

in TOUCH

Issue 22 | Spring 2011 | For Retired Members of the Shropshire County Pension Fund

Pension Increase

Important changes
to the way your
pension is increased

Old Market Cinema

2 cinema tickets
up for grabs in
this issue

Living the dream

An article by SCPF
retired member,
Jennie Vaughan



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Driving in Portugal



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Welcome by Debbie Sharp



Welcome to the Spring 2011 edition of Intouch

It seems to have been a very long winter this year and I hope you weren't affected too badly by the heavy snow falls.

You will remember in the Autumn 2010 issue we told you about the change to the way your pension is going to increase in the future. Further details about the change can be found on page 8.

Four of our colleagues have left us or are about to leave us. Laura Rowley the former Scheme Administrator and Graham Chidlow, Head of Finance Treasury and Pensions have both moved to pastures new and we wish them well. Vanetta Meardon and Barbara Craig are retiring after working in Pension Services for many years. I would like to thank them all for their friendship and hard work; they will all be greatly missed.

We will be holding our Retired Members meeting in the summer at the Theatre Severn again this year. Details can be found on page 5 and I look forward to seeing you there.

On page 7 we also have a brief article following up on a theme covered in our last edition about the possible movement away from sending paper payslips every month. Your views on this topic will be much appreciated.

I hope you enjoy this edition and I look forward to seeing many of you in the summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debbie Sharp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Debbie Sharp
Pensions Manager
Shropshire County Pension Fund

Ron Talking



Ron Pugh, your Pensioner Representative updates you on Fund Activities.

It has been six months since I last wrote for the “*InTouch*” newsletter when I gave you an overview of the Funds investments in Emerging Markets and advised about the administration changes following the coalition governments announcement that public sector pensions will be increased by the Consumer Price Index (*CPI*) rather than the Retail Price Index (*RPI*) from April 2011.

During the last six months I have continued to contribute to debates at Pensions Committee on pension administration and the investment performance of external fund managers.

On 21 December 2010 the value of the Shropshire County Pension Fund exceeded £1 billion for the first time. At 31 December 2010 the Fund was valued at £1.013 billion. The last quarter has seen the equity market deliver strong gains which have benefited the Fund, with the Fund increasing in value by £55 million.

As you are aware the Fund undergoes an independent actuarial valuation every 3 years. The latest actuarial valuation was conducted in March 2010 with the results just being released. The Fund currently has a funding level (*the relationship between estimated future pension payments and the funds held to pay for these pensions*) of 81%. Meaning the Fund continues to have a funding level well above the average of council pension funds and has one of the lowest employers’ contribution rates of all council funds.

If you have any issues that you would like me to address on your behalf please do not hesitate to contact me via the Pension team

Telephone: 01743 252 130

Email: pensions@shropshire.gov.uk

Retired Members Meeting 2011

Tuesday 21st June | Walker Theatre at Theatre Severn

The meeting will commence at approximately 2pm and should be finished no later than 4pm.

Although the exact agenda for the meeting has yet to be confirmed we have already lined up a number of speakers for the day. These include representatives from the National Trust, the Much Wenlock Olympian Society and the Shropshire Astronomical Society.



A separate invitation has not been enclosed this year, if you would like to attend please:

Email: pensions@shropshire.gov.uk

or

Telephone: 01743 252 130

or complete and return the form at the bottom of this page.

Refreshments will be served during the afternoon and you will have a chance to catch up with former colleagues.

Staff from Pension Services and the DWP will be on hand as well as stands from a number of organisations.

So please book your place early and put the date of the meeting in your diary. I look forward to seeing you there.

Martin Griffiths
Communications Team Leader
Shropshire County Pension Fund

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For an article about the Wenlock Olympian Society who will be speaking at the Retired Members Meeting in June, they will be talking about the Wenlock Olympian Society's Games and their Olympic heritage

I would like to attend the Retired Members Meeting.

Name:

Please return to:

Pension Services
Shirehall | Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury | Shropshire
SY2 6ND

Your P60 Explained



1. This is your tax code. This is notified to us by HM Revenue and Customs (*HMRC*). If you have a query about your personal tax please contact HMRC.
2. This is the amount of gross pension/pay you have been paid from *01 April 2010* to the *31 March 2011*. These figures should be used for your tax return, if you get one. The box to the left will show the tax deducted from your pension/pay.
3. This date is the end of the relevant financial year
4. This is your PAYE (*Pay as you earn*) tax reference number, this number can be quoted when calling the tax office.
5. This reference should be quoted in any correspondence to us.
6. Our contact details should be displayed here if you need to write to us.

We send you a P60 at the end of each financial year.

These are important documents and should be kept in a safe place, as copies cannot be issued. We have an article from Tax Help for Older People on page 9 who are a registered charity who specialise in offering free tax advice to older people.

Tax Office Contact Details

NW Midlands and Shrops Area
Crown House
Birch Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 4JX

Telephone: 0845 3000 627

Tax Office Ref No: 670/S10

You should have your national insurance number to hand when contacting the tax office.

Monthly payslips

In the Autumn last year we offered you the opportunity to stop receiving your monthly payslip. Your pension would still be paid into your bank account as normal; it would just mean you wouldn't get a slip through the post.

We received quite a number of requests from members to stop their payslips. We also had good feedback from members who felt it was a good way the fund could achieve cost savings.

We are aware that historically the feedback we have received has been in favour of retaining payslips from our retired members.

Although it is not our intention at present to make a change, we would greatly welcome your opinions on whether you still require a paper payslip each month.

Work has been going on behind the scenes by our IT section to see what options are available to us. One option would be to produce paper copies only when a change to the net amount was greater than a prescribed amount, as a lot of other pension providers do. We are also looking into enabling you to have access to your payslip on-line. This option may be available shortly and anyone interested in having details about how this can be done, please contact the team.

We would also like to know your thoughts about whether or not you

would like to receive a link to this magazine on-line rather than have a paper copy. An on-line version can be seen on our website on the leaflets and publications page at: www.shropshirecountypensionfund. Have a look at it to see what you think.

The team would appreciate any feedback on these issues, good or bad, so we can assess your feelings on these issues.

Restricting tax relief on pension contributions.

Are you still contributing to a pension scheme?

The government has announced that from 6 April 2011 it will restrict the amount of tax relief available on pension contributions, by reducing the amount the value your pension savings can increase by in any one year before you become liable to a tax charge. This is called the annual allowance.

For the tax year 2011/2012, the annual allowance will reduce from £255,000 to £50,000.

The new annual allowance covers any pension savings you make in tax-registered pension arrangements – not just the LGPS.

If you exceed the annual allowance in any year you are responsible for reporting this to HMRC on your self assessment tax return.

Mercer Ltd.
Scheme Actuary

Pensions Increase Review 2011

You may remember in our Autumn 2010 issue of this magazine we told you of the change made in the emergency budget of June 2010 to the way all public sector pensions would now be increased.

This change will mean that your local government pension increases will be linked to the Consumer Price Index (*CPI*) instead of the Retail Prices Index (*RPI*). The main difference being that the *RPI* rate of inflation includes housing costs such as mortgage interest and council tax.

Previously, local government pensions have been increased in line with the *RPI* in the 12 months ending with the previous September. The table below compares the September rates of *CPI* and *RPI* since 2000:

	CPI (%)	RPI (%)
2000	1.0	3.3
2001	1.3	1.7
2002	1.0	1.7
2003	1.4	2.8
2004	1.1	3.1
2005	2.5	2.7
2006	2.4	3.6
2007	1.8	3.9
2008	5.2	5.0
2009	1.1	-1.4

Pensions Increase Rate for April 2011

We have been informed by the Government that the increase to your pension this year will be:

3.1%

You will find in the envelope you received with this magazine a letter that explains the increase to your pension together with your P60 and your April payslip.

If you have any questions about any of the information please contact us at the following:

Telephone: 01743 252 130

Email: pensions@shropshire.gov.uk

Pension Services
Shropshire Council
Shirehall
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND



Worried about tax? Can't afford to pay for advice?

Free advice from professional tax advisers is available in partnership with Age UK and CAB's for older people on low incomes by TaxHelp for Older People (TOP).

TOP is a registered charity which runs tax surgeries across the UK to help those who cannot afford to pay for advice. Eligible clients, as a guideline, age 60 + and with a household income of up to £17000 a year - can receive a completely confidential service to help them understand their rights and responsibilities, assist them with tax problems, liaise with the HMRC on their behalf and set their minds at rest about their tax. Home visits can be arranged where necessary.

This article is by TaxHelp for Older People (TOP) registered charity no 1102276, offering free tax advice to older people on incomes below £17,000 a year.

Helpline: 0845 601 3321

Geographical: 01308 488 066

Website: www.taxvol.org.uk

TaxHelp for Older People is a service provided by Tax Volunteers

Reg. Office 11-19
Artillery Row,
London
SW1P 1RT

How to check if your code is correct.

First: Note how many sources of income you have. The main types of income include employment, pensions, state pension, interest from savings and property rental.

Second: Check how many coding notices you have received. You should have one for each employment and pension. As an example, if you have 3 pensions and a part time job you should have 4 coding notices. You will not get one for your state pension which, even though it is taxable, is not taxed at source.

Third: Look for your main coding notice. One of your coding notices will show your personal allowance. Check this. It is proposed that they will be £7475 under 65, £9940 65 to 74 and £10,090, 75 and over. Added to this figure will be other allowances you may be entitled to. For example: Married couples allowance, £3648, note that it is half of the advertised amount. If you have the full amount showing, beware as that figure will only work if you are a non-taxpayer. Blind person's allowance, this is £1980

Fourth: Look to see if your untaxed income is subtracted from the allowances. The most common ones include the state pension, interest from savings that has not been taxed by the bank/ building society and income from rented property.

Fifth: check any under/overpayments. The figure used to make up the code is not the actual under/ overpayment. If you are lucky the note will make it clear but if not, you can check it by multiplying the figure used by 0.2.

Sixth: Check the rest of the coding notices. If they are being taxed, they will probably be BR which means basic rate and takes tax at 20%. If they are not being taxed, they should be included on the main coding notice. Check that the figures match the amounts of pension you receive.

Finally: Check that your employer or pension provider uses the code.

This just a basic guide and if you see anything you do not understand, it is best to get it checked by an expert.



Situated in the heart of historic Shrewsbury, The Old Market Hall (OMH) Cinema and Café Bar is unquestionably one of the town's hidden gems. Following extensive restoration work, the OMH opened in January 2004 with a sold-out screening of '*My House In Umbria*' starring Maggie Smith. Since then the OMH has proved incredibly popular with people attending daily screenings of films from all around the world or choosing to simply meet and relax in the café bar and enjoy one of Shrewsbury's most beautiful buildings.

Through February and March, the Old Market Hall showed a diverse range of films including Black Swan, The Coen brothers' remake of True Grit, West Is West, NEDS, a hard-hitting coming-of-age drama set in Glasgow and Danny Boyle's 127 Hours. Film listings are released bi-monthly and brochures are available from many outlets throughout Shrewsbury.



HISTORY

The Old Market Hall was built in 1596 by the Corporation of Shrewsbury and was a reflection the town's prosperity towards the end of the 16th Century and in particular, its emergence as a major regional centre for trading.

Stone was brought from Grinshill and the choice of stone above timber, which was still used for almost all private building in the town, shows that this was a building which was more than functional. The large upper room was originally used by the Shrewsbury drapers or dealers in cloth to sell Welsh wool and the lower floor was used by farmers to sell their corn.

In front of the Market Hall there was once a pool or bog which was situated in The Square. According to tradition this pool was called the Bishop's Pool and it would be the ducking pool for nagging wives and dishonest traders.

By the early 19th Century the market for Welsh cloth had declined and the Drapers gave up the Market Hall room. In the 1870s the upstairs was converted into offices and a courthouse which remained in use as the county magistrates' court until 1995. When public hangings were the fashion many were held in the Square and condemned criminals would be led from the holding cell in the Old Market Hall to be hung in front of the building. During the Second World War the

undercroft was given over to a brick built public air raid shelter.

Once the new magistrates' court was opened in 1995 the Old Market Hall became dormant until work was begun to repair, renovate and restore the building. Many suggested uses for the building were put forward by the town's residents including a wool museum, a Mayor's Parlour, art gallery, regimental museum or a place to display the Borough Silver. At this time, the Music Hall was home to a growing independent cinema and it was General Manager Lezley Picton who had the vision to transfer its popular programme of cultural films into this new space, alongside further digital media exhibitions and a vibrant café bar.



Tickets or current film listings available from the Old Market Hall and Theatre Severn on the following:

Website: www.oldmarkethall.co.uk

Telephone: 01743 281 281

2 TICKETS FOR THE OLD MARKET HALL CINEMA UP FOR GRABS!

The Old Market Hall have kindly donated 2 free tickets to visit the Old Market Hall cinema for one of our readers to win.

To win these tickets please send/submit a short story on what you have been up to in your retirement. The best story will be chosen by our team and will win the tickets and the story will feature in a future intouch magazine. We look forward to receiving the entries and finding out what you have been up to in your retirement!

Please send all stories to the address below, closing date for entries is the 21st June 2011.

Pension Services
Shropshire Council
Shirehall
Shrewsbury
SY2 6ND

Good Luck!



Living the dream

An article by Jennie Vaughan, Shropshire County Pension Fund Retired Member

"For quite a few years we had been dreaming of and working towards one day being able to retire to Portugal, where we had a holiday home in the Algarve."

My husband enjoys playing golf in Portugal and we both love the lifestyle the better weather can offer over there.

In December 2009 I was fortunate in that my request for early retirement was accepted and I was able to leave Shropshire Council at the end of March 2010. This meant we were in a much better position to make our dream of living in Portugal become a reality.

My husband Pete had reservations of moving '*lock stock and barrel*' and selling our UK home, thinking that the more sensible option would be to rent out our house in UK for 12 months, which would then give us a bit more income to live in Portugal and enough time to see if we thought we could live there permanently.

We therefore put things into motion with a view to going to Portugal early October 2010. We booked a one way ticket and caught the ferry from Plymouth on Sunday morning 2 October. The ferry was late leaving Plymouth so we arrived at Santander Monday 3 October at 1.30 pm.

It was a good crossing except when we came nearer the coast towards Santander

it became a bit choppy , we were swaying all over the place when we went to have breakfast!

Having docked at Santander, Pete drove all the way to our home at Sesmarias, Lagoa, Portugal; via Seville. We started our journey at 2.00pm and arrived 9.15pm, stopping only for fuel, a sandwich and a wee!

We both slept well that night after such a long drive.

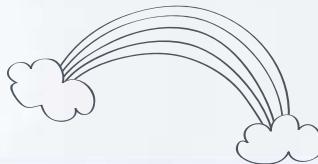
It's still relatively early days at the moment but I feel really settled. Pete has had a much bigger adjustment than myself as he has worked almost 24/7 for many years. The later 14 years being self-employed and therefore when not working, there was always the paperwork side to sort out.

Pete went back to the UK for 10 days in November to sort out a few things but came back after 7 – he found it so cold.

One of the biggest things for me was having no car and not having driven on the right hand side of the road before; I felt I'd lost some independence. Also Pete hates shopping and was not enjoying taking me everywhere.

So I decided that I needed to do something about it and while he was away in the UK I hired a car for a week without him knowing and started to drive on the other side of the road.

As Pete came back earlier than planned,



the hire car was still here when he came back. So when he asked whose car was outside and I told him he was gobsmacked but at the same time really pleased and proud that I'd actually done it! As a result he said he would find me a cheap 'run around' car so I could have more freedom and independence and go shopping while he was playing golf!

"So I'm now driving on the right hand side of the road in my Clio, going shopping whenever I want and meeting newly found friends for coffee."

Christmas was quiet on our own but we phoned and skyped family and friends on Christmas morning. Then we wrapped up and went for a walk on a beach in the afternoon, it was fresh but lovely and sunny. Not anything like the freezing temperatures in the UK.

There have been some small hiccups – It's quite an adjustment being together for so much more time than before, when we were both working. So we make sure we both have some 'me' time.

We go to the cinema about once a fortnight, eat out once or twice a week - we know where to eat now (*with the locals*) where it's much cheaper. Pete plays golf, as often as he wants, I go walking, cook and bake a lot more now and have

Portuguese language lessons once a week. So we are generally enjoying life and our retirement together, more and more

Family and friends have been out and stayed with us for long weekends and we skype with our family and friends all the time, which is a great way of keeping in touch. We have people staying with us in March and April and no doubt later in the year aswell.

At the moment the only thing I miss is an airing cupboard! Having to air clothes in front of the log burner takes me back a few years to when I was a child.

In a month or so it won't be a problem and it will be interesting to see how we cope with the sun, especially when it's very hot in August.

Come October we will have to make a decision as to what we are going to do, as we cannot afford to keep both homes going. I know I want to stay and I think Pete is also thinking that way now.

Watch this space, I'll let you know what we decide to do!

Please drop us a line to tell us what you have been up to during your retirement.

Unison Retired Members Group

The Unison Retired Members Group is open to all retired public employees who have been members of Unison during their working life. This group normally meets at the Shirehall and a programme of talks, discussions and outings is arranged by officials of the group.

In April and May last year members of the group heard: **a)** *a talk about working at Boreatton Park* and **b)** *working with the museum at Cosford*. Both these talks proved very interesting as the content was both thought provoking and enjoyable.

Following the talk about the museum at Cosford, a number of members spent the day visiting the museum where they saw the wealth of exhibits which the museum now houses. Lunch was available and the weather added to the enjoyment of the trip.



In the autumn the programme began with an illustrated talk by photographer Chris Wallace whose subject was the funny side of animal life. This was an

enjoyable and amusing show as the animals “performed” for members.

A talk on life in the open air, given by Alan Braddock, told of the inspiration from a teacher which led to a lifetime of enjoyable and adventurous trips into the mountains, down rivers in canoes, into caves and underground passageways and under canvas. Wishing to pass on his interest he told of work he has done with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and of the many pupils who have taken on challenges within that scheme.

In November Joan Waller told of her time spent in China and will return in the new year with more tales to tell.

Christmas Lunch was taken at the Lord Hill Hotel and was really enjoyable.

If you have been a member of Unison while working and would like to join us we would be pleased to see you. Our meetings are held on the third Monday of the months between September and November, and January and May. We meet in one of the meeting rooms in the Shirehall. Our usual meeting format is a talk followed by a break for tea, coffee and biscuits, and then we have a short business meeting to keep members up-to-date with what is happening in the Unison World.

Disability Network

Volunteer Editor required for Shropshire Disability Network

Due to the forthcoming retirement of Sally Barrett, the Editor of their vibrant newsletter "Your Voice" Shropshire Disability Network are looking for someone with an interest in people, who enjoys writing and has IT skills to take on this role or join in the Newsletter team.



Sally says...

"Publishing this newsletter has been a fascinating task and brought me into contact with many inspiring people. I think it would be an ideal role for someone newly retired or who would just like to make a difference"

Shropshire Disability Network was formed in May 2008 to provide a collective voice for persons with disability throughout Shropshire. What they do at Shropshire Disability Network is all aimed at achieving their vision of respect and equal opportunity for all by 2025. Current activities include:

- Holding four Open Meetings a year at Mereside Community Centre, Shrewsbury.
- Running and managing their website: www.shropshire-disability.net
- Publishing a vibrant monthly newsletter: www.shropshire-disability.net/ newsletter/
- Running sub groups targeted at achieving our vision in the key areas affecting all our lives.
- Running Shropshire Disability Awareness Day – 16th Oct
- Fundraising
- Working with volunteers

If you would like to be involved with the Newsletter or in any of the areas above please:

Email Sally: sb@trefonen.eclipse.co.uk

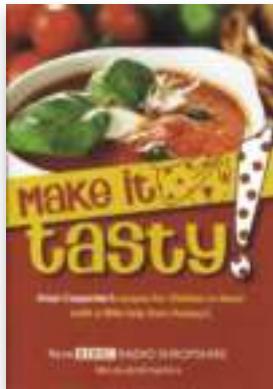
Telephone Geoff Forgie: 01691 830 662

Krissi Rochelle's Recipes

Krissi Rochelle works for Shropshire Council in the Organisation Development Unit. She is a Trainer for the Council and delivers many Courses - you may even have been on one!

Although Krissi doesn't work for the BBC anymore, she was a Broadcaster for 23 years, (*the last 13 of those years for BBC Radio Shropshire using her maiden name of "Carpenter"*) It was during her time there that she and her husband Chris (*both avid cooks*) decided to try and raise money for BBC Children in Need by writing a couple of their favourite recipes on an A4 sheet with a view to selling them to friends and family to help support the Charity.

The “couple of recipes on a piece of A4” turned into a little booklet of which 1,000 were sold in the first week of print and, a reprint of that book and two follow-ups over the next 3 years raised over £13,000 for BBC Children in Need. The first two books are now out of print but the third is still available from Krissi for just £2.50 in support of the Charity.



Stuffed Chicken in Tomato Cream:

Note: This dish is cooked in the microwave.

I never get tired of this meal. It's a gloriously moist dish which is both filling and scrummy. Easy to do too!

- 4 chicken breasts - boned and skinned
- a little plain flour
- 1 clove garlic skinned and crushed
- 4oz (100gms) cheddar cheese grated
- 1oz (25gms) fresh white breadcrumbs (1 slice)
- Small carton of single cream (5 fl oz)
- 4 slices of back bacon rinds removed
- 2 tbsp tomato puree.

1. Sprinkle a little flour into a plastic bag. One at a time, add the chicken breasts. Shake to coat well with the flour and flatten until quite thin with a rolling pin (great for relieving tension)! Make sure the meat is the same thickness all over.
 2. Combine the cheese, garlic and breadcrumbs with just enough of the cream to bind together to form the stuffing. Divide and shape into four rolls.
 3. Making sure that each flattened chicken breast is evenly flattened and thin, roll each one up like a swiss roll with the stuffing inside. Fold a bacon rasher around each one and secure with a wooden cocktail stick.
 4. Arrange all four breasts in a shallow oven-proof dish and cover with cling film, leaving 2 opposite corners slightly open to allow steam to escape. Cook for 8 mins in the microwave on high (650 watts). Remove cling film, turn chicken breasts over, recover with new cling film as before and cook for another 6 mins on high.
 5. Put plates to warm. Stir the tomato puree into the remaining cream. Season.
 6. Remove cling film from the chicken. Pour over the tomato cream sauce and cook for a further two minutes or until the sauce is warm.
- Serve with sauté or new potatoes and a green vegetable. Delicious!

Eating Out



Few counties in England have the quality and diversity of local produce that Shropshire has. When we look at the many markets, laden with fresh fruit

and vegetables and see the butchers, bakers and delicatessens that are on almost every corner, you can see why Shropshire is a gourmet's idea of heaven.

The effect of all this gastronomic excellence on our local pubs, restaurants and tea-rooms throughout Shropshire has also been profound. We have rosetted restaurants, national award winning pubs and inns all offering proper food, made from proper ingredients.

If you were asked, by a visitor to Shropshire where you would recommend eating, what would you say?

If you have recently been to a pub, restaurant or tea-room that you feel you could recommend, why not let your fellow retired members know, so they can give it a try.

We would love to receive your reviews and we are more than happy to publish them.

Valuation

A valuation of the Shropshire County Pension Fund was undertaken in 2010 by the Scheme Actuary Mercers. The results published in March 2011 determined the overall funding level and set the employer contribution rates for the 3 financial years from 2011/12.

The actuary took into account the changes in the way pensions will increase ie. CPI not RPI and the short term public sector pay freeze.

The overall funding level reduced from 85% at the 2007 valuation to 81% in 2010. During the last three years the value of the Fund investments have increased by 5% to over £950 million, however, the liabilities have also increased over the last three years to over £1,170 million.

Mercers' have advised the Administering Authority (*Shropshire Council*) to collect contributions in a different way to previous years. The rates will be paid as a percentage of payroll in respect of future service benefits and as a lump sum £'s amount in respect of past service deficit. This avoids potential underpayment of contributions linked to pay should employer's payrolls reduce.

Wenlock Olympian Society

In Much Wenlock on Wednesday, 19th May, 2010, ‘Wenlock’ was unveiled as the London 2012 Olympic mascot. This honoured the place in Olympic history of William Penny Brookes, the founder of the Wenlock Olympian Games and the man who inspired the revival of the modern International Olympics.

The current annual Wenlock Olympian Games cost around £17,000 and are organised by the dedicated volunteer workforce of Brookes’ Wenlock Olympian Society (*WOS*).



The Start of the 7 Mile Road Race
Organised by WOS

While the London 2012 Organising Committee (*LOCOG*) will offer 6.6 million tickets to the public at prices ranging from £20 to £2,012, *WOS* will open the gates to its Games and welcome all spectators free of charge – as it has done since they first started back in 1850.

In 1860, Brookes was the architect of the Shropshire Games, later the National Olympian Games set up on the same principal: The town or city which hosted the Games raised the funding.

Brookes was an agitator: for the rights of country and military surgeons, and to get Physical Education (*not just Drill exercises*) on the curriculum of National Schools. Of most significance were his attempts to get the Greek Government to fulfil his life-long dream - to stage an international Olympics in Athens.

Then, in 1890, the octogenarian Brookes invited the young multi millionaire Baron Pierre de Coubertin to Much Wenlock. Their mutual interest was physical education and national bodily health – hot topics in the Victorian period. His life-course changed and he went on to organise the first international Olympics modelled on the Wenlock Games with its parade, ceremonies and medal awards, in conjunction with the rotation system of the Shropshire/ National Olympian Games.

April 1896 saw the first International Olympics in Athens – sadly, just four months after Brookes’ death. In his obituary to Brookes, Coubertin wrote: “*If the Olympic Games that Modern Greece has not been able to revive still survives today, it is due, not to a Greek, but to Dr. William Penny Brookes,*” although Brookes would never have acknowledged this to be the case.

Date for your diary!

To hear more about William Penny Brookes, Helen Clare Cromarty will be presenting an illustrated talk on 21st June at Theatre Severn.

Contact Us

If you can read this but know someone who cannot, please contact us on **(01743) 252130** so we can provide this information in a more suitable format. If you wish to contact us on any issue in this magazine or have a query regarding your pension, please contact Pension Services. Office hours are *Monday to Thursday 8.45am to 5pm and Friday 8.45am to 4pm*. If you would prefer to discuss your pension in person, you are welcome to come in and see us at the address below:

Pension Services, Shropshire Council, Shirehall,
Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND

Email: pensions@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 252130 | **Fax:** 01743 252197

Web: www.shropshirecountypensionfund.gov.uk

Other useful contacts

Tax Office Tel: 0845 3667815

Pension Credit Tel: 0800 991234

Department for Work and Pensions Tel: 0845 6060265

Website: www.thepensionservice.gov.uk/pensioncredit

Future pay dates

Below are the dates when you can expect your money to be in your bank or building society account over the coming months.

28 April 2011

27 May 2011

29 June 2011

29 July 2011

26 August 2011

29 September 2011

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