

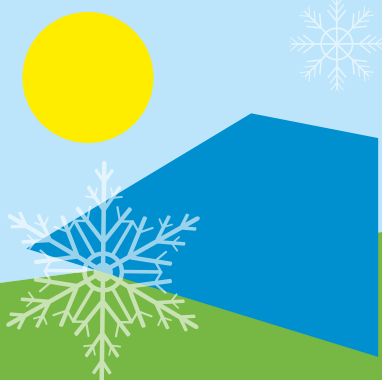
Winter issue 2016

hampton pool trust



Poolside Chat

News from the charity securing the future of Hampton Pool



Join the Trust!

Hampton Pool Trust 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 London South West. Both are registered charities.

You, too, can become a member or Trustee of Hampton Pool Trust

Our members are passionate about the facility and how it is run. If you care about the future of the pool then why not become a member of the Trust, or even a Trustee?

Being a member

There are over 100 members of Hampton Pool Trust and they elect the Board of Trustees who are responsible for the general oversight of the running of the pool. As a member, you will be notified of Trust matters and are invited to attend meetings. There are also working teams that you can get involved in that manage aspects of the Trust's work to ensure a sustainable future for the Pool. These include:

- Finance
- Fundraising Summer Picnic Concerts team
- Building development
- Operations review in relation to the management agreement with YMCA LSW
- Hampton Pool Consultative Group
- Marketing, including:
 - road-shows and raising awareness
 - fundraising

The role of a Trustee

HPT Trustees attend Board meetings four times a year to oversee our appointed managing agent's day-to-day operations of the pool and to progress the HPT strategic plan. There are currently 11 serving Trustees, each with their own experience that provides a broad skill-set to the Board.

Interested?

If you are passionate about Hampton Pool and would like to join the team aiming to make it an inspiration for the popularity of sustainable, open air swimming, and the good management of a local community facility, then please contact the Trust by email at info@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk

Hampton Pool Trust

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Inaugural Hampton Pool Trust winter concert triumph



Following the enormous success of the Hampton Pool Trust Summer Picnic Concerts, for the first time, there has been a sell out winter concert.

Given the unpredictable nature of the British weather (especially in November!) the concert was held at nearby Hampton School in their delightful, state-of-the-art 400 seater Hammond Theatre. The theatre manages to combine a feeling of intimacy with a capacity that allows the team the opportunity to share some different, exciting artists.

For the first winter concert the team chose *The Simon and Garfunkel Story*, a concert style theatre show about two young boys from Queens, New York who went on to become the world's most successful music duo of all time. The show used video projection, lighting and the full live band including the brass section previously only seen at the O2. Concert goers complimented the show as being superb, with great individual performances and superb harmonies from the band as they played hits such as *Mrs Robinson*, *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, *Homeward Bound*, *Scarborough Fair*, *The Boxer*,

The Sound of Silence and many more.

Everyone the concert team spoke to was delighted by what is an excellent extension of the Hampton Pool Summer Picnic Concerts into the autumn and winter.

The Hampton Pool Trust is enormously grateful to the concert team who work so hard to put on the concerts both in the summer and winter. The team, led by Tim Lawes, do a fantastic job creating a relaxed vibe, managing the bar, front of house, ticketing and critically keeping all concert goers safe. Of course the main reason they all put in the effort is to raise funds to ensure the future of the Pool. The summer concerts series have consistently proved to be our most successful fundraising activity. There is a limit of six concerts at the Pool each year so it is brilliant that the team have taken the opportunity to extend the concerts into the winter months to raise funds and, of course, entertain us all! 



The shared joy of Hampton Pool

I can hardly believe it is time for the winter Poolside Chat! The summer seems to have carried on right into the first week of November and what a great summer it has been! I have enjoyed many glorious evening swims in our tropical waters, followed by relaxing, sociable barbecues.

This summer, I also enjoyed a not-so-tropical dip at Parliament Hill Lido near Hampstead and the, sadly now closed, Kings Cross swimming pond. Both are fantastic locations and at 11°C and 8°C respectively they provided a, let's say, refreshing, invigorating experience! I couldn't stay in long, though there is something uniquely uplifting about swimming in cold water. (Maybe it's the relief of getting out.)

Super staff

Another reflection I made was how attentive and well-staffed Hampton Pool is compared to those pools. We always have at least two qualified lifeguards on duty and there is a strict rota that keeps them alert with regular change overs and rests. They also have to train regularly to stay on top of their skills. I think that they do an excellent job of keeping us safe – in all weathers – and I hope that we all realise that on those occasions when they may seem to be preventing us from having fun, they are only thinking of our best interests. They are also, mostly very young people, doing their first job – a job that carries a great deal of responsibility and so please appreciate and respect them.

Fantastic vision

I couldn't let this edition pass without mentioning the development plans that have reached the important milestone of making a planning application to Richmond council. Personally I think the building plans look fantastic and will really improve the customer experience at the pool. The additional facilities will also help to ensure that we can enjoy all-year open air swimming in a heated pool for many years to come.

Many people commented on the plans and I was drawn to comments regarding inconsiderate parking by pool customers in local residential roads. At busy times, when the car park is full some customers have parked in such a way that it makes it difficult for our neighbours to use their


"I think the staff do an excellent job of keeping us safe – in all weathers – and I hope that we all realise that on those occasions when they may seem to be preventing us from having fun, they are only thinking of our best interests."

driveways. The development team believe that the new plans will only add about four vehicles movements per hour at peak times, but with or without that extra traffic please try to come to the pool on foot, or on public transport or by bicycle – especially at peak times and during the concerts. If you do come by car and have to park in the local streets, please, please park considerately. The pool's neighbours are very tolerant, and we need to be considerate neighbours too.

High energy

Talking of the Summer Picnic Concerts, I couldn't do a winter Poolside Chat without thanking everyone in the audience, the volunteers on the night and the team that spend months organising them. The weather was also pretty kind to us again. We had a return visit from ABC and a trip down memory lane with both the *Zombies* and *The Pretty Things*. For me, I think the highlight was the Ska night, which got my feet tapping whilst I was behind the bar.

Now, as we enter into winter, there's still more to enjoy about the pool – with moonlight swims coming up in December and March, and not forgetting our ever-popular Christmas Day swim. Our poolside concerts will always be unique but our recent inaugural concert at the Hammond Theatre at Hampton School was very well-received. We wanted to find out whether there's an appetite for fundraising concerts in the colder months of the year and the sell-out success of the Simon & Garfunkel Story gave our concerts team a fairly clear thumbs up.

Enjoy your winter with Hampton Pool. Forget about the frost – the water's always warm and welcoming. 



Swimming news

Hampton Pool features on Radio 4 and The Times!

Over the summer months there was a lot of media interest in outdoor pools.

According to The Times, outdoor pools across the country are enjoying a revival and Hampton Pool (unsurprisingly!) made the list of Britain's 20 best lidos. The "cool pool guide to summer" said of Hampton "This 36m heated pool is next to Royal Bushy Park. There's a little café with a terrace on the first floor above the changing rooms and concerts are held in the grounds in the summer."

Other pools featured included:

-  **The Lido, Bristol** which has an award winning restaurant. The Swim and Eat package is £35 for breakfast, £40 for lunch and £45 for supper.
-  **Lymington Seawater Baths, Hampshire** which is the oldest seawater pool in the UK and has areas for kayaking, paddle boarding and a sandpit for children.
-  **Pontypridd Lido** which is a grade II listed lido dating from 1927 and has three heated pools and a huge inflatable area for children. It was reopened last August after a £6.3m restoration. 



Bristol Lido (above) and Pontypridd Lido (below) before and after their dramatic and successful redevelopments



Redevelopment update

For the last five years, Hampton Pool Trust has been actively looking towards enhancing and expanding our present facilities, **Grahame Hadden**, the Trust's technical director, explains.



Since publishing our current strategy document in 2011 there have been several open forum meetings and surveys; discussions at, and after, AGMs; consultations with company members, club members, user groups, neighbours and our site managers YMCA London South West. As a result of those representations we concluded that there was a need to:

- improve the changing facilities that are sometimes crowded due to the success and popularity of open-air swimming lessons and classes.
- improve accessibility to the gym and equipment
- increase studio capacity in frequently over-subscribed classes
- improve the cafeteria and disabled access to the first floor.

From this process the current plans have been developed over the last two years to provide accessible access for the whole facility and they incorporate many suggestions and ideas that we have learned in this time. They provide a modest enlargement of the gym facilities, allowing for better spacing around each piece of equipment that allows users with different mobility needs to access the gym equipment. The gym will then comply with Sports England size recommendations. A new reception area will free up space to create a family changing area with various sized cubicles. A lift to the Sun Deck Café will provide access for all.

As a regular (five times a week) user of the Pool, studio and gym, and a regular user of the café, I know, only too well, the delight of finishing my exercise activities with a coffee, breakfast or lunch on the roof – in good weather! I am also very much aware that this is England and we have English weather! So, I am familiar with the roof on cloudy, wet and windy, cold and snowy days when customer numbers dwindle and only a few die-hards gather in the stairwell to drink their coffee. I, therefore, welcome the concept of some sheltered seating area to the west side of the building, a roof with large glass fanfold doors, which can be opened to the poolside to create an open outdoor feel. This will provide year-round comfortable café seating, and along with the existing open roof to the east of the café, it will maintain that open 'lido feel', something I know is part of the Hampton Pool ethos.

On the technology side, our Mechanical and Electrical (M&E) consultants, Max Fordham have now refined the Pool plant strategy. New filters, heaters and a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) unit will be installed in the new plant area before the old plant is decommissioned, thus reducing any downtime to a minimum.

Hampton Pool has evolved and improved several times since 1922. Not much has really physically changed since 1960. This development looks to the future to bring the facilities up to date and provide a green and sustainable facility for the whole community. Our planning application was submitted to Richmond council at the end of August and we await the planner's decision. P

Community matters!

Hampton Pool is a community gem saved in 1985 by a project founded by Marshall Lees.

In 2014 a fund in his memory was set up to install a much needed lift. This will give everyone access to the café and sun deck which are a huge part of the Hampton Pool experience – giving unrivalled views across the wonderful Royal Bushy Park.

Fundraising efforts by a dedicated team developing and selling calendars and aerial photographs of the Thames riverside in



Hampton have seen the fund grow significantly. The team recently worked with the Community Matters Charity schemes organised by John Lewis, Kingston and Little Waitrose Hampton. It was a true community partnership as many of the staff from these stores swim regularly at Hampton Pool and these stores are all very local to Hampton Pool. The project team were delighted that the community scheme raised over £1,300. Many thanks to the John Lewis and Waitrose stores and, of course, any readers who put their green tokens into the 'Marshall Lees Lift Fund for Hampton Pool'.

*The fund now totals over £40,000 and further donations are gratefully received! Cheques should be made out to **The Marshall Lees Hampton Pool Lift Fund** and sent to 28 Cardinals Walk, Hampton TW12 2TS, or contact carrielees@blueyonder.co.uk. P*

Starry starry nights

These moonlit evenings have been a real success story since the initiative started in 2013.



Picture by Vincent Van Bailey

*There are usually four **Moonlight Dips** throughout the year. There is one on Friday 23 December 2016 and another on Friday 10 March 2017. Further dates will be published on the Pool's website. P*

Gold for Hampton Pool! Hurrah!

The Poolside Swim and BBQ club is now in winter recess after a very successful season with lots of members and for the first time we reached our maximum number.

Several of our club members, particularly Betsy, Sue and Rosemary, give up their time to keeping the pool looking bright and cheerful. They create, for example, the floral displays at the entrance and inside the pool grounds for all of us to enjoy. We are therefore delighted that all their efforts have also been recognised by Richmond in Bloom who awarded Hampton Pool a Gold Award for a Community Building.



The day the judges arrived it was pouring with rain, but the Lifeguards were out weeding and helping to move stones and shingle onto the front beds.

We are replanting the winter hanging baskets that volunteers donated last year, and they will soon be up. Hampton Pool will again bring pleasure to many as the bulbs shoot up and bring forth colour to welcome everyone to the Pool.

As with much that goes on at the Pool the floral displays and upkeep are a community affair and 2016 was no exception! The bulbs donated last year by the users of the Pool are still flowering and filled lots of gaps in the borders and pots. Support and finance comes from; Simon, Pool Manager, the Trustees of the Hampton Pool, and the Poolside Swim & BBQ Club. All the Summer hanging baskets, plants and bulbs came from Longacres in Shepperton and as a reward we were given £40 in vouchers which we have just spent on half price bulbs. Thanks to Kathy and Francis, who kept the plants watered and cared for throughout the summer, and to Grahame, Simon and other members of the YMCA staff who have been very helpful and supportive. P

Open air swimming makes the nationals



Hampton Pool featured in the national papers recently. A freelance snapper took the initiative and captured early morning swimmers on a crisp November morning. One of Peter Macdiarmid's pictures was picked up by the *Telegraph*, *Times* and *Daily Mirror*. P



Warm glow

We are in the process of applying for a grant from the London Marathon charity trust.

If successful, this grant will go some of the way in helping us realise the dream of evolving the Pool. The charity is very keen to understand what people using the Pool enjoy about it and how it has improved their wellbeing so thank you to everyone who responded to the survey we sent out in the summer. The positive responses were overwhelming and show so clearly what a community gem Hampton Pool is. Thank you for taking the time to share the joy. A small selection from the nearly 700 respondents are featured below:

I can swim outside no matter what the weather – which is absolutely exhilarating – in the sunshine, under the stars, while feeling big raindrops plopping on my skin, in the snow, with the icy wind blowing ripples across the surface, when the steam rises from the water and you can see more underwater than above – I feel like I am in a warm natural spa in a magical forest!

The little cafeteria makes one of the best lattes in London and I love sitting on the verandah watching the other swimmers and gazing out into Bushy park.

I cannot imagine my life without an every day swim in Hampton Pool.

I love the philosophy of being healthy and happy outside in nature all year round and the fact that the local community pulled together to save this pool for future generations 30 years ago and those same people still swim here every day! Every community should have a pool like this!

The sense of loyalty and pride in this place really makes you feel part of a strong community, which is sadly lacking anywhere else. The grass area and relaxed surroundings make it perfect for a family day out and its relatively small size makes it user friendly and easy to navigate. I love the short few steps from the changing/café area to the pool and the reasonable prices and accessibility make it a real gem in our area.

I love walking through Bushy Park to Hampton Pool. The staff are all lovely friendly and helpful. The food is good in the little café and I like sitting on the balcony whilst eating. The grounds are well kept where I enjoy a bit of reading in between swims. Such a relaxing atmosphere!

Write to **Kate Thomson**, HPT Trustee and editor of Poolside Chat by email: kate.thomson@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk or by letter to Hampton Pool Trust, Hampton Pool, High Street, Hampton, Middlesex, TW12 2ST. Design by William Redfern Graphic Design www.williamredfern.co.uk