

BRIGHTLINGSEA LIDO



Seasonal News Update – from the Lido Trustees

Oct/Nov 2019

Thanks to Lesley – the Trustees would like to record their thanks and gratitude to Lesley Fearis who has decided to stand down as a trustee. Lesley has been an important part of the Lido journey from the very beginning and took on the vital role of fundraising co-ordinator and organiser as well as becoming a trustee in 2018. Lesley has worked tirelessly with the fundraising team to bring in thousands of pounds in revenue and allow everyone to have a good time whilst doing it – Jazz Night, Soul Kitchen and the inflatable amongst her and the team's significant achievements. Although she is standing down Lesley will still be involved in the fund raising and other Lido activities. Once again grateful thanks from all her fellow trustees and everyone involved at the Lido.

Another great season – Despite the very variable weather throughout June, July and August the Lido recorded over 18,000 admissions during the 2019 season. This is down on the record 30,000 from last year but obviously the heatwave conditions of 2018 were truly exceptional and this year represents more of an 'average' British summer. It is heartening that the Lido managed to hold its own in such circumstances and it bodes very well for the future. The café opened at the beginning of May, and after winding down its opening times, closed for the winter on 20th October. The café proved to be a success in its first year providing much needed revenue support for the Lido, and overall the financial position was healthy with all bills and wages covered and a small surplus to take us forward into 2020.

The trustees would like to place on record their thanks to Clive Edwards our manager in his first season, all our paid staff in the café and lifeguards in the pool

area, for making 2018 such a success. It goes without saying that the whole project would not function without the contribution of time and expertise from our volunteers in so many areas – front of house, fund raising, café rota, maintenance, and professional services. Thank you so much to you all.

Staff and volunteer feedback – Thanks to everyone who has completed the anonymous survey for staff and volunteers. This survey can be completely anonymous and is a way for us to gather your views on your experience working for the lido, including the number of hours you volunteered, any benefits you experienced as well as your suggestions. This is to help the trustees to improve the staff and volunteer experience and to give us some data to use in future funding applications. It has been set up by Rachel Fletcher who is the only person who will see the individual responses. Please follow the link to complete the survey if you haven't already done so. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9XWJZX7>

Forward Planning – Dave Atkinson has been leading on plans for further development and the project architect, Ollie Westover, has drawn up some initial concept drawings. With a few modifications and some more detailed costings it is hoped we will be in a position in early 2020 to call a public meeting and showcase the plans. The aim is to get some heat (!) into the main pool by developing the smaller pool into a fitness pool with a splash park area, and integrating heat recovery and extraction technology into a visionary design. Watch this space!

Use of the Lido café over Winter – The Lido café was scheduled to be closed for catering business over the winter; we simply could not expect volunteers to keep giving their time over the next six months, and with the pool closed, projected costs and returns were not commercially viable. Residents of the town will be aware of the Bateman's café development and the fact that it has been on hold for some months. Lisa is experiencing a number of issues in moving her project forward and following some discussions with trustees it has been agreed that she can have a temporary licence to use the Lido cafe premises to provide a catering outlet for the town. This will bring her in from the cold over the next few months and provide regular promenade users and walkers with a service to keep them going on cold winter days.

Bits and bobs – A shed has been purchased and is being delivered on 15th November to house the inflatable and other pool equipment. Volunteers wanted to help with putting it up – contact Clive.

Lido watchers will have noticed the various bird scaring techniques employed to try and stop ducks and geese using the pool. Many CD options have been tried with the latest effort seeming to have some success. Any further proposals welcome!

Covering the pool with a retractable cover is something we are looking into, as we want to try and retain some heat in the summer and keep it cleaner over winter. This would require a major fund raising effort and when plans are firmed up, we would look to target funds towards this aim.

There are a number of events planned to take place in the café in forthcoming months including Halloween Party 31st Oct, a Pudsey Paintathon on 12th November from 10am and Xmas Wreath making workshops on 2nd and 4th December. Full details to be circulated via social media and Lido website.

A Lido Quiz night is scheduled for Sat 30th Nov at the YMCA – tickets on sale at Spirals and Little Boat Gifts.

Finally, the Lido has come a long way from its humble beginnings in April 2018 when the asset transfer was completed. We have had over 48,000 people in our pool in two seasons and established the Lido on a sound financial footing. We have ambitious plans to further develop the facility and maintain it as a valuable asset for the town and region. The contribution from the Brightlingsea Community has been fantastic and unique and the trustees can only continue to thank you all for your time and effort. Well done everyone.

Mick Barry 29.10.19 – on behalf of the trustees Rachel Fletcher, Dave Atkinson, Sarah Brown, Charlie Heywood, Sarah O'Laoui, Jenny Barry, Malcolm Morris.