



MEDIA RELEASE 19 MARCH 2006

COMMONWEALTH GAMES LINK TO CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Children and young people in Bridgnorth will be holding their breath this week as the recently announced Patron of the August Children's Festival runs for Gold at the Commonwealth games.

International Athlete **Chris Davies** has taken time out from training for today's (Monday) 5000m race to accept his appointment as Patron of Bridgnorth Children's Festival.

Shropshire based Davies, who is representing Wales in Melbourne, will be spreading news of the Festival amongst Athletes at the games village. He will be moving on from Australia to represent Great Britain at the World Cross Country Championships in Japan next week.

Chris Davies said,

"I am very proud to have been approached to be patron of the Festival and will make sure that everyone knows about it. So often children and young people get a bad press and yet it is vital for them to feel valued, to have high self-esteem and great expectations of themselves. I believe that children should be celebrated, encouraged and supported and being Patron of the Festival helps me do just that".

Festival Team member Mark Gibbons, said,

"This is really good news for Bridgnorth. Our Festival is about inspiring children and young people to try new things and excel at what they enjoy. Chris is a fantastic example of someone who has worked hard to get to the highest level in an exceptionally tough field. For him to promote the Festival amongst the cream of Commonwealth sports star is a bonus for Bridgnorth".

As the pace hots up Festival organisers have launched a new website, this contains Festival news and details of opportunities for volunteers and businesses to assist at the event which takes place at Oldbury Wells over August Bank Holiday.

Stephen Derges from the Festival Team said,

"The website is another great example of Bridgnorth pulling together to create this event. 'Design Jazz' a local design business heard about the Festival and offered their expertise. The website can be located at www.childrens-festival.co.uk.

Notes for Editors

The Festival will take place on Saturday 26 (10am -5.30pm) and Sunday 27 August 2006 (10.00am-8.30pm) at Oldbury Wells School Site. It will end with a celebratory event on Sunday evening. The site was previously used by the Bridgnorth Folk Festival on August Bank Holidays.

The organising committee is chaired by Stephen Derges (07929 835796). Email: stephen.derges@childrens-festival.co.uk

Mark & Karen Gibbons (01746 764151) are also main contacts for the Festival. Email: mark.gibbons@childrens-festival.co.uk

The organising committee contains Senior Teaching professionals, Members of the Business community, youth workers and advisors. County, Town and District Councillors have pledged their support.

The Festival has joined forces with the Town's Music Festival taking place during the same period to ensure that maximum opportunities are offered to young people and families.

Events in the Festival have been decided following detailed consultation with young people in Bridgnorth during November/December 2005.

The Festival website is www.childrens-festival.co.uk

All of the schools in the area support the festival and have pledged support.

Individuals working directly with young people as part of this initiative will comply with CRB checking processes.

The Children's Festival is organised by a charitable company.

Photo opportunities will be available throughout the festival.

Festival Patron is Chris Davies International Athlete who has represented the United Kingdom at middle distance running events and Wales at the Commonwealth Games.

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