

London Olympics - 2012

54 days more



Giant Olympic rings pass the O2 arena, as they were launched on to the River Thames to mark the start of the London Games.



Olympic rings float down River Thames

Giant Olympic Rings were floated down the River Thames to mark a few days to go until the London Games.

They will appear again in the capital during the summer, with another set hung at Tower Bridge.

There will also be a series of Olympic and Paralympic projections and displays on the Houses of Parliament and in Trafalgar Square.

Meanwhile, the cost of the displays has been criticised after it was revealed the total bill will be more than £ 3 million.

The rings, standing at 36ft high and 82ft wide, travelled on a barge through the centre of the city and passed landmark locations.

They will feature as part of the 'Iconic Spectaculars' programme, intended to help improve the look of London during the Games.

London Mayor Boris Johnson defended the display and said: "Everybody always said London was going to be gloomy about the Olympics, but I've never believed that."

"People have remained consistently enthusiastic."

"This is a very innovative way of showing off the rings and, with 150 days to go, we are on time and on budget."

There will be free cultural events in every borough of London, which will include a floating opera inspired by The Owl And The Pussycat to be staged on the city's canals.

The floating opera is to be devised by Monty Python star Terry Jones and composer Anne Dudley and will form part of Secrets: Hidden London, which will see organisations including the Royal Opera House and English National Ballet transform canals, lidos and other city sites.

- Mirror



Local hero: Wales rugby union captain Sam Warburton with the flame. Pic: PA

