



Portishead Open Air Pool

e NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 , March 2011

Welcome to the first edition of our new format newsletter. If 2009 was the year of saving the pool and 2010 the year of settling down, we would like 2011 to be the year of communication. Please let us have your views on how we are doing and any ideas for articles you would like to see included in future issues at ppctnewsletter@gmail.com.

It is not intended to print and post copies of the newsletter due to cost and, whilst it will be available to download from our website, distribution will be by email only.

Pride in Portishead Awards

On 18 February, **Andrew Butland** and **Sally Chorlton** represented Portishead Pool Community Trust at the Pride in Portishead awards evening.

We were delighted to accept an award from Reyna Knight and Heather Pickstock on behalf of all the trustees, volunteers and swimmers for our contribution to the community in Portishead. The award will be on display in the entrance when the pool opens on 21 April.



Toddler Pool Brought Up To Date

Over the past two years, we have had to make do with repairs to the old glass fibre children's pool, but due to the great success of the Tuck Shop last season, we can now afford to do a proper job of modernising in time for the opening in April. The original pool had been taken out of service and covered with a deck some years ago, to the disappointment of young families, before the Trust took over in 2009.

Six specialist contractors were approached, with **H₂O Pools** of Fareham providing the most competitive quote and work started in late February after our volunteers first removed steps, liner and play equipment. To make it safer, we are reducing the depth and introducing a walk-in slope, and there will be a new water supply and suction grilles.

The play equipment provided during the Makeover is not being installed in the new pool, but we are hoping to eventually locate it nearby.



Ron Button and Ann Looker get stuck in shovelling ballast for the Toddler Pool

Pool Opening Dates

Thursday 21 April: 12.00
midday—7pm

Opening times for
Good Friday to Easter Mon-
day inclusive :

8.30am—7pm

Opening times for the season
will be on the website
shortly

Shape up for Summer

Hazel at Fit Time Health is now taking bookings for her land and water based fitness classes for all ages and levels at the Pool. Swim classes will include rookie school, young adults' and advanced level stroke and swim fitness. She is also running a Masters course for stroke improvement and fitness backed by Sports Active - £25 for 10 classes - but book early as there are limited places.

This season, she and Jo are also planning to convert part of the Long Room into a gym where they will be offering fitness and remedial classes, sports rehab and massage, and personal training sessions for all ages.

[More Details](#) contact Hazel on
fitimehealth@googlemail.com or 07980905296 (mob)

Olympic Stars praise our Pool

Olympic swimming champions **Duncan Goodhew** and **Rebecca Adlington** have joined forces with British swimming sponsors British Gas and the Amateur Swimming Association to set up www.pool-watch.co.uk which aims to help communities across the country to save their threatened pools. Our Pool has been held up as an inspiration to other campaigners on their new website.

Double Olympic champion Adlington said "Training in local swimming pools has helped me win two Olympic gold medals and I strongly feel that it's important to have as many pools as possible for everyone to use. As well as being great for health and fitness, swimming can save your life. I hope pool-watch.co.uk can help communities to keep more pools open, so millions of people can continue to enjoy this fantastic activity."

We couldn't agree more Rebecca, and wish Pool Watch every success in this new venture.

Pool Goes Green

Portishead Pool has been chosen as one of 18 projects in the South West to benefit from funding from leading renewable energy supplier **Good Energy**. The new fully funded biomass boiler, worth £100,000 was delivered in February and will be up and running in time for the new season. The boiler, which runs on wood pellets, will be the primary heat source for the pool and we hope it will save up to £6,000 from our fuel bill, as well as significantly reducing our carbon footprint.

Trust Chairman, **David Coombes** said "We are delighted that Good Energy has chosen our Pool as one of its community renewable heat projects."



New boiler is craned into Pool yard

Trust Celebrates new Season

At 10.30am on **Easter Monday** 25 April, we are celebrating the start of the new Season with the opening of the refurbished toddler pool and games for the little ones. **Can you donate any water toys, new or in good condition? Can you bake a cake for the celebrations? Please contact Brenda or Ann, or email us (above).**

12.30—2.00pm Meet the Trustees— we will be on hand to answer your questions about the Trust and management committee members will also be available to talk about plans for the coming season.

2.30pm Grand Inauguration of the new biomass boiler—with special guests (more details in next issue)



Meet the Team

Over the coming issues of the Newsletter, we will be introducing you to members of the team who make things happen —trustees, volunteers and staff who work together, often behind the scenes, to ensure that the buildings, site and water quality are maintained, the tuck shop and front desk are staffed and visitors of all ages can have a great time at the Pool. This month we meet **Sally, Andy** and **Ann**.

Sally Chorlton—Trustee

Having lived in Portishead for 26 years I have seen the town double in size. All the more reason for keeping the Open Air Pool going as a leisure area for the growing population. My 2 children, Matt and Hannah, have lived here all their lives and are also very much part of life in Portishead. They are both living in France for a short time at the moment, so a good reason for French holidays!

I work as a Medical Case Manager, travelling the South West and South Wales assessing people who have had accidents and helping them to return to independence.

I took part in the revamp of the pool as a volunteer and at the opening ceremony with the Loafers doing synchronised swimming. In the Summer of 2010 I was co-opted as a Trustee to look after the staffing of the pool. I have also continued to be a volunteer on the reception desk and thoroughly enjoy meeting all the swimmers.

Any free time I have I spend swimming, reading, walking my dogs and travelling. My next trek is to climb the highest peak in Iceland in July so I am in training.



Looking Ahead to 2012

We will be celebrating the Pool's Golden Jubilee in 2012 and we are already in the planning stages for this monumental event.

Trustee **Brenda Birkinshaw**, who is co-ordinating the event said "We hope to celebrate with various events, the largest being a mini Olympics at the Pool and its environs to include all ages and disciplines, ending with medal ceremonies, a party, possible

concert and firework display. The actual date of the opening was April 21st 1962 but the Jubilee will take place early July just before the real (and in our thinking inferior) Olympics in London."

We will be looking for lots of help in all areas, so watch this space as we begin to build a fuller picture of what will be on offer.

Andy Thatcher—Trustee

I have lived in Portishead for 23 years and am married with 2 children and an 18 month old grandson, all living in Portishead and regular pool users.

I work as a freelance building services consultant and property manager, and first became involved with the Trust soon after Christmas 2008 working closely with the Trustees, volunteers, film crew and professionals to help stage the TV makeover. I became a trustee after the first pool season in 2009.

I am mainly involved in building works and maintenance at the pool but also sit on the health and safety subcommittee and do the odd session of volunteering on reception and in the tuck shop, especially on busy days.



Ann Hailwood—Volunteer Co-ordinator

Hi, I'm Ann and I organise the volunteers at Portishead



Open Air Pool.

I started off helping with the makeover and then got roped into the fundraising team. From there I was asked to organise the volunteers, which I wasn't sure I would be able to do, but with the help of everybody the job came together.

I grew up in Portishead and as teenagers,

my friends and I spent all our summers at the Pool, working in the basket store (now replaced by lockers) and also as lifeguards. I remember watching for the tanker of hot water from the Albright and Wilson factory to be pumped in and after a few minutes we would all get into the shallow end where it was lovely and warm!

My mother Mary Carlsson and her friends would swim there every day and some of them still do. I also met my future husband there when he was 12 and I was 13. After a swim, we would buy Wagon Wheels from the cafe and eat them on the grass which used to be at the top of the steps.

My family use the pool regularly and my young grandchildren, Simon and Sherene often join me as volunteers, helping in the tuck shop and spreading the word about what a great place we have here. I have had great fun over the last two years helping with fund raising and the maintenance work which goes on all year round and I've made many good friends. I'm looking forward to the new Season and seeing all the volunteers again.

Why not add our Group to your Facebook profile and keep up with Pool events online? Just click on the link to [Facebook](#)

In next month's issue ...

Meet the Team, the latest on the new entrance, Easter Monday events and more

FITCHALLENGE 1: A BRIDGE TOO FAR..?

"Can you survive this challenge and at the same time raise much needed funds for a worthy cause?"

WHEN? Saturday 2nd April 2011, 10.30am

WHERE? England to Wales and back (or Porthead to Chepstow and back to be precise!) Approx. 40 miles

HOW? Cycling (mainly!)

WHO? Individual entries or teams of up to 4

DRESS-CODE? Fancy dress if you dare - 'Superheroes or Sports Stars'!!

AFTERWARDS? Lockhouse Lounge at the Lakeground, Porthead for drinks, food and 'party'! All welcome (usual prices apply)



Log on to www.ncsf.org.uk to find out more and register, contact Hazel on 07980 905296 or email fitimehealth@googlemail.com