

hampton pool trust

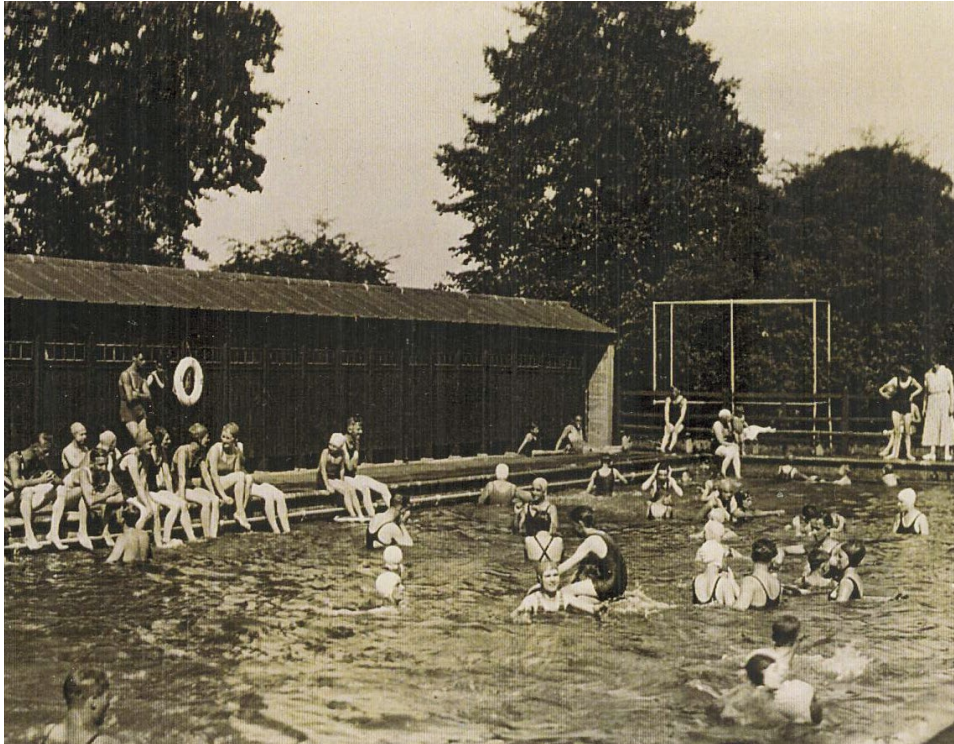
# Poolside Chat

The newsletter from the charity securing the future of Hampton Pool

Summer Centenary Issue 2022

## Our Bigger Splash Continues!

Chair's Welcome by Jane Savidge



Outdoor fun at Hampton Pool in the 1920s

Welcome to this special issue of Poolside Chat celebrating the 100th birthday of Hampton Pool on 24 June 2022. Join us at the pool for the birthday weekend, at our Summer Picnic Concerts and the fundraising events and activities which will continue through the year. Come along on Saturday 25 June from 1.00pm to try out some Hampton Pool activities, and on Sunday 26 June for fun with friends and family starting from 12.30pm.

This issue includes memories of the pool community over the decades. Much has been written at previous anniversaries about the significant community effort which enabled Hampton Pool to reopen in 1985 following closure due to council spending cuts, and the continuing work to secure funds for the pool to survive, including the 'Splash for Cash' campaign and support from the Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity.

This special Poolside Chat focusses on earlier decades and the importance of Hampton Pool for the community, yesterday and today.

We have been delighted by the response to the call for memories and photographs across the decades and our separate centenary booklet contains some of these.

The timing of the Centenary coincides with stepping up fundraising for the next phase of work on our fabulous heated open air pool. As a community, we have a significant funding challenge ahead to find the resources to move forward with the construction of a pool building fit for the next generation to enjoy, so we also outline our current building project and next steps. ≈

### Get on board

Hampton Pool Trust (HPT) is a small, independent, not for profit company and educational charity.

It is run by volunteers from the local community with a vision to maintain Hampton Pool as a safe, welcoming, enjoyable, sustainable and inspirational heated, public open air swimming environment, all year round.

The Trust owns the building and the Pool and exists to secure the long-term future of the Pool for community use. Hampton Pool is managed on behalf of Hampton Pool Trust by YMCA St Paul's Group.

Both are registered charities. There are over 400 members of Hampton Pool Trust who care deeply about the facility and how it is run.

Please contact the Trust at the address below if you too would like to become a member – or even a Trustee.

*The HPT Board of Trustees are:*

**Jane Savidge – Chair**  
**Mark Doyle – Interim Finance Director**  
**Mark Sherwin – Company Secretary**  
**Marguerite Cameron**  
**Andy Cowper**  
**Alex Fell**  
**Grahame Hadden**  
**Stuart Leamy**  
**Jill Livesey**  
**Katie Sullivan**  
**Daphne Wharton**  
**Michael White**

Please contact the Trust by email at [info@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk](mailto:info@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk)

Please visit [hamptonpooltrust.org.uk](http://hamptonpooltrust.org.uk) for more information on improvements

Please follow [hamptonpooltrust](https://www.facebook.com/hamptonpooltrust) on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/hamptonpooltrust), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/hamptonpooltrust) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/hamptonpooltrust)

**Do you have a story you'd like to share? To contact the Trust, please send your message to [info@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk](mailto:info@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk)**

# Some wonderful poems

Written by Year 6 children from Hampton Hill Junior School

## My Poem About Hampton Pool by Ruby

*As the babbling water touches your skin,  
That weepy smile transforms into a big grin.*

*The blazing sun, a refreshing pool,  
Not taking a visit, would just be cruel!*

*The sound of chuckling children,  
Adults chortle too.*

*What would a lovely trip to the pool hurt,  
When there's simply nothing better to do?*

*Where longing memories  
are not far to come,  
Go to Hampton Pool,  
Hampton Pool is The One! ≈*



## Open Air Pool by Skylar

*Having fun is what,  
Hampton Pool's about.*

*So kick your legs,  
Splash around,  
While children laugh and shout.*

*This pool isn't just for children,  
Adults go there too.*

*The lifeguards are all lovely,  
So are all the crew!*

*So take an early swim,  
Or have a cup of tea.*

*You could join the gym,  
And parking's even free!*

*Come day or night,  
It's a delight.*

*With the lifeguards around,  
No one will drown,  
And it's open all year round.*

*Why not come,  
To this amazing place to be?*

*Why not join,  
The Hampton Pool Community! ≈*

## SWIM, SWIM, SWIM by Betsy

*Did you know,  
That my favourite thing,  
Is to put on a costume,  
And swim, swim, swim?*

*Swimming is a passion,  
Something that I love,  
Why don't you try it?  
You might feel the above!*

*The water is cold,  
As well as blue,  
It helps my mental health,  
It might help you!*

*When I go swimming,  
At Hampton Open Air Pool,  
I do not think of anything else,  
As it is so cool. ≈*

*Written by Leah, Amelie, Arya,  
Patrick, Keira, Lana and Clara*

*A refreshing dive  
into the open pool.*

*The water's warm  
but it makes you feel cool.*

*When it's hot in the summer  
you can go for a dip.*

*With family and friends  
make a memorable trip.*

*Autumn, winter,  
summer and spring;*

*Go any time  
and find someone to bring.*

*So come and take a look  
whether it's warm or cold.*

*It's been a hundred years  
but this place never gets old.*

*And what a century!*

*Here's what it means to me:*

*Sunshine glimmering,  
Springtime lingering,  
Autumn singing,  
Winter is for winning.*

*So wonderful!*

*We're having a ball!*

*Children screaming and shouting;*

*My eyes closed: 1... 2... 3...*

*Everyone cheering then out of the blue:*

*"You won!" they shout.*

*I lift my hand,*

*Declared victorious.*

*What a wonderful place to go  
– as you may know.*

*You can fool around  
as it's the best place in town.*

*We can enjoy it together  
No matter the weather  
And, in a flash,  
You can make a big splash!*

*This place feels just right  
– even in the night*

*Or as time goes by  
under a bright blue sky.*

*It's been open for a century  
– that's 100 years of fun activity! ≈*

# Summer Picnic Concerts are back



*The Shires*



*The Feeling*



*Dodgy*



*The Shires plus Cardboard Fox*  
Saturday 11 July

*The Feeling plus City Funk Orchestra*  
Friday 22 July



*Toploader*

*Dodgy plus Toploader*  
Saturday 23 July

## hampton pool FUNDRAISING TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF THE POOL

# SUMMER PICNIC CONCERTS

Hampton Pool's most important annual fundraising activities are the Summer Picnic Concerts, started in 2002 by Paul Campbell, former marketing director for Hampton Pool Trust.

These shows have grown year-on-year and continue to bring world class artists to Hampton, including **10cc, ABC, Heaven 17, The Stranglers, Lulu & Joan Armatrading**.

After the two-year enforced break caused by Covid 19 we are delighted to be back. This is timely given the huge fundraising challenges connected with redeveloping the pool building.

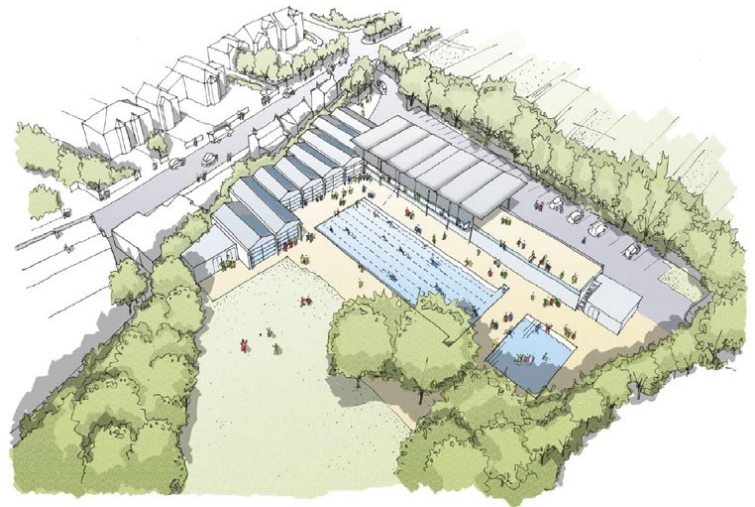
**Three events are already sold out.** However, we have three remaining evenings with exciting performers new to the Summer Picnic Concerts – **The Shires, The Feeling, Dodgy** and **Toploader**.

Bring your friends and join us as we continue the birthday celebration at these family friendly events where you get to see world class performers right on your doorstep. ≈



**Tickets [hamptonpooltrust.org.uk/concerts](https://hamptonpooltrust.org.uk/concerts)**

# A Pool Building fit for the future



Since the last issue of Poolside Chat, we have received the welcome news that the Hampton Pool building plans have been approved at Stage 2 by the Greater London Authority. The decision letter confirming approval arrived just as Storm Eunice removed part of the Sun Deck Café Roof.

This means that at long last we can seek grants and step up fundraising for the award winning Wimshurst Pelleriti building!

**Once again the community has a major task ahead but we have always been up for a challenge.**

Elements of the new scheme include re-modelling of the existing building to simplify 'traffic flow'; dedicated and significantly enhanced customer and staff space; much improved changing facilities; and separation of wet and dry side, with dry side accommodated in the new wing. Accessibility and inclusion are addressed by the improved layout giving access to all and a lift to the re-modelled Sun Deck Café. The design aims to enhance the pool's relationship with Bushy Park and the outdoor ethos whilst supporting choice and allowing the spaces to evolve as the needs of the community change.

**That building and running of a swimming pool is neither simple nor straightforward can be seen from the earliest reports...**

The extremes of temperature to which the concrete work was exposed was one of the worst things. During the latter part of the winter, the thermometer was below freezing point, which stopped the work, and then before the walls could be rendered, the surface work was under a blazing sun, day after day, with a temperature of a hundred degrees Fah.

\* \* \*

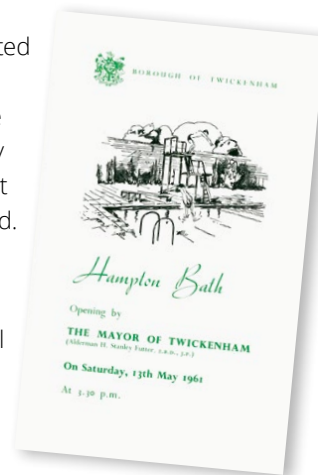
One of the greatest difficulties with which Mr. Chambers was faced in the construction was in ensuring that the bath should be waterproof. The bath is somewhat composite in character and perhaps unique. The concrete being reinforced with a steel wire lattice and the walls of the pond built in concrete blocks and lined with cement rendering.

*Middlesex Chronicle 28 June 1922*

Hampton Urban District Council minutes indicate that improvements were suggested almost as soon as the pool opened.

A proposed diving stage and boards were quickly installed and feature in many early photographs and films. In 1939 a diving pit and renewed filtration system were added.

Further improvements by 1961 included demolition of the earlier pool buildings and bathing cubicles, widening of the pool and construction of the main building and car park. The step change is clear from the before and after pictures in the official opening programme...



The pool has been increased in width by 18 feet so that the overall size is now 120 feet by 48 feet with a water capacity of 210,000 gallons. The paved area around the pool has been enlarged, so it has a minimum width of 20 feet, and a paddling pool has been provided. The joining of new reinforced concrete construction to the previous existing bath structure presented a difficult engineering problem. Special sealing joints have been designed and inserted along the line of the older new work.

*Borough of Twickenham Opening Brochure 1961*



Following this major investment, Hampton Pool was run by various levels of local government until cuts in public spending forced the council to close the pool in 1981. The deterioration during the years of closure was remarkable.

Following the success of the 'Save our Pool' campaign and the transfer of the pool to the newly formed company, Hampton Pool Limited, volunteers working to reopen the site had a steep learning curve to understand all that they needed to know about running and maintaining a swimming pool.



Left: volunteers cleaning the neglected site in 1984.  
Right: the installation of the new tank twenty years later in 2004.

A huge amount of proactive work has been carried out during the 37 years Hampton Pool has been run as a community pool to keep what is now aging pool infrastructure and the building functioning.

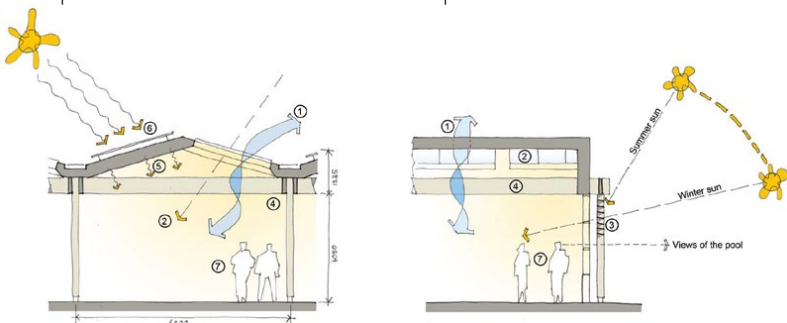
Successful projects included the 2004 replacement of the deteriorating painted pool tank and waterproofing the roof with generous help from the Hampton Pool Allotment Charity (now called Hampton Fund).

## Hampton Pool building today

A looming crisis faces many swimming pools today, with almost 2,000 at risk by the end of the decade. This is due to the large-scale construction of pools in the 1960s and '70s now reaching 'end of lifespan'. The Hampton Pool main building is from this same generation, but steps already taken mean that we are well placed to move forward with the next phase of building work that will meet the needs of the community for the longer term.

## Climate Crisis

A major driver for change today is to make the pool as sustainable as possible in the era of Climate Crisis. HPT are continually seeking to improve the facilities to reduce the impact and cost of operations for the long term. The aim is to implement the most appropriate technologies; to improve efficiency; reduce carbon consumption for greater environmental sustainability; and reduce operational costs of the facilities and plant.



Left: solar panels and natural light. Right: natural ventilation and light.

This is not possible without significant changes to the existing infrastructure, services and facilities. Features included in the detailed plans are air source heat pumps, photovoltaic solar panels and sustainable drainage, incorporating rainwater storage and attenuation tanks for diverted roof water for use in flushing toilets.

It's interesting to see how far we have come since the early schemes for the pool prior to 1914 which included consideration of use of water from the Longford River to fill the pool. ≈

## A Big Thank You to all the Hampton Knitters, Stitchers and Quilters

In preparation for the centenary, we have been out and about promoting knitting and quilting ahead of the birthday weekend with huge help from many local groups. The stitchers, knitters and quiltmakers of Hampton have been very busy.



Prepare for the pool to be transformed thanks to many metres of crocheted and knitted bunting inspired by all the pool colours.



Look out for the Hampton Pool Bathing Bears out and about around Hampton in the run up to the Centenary. If you're a Hampton Pool Summer Picnic Concert goer and want something to sit on, or you're looking

for a bedcover or a wall hanging, we are delighted to announce that **Paula Doyle of Green Mountain Quilt Studio** has designed an original quilt for the centenary, reflecting the shape and colours of Hampton Pool and based on her 'Ravioli' quilting technique, which involves recycling old jeans and T-shirts.



This community effort is underway at time of writing and the quilt is growing fast. It will be auctioned to raise funds for the pool.

The quilt design will also be available to purchase as a beautiful tote bag at the centenary weekend. ≈

# There's a bag for that!

Look out for our fabulous centenary merchandise at Hampton Pool shop at reception and out and about in Hampton.

They include the gorgeous print of Hampton Pool and tote bag designed by **Lisa Tolley!** We also have centenary branded towels and swim hats available from Hampton Pool shop. All surplus from sales help secure the future of Hampton Pool. ≈



Lisa Tolley print (unframed) **£10**. Lisa Tolley tote bag ideal for swim gear or shopping **£15**.



140cm x 70cm limited edition poly-cotton/cotton towel **£25**. Swim hats (3 styles) **£7.50**.

**hampton  
pool trust**

Hampton Pool is managed on behalf of Hampton Pool Trust by YMCA St Paul's Group. Both are registered charities.

**YMCA**

## How you can support Hampton Pool Trust and the Pool

We are grateful for your continuing support through these difficult times. Here are some of the ways you can continue to support Hampton Pool Trust and the pool.

### 1 Pre-book or drop in for a swim or a class and come and join us

We're over the peak in demand experienced just after reopening and waiting lists have disappeared or shrunk to small numbers so do join us to swim or to exercise. The pool is magical all year round but really special in the summer. Our ever-popular Moonlight Swims are back too!

### 2 Take on a centenary challenge to help us raise funds - details to be released in June.

### 3 Make a donation via JustGiving

Head to *JustGiving* and search for



'Hampton Pool Trust' to make a donation, we're grateful for your support, large or small. We will ensure the money raised will be used to help secure the future of Hampton Pool.

**JustGiving™**

### 4 Raise funds while you shop

Hampton Pool Trust is registered with the *Amazon Smile* initiative. Amazon will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases back to Hampton Pool Trust. So when you go online to do your shopping, please log in to Amazon via [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and search for **Hampton Pool Trust**. It costs you nothing, but will help us to raise vital funds for the Pool. ≈

**smile.amazon.co.uk**