

THE OLYMPIC TORCH IS CARRIED THROUGH WICKHAMFORD
SUNDAY 1ST JULY 2012

The weather was fine, although extremely windy. Now and again the sun shone but mostly there were grey clouds in the sky. I decided to walk to Wickhamford to see the Olympic torch and the flame passing through the village.

Armed with my camera I set out at 10.30 a.m from Sands Lane in Badsey, wanting to find a good spot to view the torch as it would proceed along the road at Pitchers Hill in Wickhamford. Alex Chantler – Mayne would carry the torch to Pitchers Hill, where Moira Starkey would take over just past Sandys Avenue, and carry it further along to Wayside Farm Shop.

When I arrived, there was just one lady walking along the pavement. It was a friend of Moira Starkey. The lady told me that Moira would be sitting in a wheelchair and would be pushed by a runner along the way. Moira will be holding the Olympic torch for everyone to see it. After a chat with the lady, I made my way to stand outside the Dogs Trust. Gradually, people appeared from seemingly nowhere and it didn't take long before onlookers lined the pavements, waiting for 12 o'clock when the Torch was expected.

A student came along selling British flags. Later on I saw him and enquired whether he had had luck selling them. He told me he had sold out. They cost him £1.12 to make and he sold them for £2.00 each. The profit he made would go toward his university costs.

Around 11.30 a.m. quite a few police cars and BMW motorbike riders began escorting an array of vehicles. Samsung, Coca Cola, TSB Lloyds buses drove along before the Olympic torch arrived. After the sponsorship vehicles had gone, at last the Olympic torch appeared, around 12:05pm. It passed by so quickly and it was difficult to get a close up photo of the torch. After taking the one photo, I decided to run ahead in front of Moira and take another picture. It wasn't easy, as people were standing along the pavement. I ran into the road, overtook Moira and turned to pose with my camera. One of the accompanying runners asked me to please move over out of the road. I clicked my camera and quickly got back on the pavement. The show was over, but I had two photos of Moira with the Olympic torch and flame.

On my return walk through Wickhamford I took some photos in the village. For example, the Ryan Bell family have now moved out of Wickhamford Manor and the new owners are re-landscaping the gardens. I peeped over the wall and took a photo. Hody's place is being re-thatched, so I felt it was worth taking a photo of the work in progress there, and John Newbury's garden looked very colourful with some beautiful plants and bushes out in flower at the front of the house.

Valerie Magan
1st July 2012

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Onlookers begin to arrive



Jenny Higley, Penny and Gary Bailey



A vintage car toots loudly as it passes us by



The Dogs Trust promoting the dogs while everyone waits for the torch to arrive



The Dogs Trust staff

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There was a large police presence, many willing to have their photos taken.



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The Sponsorship buses pass by :
Below left (in background "the golden BMW" car).
Below right, blue Samsung bus



Lloyds TSB bus



Coca Cola bus



More police escorts

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The torch is on its way we're told, it's just behind those vehicles in the background.

The Traffic backs up



Moira Starkey in her wheelchair being pushed along toward the Wayside Farm Shop

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Moira Starkey smiles for my photo.
Behind her, another "golden" BMW sponsor car

THE TORCH IN THE VALE

Carrying torch was fantastic

AN inspirational pensioner has spoken of the "fantastic" experience of carrying the Olympic Torch when it returned to the county.

Moira Starkey, aged 85, from Storrige, near Malvern, completed her leg of the nationwide relay in Wickhamford, near Evesham, shortly after noon on Sunday.

Setting off from Pitchers Hill, near Sandys Avenue, she was supported by about 30 friends and neighbours after being chosen as a torch-bearer for fund-raising work in aid of breast cancer charity the Haven.

She said: "It was fantastic. I have never seen so many people and they were all waving and cheering. I enjoyed every minute of it and I am very grateful to have been picked to do it because I am nobody. I can think of a few other people who well merited it who were not picked.

"It was as though the coronation had been through every village. It got everybody out and I don't think we shall see this sort of thing again in our lifetimes."

Her part of the route was completed in a wheelchair pushed by fellow Haven

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fund-raiser Mike Chandler, a Hereford postman who raised more than £22,000 by running with his postie's trolley from his home to London before completing the London Marathon.

She has raised more than £12,000 for the charity since 2004 when a close friend and neighbour was diagnosed with breast cancer and visited the charity in Hereford.

She was nominated by the centre's staff as a thank-you for her efforts which have seen her making home-made jam, marmalade and lemon curd to sell to and arranging fund-raising events such as pancake races, coffee mornings, country and western nights, indoor curling competitions and opening her cottage garden to visitors.

To boost her total, she has donated her torch and torch-bearer's uniform to the charity to be auctioned or raffled.

The charity, which also has centres in London and Leeds, works with the NHS to provide free one-to-one support for anyone who is affected by breast cancer.



I ENJOYED EVERY MINUTE OF IT: Moira Starkey, aged 85, takes her turn with the Olympic torch in Wickhamford.

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A previous torch bearer
(name unknown)



On the way home to Badsey. John Newbury's garden
(right), in the village street, Wickhamford



Hody's Place gets a new thatched roof. Work in Progress



The new owners in Wickhamford Manor are re-landscaping the Manor Gardens