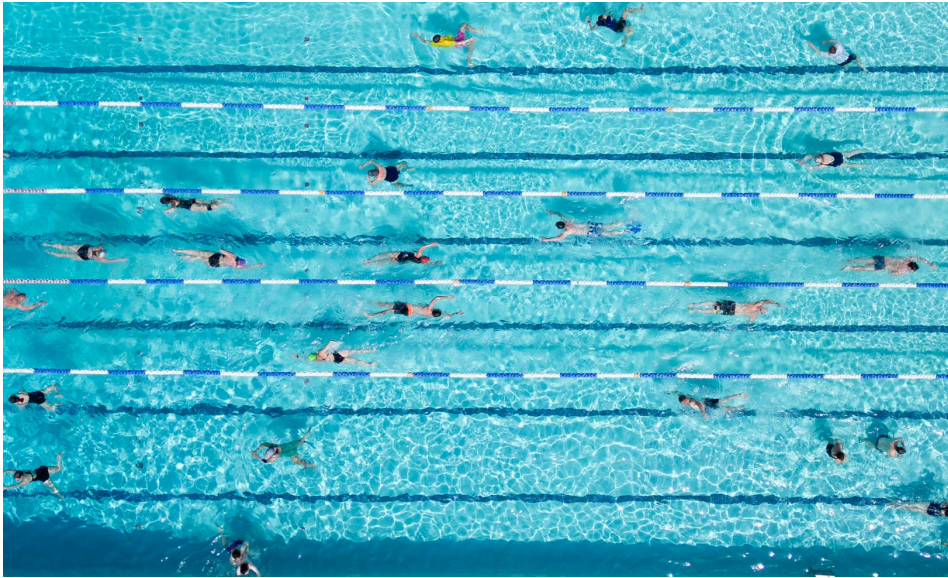


hampton pool trust

Poolside Chat

The newsletter from the charity securing the future of Hampton Pool

Summer Issue 2024



Aerial photo of pool by Dan Charity

It's Ready Steady Go!

We're on countdown to the start of building work!

Chair's welcome by Andrew Gill



I am delighted to introduce this first issue of Poolside Chat since becoming Chair of Hampton Pool Trust, the charity responsible for Hampton Pool.

The clock is ticking and this latest issue includes an update on progress towards the development of our swimming pool building, with construction expected to start this autumn. We've had some good news on grants recently, but we have a way to go to find the full funding needed for the scheme. So, we continue to seek your support.

This issue includes some wonderful recent coverage of Hampton Pool in the media, giving a delightful insight into the communities using Hampton Pool. Our profile this month is an interview with George Turner, one of our Level 1 Swim Teachers about the joys of teaching swimming!

To start on a personal note, I hope you will get to know me over the next few years, but a bit of background for now. I have lived in southwest London most of my life and in Whitton for 28 years. I work part-time for an international development charity based in Teddington.

I'm an experienced charity trustee and Chair, with previous involvement in overseeing capital projects. My background in parks and horticulture (I have worked in the Royal Parks) led me into facilities and charity management and I was for two and a half years seconded to the role of Chief Executive at Alexandra Palace & Park Charitable Trust where I overhauled the governance of the charity, preparing Ally Pally for a massive regeneration project.

I am excited to bring my skills and experience to bear as we embark on the first phase of our major development of Hampton Pool – my vision is to see us complete all the phases of work before my term of office ends!

Get on board

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

Our vision is to secure the future of Hampton Pool as a safe, sustainable, open-air environment for warm-water swimming and related activities to be enjoyed year-round by the community and to support health and wellbeing.

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.

For more information about the Trust visit hamptonpooltrust.org.uk

The HPT Board of Trustees are:

Andrew Gill – Chair
Rick Kershaw – Finance Director
Mark Sherwin – Company Secretary
Nigel Brown
Mark Doyle
Grahame Hadden
Roxanne Glaud
Roger Gray
Stuart Leamy
Jill Livesey
Jane Savidge
Katie Sullivan
Daphne Wharton
Michael White

Contact the Trust Secretary at the address below if you would like to become a member – or even a Trustee!

Current Vacancy: Fundraising and Outreach Champion

We are currently advertising for an additional Board member to strengthen fundraising and community outreach capacity.

If you are interested and have background and professional skills in this area, please contact the Secretary at:

Secretary@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk

Have a story you'd like to share?

Let us know by contacting

info@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk

Follow [hamptonpooltrust](https://hamptonpooltrust.org.uk) on Facebook, X and Instagram

Building Development – The Count Down!

As Trustees of the charity, we have a responsibility to protect the financial resources of the Trust so that we do not put our major asset Hampton Pool at risk.

We must assure ourselves that when we give the green light to start construction, we have sufficient resources confirmed to complete a standalone first phase of the building development.

So that we can manage the project effectively and assign resources appropriately, after much consideration, Phase One of the development has been divided into four stages;

1. Phase 1A Enabling works including Substation and Entrance
2. Phase 1B Roof with solar panels Café/Community space and Lift
3. Phase 1C Studio & Staff Office
4. Phase 1D Reception. Family Change and Changing Rooms

Our plan is to complete Phases 1A and 1B by March 2025 to achieve the material start and retain our planning permission. The gate will be widened for pedestrians and an in-out entrance provided for vehicles, facilitating access for contractors and deliveries alongside improving the flow of traffic and access for all. The new electricity substation will future-proof the pool plant supply.



Photograph by Peter McDiarmid

The elements prioritised are all critical to delivery of the strategic objectives of the full development, to ensure that the refurbished building is accessible, sustainable and future-proofed, extending our ability to deliver health and wellbeing objectives for the future. While Phase One is a responsible investment, it must not compromise later phases or the essential revenue streams for the continuing operation of the pool and there are dependencies between the elements included.

For example, we cannot significantly improve the changing areas if we don't move the entrance; we cannot move the entrance if we don't build the new studio. We cannot address accessibility or environmental sustainability if we don't enclose part of the sundeck and add the new roof.

Construction is an expensive business and although we could 'value engineer', removing any of the Phase One elements now would compromise the scheme. We are therefore working hard to raise further funding to close the gap and we hope to have your continuing help during 2024 and beyond.

While we still have a long way to go to raise all the funds necessary to complete all phases, our fundraising efforts have borne fruit recently. We received good news about two of our grant applications. We have been awarded £99,500 by Sport England, which will pay for Photovoltaic panels to be installed on the pool roof and we have received £66,000 from the Richmond Community Fund Round 5 towards the works needed at the entrance gate which will help reduce the congestion on the road outside the pool gates.

We know we have been talking about this for a very long time. We are now doing it and by the end of this year we hope you will see the results whenever you visit the Pool.



"They're how all outdoor concerts should be"



"Great live music without the stress of a big concert"



Hampton Pool in the Media

As well as a recent splash (pun intended) in *The Sun* about the hottest day of the year (so far) two of our Hampton Pool communities have recently been featured in the press. Water polo in *The Guardian* and Aquafit in *Woman's Weekly*.



Photograph by David Levene, reproduced with permission

The piece by Phil Daoust (*The Guardian*, May 24) is about our very own John Starbrook and the success of water polo.

"He's 93, he's run 52 marathons and he's in the gym six days a week: can this man teach us how to age well?"

Known to his friends as the Legend, John Starbrook is living, breathing proof of the power of exercise and enthusiasm. I tried to keep up with him – and barely survived"

...here I am, on a Sunday afternoon in south-west London, about to jump in the pool and terrified I'll let down both my teammates and myself. It's all John Starbrook's fault.

At 93, Starbrook is definitely the oldest water polo player at Hampton Pool (which welcomes any swimmer aged eight or over), and probably the oldest in the country. Alan Cammidge, the retired police officer who is about to referee our game, describes him as "a remarkable athlete. He has all the skills in the book and regularly scores."

<https://amp.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/article/2024/may/05/hes-93-hes-run-52-marathons-and-hes-in-the-gym-six-days-a-week-can-this-man-teach-us-how-to-age-well>

...and in *Woman's Weekly*, Karen Evennett focuses on our ever-popular Aquafit classes from the perspective of Joanne Bosanquet (below) one of our regulars at the Friday and Saturday classes.

"My Aqua Aerobics classes fill me with joy. I'm a massive believer in serendipity – the good things that come unexpectedly into our lives. And nothing could have been more unexpected or surprising than the impact that surgery had on my life... A kind colleague suggested I take up swimming at the nearby Hampton lido. We were in the middle of a COVID lockdown, but, as an outdoor facility the lido was able to open... I found swimming in the fresh air instantly exhilarating.

"When I took the plunge and joined the [Aquafit] class, they were so welcoming – I felt as if I'd come home... I soon became one of the deep-end naughty group. We're the ones giggling and chatting while we tread water and kick our legs in the air to the cancan.

The others are all older than me – in their 60s, 70s and 80s – and they're the most amazing role models for how to age happily and healthily."



Hampton Pool Summer Picnic Concerts

This July, the pool will once again be centre stage for the legendary Hampton Pool Summer Picnic Concerts. Regulars rave about the unique Hampton Pool concert experience, with its laid-back atmosphere and the opportunity to see world class performers up close in a small venue.



We have a fantastic line-up this year, with three of the concerts selling out in record time! Tickets are still available for three fantastic evenings featuring returning music industry legends

Kid Creole & The Coconuts and **The Trevor Horn Band**, as well as **Tony Hadley**, former lead singer of Spandau Ballet, who is making his Hampton Pool debut.



Best of all, every penny raised from the concerts supports the pool's future. So, why not join us for an unforgettable concert experience in a very special location. We can't wait to see you there!

Photographs by Barry Lewis



Swim Teaching

“The best job in the world!”

Hampton Pool provides a wide range of swimming lessons, to learn more we spoke to **George Turner**, a level 1 Swimming teacher.

One of the many things I enjoy as a swimming teacher must be our fun and friendly environment and I feel part of a family; I believe my role is an incredibly important and rewarding career.

We teach many non-swimmers, they need help building confidence and watching them improve and progress is gratifying, I recently taught a young pupil who could swim only the shortest distance to the steps; for our younger pupils expecting them to listen to so many instructions takes time, and when I watched this pupil swim a length of the pool for the first time it was fantastic to see his joy and his Mum's pride watching from the terrace.

We want to encourage as many people to sign up for swimming lessons, we have great marketing, but word of mouth recommendations are the best endorsement and advertising, I'm also keen to learn, and will take my Level 2 teaching qualifications this summer, I'm keen to expand my teaching to more levels and age groups, I really enjoy teaching all our classes from schools lessons, group sessions and one to ones, and always want to achieve and learn more. Working as a teacher at an outdoor pool is unique and wonderful to be able to say you learnt to swim outdoors, it's great we can teach all year round and yes, we must deal with chilly weather, but we're looked after and provided with wetsuits.



As you can tell I love my job, we're brilliantly supported by Clare Keeffe, our swim teacher, co-ordinator, Clare will always help us no matter what, I'm grateful to be part of a brilliant team of teachers, who have the best job in the world.

Hampton Pool provides lessons for all ages; from starfish school transforming non swimmers into swimmers up to club level. In addition, we offer variety of other lessons, adult classes, adult, baby and toddler lessons, private lessons, individual or small groups. Our Hampton Great Whites is a non-competitive swimming club, aimed at fitness and technique.

All of our instructors are ASA or STA qualified and attend frequent training to maintain high standards.

For further information and to book lessons, crash courses or training please see the [online booking link: courseprogress.co.uk](https://courseprogress.co.uk)

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YMCA

How you can help

Here are some of the ways you can support the much-needed development of Hampton Pool to secure it for the future. Thank you to all our supporters over the years. Your giving and volunteering makes a huge difference.

1. Join us for a swim, gym session or a fitness class

The pool is a friendly and welcoming place for all, no matter your level of swimming ability or fitness. In addition to swimming and water-based classes such as Aquafit, a wide range of fitness classes are on offer, as well as our gym and poolside activities

Join us on a regular basis and you will be supporting not only your health but also the future of Hampton Pool

2. Make a donation via Just Giving

Donations large or small can be made using Just Giving (which also allows us to collect the Gift Aid on your donation) 100% of your donation will be used for much needed improvement of the pool building.

JustGiving



3. Support our fundraising by coming along to our major fundraising event, the Summer Picnic Concerts, and look out for the Hampton Pool Trust stall at local charity fairs over the summer. Go to:

hamptonpooltrust.org.uk/concerts

4. Where there's a will...

Over the years Hampton Pool Trust has been fortunate to receive occasional legacies from passionate supporters of the pool. Leaving a gift to Hampton Pool Trust in your will supports the future of the pool for generations to come. Some initial guidance can be found here:

rememberacharity.org.uk/making-a-will/

5. Raise funds while you shop

Shopping online? Raise funds while you shop by signing up with *Easyfundraising*. and select Hampton Pool Trust as your nominated charity. It's easy and won't cost you a penny extra.

 **easyfundraising**

