



▲ Still standing sentinel over the Wenlock Olympian Games are the ruins of the Grade II listed windmill, now in a greatly improved state thanks to the efforts of the Much Wenlock Windmill Preservation Trust.

As noted earlier, trees now obscure much of the view of the games from **Windmill Hill**. One of the most imposing of these trees, next to the bowling green on Linden Field, is the **Quercus Concordia**, or Golden Oak (*above right*), planted by Pierre de Coubertin during his visit in October 1890 and bedded in with a libation of champagne. The original plaque (*above*) is now in the Wenlock Museum.

In July 1990, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Coubertin's visit, a second oak was planted near the original tree by HRH the Princess Royal, herself a member of the International Olympic Committee.

Four years later a third tree was planted by the IOC President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, to honour William Penny Brookes.

During the preparations for the 2012 Olympics it was announced that an oak tree germinated from an acorn from the original 'Coubertin Oak' will be planted somewhere within the Olympic Park in London.



The modern day Wenlock Olympian Games take place each year over a weekend in July. Following the reconstruction of the William Brookes School and the laying of a modern athletics track in 2009–10, Linden Field has changed markedly. But, tilting apart, the range of activities remains much the same as in the 1850s, and the majority of participants still come from clubs around Shropshire, the Midlands and Wales, and at junior level, from local schools. The games are organised and staffed entirely by volunteers brought together by the Wenlock Olympian Society.

