

London Olympics 2012

47 more days



Olympic flame reaches Glasgow

Scotland has welcomed the Olympic flame for the first time as the torch relay travelled from Stranraer to Glasgow.

Hollywood actor James McAvoy ran a leg in his native Glasgow, where Winter Olympics gold medalist, curler Rhona Martin, also carried the flame.

The flame also visited the birthplace of poet Robert Burns and Hampden Park, home of the Scotland football team. Soldier Ross McClelland was cheered by thousands as he began day 21 of the Olympic torch relay in Stranraer.

Friday's 138-mile route took in Cairnryan, Ballantrae, Girvan, Turnberry, Maidens, Kirkoswald, Maybole, Alloway, Ayr, Kilmarnock, Kilmaurs, Stewarton, Dunlop, Barrmill, Beith, Lochwinnoch, Kilmalcolm, Port Glasgow, Rutherglen and Giffnock before reaching Glasgow.

The day started at Stranraer's Castle Square at 06:00 BST where, despite the early hour a sizeable crowd had turned out to see the Scottish tour begin. Mr McClelland, who returned from a seven-month tour of duty in Afghanistan last year, said: "It was amazing. There was a lot more people than I was expecting because it's so early in the morning."

"As soon as I got off the bus, they all started cheering really loudly, and I started feeling nervous. I loved it."

Mid-morning, Kirsty Kane carried the flame to the Robert Burns Birthplace museum in Alloway.

The 17-year-old is learning to live without a wheelchair despite suffering from cerebral palsy for most of her life. In front of the museum she passed the flame to Olympian Suzanne Otterson, 38, from Ayr, who represented Great Britain in the figure skating at the Albertville Winter Olympics in 1992. Later, Isle of Skye trials cyclist Daniel MacAskill pulled a wheelie as he carried the flame in front of Glasgow's Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum before pedalling off down the road for another show of tricks.

The relay was given an enthusiastic welcome in Glasgow even before Martin and McAvoy took their turns

with the flame. Ross Morrison was the last torchbearer of the day and he was given the honour of lighting the cauldron on stage to signal the start of an evening celebration in George Square.

The 18-year-old, who was nominated because he is a carer for his parents and runs an after-school basketball club, described the experience as "absolutely amazing". With the cauldron lit, the evening festivities, featuring performances by Eliza Doolittle, Emeli Sande and General Fiasco, began.

A total of 8,000 people will carry the Olympic flame during its 8,000 mile, 70-day journey to the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in London on 27 July.

- BBC



GLASGOW, SCOTLAND - JUNE 8: Actor James McAvoy runs down Buchanan Street carrying the Olympic Torch during the leg between Stranraer and Glasgow on June 8, 2012 in Glasgow, Scotland. The Olympic torch arrived in Scotland last night to begin its tour of Scotland. The Olympic Flame is now on day 21 of a 70-day relay involving 8,000 torchbearers covering 8,000 miles. AFP



Russian honour guards carry wreaths and the coffin of the late Soviet hockey legend Vladimir Krutov during a farewell ceremony at CSKA arena in Moscow, on June 8, 2012. Krutov, 52, the two-time Olympic Games winner and repeated world champion died in a Moscow hospital a day before yesterday. In the early 1980s he was teamed up by Sergei Makarov and Igor Larionov into the famous KLM attacking line, which guided the Soviet Red Machine into the 1984 and 1988 Olympic triumphs and the 1981 victory at Canada Cup. AFP



NEW YORK, NY - JUNE 7: Coleman Scott celebrates his win over Shawn Bunch to earn a spot on the United States Olympic team during the Grapple in the Apple on June 7, 2012 in Times Square in New York, New York. AFP



BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND - JUNE 3: In this handout image provided by LOCOG, Torchbearer Geraldine Mccann carries the Olympic Flame on the Torch Relay leg between Newtownards and Stormont on day 16 of the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay on June 3, 2012 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The Olympic Flame is now on day 16 of a 70-day relay involving 8,000 torchbearers covering 8,000 miles. AFP