



Portishead open air pool

e NEWSLETTER

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First taste of summer at the pool



Swimmers and sunbathers make the most of the heatwave

Swimmers made the most of the sudden arrival of summer at the end of May and flocked to the pool as temperatures soared to the mid-20s, after weeks of heavy rain and high winds.

After a busy week with the weather steadily improving, about 1,200 people went through the turnstiles on Saturday 26 May and even more on the Sunday. We estimate that altogether 3,000 people enjoyed a dip the weekend, with water temperatures of 28 degrees.

People started queuing outside the pool from 8.30am on Saturday and Sunday to ensure they bagged a good spot on the sun terraces, many coming from South Wales, Bristol and Bath. The pool was at capacity on both days but thanks to the help of volunteers, the management were able to bring in the busy day procedure which made sure that everyone was able to get into the water on a timed basis.

Trustee Andy Thatcher said: "The weekend was fabulous – the best and busiest of the season so far. We have been at capacity at times over the weekend and everyone has been having a great time and making the most of the good weather."

It's official—Vogue loves us!

It seems the fame of the Pool is spreading and we are delighted to be mentioned in the summer supplement of the July edition of Vogue, on sale now. The magazine recommends its readers to visit us, saying "With sun decks overlooking the Severn Estuary, this heated open-air pool is over and above your average volunteer-run establishment." I think we would all agree with that.



MARGATE
See: Last year, two icons of British art – the Queen and Tracey Emin – came together in the artist's hometown of Margate, to commemorate the opening of Turner Contemporary, a airy seafront art space inspired by JMW Turner, who also has links to the Kent seaside town. It put the retro coastal resort squarely back on the map. Now, Emin enjoys a second homecoming at Turner Contemporary with a debut exhibition exploring eroticism, on show until September 23. She Lays Down Beneath the Sea looks at Emin's work in relation to Rodin and Turner. turnercontemporary.org
Stay: Boutique retreat The Reading Rooms has echoes of the town's Georgian heyday, and boasts palatial rooms and fantastic breakfasts. thereadingrooms.org.uk
Buy: Stock up on kitsch curiosities from R.G. Scott's, an ageing warehouse rammed with everything from gramophone needle tins to Edwardian armchairs. Scottsmargate.co.uk

Meet the Team

Dave Russ Volunteer



I was born and brought up in Fishponds, where I attended Alexandra Park School. During the war my father was in a reserved occupation at at ES & A Robinson the well known paper, printing and packaging company and I duly followed him there when I left school, as a lithographic printer. Our family were members of the Castle Green United Reformed Church in Greenbank Road where I became an officer in the Boys' Brigade. One of our regular trips was to Portishead Open Air Pool and I have fond memories of the early years there with my friends and fellow officers. The photos below were taken in the first season in 1962 when I was 24 – you can see in the background that the original boundary was a rather rickety perimeter fence which was soon replaced with a wall to keep out the regular night time visitors! The girl in the picture, Elaine Shannon (nee Plews) later married my friend who took the photograph. They now live in Maidenhead but we are all still in touch.

I also met my wife Margaret at Castle Green and we later owned Eastville Post Office where Margaret was postmistress and we lived above the shop. On one frightening occasion we were victims of an armed robbery while I was asleep above the shop while on nights. Woken by my wife's screams, I rushed downstairs in my underpants and tackled them, but was stabbed in the arm. They tied us up, but I managed to wriggle free and chased them down the road – in my state of undress however, passers-by assumed I had escaped from a mental hospital! Shaken by the experience, we decided to move out of the city to Portishead, where we already had a weekend holiday home at Charlcombe Park. After a couple of moves, we bought the historic Lodge at Fedden Village which was a wonderful place to live, plus the use of the lovely swimming pool there, but we now live on Down Road. With my experience of running the Post Office and

newsagents, I later became a market trader specialising in greeting cards and worked all over the South West and Wales, with my son Mark helping me during the school holidays.

Since my retirement, I often play golf, and got involved in volunteering at the Pool through my golf buddy, Bill Hunter. In the last three years I have enjoyed helping with the winter maintenance works, especially constructing the roof canopy, and during the summer I work in the tuck shop and on reception. It is a great way of meeting people – the public and other volunteers alike – which I have always loved – and of course the whole family, including our three grandchildren swim there regularly. It is great to know I am helping to keep this wonderful facility going so that they and their friends can continue to have fun there for years to come.



Dave with Elaine Shannon



L to R: Richard Pitman, Laurence Sims, Dave and Elaine

Heritage announce Balloon Race Winner

Congratulations to Mrs Maureen Goodyear who won the Balloon Race on the Pool's 50th birthday. The balloon was found 100 miles away near Crondall in Surrey. Well, it **was** a windy day!

Why not like our Page on Facebook or follow us on Twitter and keep up with Pool events online? Just click on the links to [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

How do you pronounce 'lido'?

by Jonathan Knott

If you've never been quite sure how to pronounce the word 'lido', or even exactly what it means, rest assured that you are not the first to have this problem. In fact, these are – even now, almost 100 years after the name was first used on British soil – contentious issues that are still debated.

Lido historian Janet Smith notes that a BBC Radio 4 documentary referred to Brockwell 'lie-do', while using 'lee-do' for the original Venetian island. The *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED) lists the pronunciation as 'lee-do' (like the Italian), but there's still no consensus.

On an online forum for recollections about Ruislip Lido in north London, one person wrote recently: "I can still remember the discussions we had on the pronunciation of the Lido [in the 1950s]."

Many wanted to follow the style of other open-air swimming pools and call it 'Lie-do', but Dad insisted on 'Lee-do'. I don't know why, but I believe he had read about Venice Lido somewhere and thought that was right."

For Ruislip Lido in particular, it wasn't just the pronunciation of the name, but the name itself that caused problems. The lido became a flashpoint for a debate on the very nature of lidos when it opened in 1936. Some felt that the construction of an art deco pavilion and a designated bathing area did not justify using the name for what was essentially a reservoir. A leading article in *The Times*, entitled 'Bathing Snobs', thundered: "A vulgar age can hardly make any but vulgar additions to its vocabulary...[but] there is no excuse for calling a suburban reservoir by the name of an Italian seaside resort."

But was it really so inappropriate? The Serpentine in London became the first pool to adopt the name officially in 1930, which may have been in part because it enabled the alliterative nickname 'Lansbury's lido' (after George Lansbury, its founder) – but the use quickly spread across the country. When London County Council sanctioned its use for other pools in 1937, writes Janet Smith in *Liquid Assets*, a committee member excitedly scribbled a note saying "You can call them lidos now!"

The word's use surely evoked such strong reactions because it symbolised a different way of life: sunnier, more relaxed – and foreign. *Waterlog* author Roger Deakin believed that borrowing the word, as with café or champagne, illustrated our "Anglo-Saxon awkwardness about the pleasures of the flesh" – something that has been commented on by others, too. Tracy Emin has said of visiting the lido in her youth that "it made Margate seem like the Mediterranean".

If Ruislip's lido inspired a similar feeling in locals, who were the editorial staff of *The Times* to deprive it of the name? In fact, as the article concluded, what mattered was not the etymology of the name, but that the lido was a "deserving effort to provide recreation for the people".

Whether we Anglicise the pronunciation (underlining, perhaps, how lidos have become a part of our own culture) or preserve the Italian (stressing their exoticism), swimmers will surely be united in gratitude for the touch of continental glamour that the pools bring to our chilly shores – and in expressing that gratitude with a heartfelt *grazie mille* – 'a thousand thank yous'.

The above article first appeared in the July 2011 issue of *H2Open Magazine* and is reproduced with the kind permission of the magazine and the author Jonathan Knott.

Vintage Shopper Travel Competiton

Our commemorative jute shopper, designed by Sarah Richards to commemorate the Pool's 50th birthday is now on sale at the tuck shop, price £6. Supplies are limited so hurry and get yours now!



Are you travelling to distant shores this year? Or maybe somewhere closer to home but unusual or quirky? Send us a holiday photo of you with the bag and some indication of your location and we will publish the best ones. The most interesting, the funniest and the furthest travelled will also win a prize. Closing date 31 December 2012. Entries to ppctnewsletter@gmail.com

Bookings for July

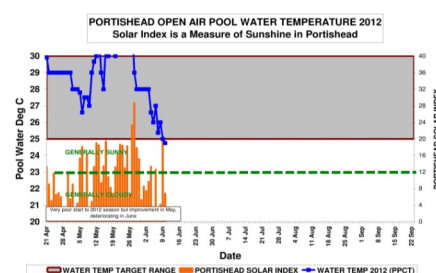
Other regular pool bookings so far this season are:

Monday 9 July Mini Olympics 9am-3pm*
 Tuesdays 6.30-7.30 [Sport & Active Lifestyles](#) (2 lanes)
 Wednesdays 7-8pm PACTri Triathlon Training*
 Fridays 7pm W-s-M Water Polo Club (from 1 June)*
 Saturdays 9.30-11am Deep water aquarobics (tel Clare on 0780 3020290 for more details)

*Pool closed for public swimming at these times

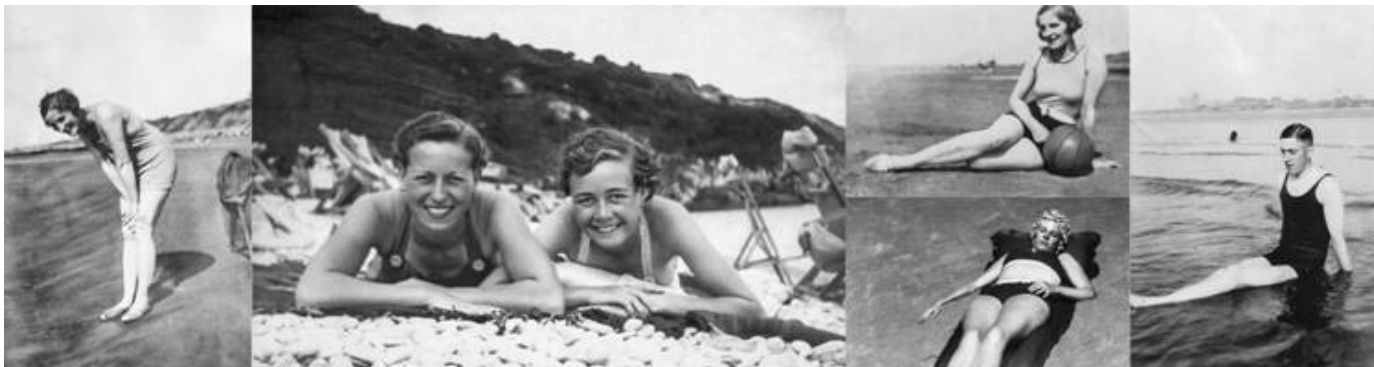
Pool Temperatures

In spite of problems with the boiler and pool cover, pool temperatures have been generally on target for the 2012 Season. (The up to date version of this chart can be viewed at <http://www.williamhunter.co.uk/ZINC/poolinformation.htm> and chemistry buffs can view similar charts for pH and free chlorine).



Pool hosts Vintage Fashion Show

- Saturday 21st July – Tickets £12 -



On Saturday, July 21st we are playing host to the area's first ever retro swimwear fashion show with vintage styled outfits throughout the decades.

The night will have an overall 60s theme and there will also be cocktails, music and nibbles from the same era. It promises a glimpse back to the pool's opening heyday in 1962, as we celebrate our jubilee this year and tighten links with Gordano School.

The vintage fashion garments have been designed and produced by a Gordano School student and budding fashionista, Lauren Parish. Ticket holders are being asked to dig out their vintage outfits (or pop to the shops) and there are prizes for the 'Best Dressed' on the night.

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perfect combination of fun, nostalgia and the opportunity to showcase local talent," said Trustee Jane Humphreys, "We've got a great line-up for the night. Lauren and her team have done a fantastic job. I hope the local community gets behind us to make this fund raising event a roaring success."

In addition to the Fashion Show, local band 'No Time for Sightseeing', also from Gordano School will perform by popular demand.

Tickets cost £12 and include the full evening's entertainment. They will be available from the Open Air Pool reception as well as Morgan Westley on the High St. (Tickets at the discounted price of £10 are available from the Pool reception for Trust Members)

All proceeds will go to the Trust and funds raised will go towards a lifeguard shelter for those rainy days.

For further information please contact Lucinda Brook on 07906 340138.

A Stretch and a Swim

A new evening yoga and swim session is beginning at the pool on 19th June. Every Monday, for 6 weeks Suzi Griffin is leading a 45 minute yoga session in the 'blue room' at the Lido and this can be followed by a swim, all for £7.



The yoga will be suitable for everyone, even those without any prior experience. Suzi, also a yoga therapist as well as an experienced and qualified yoga teacher, will adapt and modify postures to suit anyone with any health conditions such as injuries or other physical limitations. So if you think you are not flexible enough to do yoga, think again as everyone can benefit from the safe and effective movement and stretching that yoga can bring.

Swimming and yoga, work really well together to develop

fitness, stamina good breath. Yoga and swimming, are both gentle on the joints, good for people who want to avoid high-impact movement such as those with injuries, pregnant women, people with chronic joint pain, and the elderly, and are great for increasing strength in very safe ways.

Both yogis and swimmers know about using the breath to move the body. Deep, full breathing enhances yoga postures and increases circulation and cardiovascular capacity and also helps swimmers to use the cycle of breath to develop good swimming strokes.

Yoga and swimming also both ask for great focus and mental stillness which can help the mind to slow down or even turn off stressful or frantic thoughts. They are both sports in which the senses are withdrawn and awareness is pulled inward, which is a wonderful way of mindfully meditating whilst getting some exercise!

Contact Suzi Griffin on 07776321 989 suzi@yogafriendly.co.uk or the Portishead open air pool on 01275 843 454 to find out more.

Inflatable fun now extended into August

Following the success of our bouncy pirate ship last year, inflatable summer fun sessions are being extended this summer, from 7 July until at least 7th August. This will be dependent on the weather and lifeguard cover, so check our website www.portisheadopenairpool.org.uk before you come for the latest details, or ring the pool on 01275 843454.



Open meeting at the Royal

Our next Open Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 19 July at the Royal, start 7.30 p.m., a chance for members, supporters and volunteers to catch up on the summer news so far, to find out about pool plans for the summer holidays, developments and news, from trustees and members of the five management subgroups.