented Team GB's best ever medal haul at the EYOWF event. Many athletes achieved personal best results and will have learnt a great deal from the experience of participating at a multi-sport winter event.

Many Team GB Olympians, including diver Tom Daley, gymnast Louis Smith and swimmer David Davies have graduated from the Youth Festivals to succeed at the Olympic Games and with the London 2012 Olympic Games firmly in the sights of many of our young athletes, the experiences gained from competing in the Youth Festivals in 2009 may prove invaluable.

Where are they now?

by honorary Olympian, **NEIL ALLEN**

EDNA CHILD (DIVING)



There are few more heart warming examples of friendship generated amongst our British Olympians than the recent story of Edna, an Olympic diver at the London Games of 1948, the European championships at Wembley in 1938 and the Empire Games of 1950 – a career put on serious hold by war time years serving in the Women's Land Army.

During a recent Olympians evening in London, Mrs Edna Tinegate confessed to me that she had no significant photographic evidence from that magical pre-war week when, still only a schoolgirl, she won a bronze medal in the European diving championships at the Empire pool in Wembley.

Promptly I enlisted help. And, hey presto, from the *Daily Mail* picture library, a delighted Edna received six different photos of herself as a slip of an Essex schoolgirl wearing her very first British international badge.

Widowed from her beloved Ken Tinegate (whom she met on the boat coming back from the 1950 Auckland Games) since 1958, but mother of two proud daughters, she is now able to decorate her Essex home with precious sporting mementos.

GODFREY RAMPLING (ATHLETICS)



The British 4 x 400 metres relay Olympic gold medalists in Berlin 1936, from left to right, Godfrey Brown, Frederick Wolff, Godfrey Rampling and William Roberts

Godfrey Rampling, a British 4x 400m relays medallist in both the 1932 Los Angeles and 1936 Berlin Games, recently celebrated his 100th birthday at his Hertfordshire nursing home (as reported on page 5). Colonel Rampling, a regular soldier in the Royal Artillery until he retired to

become secretary of a golf club, was born at Greenwich on May 14, 1909. Coached in his early days at the Royal Military Academy by the legendary 19th century miler Walter George, he won the AAA 440yds title in 1931 and, in an England v Germany match in Cologne, covered the 400m stage of a medley relay in 46.6sec – extraordinary for that period.

The following season of 1932, he helped Britain win silver medals in the 4x 400m relay at the Los Angeles Olympics. Four years later, in Berlin, Rampling failed to reach the 400m final, but won gold in the relay with Freddie Wolff, Bill Roberts and Godfrey Brown.



JOHN PANCOTT (GYMNASTICS)

John Pancott, double Olympic gymnast at Rome 1960 and Tokyo 1964, should be proud of his daughter Beverly Dawson who, an enthusiastic reader of this column, has written from West Chester, US to tell us of

his "involvement in all aspects of sport for over 52 years both in Britain and the United States."

Born in 1933, John, a regular soldier, who took up gymnastics at 22, competed for Britain throughout the 1960s, becoming British all round champion in 1964. Even more impressive, is how much he has given back to the sport around the world.

Posted to Singapore in the Sixties, he developed an exhibition team with Malays, Chinese and Indians. Moving to the US in 1967, John worked first at Valley Forge military academy, later directing the setting up of exhibitions and competitions for President Reagan at the White House, eventually receiving an award from the President's council for his work, specially with young children as demonstrators.

OUCH!

Overheard at a party celebrating Roger Bannister's 80th birthday:

Guest A (a former international middle distance runner): "I couldn't see Roger at first, but I recognise him now from his back."

Guest B: "But then you would, of course!"

MOVING?... LET US KNOW

If you are about to move, contact:
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16 The Green, Ewell, Surrey KT17 3JN.
Tel: 020 8393 0810
Email: shirleyberry@compuserve.com



Obituaries

ALISTAIR MCCORQUODALE (ATHLETICS)

Alistair McCorquodale who died, aged 83, last January, had only two seasons in top class athletics. Yet he won a silver medal at the '48 Games in the 4x 100m relay with colleagues John Archer, Jack Gregory and Ken Jones (who have all predeceased him), and finished 4th in the final of the 100m. Then at 22, he retired immediately after those Games to concentrate upon cricket.

Educated at Harrow, he joined the Army in 1944 and after serving in Germany won the Army 100 and 220yds titles in 1947 and became AAA 220yd champion the same season. He played cricket for the MCC and Middlesex and later joined the family printing business of McCorquodale & Co, becoming its chairman in 1967.

A particularly modest man, he leaves a wife, Rosemary, son, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. His daughter Sally died last year.

RON UNSWORTH (ATHLETICS)

Ron Unsworth, who represented Britain in the London '48 Olympic 440yd hurdles, died suddenly on December 23 last year, at 85, of a suspected heart attack. Until then he had been in good health. A former UAU and Northern champion, his interest in athletics continued long after his hurdling days were over, having been president of the Manchester University Athletics Union for over 20 years.

DOUGLAS MCBAIN (FOOTBALL)



Douglas McBain, a Scottish member of Britain's '48 Olympic soccer team which reached the semi-final, died last February at the age of 83. A powerful right half, he scored in the opening match against Holland and after the Games signed professional forms for Queen of the South, playing seven years for them

and appearing in two Scottish cup semi-finals. He also enjoyed a very successful career outside of football.

Leaving school at 17 during the war, he joined the Inland Revenue and a year later enlisted in the RAF becoming a Flying Officer air gunner, seeing service in India. The war over, he returned to the Civil Service and then took over a shop and post office while developing as a footballer. Active days over, he sold the business and took a degree course at Edinburgh University. Upon qualifying, he became a lecturer at Telford College in economics and business studies, retiring at 58 to take a part-time job with the Scottish Business Council.

A keen golfer (and who wouldn't be with a handicap of 4?), he later became secretary of his local golf club. Douglas leaves a wife, Jess, a daughter, Catherine, and son, Gordon, along with six grandchildren.

JONATHAN WOODALL MBE (2 & 4 MAN BOBSLEIGH & LUGE)



Jonathan (Jonnie) Woodall, aged 63, who represented Britain in the '72, '76 and '80 Games, was tragically killed when he was struck by a train at a level crossing in Barchurch, Shropshire in April, whilst on a bike ride.

A retired Army Major and successful business man, Jonnie was the former president and current racing manager of British Skeleton.

He was in his late 50s when he took up cycling in 2002 and became prominent as a team competitor at the 2003 World Masters Track Championships, then manager and organiser of events such as the Gran Fondo Cymru.

Above all, he was admired, respected and held in great esteem and affection. Our condolences to his wife and four daughters.

MIKE FREEMAN (BOBSLEIGH)



Mike Freeman, who represented Britain in the 2 & 4 man bobsleigh at the '64, '68 and '70 winter Olympics, died of a wasp sting last summer, aged 70. A further tragedy followed when his son Mike, 40, was killed in a mountaineering accident in South America earlier this year.

Mike senior, a retired RAF Wing Commander with his training and competition

partner John Blockey, a fellow officer, did not get among the Olympic medallists, but they did manage to eventually beat Tony Nash and Peter Dixon, the only Britons to win a gold medal for this most thrilling and dangerous of sports.

And when Mike carried the Union Jack in the opening ceremony of the 1972 winter Games, he caused amusement with his much quoted comment: "We may not be the greatest at winning Winter Olympics, but we can carry our bloody flag properly." Our condolences to his wife, Jennifer.

REQUEST FOR A BEQUEST

Older members love to relate memories and anecdotes (often embellished) of their active days, Olympic experiences in particular. So why not make a tangible recognition of these great moments by bequesting a donation to the Olympians?

Remember our membership is free, we are not a charity and apart from the BOA's help with the newsletter we are self-supporting. Any money received will be spent on matters strictly Olympic.