



Portishead Open Air Pool

e NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 , April 2011

April is the busiest month of the year for many of our volunteers as we put all our efforts into getting ready for the new season. This bumper issue has a photo spread of the activities going on around the Pool, from major works on the new entrance and the toddler pool, to the routine but vital tasks like painting and varnishing to keep everything spick and span. We will also be reporting on the arrangements for the official opening on Easter Monday as well as recent events and the usual Meet the Team feature.

Thanks to all of you who let us know you enjoyed the last edition. We aim to continue our mission to keep you informed, so keep your articles, comments and questions coming. ppctnewsletter@gmail.com

Local MP to officiate at New Season Opening

The new biomass boiler has been successfully commissioned and final preparations are now underway for official inauguration on Easter Monday, 25 April. We are delighted to announce that the Hon. Liam Fox, MP for North Somerset and Secretary of State for Defence will be performing the opening ceremony at 12.00 midday and he will be accompanied by the Chairman of the Trust, David Coombes and Juliet Davenport, CEO of Good Energy. Other guests will include representatives from the South West Regional Development Agency who funded the rest of the project, contractors and others who have helped make this project a reality.



Commissioning the boiler

In a correction to last month's article, the Pool has been chosen as one of only 2 projects in the south west (not 18 as previously stated) to benefit from funding from the leading renewable energy supplier Good Energy; it was also one of 18 to receive funding from the SWRDA.

Other events on the day will be a Name the Boiler competition for the children, following the opening of the toddler pool in the morning – look out for the poster for details.

We are looking for volunteers to help set up the refreshment tent and tables, donations of cakes, and marshals to guide people around the route. Please contact Brenda, Ann or Kate or email us if you able to offer your services.

Prices for 2011

Single Swims

Adult swim	£4.50
Junior (2-15 years)	£3
Student in full-time education (with student card)	£3
Senior (60 years and over)	£3
Family of 4 (+£2 per extra child)	£12
Spectator	£3

Saver cards (12 for price 10 swims)

Adult	£45
Concessions—Junior/Student/Senior	£30

Season Tickets

Adult	£100
Junior, Student, Senior	£60
Family (1 adult+2 children/student)	£180
Family (2 adult+2 children/student)	£220
Other family sixes: 3+ children £30 per extra child	

Toddler Pool – Town Council Donation



Volunteers Mike Thatcher and Nick Lewis relaying slabs surrounding the toddler pool

In last month's issue, we reported on the remodelling of the old glass fibre children's pool, and we are pleased to announce that Portishead Town Council have now kindly donated £6,500 which allowed us to carry out extra enhancements. We have reformed the shallow end to make the slope gentler, with a beach effect finish, the floor of the pool is now a higher specification dimpled finished and there will be flex-flooring surround to the pool edge with an extra rubberised finish – much kinder for little feet!

History of the Pool

A brief history of the pool has been produced by John Birkinshaw and will be on sale at Reception, price £1. We are planning to produce a more detailed illustrated history in time for the 50th anniversary of its opening, in April 2012. If you have any information, documents, photographs or stories about the pool you think may be of interest, please contact John at 4 Como Court, Kilkenny Place, Portishead, Bristol, BS20 6JB

Tel: 01275 817158

email: johnbirkinshaw@mackintoshrose.com

New Canopy Makes an Entrance

It has always been the intention to make a better entrance to the pool reception and to create an area offering shade from the blistering sun or respite from the gentle force 8 breeze!! Well, this year, we have been able to bring Phase 1 to fruition.

Generous donors [Glulam Timber Engineering](#) and [Coxdome](#) have supplied the spruce and larch main structure and four of the six rooflights respectively, with our volunteers carrying out the main construction work. Various types of roof were considered before deciding on a fibreglass cover from the aptly named [Roof Nurse](#) who advised us on preparation before they come in this month to 'seal the envelope' (see ad on p.3)

We are currently applying a weather shield varnish to the framework, as we feel that this beautiful timber should be kept as natural as possible.

The main team of Dave Skelhorne, Bryan Farrell, Dave Russ, David Bellotti, Ron Button, Jim Skelhorne have been ably assisted by Andy Thatcher, Andrew Butland, Joyce Cooper, Ann Looker, Heather Pugh and Max and Theo Hartry, Ann Hailwood and Joe Lench – see photo spread

The actual reception area yet will be tackled in Phase 2 which, with sufficient funding and financial backing, will be carried out in the closed season. But at least there will be shelter in 2011.



The new entrance takes shape—Stuart Hamer of Glulam, Paul Richards and James Hailwood of [Richwood Construction](#), ably assisted by volunteers

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Meet the Team

Dave Skelhorne—Management Team



After completing three years at Loughborough I taught for 8 years followed by eleven years in full time youth work. A career change in 1982 took me into the building industry where I had many happy years working for Chamberlain's in Clifton who carried out contracts for Bristol University. In 1995 I accepted a job as a Building Contracts Supervisor for the University, a post I held until retiring in 2007. The most enjoyable contract during my time at the Uni was the repair, renovation and cleaning of the Tower of the Wills Memorial Building in 2006/7 – a once in a lifetime experience and the first time the building had been scaffolded since its completion in 1925.

Since retiring, I have been fortunate enough to be invited to do consultancy work for the University, a job which I love as well as run tours of the University Wills Building, belfry and tower on the first Wednesday of every month.

When the pool trust was formed and momentum building in early 2009, I signed up to the fledgling volunteer group and was approached by a certain Mr. Andy Thatcher who coerced me into taking a supervisory role before the makeover period (it was only after I had agreed that he mentioned he was popping off on holiday). That makeover time was very wet and very hard – but without all the goodwill, the generation of materials, stock, equipment etc. clearly we would not be where we are today.

Ann and I have lived in Portishead since 1985 and Joanne & Jim were born here. Even now they have nightmares of going to swimming club in near freezing water at the open air pool. My other community interest, going back over twenty years is the Portishead Christmas Lights of which I was chairman for seven years but feel now its time for the youngsters keep up the 'best in the West' tradition.

After the makeover, in September 2009 Ann and I escaped on a backpacking hostelling world tour which took us 62000 miles through twenty one countries but once back on Terra Firma, I decided that I wanted to get involved with the pool again.

Tony Stubbs—Trustee

I have lived in Portishead for 14 years with my wife Alison and 3 children, Laura, Will and Maddy. I run my own executive recruitment business, and also work as an independent financial consultant. My involvement with the trust stems from self interest - open air swimming is the Stubbs family's favourite activity (well after shopping)! Having enjoyed their own personal pool on many wet and windy weekend afternoons in the last years of North Somerset's management, there was no way we were going to accept the loss of this wonderful amenity.

Alison & Maddy featured in the Evening Post's STOP campaign articles and I was involved in the handover negotiations with NSC at the end of 2008, being appointed a trustee at the end of the 2009 season.

My prime responsibilities are in finance & administration, also sitting on the Governance subcommittee. I support Alison & Laura in their volunteering on reception and in the tuck shop. Will's band, [No Time for SightSeeing](#) have entertained all ages at recent pool parties.

In my spare time I like to disappear down the garden to commune with my fruit and vegetables and I love to travel, embarrassing the rest of the family by insisting on trying to speak to locals in their own language.



Lockhouse tenancy

Many of you will have read in the local Press about the latest developments with the tenancy of the Lockhouse Lounge which resulted in peaceful entry by the Bailiffs on Monday 4th April. Members will also have received an email from the Trust giving a comprehensive account of events, but for the information of non-Members, the full text of the Press Release is given at the end of this Newsletter.

Blooming lovely!

Brackenwood Nurseries of Abbots

Leigh have once again generously agreed to donate the plants and materials to fill the planters and hanging baskets which brighten up the entrance and poolside. These will be planted up by volunteers and set out in their final positions when all danger of frost has passed.



Last year's baskets and tubs

Pool Funding

Your open air pool is funded by swimming revenue, volunteers' fundraising and by donations. We would love to hear from you if you would like to make a single or regular donation to the Charitable Trust. Your donation will help towards developing the pool for generations to come and making it a better facility for the community. No matter how small, your donation will help. You can send a cheque, made payable to Portishead Pool Community Trust, to Andrew Butland, Finance Director, c/o 85 Brampton Way, Portishead, BS20 6YT, or by BACS payment direct into the Trust's account. Details can be provided by emailing andrewppct@gmail.com.

If you are a UK taxpayer, by signing a Gift Aid form, for every £1 donated, the Trust can claim up to 28p. Forms are available for download on the pool's website at

<http://www.portisheadopenairpool.org.uk/>

Season tickets

Application forms for season tickets (not transferable) are available for download from our website. Please send these or drop them in with cheque and photos (home printed is fine) to Mr and Mrs W H Hunter, 38 Denny View, Portishead, N Somerset BS20 8BT. Applications received in good time will result in tickets being ready for collection when the pool opens on 21 April. You may also apply at reception when or after the pool opens – in this case please keep your receipt with name as a temporary pass until your ticket(s) is(are) ready. If you have any queries please email: ppctseasonticket@aol.com.

In the past we have been asked what frequency of swimming makes a season ticket worthwhile. Taking an adult as an example, one daily entry fee a week throughout the season works out as about the same cost as a season ticket so that, for more than this, a season ticket is a significant concession – and you can go to the front of the queue on busy days! Please note that we will not be issuing "half season tickets" in mid-season.

Saver tickets (12 swims for the price of 10) will also be available at reception. These are transferable and are issued under two categories – Adult and Concession (Junior, Student and Senior).



Good Energy is the UK's 100% renewable electricity supplier. That means no carbon, no nuclear and no fossil fuels. No compromise.

We invest in community renewable heat projects; installing a biomass boiler at Portishead Pool will cut its fossil fuel use by 80%.

Switch your electricity supply to Good Energy quoting "Portishead Pool" and get £25 off your first bill and we'll give Portishead Pool Community Trust £25 too. It takes just five minutes either online at goodenergy.co.uk or give us a call on 0845 456 1640.

Future of Cafe/Restaurant

Trustees of the Portishead Pool Community Trust met last week (31 March 2011) to discuss options for the future of the now vacant open air Pool café/restaurant premises.

The premises will initially be hired out on a temporary and short term basis to a caterer who can provide a suitable offering for pool visitors and the wider public and who is willing to help get the café/restaurant open, albeit on a temporary and interim basis, to the public in time for Easter.

In the meantime, formal expressions of interest from potential longer-term tenants will be sought following a tendering process.

Tenders received will be assessed for their apparent financial viability and by reference to other criteria. Professional advice will be taken.

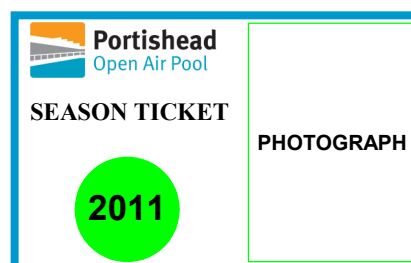
Pool users and the wider public will also be asked to express their aspirations for this facility during the tendering process.

Trustees have already received more than 20 informal expressions of interest regarding the café/restaurant premises.

The very successful pool tuck shop, led with great energy and dedication by volunteers Kate and Chris Burns and their team and which raised £11,000 in the 2010 swimming season, will be open again this year, selling teas, coffees, sweets, cold snacks, and ice cream.

Feedback from Pool users collected at the end of last year indicated that the tuck shop is one of the highlights of visiting the open air Pool. There is no planned change to the way in which the tuck shop is run in 2011.

For further information about the café/restaurant premises, potential applicants should contact Brenda Birkinshaw at brenda@brendabirkinshaw.co.uk with a copy to Sally Chorlton (Acting Chair) at sally.chorlton@yahoo.co.uk



Pool hire 2011

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



In next month's issue ...

Meet the Team, report on Opening Day, pics and more ...

Opening Times 2011

21 April—Friday 22 July (Summer Term time)

Sat, Sun, Bank holidays	8.30am-7.00pm
Mon, Wed, Fri	7.00-8.30am; 1.00-7.00pm
Tues, Thurs	1.00-7.00pm

23 July-31 Aug (School holidays) (provisional)

Weekends, Bank Holidays	8.0am-7.00pm
Weekdays	8.0am-7.00pm

1 Sept to closing date (Autumn term time)

Times and closing date to be confirmed. Please check our [website](#) or [Facebook page](#) for updates

Jane Humphreys—Trustee

I have lived in N Somerset for over 30 years, having moved back home to the West Country after a stint in London working as a construction and architectural journalist. I am married with four grown-up sons, who all have fond childhood memories of the pool. When the boys were growing up, I worked as a freelance writer, and contributed a daily cookery column for the Bristol Evening Post. After 10 years, culinary inspiration ran dry (and the on-hand testers began to rebel against increasingly inedible concoctions), so I changed career and now work at the University of the West of England as a Psychology lecturer.



Men (and Women) at Work

The photospread on the next page shows just some of our dedicated band of volunteers who have been working all through the closed season and particularly in the last couple of months on specific projects like the entrance, the boiler and the toddler pool, as well as routine maintenance tasks such as painting and cleaning and clearing to get ready for the beginning of the season. Many of them will continue to work on reception, the tuck shop and behind the scenes during the coming months and without their efforts we could not continue to run this wonderful amenity.

Will you join us? However much time you can spare, even a couple of hours here and there would be appreciated. Practical skills are particularly needed. Contact **Ann Hailwood** via the Newsletter or website.



My involvement with saving the pool began in earnest when I spoke at a NSC meeting in Weston and again at a public meeting in Portishead towards the end of 2008, arguing that the council needed to listen to the recommendations in the Quirk report (which presaged the "Big Society" in its view that councils should trust local people to run community assets). I am one of the six founder members of the Trust, and have been a director/trustee since the beginning. My main role includes Company secretarial matters, which includes membership responsibilities, aspects of governance related to the Trust's legal obligations, and adherence to Charity Commission guidelines.

Bike Ride raises £2000 for Charity



The ride finished at The Royal Inn and raised over £2000 for the [Nicola Corry Support Foundation](#) which supports families of cancer patients.

On 2nd April, the Pool was proud to be the starting point for the 'Bridge too Far' charity bike ride from Portishead to Chepstow and back. Hazel Davis of Swimfit was the organiser and 30 people took part - either as an individual or in a team.

The weather was cloudy and cold to start with, but the sun came out to encourage the participants to set off in a positive manner, although a 'Pink Lady' was overheard to say "It might be dark by the time I get back!"



Photo Tribute to our Volunteers

The following volunteers are featured in the photos below and on overleaf:

Jo Anning, Colin Baser, David Bellotti, Kate Burns, Ron Button, Joyce Cooper, Bryan Farrell, Ann Hailwood, Stuart Hamer (Glulam), Martine Hawley, Joe Lench, Ann Looker, Dot and John Lewis, Nick Lewis, Heather and Mike Pugh, Dave Russ, Dave Skelhorne, Dom Shakhli, Andy and Mike Thatcher; and Gordano Sixth Form students: Ben Hale, Rhys Laws, Paige Sharman, Zoe Thresher, Emma Tynan, Fern Warner-Clark and Ollie Wilkins.



Dot, John, Martine and Ann painting the terraces



Christmas fundraising for Martine and Heather



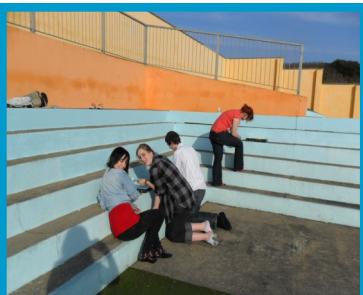
Heather and Jo Anning now know what it feels like to paint the Forth Bridge!



Andy and Dom at the sharp end



Ron, Dave Russ and Mike Pugh get stripping varnish and weeds



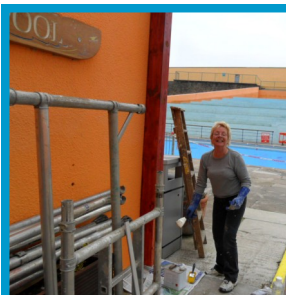
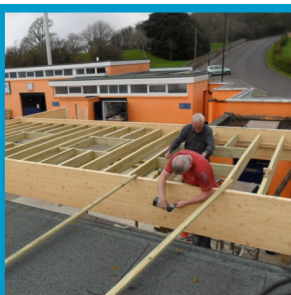
Gordano students tackle the terraces



Clearing up—Kate, Martine and Dot



Tea anyone?



Dave, Bryan, Ron, Joe, Joyce, Stuart, Mike and Nick and Andy get to grips with the new canopy

STATEMENT SUPPLIED TO THE PRESS ON BEHALF OF TRUSTEES MONDAY 28 MARCH 2011

The Trust is the leasehold owner of the facility, including the pool and the café/restaurant areas, under a long lease from North Somerset Council. It was not a condition of that long lease, or the previous short term lease by the Council to The Trust, that The Trust should or must sub-let any part of the facility to The Lockhouse Lounge Limited or to any sub-tenant.

From June 2009 The Trust sub-let (with the Council's consent) the café/restaurant area to a newly-formed company The Lockhouse Lounge Limited under a tenancy at will at a low rent, pending the outcome of negotiations with a view to reaching with the tenant mutually agreeable terms for an underlease at higher rental levels to replace the temporary tenancy at will.

Mutually agreeable terms for an underlease were not however able to be reached, one reason being that the proposed tenant would not agree to contribute to The Trust's legal costs or to the Council's costs that would be incurred for any grant of consent to underlease, which would otherwise have been wholly payable by The Trust.

In early August 2010 the proposed tenant's then solicitors informed The Trust's solicitors that they were seeking instructions from The Lockhouse Lounge Limited but nothing further was heard from them, thereby suspending further negotiations on a new underlease at higher rental levels, with the tenant continuing to be subject to the lower rental level under its tenancy at will.

From inception of the tenancy at will in June 2009 the tenant was persistently in breach of its tenancy terms by failing to make monthly rental payments on the dates required under the tenancy at will. On a number of occasions tenant cheques were dishonoured. Rent is currently due and unpaid.

The terms of the tenancy at will under which The Lockhouse Lounge occupied did not require The Trust to supply or meet the cost of electricity but it was agreed that the tenant would be linked to The Trust's supply and on-charged for electricity at cost to The Trust. For the last 9 months a separate meter installed has been recording supply and usage.

The tenant promised repeatedly to make payments to cover electricity costs but apart from a nominal payment on account of 2009 usage did not pay at all.

The Trust had repeatedly demanded payment of these accrued 2009 and 2010 electricity costs and again made demands in December 2010 and January 2011 for payment without result or reply from the tenant.

In February 2011 Trustees at the company's AGM, at which the tenant's representative was present, reported on the status of these arrears and stated that following the AGM the newly-constituted Board would consider remedies available.

At that date the tenant was also in arrears of the 1st January and 1st February 2011 rental payments but paid these on the day of the AGM. No response from the tenant was received as to their non-payment for electricity supplies.

By end February 2011 in excess of £11,000 accrued cost to The Trust of electricity supplies on-charged to the tenant remained unpaid (not including charges not yet invoiced for February and March 2011). The Trust's Financial Director had met with Martin Barnett of the tenant and gone through with him the calculations shown on the various unpaid invoices.

On 10th March 2011 The Trust sent the tenant its final demand for payment of £6,325.97 towards the total electricity arrears and again stated that if this was not paid further supplies to the tenant would be terminated. On previous occasions the tenant had been warned that without payment supplies would not be continued.

The tenant replied by letter declining to pay all of The Trust's invoices for electricity supplies back to 2009, repudiating payments previously promised, and providing no security for future supplies.

The Trust's solicitors notified the tenant by letter dated 17th March 2011 that since payment had not been made electricity supplies would be discontinued.

No reply was received from the tenant.

Discontinuance of supply occurred some days later.

Again, no reply was received from the tenant.

The Trust, owed substantial money, on advice instructed its solicitors to take steps to terminate the tenancy at will and this was done by letter on 23rd March, calling for possession and stipulating a termination date of Friday 25th March 2011.

The tenancy has since then been ended but the former tenant has declined to deliver up possession voluntarily and has unlawfully remained in occupation of the premises as a trespasser.

The Trust is legally advised and the matter is being dealt with by its solicitors.

Trustees continue to have regard to business realities in using their best endeavours to deliver public benefit to users of the Pool.

No further comment is being made at this time.

FURTHER STATEMENT TO PRESS ISSUED LATER THE SAME DAY (28 MARCH 2011)

Peaceable re-entry has occurred. The tenancy and the unlawful occupation following its termination have been lawfully brought to an end. The property has been secured with new locks and is under the control of the Trust.