

hampton pool trust

Poolside Chat

The newsletter from the charity securing the future of Hampton Pool

Winter Issue 2025



Moonlight swim reproduced with permission

Going Green for a Brighter Future!

Reflections on six months of partnership with South Downs Leisure, and our latest sustainability initiatives

Chair's welcome by Andrew Gill



As it's close to six months since South Downs Leisure took on the operation of Hampton Pool it seems right to focus this issue on some of the positive developments arising from the new relationship, especially connected with reducing the impact of Hampton Pool on the environment which both our new operator and our building project contribute to.

Transfer to a new operator inevitably involves change, and we have all had to learn new systems and processes. Thank you to all our customers and supporters for bearing with us through this period of change.

I am delighted to include below some reflections from South Downs Leisure Chief Executive, Duncan Anderson as well as our latest call for help with funding for the building project as we approach the holiday period. ●

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 currently managed on behalf of Hampton Pool Trust by South Downs Leisure. The Trust and Operator are both registered charities.

Members of Hampton Pool Trust care deeply about the facility and how it is run.

For more information about the Trust please visit the Trust website

hamptonpooltrust.org.uk

The HPT Board of Trustees are:

Andrew Gill – Chair
Stef Welkers – Finance Director
Gill Radcliffe – Company Secretary
Nigel Brown
Roger Gray
Grahame Hadden
Roxanne Glaud
Stuart Leamy
Jill Livesey
Jane Savidge
Daphne Wharton
Michael White

We continue to seek additional Board and Committee members to support our work.

If you have skills and experience which relate to **fundraising, PR and Marketing**, we would love to hear from you.

Contact the Trust Secretary if you would like to become a member of the charity, or even a Trustee!

secretary@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk

Have a story to share?

Let us know by contacting:

info@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk

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

Six Months of Positive Progress, Part 1

Duncan Anderson, CEO of South Downs Leisure describes some recent initiatives

It's hard to believe that six months have passed since South Downs Leisure took on the operation of Hampton Pool. It's been a busy and rewarding time, and the transition has gone smoothly thanks to everyone's shared commitment to the pool and community. From the outset, we set a clear goal: to protect and enhance this much-loved local facility while ensuring we do so in the most sustainable and inclusive way possible.

One of our early priorities was improving energy efficiency. By installing new flow meters, we have been able to fine-tune how the pool pumps run.

These are now operating at around 30% lower output, reducing power use from 5.7 kW to 2.1 kW per pump, saving more than 1,200 kWh each week. That's roughly the same amount of electricity an average home would use in three months.



We've also recommissioned the borehole on site, which will allow the pools to draw groundwater rather than relying entirely on mains supply. This significantly reduces water usage and waste.

The savings generated mean the investment is expected to repay itself within around four years, offering long-term environmental and financial benefits.

Accessibility has also been a focus. The installation of a new pool hoist means more people can enjoy the water safely and independently, which is a real step forward for inclusion.

As we look ahead, our goal is simple: to keep improving, keep learning, and ensure Hampton Pool continues to thrive as a welcoming and sustainable place for everyone.

Six Months of Positive Progress, Part 2

Grahame Hadden on the environmental benefits achieved by Stage 1A of Hampton Pool building work

HPT energy strategy includes the long-term goal to reduce our carbon footprint by reducing reliance on fossil fuels (Natural Gas) HPT were delighted to receive funding from Sport England to extend use of sustainable energy sources by installing solar panels on the pool roof.

With enabling works complete we are reaping the benefits! On sunny summer days the system has produced up to 200kWh – 30% of our daily electricity consumption, generating over 30MWh to date.

Installation of an electrical substation has also increased the incoming electrical capacity to enable future installation of air source heat pumps to allow a move away from gas heating for both pool water and building. ●

Recycling at Hampton Pool

We've also made strong progress in recycling and use of sustainable products. Working with our waste partner, Recorra, Hampton Pool now recycles almost half of all materials, achieving a 49% recycling rate.

Between August and October, more than five tonnes were recycled, saving the equivalent of 30 trees and avoiding nearly seven tonnes of CO₂ emissions. That is enough energy to power 14 homes for a month.



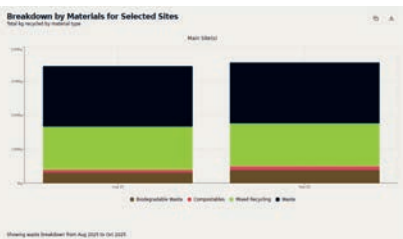
The Leisure Loop Recycling Station is also new. This allows customers to recycle their old swim goggles and hats.

Items collected are transformed into construction materials used in making changing cubicles and benches. We are looking at the possibility of working with recycled materials like these to reinstate our outdoor changing cubicles.

We are also working to develop a sustainability culture on site using suppliers committed to responsible manufacturing methods and materials.

We promote reusable water bottles to help cut down on single-use plastics and our swimwear shop now features sustainable brands.

Support our recycling by using the recycling bins located around the site.



We face a challenge and with your help we will meet it!

With the enabling stage of Hampton Pool's redevelopment completed, work continues to raise the money to start the most significant phase of construction, addressing Hampton Pool's elderly building. We have a significant gap of £1 million to close and we are pursuing every avenue, including this call to the community to help. There is no easy way to find the funding and we explain why below.

Addressing the challenges of a building constructed to be seasonal, but which today is in heavy use year-round, with 250,000+ visits and water-based activity is no small task. Combined with the need to address accessibility and customer and community expectations the next stage of construction is urgent.

The works will add the new roof to the building, create indoor space on the upper floor, install a lift and improve the fabric of the building to insulate, reduce energy use and impact on the environment.

We need the help of everyone in our Hampton Pool community to get us there! The Hampton Pool Concert Season is a major contributor but so much more is needed!



*Nik Kershaw and Chesney Hawkes performing at Hampton Pool, summer 2025.
Photograph by Caolan Humphries.*

Hampton Pool is located in Royal Bushy Park and permitted to operate under a licence. Any construction on site requires permission from the Royal Parks. To commence work we must show that we have money in the bank to complete construction.

Despite significant success securing funding awards from the Swimming Pool Support Fund (£99.5k) and Richmond Community Fund (£66k, with a further application pending), as a public pool run by a small charity without significant public subsidy, raising the capital to develop the building remains a herculean task.

Charity fundraising since Covid remains difficult, with funds closed or rethinking their funding distribution strategies (City Bridges Trust, Hampton Fund).

Our Royal Parks location means that we are unable to offer the security of a lease; our location in Richmond penalises us because it is regarded as one of the most affluent boroughs in London. Many funds use deprivation index scores to prioritise funding allocation. We know only too well that many in our community struggle with living costs or need access to the pool for physical and mental health. It matters little where you live, if you face these issues life is a struggle. ●

Making a difference: How you can help

Join Hampton Pool Trust

If you love the pool and want to see it survive and thrive, we would love to hear from you. Becoming a member of Hampton Pool Trust gives you a voice. Contact the Trust Secretary to get involved.

Secretary@hamptonpooltrust.org.uk

Make a Donation .



Donating using JustGiving or at Hampton Pool allows HPT to collect Gift Aid on your donation

Look for the payment machine near Hampton Pool Reception.

Join our Community Fundraising this winter!



Hampton Pool Lights Switch On

26 November;

Community Carols by the Pool

10 December;

Christmas Moonlight Swim

20 December;

and the amazing **Christmas Day Swim**, which this year includes our first ever **Golden Ticket Raffle**, a chance to win very special prizes and fundraising for Hampton Pool.

Look out for dates and details on social media, on the Hampton Pool App. or at Hampton Pool!

Raise funds while you shop

Shopping online? Booking a holiday? Raise funds while you shop by signing up to *Easyfundraising*

Select Hampton Pool Trust as your nominated charity. It's easy and won't cost you a penny extra.



The Hampton Pool Sun Deck Café

The Sun Deck Café has been central to the community at Hampton Pool, contributing to the experience of customers for many years. We spoke to Dabbie Hollis to learn more about the history and what makes the cafe so special.



When Hampton Pool first reopened in 1985, the café was run by volunteers and later as a franchise run by Wendy Noble. It was at this point that Dabbie Hollis joined as Catering Manager.

Following a brief closure for refurbishment the little cafe as we know it today was born. It officially re-opened in 2002 thanks to the continuing efforts of Wendy and Dabbie!

Right from the start the team recognised the importance of refreshments following a swim and offered a good spread of snacks, cakes and hot drinks

and the offer continues to grow and evolve to reflect the changing preferences of café customers!

Dabbie, you have run the cafe for an incredible 23 years, tell us what the café and pool mean to you?

"It's my life, I love the people I meet there, so many of whom are my friends. I love to watch families grow up and so many of our visitors I have known since they were young children. The vista is magical. I have the best office window you could wish for and I feel like I'm on holiday every day."

"The café is famous for our bacon sandwiches – I hear it's the fragrance that does it for swimmers. We also like to offer healthy items. I launched our granola and compote 5 years ago and it's now our most popular breakfast item."

"We are a great team in the café. I'm supported by many of our lifeguards, who are trained to work in the café and help at peak times and when I'm away. This training is a great new life skill for many, learning how to cook food, make and pour a great coffee. I know many have moved on to working as Baristas in cafés when they go to university"

What are the plans for the Cafe this Christmas?

"On the 26th of November, from 4 to 8 pm, our iconic Christmas lights at Hampton Pool will be switched on. We will have a pizza truck, and the poolside kiosk will serve mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas crepes, with frothy hot chocolate."

"The wonderful Community Carols are happening on Wednesday 10th December, from 7pm. In the café you will find mince pies, mulled wine, frothy hot chocolate (with or without Baileys!)."

"Christmas Day is the biggest day of the year, attracting 1,300 to 1,500 visitors across 4 hours. We have a special menu planned for the day, including mulled wine and Buck's Fizz, festive egg, bacon or sausage sandwiches and smoked salmon and scrambled eggs. It is a very special atmosphere which we all love."

Thank you Dabbie and team, we can't wait to join you!

Another Great Year of Summer Picnic Concerts

A huge thank you to all the concertgoers, volunteers, lifeguards and pool staff who made our most important annual fundraiser a success this year, adding to the Pool building fund.



Photograph by Caolan Humphries

Thanks also to everyone who completed the concerts survey; your ideas and suggestions are extremely helpful as we plan for next year!

As in previous years, it was the quality of the artists – including **Nik Kershaw**, **Lightning Seeds**, **The Shires**, the **Amy Winehouse Band** and the **Illegal Eagles** – as well as the fantastic atmosphere at our small, local venue that received consistently positive feedback. In this year's survey, 92% say they are likely or very likely to attend the concerts again in 2026.

"The sound quality and personal experience of a small venue stand out. It's a very relaxed and enjoyable way to see an open air concert"

The concert volunteers are already booking performers for next year, with the full 2026 lineup due to be announced early in March. If you'd like to be first to know who's playing next summer, just follow the QR code to sign up to the concerts mailing list:

