



Portishead Open Air Pool

eNEWSLETTER

Issue 3 , May 2011

We have had a tremendous start to the Season with the best Easter weather for many years and Saturday seeing the warmest temperatures since 1949. This is the first time the Pool has been open so early and most other seasonal lidos do not open until May, so the risk paid off and everyone had a really great time.

In this edition, we will be reporting on the first day of the Season and the Official Opening on Easter Monday, as well as three more Meet the Team profiles and updates on the café, pool temperatures and season tickets.

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Easter Opening is Huge Success

The Pool opened for the 2011 Season at midday on Thursday 21 April with sunny skies and an enticingly warm water temperature of 28°C. By 11.30am quite a queue had built up at the new entrance, at the head of which was an excited Troy Stevens, 11, from Stroud, with his mother, brother and sister. His mum told me that the family had enjoyed themselves so much at the Pool last season, they couldn't wait to come again. Although Stroud has its own Lido, it is not open until May and the water is unheated. Several other families had come from Bristol and Gloucester, with one lady originally from southern California telling me that the Pool reminded her of home!

The weather remained glorious over the whole Bank Holiday weekend, with swimmers and sunbathers flocking in every day. Attendance figures were: Thursday 609, Friday 563, Saturday 660, Sunday 325, Monday 637, in total a whopping 2794. Keep your fingers crossed that summer is as good as this wonderful spring.

(See report on the Official Opening Ceremony overleaf).



Above: Jagger Fowler and friends call at the Tuck Shop

Above top: Troy Stevens aged 11, right, was first in the water on Opening Day

Above: Children enjoying the remodelled toddler pool

Liam Fox Officially Declares Pool Open



"If you want to see an example of the Big Society at work, come to Portishead where community spirit is strong and local determination is epitomised in a project such as this swimming pool"

Easter Monday saw the official opening of the Pool and the inauguration of the new Biomass Boiler by our local MP and Defence Secretary **Liam Fox**, who arrived shortly after midday. He was welcomed by a guard of honour from the Air Cadets, as well as **Sally Chorlton**, Vice Chair of the Trust and **Julie Davenport**, CEO of Good Energy who sponsored the boiler. They were escorted into the yard

by **Duncan Faulkes** to see the boiler working, and then to the poolside where Dr Fox officially christened the boiler Tiger, the winning name in the children's competition, chosen by a young man called Willisy. Afterwards, Dr Fox mingled with the sixty guests, including Trustees, local councillors and volunteers. He told me how impressed he was by the Trust's achievements and said "If you want to see an example of the Big Society at work, come to Portishead where community spirit is strong and local determination can overcome problems, as epitomised in a project such as this swimming pool"



ple enjoying themselves. Many other pool users said how much they liked the toddler pool and volunteer **Jean Jelley**, who has worked at the Pool for many years, commented that she had never seen it so well used and that the walk-in slope was much more attractive for little ones.

Anti-clockwise from top: Unveiling the plaque; Liam Fox with Juliet Davenport, Sally Chorlton, Duncan Faulkes; Dave Skelhorne, Jake Fronda, Andy Thatcher and Ron Button; Reyna Knight cuts the ribbon, Liam Fox mingles with Trustees and volunteers; bird's eye view of the Pool (pictures courtesy of Bryan Farrell—see our [Facebook](#) site for more pics)

Meet the Team

Duncan Faulkes Management Team

I'm a project manager, and I organised the funding and installation of the new biomass boiler named 'Tiger' for the Pool. I am also a member of the Premises Sub-Committee.

I moved to the South West with my wife Nikki in 1996. At the time I had a job in Scotland and while I was away working in Grangemouth, Nicki accepted a new job and moved all our belongings to Bristol.

My father-in-law calls me 'the three degrees' as I have one in Philosophy, one in Mechanical Engineering and I am currently studying for a renewable energy MSc at Loughborough.



My career highlights include years of working with 'clean and dirty water', bulk pharmaceutical manufacturing and project management of renewable energy projects including Solar Power and Biomass.

Whilst living in Bristol we used to escape city life by cycling over to the Royal Inn for pub lunches, however we didn't discover the outdoor pool

until after we moved here in 2005.

For some time we had hankered after living by the sea and discovered our house having driven along the coast road on the way back from a house-hunting trip to Clevedon.

I have a keen interest in the weather so I can determine whether it's best to go dinghy sailing in Redcliffe Bay, tandem cycling in the Mendips or wild swimming in the outdoor pool.

I am a Black belt so if anyone tinkers with 'Tiger', I know what to do!

Brenda Birkinshaw—Trustee

I have lived in Portishead since 2004 and was co-opted as a Trustee in 2009.

John and I have been married 42 years and have two sons and four grandchildren in Bristol and one daughter and one grandchild in New Zealand (a good excuse for a long holiday).

I am now a Semi retired trainer, having spent my working life in Social Care for the Elderly, mostly managing Residential Homes for people with Dementia and training Social Care staff.

Having become involved with the Trust for the Makeover, I then helped form a committee for fund raising.



As a Trustee I am involved with the Health and Safety at the Pool and also enjoy volunteering in reception and the tuck shop.

I have taken the lead on the 50th anniversary celebrations in 2012 (see page 4).

Any free time I have is spent with the family, reading, travelling, card making and sewing.



Follow us on Twitter

We are now on Twitter! Follow us on our [Twitter page](#) and look out for regular tweets from our Pool staff with up to date stuff like holiday opening hours, special events and promotions and more ...

Half Term Opening

If the weather forecast is good, we plan to operate summer holiday opening hours, ie 8.30am to 7pm during the School Half Term 30 May-3 June. Look out for announcements on our [Facebook](#) site, the [Pool website](#), [Twitter](#) or call the Pool on **01275 843454**.

William Hunter—Management Committee

Since graduating in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University, my career has been in extraction metallurgy – firstly steel making and then zinc smelting, mainly in operational and technical management. My final 15 years before retirement were as a freelance consultant carrying out investigations and research globally.

My wife Liz, who was a theatre sister, and I first visited Portishead in 1968, before we were married, and this happened to be around Battery Point. We did not know that we would be moving here in 1979, or that we would spend so much time over the years at the pool, including with our children, now in their 40's and long gone from home!

We were very much involved with the campaign to save the pool and with its makeover and are still involved with volunteer activities. We look after season (and Saver) tickets, do volunteer sessions, and I am on the Health and Safety Subcommittee, monitor pool temperatures and chemicals and make the odd film or poster, and we both get involved where we feel we can help. Liz makes the best buns in Portishead and I give a lot of excellent advice when I have not been asked!



Looking ahead to 2012 Mini Olympics



In the March Newsletter, we reported on proposals to hold a mini Olympics from 2nd to 21st July next year to celebrate the Pool's 50th anniversary and co-ordinate with the London Olympic Games.

Trustee **Brenda Birkinshaw** is forming a committee to take on certain areas of the planning and arranging:



Marketing, sponsorship and funding



General help – marshals and stewards



Entertainment



Catering



Bookings and tickets

If you feel you could help in any of these capacities please contact Brenda by e-mail brenda@brendabirkinshaw.co.uk or 07896633900. She would like to have the first meeting as soon as possible.

Recycling our Wood Ash

Did you know there are lots of uses for wood ash around the house and garden? Check some of them out on [This Old House](#) website. You can add it to your garden compost in small amounts and spread it around your fruit bushes in the spring. [The Royal Horticultural Society](#) also have some good advice on their website.

If you would like some wood ash from Tiger, our biomass boiler, bring a suitable container (eg an old compost bag or plastic bucket with lid) down to the Pool during opening hours and our Duty Managers will be happy to fill it for you. The ash is purely from wood and there are no harmful additives.

Season tickets

Including those for whom we are still waiting on photos (Nudge! Nudge!) we passed the 200 mark before the end of April, which is more than the season total for either 2009 or 2010. They are still great value for regular swimmers even up to the end of May. Just a reminder – you do not need expensive photos – home printed are fine, so long as they are roughly passport size.

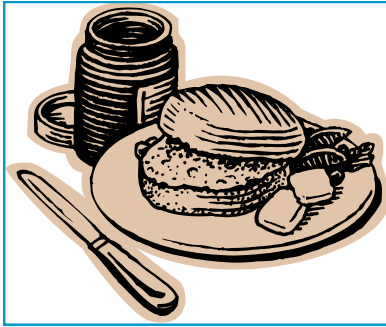
Break-in at Restaurant

In the early hours on Sunday 17 April, police attended a break-in at the Pool cafe/restaurant. The intruder had entered the premises through a broken window and an empty petrol can was found at the scene.

Police have arrested a woman in her 40s in connection with the incident and she was later released on bail pending further enquiries.

Five The Beach is now Poolside!

We are pleased and excited to announce that Mary and Alan Freeman who run the well known [Five the Beach](#) licensed cafe on the sea-front at Clevedon, will be opening their new venue at the Pool cafe on Monday 23 May. **Five Poolside** will be offering full English breakfast



until 11am daily with a selection of newspapers, lunch and afternoon tea, as well as snacks and refreshments throughout the day. Mary is famous locally for her delicious home made cakes and we challenge you to find a better cream tea anywhere! For an idea of the fare offered, click on the link above.

The cafe will be open during Pool hours initially and hopes to offer Sunset Suppers when fully staffed. **Diary date:** Mary intends to host an event on 25 May at 7pm for Members, Volunteers and Staff— look out for further details on [Facebook](#), the [Pool website](#), or [Twitter](#).

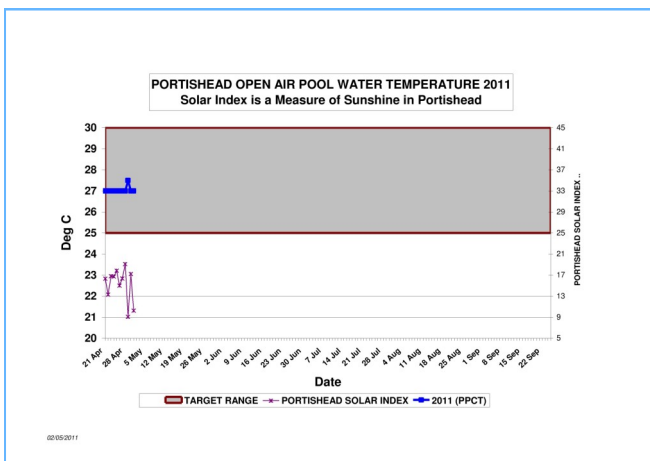
Volunteers Meeting

On 19 May, venue and time to be confirmed. Trustees and management subcommittee members will update volunteers on the opening weeks, the recent events around the cafe, and plans for the summer. If you would like to add any items to the agenda, please tell **Ann Hailwood**. Look out for further information posted at the pool and online (website and Facebook).

Pool Temperatures

The chart shows temperatures for the start of the season. The Portishead solar index is an indication of relative solar radiation in Portishead and therefore is a measure of sunshine. So far the water temperature has been very consistent and the weather generally sunny, with a couple of less sunny days on the weekend of 30 April/1 May.

The latest chart can always be seen at <http://www.williamhunter.co.uk/POOL/2011pooltempsetc.pdf>. The lifeguards are also regularly measuring water quality and, on 26th April, the pool could not be opened until 2pm due to a power failure stopping water treatment. We apologise, but "safety first".



Five Poolside and Five the Beach are now looking for staff



Experienced chefs and front of house staff required

Contact Mary and Alan:

alanjfreeman@btconnect.com

07774940348

Private Hire

Why not hire the Pool for your private functions—parties, clubs, school gala?

During the next four weeks, the following bookings have been made:

- Hazel's Swimfit Masters Swimming*
Mondays 6.30 – 7.30pm
- Bristol and District Triathlon Club*
Tuesdays 7 – 8pm
- Portishead and Clevedon Triathlon Club*
Wednesdays 7 – 8pm
- Clevedon Swimming Club*
Fridays from June

To book, phone **01275 843454** or email us at :

poolmanager@portisheadopenairpool.org.uk

The following hire charges apply:

Single lane hire (during normal swimming session)	£25.00
Club pool hire per hour	£70.00
Club ½ pool per hour	£40.00
1 st hour—parties for up to 25	£90.00
Per additional hour	£70.00
1 st hour for parties for 26—80	£140.00
Per additional hour	£115.00

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