



hampton pool trust

# Poolside Chat

The newsletter from the charity securing the future of Hampton Pool

## Summer Issue 2026



Artist's impression of landscaping at the gate with permission of William Redfern

# New Shoots, New Skills, New Season!

Chair's welcome by Andrew Gill



As we approach the end of South Downs Leisure's first year operating Hampton Pool for the charity, with the early stages of work near to the entrance gates complete and as we continue essential fundraising for the future of the pool, it's heartening to witness the emergence of 'new shoots' – quite literally – as landscaping efforts close to the entrance begin to transform the space.

This edition shines a spotlight on progress, introduces our 'TREE-MENDOUS' fundraising campaign, asks our community for vital support, and takes a look at how engagement with wonderful Hampton Pool supports skills and personal development, whatever your starting point.

The Board of the charity recently welcomed some new faces, Alex Dumbrell, Paul Seddon and Stef Welkers were elected in January 2026 and former Trustees, Roger Gray, Daphne Wharton and Mike White stepped down. I would like to thank the departing Trustees for their contribution over many years. I am also pleased to share some memories from Daphne Wharton, reflecting on her remarkable 28 years of commitment to Hampton Pool as a Trustee and former Chair. ●

## Get on board

Hampton Pool Trust (HPT) is a small, independent registered charity and not for profit company licenced by The Royal Parks to run Hampton Pool.

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 currently managed for Hampton Pool Trust by South Downs Leisure (SDL) also a registered charity.

Supporters of Hampton Pool care deeply about the future of the facility and join the Trust to help and to have a voice in shaping its future and survival.

For more information about the Trust please visit the Trust website

[hamptonpooltrust.org.uk](https://hamptonpooltrust.org.uk)

The HPT Board of Trustees are:

Andrew Gill – Chair  
Stef Welkers – Finance Director  
Nigel Brown  
Alex Dumbrell  
Roxanne Glaud  
Grahame Hadden  
Stuart Leamy  
Jill Livesey  
Gill Radcliffe – Company Secretary  
Jane Savidge  
Paul Seddon

Following Gill Radcliffe's recent decision to step down, we are recruiting for a new **Company Secretary**.

If you have skills and experience of compliance, charity governance or business administration, we would love to hear from you. Contact:

[secretary@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk)

**Have a story to share?**

Let us know by contacting:

[info@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk](mailto:info@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk)

# TREE-MENDOUS Fundraising Campaign

You may have noticed some exciting changes near the entrance to Hampton Pool. New planting and trees are already creating improved habitats for wildlife and a greener, more welcoming approach to the pool. Four beautiful Silver Birch trees have now been planted and to celebrate, we're launching our TREE-MENDOUS Fundraising Campaign!

This campaign invites local schools, businesses, clubs, groups, and our wonderfully supportive community to get involved and help us grow something special together.



## About the campaign

Each tree has a unique way to take part:

### Tree 1 – Local Schools Tree

A fun competition for local schools to **name the tree**.

### Tree 2 – Local Business Tree

Local businesses are invited to donate; the **highest bidder can name the tree**.

### Tree 3 – Pool Groups & Clubs Tree

Hampton Pool groups and clubs can donate, with the **highest bidder naming the tree**.

### Tree 4 – Community Tree

This one belongs to **everyone**, please donate whatever you can, no matter how small.

### Tree Naming Ceremony

Join us to celebrate on World Tree Day, Sunday 28 June, 10.30-11.00am.

We'll reveal the tree names, enjoy some fun, cake, and take photos together. Everyone is welcome. ●

## How to Donate

Donate via our [JustGiving page](#) by scanning the QR code below, or use the donation machine at Hampton Pool



Please remember to tell us **which tree you're supporting** and your **suggested tree name** when you donate.

## Landscaping at Hampton Pool



Following the new entrance works completed in spring 2025, we've now reached the stage where permanent planting can begin to increase the site's **biodiversity net gain** – in other words, leaving the area with more and better habitats for nature than before.

The planting includes copper beech hedging along the allotment fenceline, circular raised planters for the new trees along the walkway and mesh for climbers to screen the substation. The work has been carried out by Mike Parker of Parker Brothers Landscaping – a supporter of Hampton Pool and a valued concert volunteer.

**Grahame Hadden Technical Director**

# Hampton Pool: building skills, confidence and careers

From learning to swim, to gaining a nationally recognised qualification, Hampton Pool is helping local young people develop skills that last a lifetime – opening doors to employment in the leisure industry.

A generation of children missed the opportunity to learn to swim during Covid in a borough with significant bodies of water. The challenge is to address low engagement by offering water safety courses and swimming lessons for all levels.



To achieve this local pools rely on young lifeguards and Hampton is a pipeline of supply supporting partners across Richmond working to encourage the community to take up swimming. Our *Rookie Lifeguard* courses are open to children over 8, subject to a minimum level of swimming ability; and for Age 16+ formal training courses are offered to attain NPLQ (National Pool Lifeguard Qualification). The NPLQ programme provides the skills for work opportunities at Hampton and elsewhere (140+ successfully completed formal training and achieved this qualification last year).

South Downs Leisure, who operate Hampton Pool for Hampton Pool Trust, employs local young people, especially through the summer, supporting them with training to extend their career prospects. One recent initiative with **Twickenham Job Centre** is the hosting of two-week leisure industry placements for young people. This will operate alongside work placements for local schools.

We spoke to pool lifeguard **Floss Leicester** about her experience of the training programme:

*“What I enjoy most is the one-to-one engagement with the trainers. Everyone is really approachable and friendly, and you never feel like you can’t ask questions. It makes a big difference to how much you take in.”*

*The training doesn’t just apply to the pool either – it genuinely prepares you for real-life situations you might face outside of work. You feel more confident knowing you could step in and help if needed.”*

And to one of Hampton Pool’s NPLQ Trainers:

*“As a trainer, what I enjoy most is seeing candidates grow in confidence over the course. Many arrive unsure of their abilities, but by the end they’re performing skills under pressure and working effectively as a team. Lifeguarding isn’t just about passing an assessment – it’s about being ready to respond in real situations.”*

*“It’s also important to me that candidates understand the responsibility that comes with the role. You’re not just learning techniques; you’re developing a mindset that prepares you to act when it matters most.”*

*“We’ve a busy summer ahead and currently have plenty of availability on our NPLQ (National Pool Lifeguard Qualification) courses running through to October, so it’s a great time to get booked on and get qualified!” ●*

## Hampton Pool in the Media: Extraordinary Portraits Series 5, Episode 2

Edwina (Eddie) Brocklesby AKA ‘Iron Gran’ is in her 80s and still doing triathlons!

This episode of ‘Extraordinary Portraits’ explores aspects of Eddie’s life as her portrait is painted by artist Caroline Pool.

Hampton Pool features in the episode as the setting for scenes of Eddie swimming.

Eddie learned to swim in her 60s, and at 72, became the oldest British woman ever to complete an Ironman triathlon.

She is the founder of **Silverfit**, a charity promoting happier healthier aging by maintaining fitness and socialising.

[www.silverfit.org.uk](http://www.silverfit.org.uk)

Eddie herself is a role model for the cause. With little time for sport and exercise when younger; following her husband’s death she focused on running through her 50s, and took up swimming at 60. She ran her first triathlon in 2001 and her second at Hampton Pool!



She writes: “It is a weird but satisfying experience getting into that warm water from the cold outside, swimming up and down the lanes, under the lane ropes and emerging at the far end into transition”.

First broadcast on BBC 1 on 3 April 2026 and available on iPlayer.

[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002thdf](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002thdf)

# A special thank you: Daphne Wharton reflects

As we look to the future, we'd also like to offer a heartfelt thank you to Daphne Wharton for her 28 years dedication and commitment to Hampton Pool Trust as she steps down from the Trust Board. Her contribution has helped shape the pool and its community, we asked Daphne to share her memories of volunteering for Hampton Pool Trust.



Daphne first joined the Board in 1998 after a chance conversation with Trustee and Finance Director John Sewell about their shared love of Hampton Pool. “My immediate reaction was to refuse,” she recalls. “I felt I wouldn’t know what to do at that level.” She agreed soon after however, recognising this as a chance to learn—and quickly discovered how much good governance matters.

Looking back, Daphne’s proudest memory is helping the Trust support Hampton Pool’s growth from around 25,000 annual visits to more than 250,000—expanding activities for all ages and abilities while

keeping the pool’s distinctive community feel.

Early on she was handed everything from Y2K checks to monitoring café takings. She later helped professionalise day-to-day operations – introducing business planning, regular minutes, clearer timetables and pricing, and more structured HR processes.

## Chairing the Trust (from 2010-2015)

As Chair, Daphne focused on refreshing the strategy and stronger two-way communication with members. She helped establish a five-year vision, expanded Poolside Chat and online updates, created more ways for members to engage (consultative groups, open days and ‘meet the trustees’ sessions), and kept sustainability, cleanliness and quality assurance firmly on the agenda as she chaired the Operations Committee of the Trust for many years. Behind the scenes, the Trust also navigated major governance reviews, licence and contract renewals, and the early groundwork for future building decisions – work that brought with it more meetings, consultations and due diligence.

One moment stands out: hearing about the donation from the family of Milly Dowler on a Sunday dog walk. “It felt like a turning point – new possibilities, but also new challenges.”

This gift remains a cornerstone of ongoing efforts to raise the resources needed to secure the future of Hampton Pool and the Trust is hugely grateful to the Dowler family. ●

*Photograph of Daphne in 1998, by Paul Campbell*

## Coming soon!

The weather’s warming up, the evenings are getting lighter and the Hampton Pool Concerts are less than three months away!



[hamptonpooltrust.org.uk/concerts](http://hamptonpooltrust.org.uk/concerts)

With one concert already sold out, now’s the time to secure your tickets to see great performers take to the Hampton Pool stage.

Our concerts consistently punch above their weight in terms of the world class performers who appear, and this year is no exception with **ABC**, **Haircut 100**, **The Manfreds** and leading tributes to **Whitney Houston**, **Kate Bush** and **David Bowie** taking to the stage in July.

Better still, the concerts are organised and run entirely by volunteers which means that the maximum possible surplus is raised each year to contribute to the future development of your pool.

**So what are you waiting for? Get your tickets today at**

[www.hamptonpooltrust.org.uk/concerts](http://www.hamptonpooltrust.org.uk/concerts)

Look out for dates of our other spring and summer events on social media, and meanwhile help us raise funds while you shop.

**Shopping online? Booking a holiday?** Raise funds while you shop by signing up to *Easyfundraising*. It’s easy and won’t cost you a penny extra.

