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PRESS RELEASE

With pic:

JOIN IN THE ACTION AS A GAMES TIME KENT GREETER

Kent County Council in partnership with Visit Kent is offering 300 volunteers the opportunity to become official Games Time Kent Greeters and play an active part in the 2012 Games.

Games Time Kent Greeters will be on hand to provide support and advice to residents and visitors from July 17 to September 9. They will play an essential role along the route of the Torch Relay, including the special events and overnight stops at Dover and Maidstone, and at key transport hubs such as Dover, Ebbsfleet and Sevenoaks during the Olympics and Paralympics.

Volunteers need to be over 18 years old with an overriding enthusiasm for the Games, the county and meeting new people. No specific skills or qualifications are required and full customer service training will be given including access to a fun, online Welcome to Kent training programme.

In return for giving their time for free, Games Time Kent Greeters will be part of a group of like-minded people, benefit from certificated training opportunities,

receive free travel and refreshments for volunteering shifts, a free official 2012 uniform and backpack, and a souvenir 2012 pin badge.

The search for volunteers to become Games Time Kent Greeters was launched by Visit Kent at Penshurst Place, near Tonbridge, on Friday (January 20), by Olympics Minister Hugh Robertson, who is also MP from Faversham and Mid-Kent.

The project is funded by Kent County Council's Sport, Leisure and Olympics Service, and is delivered in partnership with Voluntary Action Maidstone.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive at Visit Kent, said: "This is a tremendous opportunity to play a significant role in the greatest sporting spectacular in the world – helping Kent people and our visitors capture all the excitement of the Games.

"Our Games Time Kent Greeters will be our frontline ambassadors welcoming our guests from across the world. They will be helping our visitors have such a memorable and enjoyable experience that they will want to return to Kent in years to come and will recommend the Garden of England as a great destination to all their friends and families."

Application forms will available from libraries, volunteer centres and council Gateway service centres across the county. You can also apply online at www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk/gamestimegreeters. The deadline for applications is Friday, April 6.

All applications will be reviewed and a shortlist drawn up for interviews to be held in April and May.

Ends

For further media information, please contact Delphine Houlton or Andrew Metcalf, at Maxim, tel: 01892 513033, email: Delphine@maxim-pr.co.uk; or Julie Edwards, at Visit Kent, tel: 01227 812900, email: Julie.edwards@visitkent.co.uk. For images of Kent, go to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/visitkent/>

Notes to Editors

- Visit Kent Limited is a public/private sector partnership supported by Kent County Council, Medway Council, the district and borough councils, and the leading sector tourism businesses in Kent. Visit Kent champions Kent's £3.2 billion tourism industry by targeting UK and overseas markets, improving quality and skills, and growing investment in the tourism product. For further information, go to www.visitkent.co.uk or www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk.
- Interreg IVA is an EU funding programme which aims to promote joint working and cross-border co-operation between partner organisations on either side of a European land or maritime border. Interreg is part of the European Regional Development Fund.
The '2 Seas' Interreg IVA programme is one of two programmes involving Kent. European partners in this programme are France, Flanders and The Netherlands.
For further information, go to www.interreg4a-2mers.eu
- Visit Kent is one of the leading partners of the Kent Campaign for the 2012 Games, which is led and managed by the Kent County Council Sport, Leisure and Olympics Service. This campaign seeks to maximise the long term impact on the county from the 2012 Games, as well as oversee 'Games time' within Kent. The campaign includes work across the arts, economic development, volunteering, sport, schools and young people, transport, resilience and tourism.

