



Portishead Open Air Pool

e NEWSLETTER

Issue 5 , July 2011

The weather so far this summer has been disappointing and visitor numbers are understandably down on last year, but with the start of the school holidays, the weather has been a little warmer and dryer, so we must keep our fingers crossed. And remember that the water is a comfortable 27° Celsius, including the toddler pool which also has toys to keep the little ones amused. The Tuck Shop has plenty of snacks, ice creams and hot drinks to keep everyone happy, while Five Poolside offers more substantial fare and delicious cream teas,

The Newsletter is a little late this month as your Editor has been on holiday, so there are more events than usual to report on including our brilliant team effort at the Raft Race, Highdown School Gala, Community Cohesion Week and much more.

ppctnewsletter@gmail.com

South West in Bloom judges pay a visit



Bill Hunter shows off the biomass boiler to judges Carol Wride and Terry Porter (photo: [Bryan Farrell](#))

When South West in Bloom judges Terry Porter and Carol Wride visited Portishead on Thursday 14 July, they took time off from their three hour tour of the town to visit the Pool and break for refreshment at Five Poolside Cafe.

Accompanied by Portishead in Bloom chairman Sandy Tebbutt, and Tony Moore, they were given a guided tour by volunteers Bill Hunter, Ann Hailwood and Chris and Kate Burns where they inspected the new biomass boiler and the astrolabes* donated by Portishead in Bloom and also admired the colourful hanging baskets and planters in the entrance area. Most of the plants have been generously donated for the third year running by [Brackenwood Nurseries](#) and are looked after by staff and volunteers.

The judges also visited Rodmoor Gardens, the Marina, Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve and Trinity Primary School.

Portishead in Bloom has won gold in the South West competition for the last three years and has also secured gold medals at national level, but the number of volunteers has dwindled and the Group needs more people to come forward and help. Anyone who wants to get involved should contact Mrs Tebbutt on 01275 843566.

*Do you know what an astrolabe is? Find out in our article on page 6.

Lifeboat Crew Train at Pool



Helen Lazenby of Portishead Lifeboat Trust has given a big thank you to the Open Air Pool and Trustee Sally Chorlton who arranged for the Lifeboat Crew to train at the pool recently.

In full rescue suits and lifejackets, the crew literally threw themselves into their training which started with their swimming test in which they completed a length individually, then hooked together to swim back in sync to their upturned boat. They then had to right it and climb in, still in full gear.

Afterwards the crew said "This was exhausting but valuable training. We are very grateful to Portishead Pool Trust for their support and we hope to work with them again soon"



Pool Pirates make a stylish debut at the Raft Race

On Sunday 10 July, the Lake Grounds was the venue for the Raft Race, an annual fundraising event organised by Portishead Lifeboat Trust. This year, the event was bigger and better than ever with 30 rafts taking part including our own Pool Pirates competing for the first time.

Our privateer raft was built in record time by volunteers Dave and Jim Skelhorne, Bryan Farrell, and Dominic Shakhli and decked out in buccaneering style by Brenda Birkinshaw. Materials were sourced by Andy Thatcher, with thanks to Brenntag for the plastic drums and the loan of a binding machine from Freemans, not for-

getting the Portishead Lights Committee who provided the ladders.

Crowds gathered in the sunshine to watch the teams battle it out in some of the fastest races the event has seen with BBC weather girl Jemma Cooper providing commentary throughout the afternoon

Against stiff competition, our doughty Pirates came first in their first heat, and second in the next round to finish third overall. Organisers say they expect the race to have raised more than £10,000 for the Lifeboat Trust and other local charities.

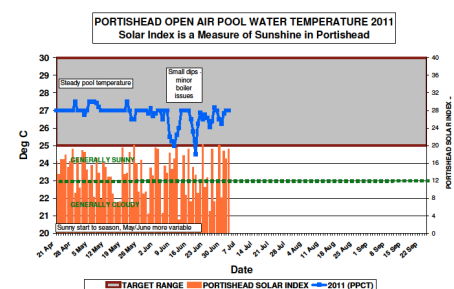


Clockwise from top right: Pirates put the newly built raft through her paces under the watchful eye of Dave Skelhorn; On our way to the launch; Racing into the lead in the first heat; The team show off their medals and trophy— left to right: Trustee Andrew Butland, Duty Manager Joe Lench, Lifeguards Simeon Hunter, Luke Western and Emma Penney, Duty Manager Richard McCabe (not in picture)

Pool Temperatures

Generally water temperatures have been well maintained apart from a small boiler problem in early June. The weather has been better in June than May, but still quite variable.

(The latest version of the chart can be viewed at <http://www.williamhunter.co.uk/POOL/2011pooltempetc.pdf>)



Meet the Team

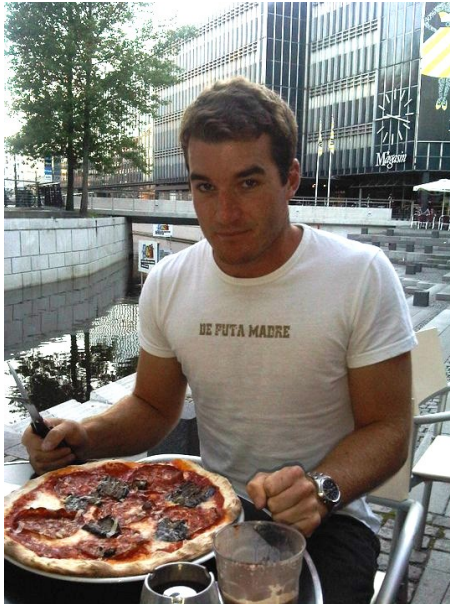
Jack Kelly - lifeguard

I am 22 and was born in Oxford, then moved to Liverpool before coming south to Portishead when I was about 7 so I have been swimming at the Pool for most of my life. I went to Gordano School, and after-

wards did a couple of winter seasons working in a bar in Andorra and a six month stint as a au pair in Lubeck, Germany where I looked after two children, a boy and a girl.

I am studying for a degree in Sport and German at Northampton University, and I hope to join the RAF when I graduate. I love all sports, except golf and football, and am currently President of the Men's 1st team Rugby Union at university. I also twice took part in the Ten Tors Challenge when I was at school and, like Richard, enjoy playing water polo on the Pool team.

I am always up for a laugh, which is why I took part in the reality show Coach Trip with a friend Jeff Mead. They called us the West Country Hunks, but you can judge for yourself if you watch the [Series 5 Episode 27](#) Catch Up on Channel 4!



Richard McCabe Duty Manager

I am 24 and was born and brought up in Torquay, moving to Bristol when I left school to do a degree in surveying at the University of the West of England. When I graduated last year, I decided to stay on in Bristol with my fiancée Rebecca. We are expecting our first baby in December this year and plan to marry next June.

I qualified as a lifeguard when I was in the sixth form and continued to do lifeguarding part-time while at university,



working at the Pool since the Makeover. I was introduced to the Pool by Frank Bakos, a friend of mine, who was manager during the first year. This year I am working as Duty Manager, along with Joe Lench and James Woodford.

I enjoy swimming at the Pool in my spare time and also playing

water polo with the rest of the staff. Being a native of South Devon, of course I also love waterskiing and wake boarding.

Bryan Farrell—Volunteer



I came to Portishead from Lancashire in 2006, initially renting on the Marina development. I soon fell in love with the place as did my wife Kerri and daughters Millie, Maisie and Fay when they joined me. My son followed us soon after finishing his exams. After a period of renting we moved to our present home in the High Street where we soon felt at the heart of things and en-

joyed events such as the Victorian Evening and Carnival. Watching the Christmas Lights Team prompted me to volunteer and it turned out that Dave Skelhorne's wife Ann worked with my wife. Dave of course is also a volunteer at the Pool and the Carnival and it wasn't long before I got roped in too.

The more I get involved with volunteering, the more I feel proud to be a part of it. My involvement has brought me into contact with people with varied backgrounds and personalities but all are genuine kind-hearted people who care passionately about the community. I enjoyed being part of the team getting the Pool ready for the opening this year and building the new roof over the entrance way; it was a real 11th hour job with the finishing touches being applied less than half an hour before the doors opened!

In 2009 I took redundancy and was able to start up my own photography business, a passion I have had for most of my life. I have been fortunate enough to work with some fantastic local studios gaining the experience, knowledge and the confidence to make it my full time job. My past life of Quality & Technical Management, lean manufacturing and Six Sigma feel like just that; a past life! Now I photograph weddings, portraits and events and have the flexibility in my work to be able to give some of my time back into our community to help, if only in a small way, keep it the wonderful community that it is.

Highdown Swimmers make a splash

by Jackie Keen, Highdown School



Photos: [Bryan Farrell](#)

The Open Air Pool was the venue for High Down Junior School's two swimming galas held on 4th and 5th July.

Monday was the turn of the Years 3 and 4 pupils. The weather was perfect, the sun shone, all the children put in a massive effort and there was a great deal of cheering, splashing and shouting for their houses.

There was a variety of events so that all children could take part, from club swimmers to novices who joined in the noodle races. There were a few stalwarts for the parents race, with much support from children and adults alike. All ran smoothly so that there was time for a free swim with much laughter and fun to end the morning.

Tuesday saw less kind weather for Years 5 and 6. Nevertheless the morning was greatly enjoyed by all, even those huddled under umbrellas between showers! There was again a variety of events with some strong swimmers showing their prowess and much fun had by all.

The great improvements to the pool and surroundings were appreciated and commented on by many parents and children and the photographic mural was admired by all. The pool staff were friendly and helpful, adding to the enjoyment of the event.

The school would like to pass on their grateful thanks to all those who work tirelessly to provide such a wonderful facility for our town.

Long Distance Swimmer (2)



Last month we featured season ticket holder Nigel Davies from Worthing who enjoys a regular weekday swim at the Pool while working locally. It turns out he is not the only one who is making the most of his free time while working away from home.

Tony Davies (no relation)

from Cardiff is a Dynamics CRM consultant with [Chorus IT](#) who are based at Portisfields Business Park in Bristol Road. Tony, 26, is also on the committee of Cardiff Masters Swimming Club and is trains regularly for open water events. Tony tells me he is currently swimming 4 to 5 times a week at the Pool, taking advantage of its closeness to work.

"It was clear after two swims in two days that I would be spending a lot more time at Portishead Open Air Pool, so the season ticket was a good investment. After swimming long course at my local pool, it is very refreshing to be able to swim exposed to the elements. Also the pool is in excellent condition and the water quality is superb which make it an excellent swimming environment.

"I am very passionate about swimming and play an active role in my local Swimming Club. I recently did the Clevedon Long Swim and last weekend took part in the British Gas ASA 3km Open Water Masters Championship, a non-wetsuit lake swim at Rother Valley, Sheffield, where I won in my age group."

It's great to know that the Pool is offering good facilities for athletes as well as leisure swimmers and we wish Tony the best of luck in future events.

Give As you Live™

We are now registered with Give As you Live™ an online shipping 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.

And what's more each week until 26 August, the website is giving away a weekend for two to the person that posts the most valuable feedback on their Give as you Live™ experience. Just click on <http://www.giveasyoulive.com/tryitandwin> to enter.

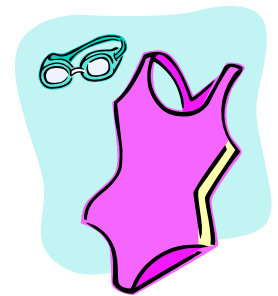
Get Ready for Days of Summer Fun!

We are now open **all day** during the summer holidays from 8.30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

With a children's entry price of only £3.00, heated water (temperature 27 degrees!!), and an on-site tuckshop selling cheap snacks this surely has to be a way to get children into the fresh air for fun and exercise without breaking the bank.

An all-day family ticket for 2 adults and 2 children is only £12.00.

Or how about a healthy swim followed by lunch at Portishead's newest eatery, FivePoolside? Substantial breakfasts, tasty lunches, and Mary Freeman's famous cakes are already making themselves known in this corner of Portishead.



The heated open air pool is going to be **the** place to be this summer!

Keen swimmers can still turn up at 7.00 each morning for early morning swims; the steam that comes off the heated water as the pool cover is removed is a sight to behold! Early bird swims run on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 7.00 – 8.30 a.m.

The pool will close for the season on Sunday 25 September, and as is the custom, **all swims on that day will be free!**

September swimming will also see reduced weekday opening hours, to between 4 – 7 p.m. to take advantage of those last golden days of summer and the pool's fantastic clear warm water. Weekend opening times remain all the same, and the early bird swim will still be operational from 7.00 – 8.30 a.m.

YOGA friendly for everyone
www.yogafriendly.co.uk

- + Safe & effective movement & relaxation
- + Beginners & improvers
- + Pregnancy & postnatal
- + One to one sessions
- + Classes in Portishead, Clevedon, Kingston Seymour & Bristol

Contact Suzi:

01275 846831 07776 321989 suzi@yogafriendly.co.uk

Why not advertise your business here?

Contact us on ppctnewsletter@gmail.com for further details

The Story of the Astrolabes



The astrolabe plaques were re-worked from a medieval design by Johnny Johnston and donated to the Pool by Portishead in Bloom

You may have noticed that the brass astrolabe plaques originally affixed to the wall outside the Pool have recently been moved to their new home inside the entrance. For anyone interested in knowing a bit about the background to these fascinating objects, this is for you.

An astrolabe is a scientific instrument used in navigation of ships or aeroplanes. To know

where you are in a ship or a plane you need to know how high up (or low down) you are in relation to the equator and how far round the equator you are from zero position, the imaginary line of longitude passing through Greenwich and through the North and South Poles.

The distance up (or down) from the equator is the latitude, starting at 0° at the equator and 90° at the North and South Poles. Longitude is the distance round and at right angles to the equator from the Greenwich time which is 0°. To measure longitude you need an accurate clock.

To measure latitude you need a device to measure the angle of the sun or stars from the horizontal and an accurate timepiece plus a table of the stars and their position at all times of the night. That device is an astrolabe. It needs to have its base level (horizontal) and on a boat a pivotal and weighted base is often used. Charts will also be needed to convert that reading to an angle at that exact time. To get a fix – i.e. an exact position, two readings of different stars fairly widely separated are needed and where they cross is where you are.

Note:- A theodolite is another instrument which can measure horizontal and vertical angles.

Gordano Students Get Stuck in

The Trust are grateful to Gordano School and the students who got stuck in with enthusiasm to some essential maintenance work at the Pool this month as part of Community Cohesion Week which the School organises every year. Under the supervision of Volunteer Co-ordinator Ann Hailwood, some 40 Year 10 students in relays over the week repainted tables and chairs (and themselves!) with wood stain, removed loose mortar from between paving slabs, hoovered the Astroturf and other essential tasks.

Everyone had a great time and some good work was done, as you see from the photographs on this page and the next. As a thank you, the students were offered a free swim.

Staff and Volunteers Face Off at Pool

Sunday evening on 19 June saw twelve members of lifeguard staff, their friends, volunteers and members face each other in a 6-a-side Water Polo match.

The Hats versus the No Hats, captained by Sally Chorlton and Barbara Waterhouse respectively, played 4 quarters of 7 minutes each - umpired by Mr Hopkins and Emma Hopkins.



It was not as friendly as originally described, but it was very hard fought, some players having a rather more competitive edge than others!

Hats Captain, Trustee Sally Chorlton said "As this was my first experience of water polo I had no idea how exhausting it was to tread water and sprint swim continuously for 7 minutes at a time. It was, however, great fun and I would definitely play again"

Final score No Hats 10 - Hats - 7.

Photos by [Bryan Farrell](#)



...more pics of Gordano helpers

