

BRIGHTLINGSEA LIDO



Lido in Brief – Oct/Nov 2020

Update on all things Lido from the trustees and volunteers.

Hello everyone and best wishes to all lido volunteers and supporters. Things are moving slowly but positively as we approach the end of a particularly challenging year! Small working parties have cleaned out the messy flood damaged changing rooms in readiness for insurance work to repair flood damage from February. We have had to store a lot of equipment and merchandise from the office block in the cafe pending the completion of the work, which is why we can't contemplate any use of the cafe at the present time. The refurbishment works are due to start soon so hopefully this position will change in the New Year.

Volunteers are working on **the garden area in front of the cafe** under the guidance of Susie Jenkins, but unfortunately at the same time TDC dug two big holes in the same area to fit another water meter. We hope the meter work will be finished soon and the garden can be restored to normal.

With regard to general volunteer work on site there have been a number of small work parties on Tuesday mornings for the last two months. These have focused on clearing out the office and changing rooms and tidying the site. As the clocks go back there is not a lot of general work left to do on site until refurbishment works are completed.

Refurbishment The insurers have agreed a settlement and contracts have been signed for the refurbishment of the changing rooms and perimeter fencing. The work is scheduled to start on November 16th and they hope to be done by Xmas! It would be a nice seasonal present if achieved - given our luck this year who knows? It should all look really wonderful when it is finished and give us a boost going in to 2021. They will also be fitting the changing bench in the accessible changing room. We received a grant from Catalyst to help cover the £4,000 cost. We have a further £11,000 grant waiting to install a hoist when the pool is preparing to open next year. This should make us one of the most accessible facilities in the area in line with our five year development plan.

The Plant Room is being prepared for its makeover with a final insurance settlement due very soon. To maintain safety and accommodate current Covid restrictions we need to limit numbers on site so unfortunately we cannot accommodate everyone who might want to come on a Tuesday. I shall be organising the team each week and

it may be that some painting and tidying work can take place on other days, working in pairs. Sanitising measures are compulsory and face masks must be worn by anyone going into the plant room. We have replaced flood damaged tools and equipment, so should be in a strong position to really get going with the pool preparation when we are able to in the New Year.

As you will know our manager Clive moved on to another post in September. We will be advertising for a **new Manager early in 2021** to run and manage the Lido site. We hope to relaunch the cafe with a new menu and more events and options for different groups. The swimming experience will be very different too, so there will be a challenging job opportunity for someone to run our newly refurbished site, within a totally new and different operational framework.

The fund raising team have been restricted by Covid from organising events for most of the year but managed to run a successful stall at the bank holiday car boot sale and raised over £300. A brilliant effort in difficult circumstances.

Donations from community organisations have continued to come in with £250 from the Winterfest Committee and £500 from the Crab and Winkle Country and Western Club. £1000 was also received from the 'Ecclesiastical Giving Fund' thanks to us being nominated by our supporters for inclusion in a charitable draw.

All donations received this year will be put into flood resilience measures around the plant room and pool perimeter to try and mitigate against future high tides and possible flooding. Rising water levels is a product of climate change and something we will have to live with more frequently in the future. We have a strategy for flood protection measures and have already raised all the electrics and control panels in the plant room above potential water levels.

Looking ahead to next year we are planning to use further fund raising activity and grant applications to get a cover for the pool and attempt to raise the water temperature – we will have a different system of entry and we need to get more people in!

The trustees thank everyone for their support and patience this year and hope you can all stay safe and well over coming months. We are looking to recruit two or three more trustees in the New Year so if you feel able to contribute in a more formal way, please speak to a current trustee to discuss further.

We look forward to a much changed year in 2021 with plenty of sun and (socially distanced) swimming.

Regards to all

Mick Barry

On behalf of Lido Trustees

