

Thursday 20 August 2020 marks the Paralympic Heritage Flame Lighting Ceremony at Stoke Mandeville Stadium and Local students are invited to be a part of Paralympic history!

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WheelPower, the national Charity for wheelchair sport are excited to announce that Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) is offering an amazing opportunity to students from Buckinghamshire, aged 12+, to become part of Aylesbury Vale's Paralympic history. Students with a keen eye for design and engineering are invited to help create a truly dynamic and dramatic cauldron that will be centre stage at the fourth Paralympic Heritage Flame Lighting Ceremony at Stoke Mandeville Stadium on Thursday 20 August 2020.

A new, specially commissioned Paralympic Heritage Flame Cauldron is to be created for the 2020, and future, Paralympic Heritage Flame Lighting Ceremonies at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. AVDC is calling for talented, local students to get involved in the design process in two sessions this Autumn run by outdoor arts company, Festive Road, and attended by the National Paralympic Heritage Trust (NPHT). Selected students will then have the opportunity to participate in the manufacture of the cauldron at a Festive Road workshop in Milton Keynes.

Taking place at the birthplace of the Paralympic movement, the Paralympic Heritage Flame Lighting Ceremony promises to be another spectacular outdoor celebration and will form part of the five-day-long official Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Torch Relay. The cauldron will be an integral part of the ceremony and wider heritage celebration event for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Torch Relay and future Paralympic Torch Relays. Positioned in pride of place, the cauldron will be used to light the Paralympic Heritage Flame which is then virtually passed to the hosting country.

In Tokyo, groups of three torchbearers will transport the flame to three regions in Japan. The flames will visit: schools, hospitals and facilities connected with the Paralympics, and this year a digital flame has been approved for sharing on social media. The flame will then return to Tokyo to be brought back together to form the Paralympic Flame. The number three is symbolic of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, the objective of which is to work towards a: "fully-inclusive society that celebrates our different values and potential – regardless of age, gender, nationality, or impairment."

Chief Executive of WheelPower Martin McElhatton comments: "We are extremely proud of our Paralympic heritage at Stoke Mandeville. The eyes of the world will be focused on Stoke Mandeville Stadium on Thursday 20 August 2020 as WheelPower and our event partners stage the Paralympic Heritage Flame Lighting Ceremony for Tokyo 2020, celebrating the Paralympic Values and sending our best wishes and support to all Paralympians and people in Japan."

To find out more about the Paralympic Heritage Cauldron project, please contact AVDC's Communities Team on 01296 585298 or email communities_team@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk.

Transforming lives through sport

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The Paralympic Heritage Flame Lighting Ceremony partners include AVDC, WheelPower, More Leisure (operators of Stoke Mandeville Stadium), The International Paralympic Committee, British Paralympic Association, and the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games organisers.

For more information or to arrange an interview/photography with a WheelPower representative, please contact:

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Notes to Editor:

Links to relevant websites to find out more information on the forthcoming Paralympics.

www.tokyo2020.org

www.paralympicheritage.org.uk/

www.paralympics.org.uk/

www.paralympic.org/

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