



Portishead Open Air Pool

e NEWSLETTER

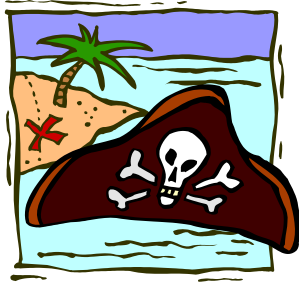
Issue 6 , August 2011

As we approach the end of our third season, as members, volunteers and staff, we should give ourselves a pat on the back for all we have achieved so far. This year alone, we have reduced our carbon footprint with the installation of the biomass boiler, completely refurbished the toddler pool (remember the sorry looking, boarded-over affair we inherited?) and installed a new covered entrance way. Thanks are also due to the local businesses who donated generously of their skills, time and money and the Gordano students who got stuck in with some essential maintenance work. In spite of the vagaries of the British climate, visitor numbers compare favourably with last year and we hope this will continue until our closing date on 25th September.

In this issue, we cover recent events at the Pool, details of the AGM, September opening hours, fundraising and Café news, as well as the regular Meet the Team feature, and a bit of nostalgia. This will be the last regular issue until next Season and we hope you have enjoyed them and found them useful. Watch out for smaller issues from time to time over the next six months. Ed.

ppctnewsletter@gmail.com

Ahoy me Hearties!



Extra summer fun was on the agenda on 9 August for the lucky families who spent the afternoon at the Pool. In keeping with the pirate theme we adopted for the Raft Race last month, Trustee Brenda Birkinshaw organised a giant inflatable pirate ship with a water slide from [Airqueue Inflatables](#). Extra lifeguards were on hand to make sure there were no mishaps and the children had a wonderful time scaling the sides and trying to stay upright on the wobbling decks.

"The pirate launch will definitely be on the agenda for next summer"



Cathy Sweeting from Winscombe was there with her children Harrison (9) and Romilly (7). Their great grandmother Joyce Sweeting (87) was happy to watch from the terrace and was thrilled to see the children having such a great time. This was echoed by the Evans family from Magor, South Wales, Jane and Paul, Jane's Dad Mike Reddy, and their children Beatrice

(13) and Alice (6). Mike, originally from Merthyr Tydfil, remembered when there were two similar lidos in the area, but regretted that they have nothing like that now. It was their first visit to the Pool, but they said they would definitely be back.

Also very impressed were the Bisdee family from W-s-M – Mum Michele and girls Daisy (18), Ellie (8) and Millie (4). Michele knew about the Pool as she works in Portishead, and thinks it is a great asset to the community.

The biggest group was 26 children from Torwood House School in Redland who run an annual summer holiday Club. Leader Becky Holman, a Portishead aerobics teacher, said it was great to have somewhere like the Pool for the children to let off steam in a safe environment and the children had had a fantastic time.

The pirate launch was such a success that it has been kept on until Bank Holiday Monday, and will definitely be on the agenda for next summer.



The kids cheer the arrival of the pirate ship, along with Trustees Brenda Birkinshaw, Sally Chorlton and Andy Thatcher

Pool hosts Portishead Triathlon



Andrew Butland at the finishing line

On Sunday 31 July the Pool played host to the Portishead Triathlon for the second year running. We opened to the public a little later than normal that day, but arriving swimmers were welcomed in to watch the event.

The race which was organised by multi-sports events company **DBMax**, saw the number of competitors increase from 180 to over 360 this year, showing just how popular triathlon is, and also that the Pool is seen as a great place to race.

Competitors completed a 400m pool swim, a 25km cycle up Nore Road and around Portishead, followed by a 5km run along the coast path and back, finishing on Battery Point.

One of the competitors was Pool Trustee Andrew Butland: 'It was fantastic to have such an event in our own town, and great that the pool was integral to the event. It's great publicity for the Pool, and teams came from as far as Exeter and London to race.'

The local Portishead and Clevedon triathlon club, PACTri, who use the pool to train on Wednesday evenings, entered 15 competitors and came away with a 3rd spot placing overall. Andrew was 65th.

All competitors were encouraged to come back to the Pool again and were given a 'bring a friend' voucher. We hope this will en-

courage more swimmers and families from Bristol and around, to visit us.

The race will be back next year, and it would be great if we could have a team entry representing Pool members, volunteers, staff and trustees! What colour kit?... orange of course!

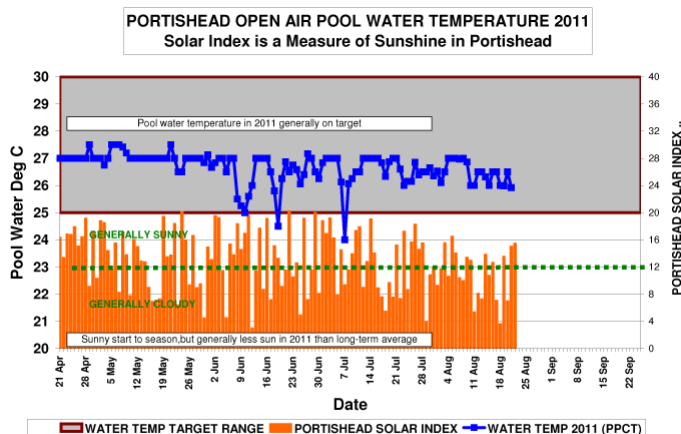


Triathletes wait for the whistle, while supporters look on.

Pool Temperatures

Pool temperatures have been on target for the 2011 Season

(The up to date version of this chart can be viewed at <http://www.williamhunter.co.uk/POOL/2011pooltempsetc.pdf> and chemistry buffs can view similar charts for pH and free chlorine).



Café News

Mary and Alan Freeman have run the Pool Café very successfully this summer. As planned, the lease for FivePoolside was on a short term, and it will expire in October.

Trustees have now started the process of finding a long-term tenant for the Café. Particulars were sent out earlier this week to interested parties, and a number of expressions of interest have already been received. Anyone wishing to enquire about the long-term lease for the café should contact Jonathan Saxon at Jon@saxonandco.co.uk.

If you have any views or opinions about what sort of café/restaurant/bar/other would work well in this fantastic location alongside the Pool, please do send your ideas to Jane Humphreys at Jane@stone-cottage.org. Everyone's ideas and opinions will be collated and taken into account when Trustees and their advisers consider the commercial merits of the short-listed applicants.

Waitrose Community Matters

Every month the Portishead Branch of [Waitrose](#) in Harbour Road donates £1000 between three local charities chosen by its customers. The Trust is lucky enough to have been chosen as one of the charities to support in September. At the checkout, you receive a token which you place in the box of the charity you want to support.

So please get down to our local Waitrose and use your tokens to raise money for the Pool. The more tokens we get, the bigger the donation we receive towards the cost of kitting out the disabled changing facilities.

Other ways to raise funds for the Pool:

- **Give as you Live:** We are now registered with Give As you Live™ an online shopping App that turns every pound you spend online into potential funds for your favourite charity (us, we hope!) There are over 1,300 online stores and over 15 million products that will raise funds for the Pool with every purchase. Please visit www.giveasyoulive.com, to learn more, download the App and select Portishead Pool Community Trust to support.
- **Or, you can donate using Charity Choice.** <https://www.charitychoice.co.uk/donation/>
- **Donating by Text:** [Vodafone](#) and online donations service [JustGiving](#) have launched a free texted donation programme, JustTextGiving, to help charities in the UK raise more money. This is a great way to support the Pool. Next time you're using your mobile, think about giving a couple of quid to the Pool. All you have to do is text POOL11 £2 (or any amount between £1 and £10). It's quick and easy and everything you donate goes straight into Pool funds.
- **Have you thought about remembering the Pool in your Will?** If you plan to leave a legacy to the Pool, here is a form of words that you could include: *I GIVE the sum of £.....to Portishead Pool Community Trust (charity registration number 1129732) whose registered office is at 14 King Street Bristol BS1 4EF and declare that the receipt of the person professing to be the Financial Director or other proper officer for the time being thereof shall be a sufficient discharge to my trustees.* If you wish to leave a large legacy, then it may be appropriate to appoint the Trustees as executors. For further help and information on leaving a legacy, or on appointing the Trustees as executors, please contact Jane Humphreys at Jane@stone-cottage.org.

September Opening Hours

In a press release issued last month we reported that opening times for weekdays in September would be from 4pm to 7pm. This was because the last two years have shown that the pool can be quiet on weekdays when the holidays are over and families are back to work and school, and we have to be mindful of operating costs. Since then though, the feedback from volunteers and members demonstrated such enthusiasm and support for the Pool opening earlier that the Trustees have changed their minds and we are now reverting to last year's opening hours of 2pm to 7pm. The early morning swim sessions for season/12 for 10 ticket holders remain unchanged.

However, we want to get the word out that it is vital that people come and use the Pool as the final month is a real drain on finances, as proved in the last two years, and is even worse if swimmers stay away. The local community fought to save the Pool and we must all continue to support it by using it, so that future generations can enjoy this wonderful amenity.

Calling all Web Designers/Programmers

We are looking for anyone with web design, or web programming, expertise to help revamp the pool web site and develop online services to support the pool. If you have any web skills and have a few hours to spare, please get in touch at webmaster@portisheadopenairpool.org.uk



US Makeover Fan congratulates Pool

It seems that the Makeover (Ty's Great British Adventure) was aired on ABC in the US this month, and one viewer, Bruce Davidson, commented on Facebook: "Saw the story of the Portishead Pool on ABC tonight, we are so happy for your community. Wish we had a nice pool like yours here in our city, temps have been in the 90's for far too long. Cheers!"

<https://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=115355645162903>

Nice to know we are appreciated by American viewers isn't it?

Meet the Team

(1) Zoe Holt - lifeguard

Hi, I'm Zoe Holt and I'm 32. I grew up in the lovely little village of Shrivenham in Oxfordshire with my parents and two brothers, then moved to London to go to university at St Mary's Twickenham where I studied Sociology. After graduation I got a job in property investment & latterly chartered surveying, which led to interesting work in the West End of London; I even moved to Spain for six months to establish a new international office. However property didn't really inspire me and I took the brave move to change direction, starting a new career in headhunting while training to be a hypnotherapist. The training brought me to Bristol and where I established myself nearly three years ago, and Portishead a year later after I fell in love with the place on a day trip.

I ended up as a lifeguard as I came down to the pool in a suit one day last year after a job interview. I walked in, dabbled my hand in the water to see if it was truly heated as advertised and left again. The manager followed me out to ask if I had an appointment with him which he hadn't put in the diary, as I looked so formal. We started chatting and I explained I was in a situation where I wanted to leave my job, I was a local and that I loved swimming. He suggested I pop down to lifeguard training that evening and that maybe I should consider it as an interim job while I made a few decisions. From there I quit my job, trained as a lifeguard and a swimming teacher and have never looked back!

Since then I have established my hypnotherapy practise www.holt-hypnotherapy.com, assisted Hazel with swimming lessons and been a keen member of the lifeguard team for the second season running. The pool is a very special place and really made a big difference to me and my life when I needed it the most, for which I will always be grateful.



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Meet the team

(2) Ann Looker—volunteer



I am Ann Looker and I grew up in Portishead. My parents are Paul and Kathleen Bevan and I am the fourth of five children. My mother loved swimming and I have many happy memories of splashing about in the open air pool as a child and leaping off the spring board with more enthusiasm than skill. I went to St Joseph's school on West Hill and in the summer, we would walk down over the fields after school and burn off our energy there. I remember that Mrs Jelley was always on reception when I was a child and one of first shifts on reception after the Makeover was with Jean Jelley, which was lovely.

After secondary school at La Retraite in Clifton, I went to Manchester University and then spent some years away from Portishead before returning in the early 1990s. I continued to use the pool over the years even as the temperatures dipped in the final years and was frustrated by the commuter unfriendly opening hours which made weekday swims virtually impossible. When the pool was threatened with closure, I was one of the many campaigners writing to our MP, Liam Fox, and local councillors in an effort to overturn the decision. My daughter Kate, who was then 12, was so cross that she wrote to the Mercury about the lack of facilities for children in Portishead.

I helped out with the original Makeover and have continued to volunteer on various painting and maintenance projects, as well as being a member of the Strategy Sub-Group of the Trust.

I work in Financial Services and now live in the Marina. Apart from swimming, I enjoy cycling and used to play a lot of sport until my knees started to play up.

Best thing about the pool today— being able to swim in warm water (no more getting cramp from the cold water) and the great opening times. Worse thing about the pool today – the low prices in the tuck shop which means even longer swims are needed to burn off the calories!

Trust Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Portishead Pool Community Trust will be held on **Wednesday 30th November**. All members will be sent details about the AGM nearer the time.

- If you would like to become a member, you can download an application form from the pool website <http://www.portisheadopenairpool.org.uk/>. Membership costs £10.00 per year, and enables you to vote at the AGM. Membership of the Trust also enables you to stand for election as a Trustee.
- There are currently 7 Trustees, and there are vacancies for 2 more. If you would like to consider becoming a Trustee, please contact Jane Humphreys at Jane@stone-cottage.org. We would like to encourage anyone who supports the Pool to consider becoming a Trustee, but we are also looking specifically for people with marketing and commercial experience to come on to the Board of Trustees.

Who are our current Trustees?

- David Coombes (Chair; member of Strategy sub-committee)
- Andrew Butland (Finance; member of Finance sub-committee)
- Jane Humphreys (Company secretarial; member of Strategy sub-committee)
- Sally Chorlton (Vice-Chair; member of HR sub-committee)
- Andy Thatcher (member of Premises sub-committee)
- Tony Stubbs (member of Finance sub-committee)
- Brenda Birkinshaw (member of Premises sub-committee)

Meet the team

(3) Kate and Chris Burns—volunteers



KATE – I was born in Norwich but spent my earliest years moving around the world with my family. My father was a university professor and we lived in Australia and California before moving to Cambridge, and later to Bristol where my father had a chair at the University. I went to school in Westbury-on-Trym and then worked for various companies including the chemist T Buxton & Co in Queens Rd, Clifton.

Chris was born and brought up in Bristol, where he went to St Bede's School. After school, he worked his way up to manager at the Gateway supermarket, also in Queen's Road opposite Buxton's, although we didn't know each other then. We didn't meet until some years later at a family gathering, by which time I had joined the TA as a medic. The idea was to see the world, but I narrowly missed seeing action in the Falklands, probably as I was getting married at the time! I did enjoy my time there though, and got used to Chris calling me Private Benjamin.

Four children later, three boys and a girl who now range in age from 23 to 27, I returned to college to

study secretarial and business studies and went to work for NatWest, while Chris moved to Cadbury Schweppes in Avonmouth and later to Anstee & Ware as Group Purchasing Manager. We moved to our present home in Portishead and spent many happy hours with the kids at the Pool.

I eventually took semi-retirement due to ill health and Chris took redundancy after 32 years. This was just before the campaign to save the Pool and we answered the call in the Evening Post for volunteers to help during the Makeover. After the Opening, we realised that visitors, especially the children, wanted drinks and sweets with their swim, and we got involved with other volunteers in dashing to the cash and carry, sometimes several times on a busy day, to satisfy the increasing demand. We were then operating out of the staff tea room but it soon became apparent we needed a kiosk with proper facilities like a fridge and water heater and this was achieved by the end of the first season by converting a former storeroom. By this time, the Tuck Shop had become our adopted 'baby' and Chris was doing all the buying and stocking up. With volunteers working on a rota basis, we were able to keep costs down and customers happy, while making a real contribution to Pool funds. Our proudest achievement was the Tuck Shop's part, along with the Town Council, in paying for the refurbishment of the Toddler Pool this year.



Along with our involvement in the Pool, our time is taken up with property development and our three grandchildren Maci, Kian and especially Ollie whom we child mind.

Facebook Page

Don't forget that to check up on the latest news of the Pool, including opening hours, events, photos and links to the Newsletter and Trust website, you can join our [Facebook](#) Group—just click on the link to go straight there. We were recently up to 800 members but Facebook has mysteriously stopped putting this information in! You can also follow us on [Twitter](#).

A trip down Memory Lane

This postcard was given to us by a pool supporter who was sorting through the effects of a late relative, and appears to date from the late Sixties or early Seventies. You can see that the lower diving board was still in use as the ladder and guard rails are there and the springboard would have been there too, just behind the high diving board. The old entrance was on the back right of the picture and there was a covered area on that side of the Pool as well. There is also a half glazed cabin on that side—does anyone remember what it was used for or can you give a more accurate date for the photo?

I used to work in the Pool in the late Sixties, when the café tenant was Mr Balsden, who also ran the café at the Lake Grounds. The manager was the redoubtable Mrs Slocombe, ably assisted by Mrs Selvey and several teenage girls like me, who served sweets, ice creams and cigarettes at the poolside and dryside counters. The teas and hot food were served by the ladies from a counter in the middle, and the café was divided down the middle by a half glazed screen separating the

two sides of the café. We worked our socks off for half a crown (about 13p) an hour and three shillings (15p) on Sundays and Bank Holidays! Fizzy drinks were sold in glass bottles then (probably poolside too) with a 3d deposit which you claimed on return. Some young lads had the clever idea of sneaking into the yard, retrieving empties from the crates and bringing them back to the café, though they were quickly thwarted!

The Pool Manager was Mr Suheski (not sure of the spelling) and his son Ray was a lifeguard—rather dishy if I remember rightly! I think Nelson Scott might have been another lifeguard.

I am open to correction on any of these points, and if anyone has any memories or anecdotes of the Pool in past decades we would love to hear from them at the Newsletter. Please contact us on ppctnewsletter@gmail.com

Ed.



The Swimming Pool, Portishead

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