



SANDFORD PARKS LIDO SWIMMING POOL

OUR

HISTORY

AND

COMMUNITY



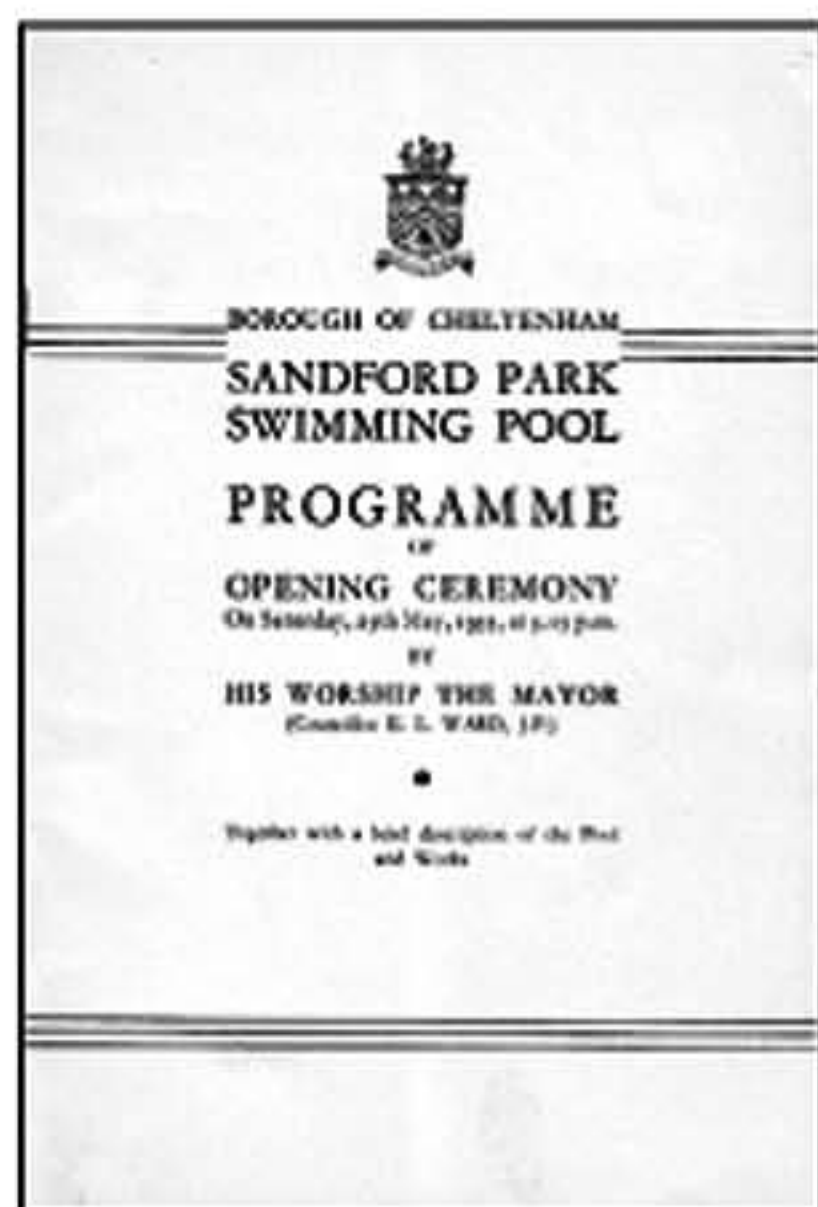
Celebrating our Heritage of Swimming
with the history of Sandford Parks Lido

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Clive Barratt on the Cafe steps in the 1950s



Front cover of the 1935 opening ceremony programme

Foreword



Following the successful refurbishment of our main pool and surrounding area in 2006/07 we felt it an appropriate time to document the history of swimming. To celebrate the 1930s boom in lidos and their struggle for survival in a changing world and highlight the success story of Sandford Parks Lido.

The passion of local people prevented its closure and the dedication and hard work of the Charitable Trust has now secured the future of our beloved lido. Many individuals have been instrumental to the preservation of our lido and we would like to thank you all for your dedication over the years.

We hope you enjoy reading about our history and continue to experience the delights of lido life.

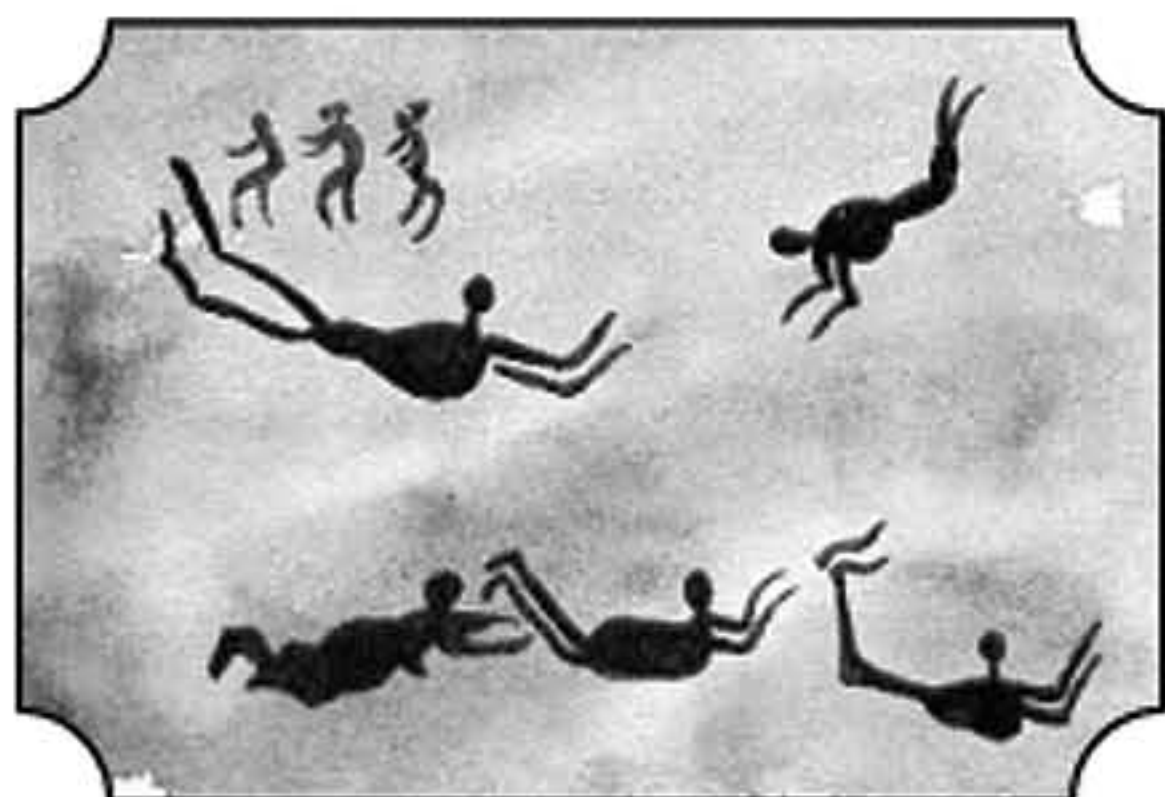
We invite you to send us your personal memories and documents that best portray your experience of our unique facility for inclusion on our 'Living Archive'.

J Sargent

Julie Sargent
Chief Executive

History of Swimming

The activity of swimming is not a modern concept. Humans have been entering the water since the Stone Age. The earliest record can be found in the drawings at "the cave of swimmers" near Waid Sora (or Sura) in Egypt. Another Egyptian wall relief shows soldiers of Pharaoh Ramesses II (1279 BC - 1213 BC) pursuing their enemies by swimming across the Orontes River. There is also archeological evidence dating back to 2500 BC suggesting that South Pacific Islanders taught their children to swim as soon as they were able to walk. Written references to swimming can be found in the Iliad, the Odyssey and the Bible (Ezekiel 47:5, Acts 27:42, Isaiah 25:11).



'Cave of Swimmers' drawing found in Egypt

In ancient Greece and Rome swimming was an important activity, especially as a form of training for warriors. One common insult in Greece was to say 'you neither know how to run or to swim'. Plato thought men who did not know how to swim were uneducated. The ability of the Greeks to swim is said to have saved them at the Battle of Salamis, where the Persians drowned when their ships were destroyed. In ancient Rome swimming was regarded as a healthy practice and races were held in the Tiber River. Swimming was initially one of the seven agilities of knights during the Middle Ages including the ability to swim with armour. It was subsequently discouraged as swimming was usually carried out in a state of undress and was opposed by the church. Immersion in water was associated with the recurrent epidemics of the time. In 1587 a Cambridge Scholar, Everard Digby wrote 'De Arte Natandi' in which he claimed that humans can swim better than fish.

In 17th-century Britain the medicinal benefits of natural spa springs were being utilised, with the idea that hygiene promoted health. During the reign of George III (1738 - 1820), sea bathing was popularised by the king himself and bathing resorts such as Weymouth became fashionable. By the 19th century, Subscription Baths run by private companies offered small plunge baths but it was not until 1829 that the first public municipal swimming bath appeared in Liverpool, the St George's Pier Head Baths built at a cost of £24,481.



King George III bathing in the sea at Weymouth 1789

The 1846 Baths and Washhouses Act allowed local authorities to borrow money for the purpose of building baths and washhouses for the health and hygiene of working people. Amendments to the Act in 1870 and 1898 gave more prominence to swimming pools and the public's increased leisure time led to a boom in the popularity of swimming. The swimming pools of this period were strictly segregated according to sex and class and were used as concert halls, meeting places, gymnasias and boxing venues during the winter months.



Johnny Weismuller

By 1896, swimming had become an established sport and was included in the first modern Olympic Games of that year. In 1922 Johnny Weismuller became the first person to swim 100m in less than a minute and his career of five Olympic medals, 36 national championships and never losing a race in his ten-year career boosted the popularity of swimming. His second career as a film star, appearing as Tarzan in twelve films, also promoted the ability to swim. In 1972 Mark Spitz, at the height of his career, made history by winning an unbeaten record of seven Olympic medals in Munich.

Early baths were filled at the beginning of the week with fresh water and by the end of the week the water was murky. As a consequence the cost to swim was reduced throughout the week. The wealthy would swim at the beginning and the poor at the end of the week. The 1930s brought a greater emphasis on water clarity of pools and filtration and chlorination was introduced. At the same time a boom in open air swimming and sun worship arose and hundreds of lidos were built across the country.

Swimming In Cheltenham

Cheltenham began to develop as a spa town in the 18th century, and after the 1820s it rapidly developed from the core of the medieval town. By the 1930s it had a population of 62,432 (1931). Like other spa towns Cheltenham already had a wide range of bathing facilities. These included Henry Thompson's Montpellier Baths (now the Cheltenham Playhouse Theatre) which opened in 1806. In March 1898 the medicinal baths were purchased by the Cheltenham Corporation and later converted to a swimming pool and slipper baths. The tiled swimming pool still exists beneath the floor of the main auditorium and serves as a store for stage rostra and other theatrical properties.



Montpellier Baths

The first swimming facility in Cheltenham was the Alstone Baths which were opened on June 21st 1887. This facility was well used by the local population and especially the Cheltenham Swimming and Waterpolo Club. Unfortunately it was closed in 1978. Also dating from the 1880s is the Boys College swimming pool on College Baths Road just to the east of the lido, which is now used as offices for Cheltenham General Hospital.



The Alstone Baths

On May 4th 1971 the Queen Mother officially opened the Pittville Recreation Centre. It was refurbished and reopened in 2003 with the new identity of 'leisure@cheltenham'.

History of Lidos

The construction of hundreds of lidos in Britain during the 1930s was fuelled in part by the popularity of swimming, and the drive by national and especially local government to improve health and general fitness for the population. In 1926 Miss Gertrude Ederle was the first woman to swim the English Channel, beating the then male record by two hours, and the evolution of bathing apparel for women made swimming more accessible and acceptable. Before this women would effectively have to wear a costume which covered their body, legs and arms which was not really effective for swimming. The 1929 'Jantzen'

designed costume was launched with the slogan 'the suit that changed bathing into swimming'. At the same time, sun worship or sun bathing and enjoying the pleasures and virtues of fresh air in the outdoors was the activity of choice and beach resorts boomed. Travelling to the seaside was not an option for everyone and local authorities, motivated to improve the health of their community, planned and created the outdoor swimming arenas that were to be popularly known as lidos.

The term 'lido', derived from the Latin 'litus' meaning 'shore' and was borrowed from the 11 mile long island that separates Venice, Italy from the Adriatic Sea. The name of this famous seaside resort with its sandy beach suitable for swimming has been used worldwide.



The first facility to use the term was the 'Serpentine Lido' in Hyde Park, London and other facilities followed the trend.

The word 'lido' introduced a note of the exotic into the serious business of promoting healthy and active lifestyles for the masses by national governments (social democratic and totalitarian alike) and local authorities throughout Europe - notable examples being France, Weimar Germany in the 1920s, the Netherlands and Scandinavia. This interest in health and physical well-being had a profound impact on the design and planning of a broad range of public architecture, from hospitals, public housing and health centres, to parks and open-air schools. Swimming was one of a number of activities - cinema, popular music, sports-club dances, aviation sports and motor sports - that developed between the wars. Open-air pools had a special place in this movement, as they offered opportunities to create new places for informal relaxation and shared recreation where men, women and children could enjoy a day out together. By the standards of the time, when many sports were regimented, class-based and male-dominated, this new type of open air architecture was informal and open to all to enjoy. Hence the remark of the chairman of the Bank of England, Sir Josiah Stamp, who said in 1936: "Bathing reduces rich and poor, high and low, to a common standard of enjoyment and health. When we get down to swimming, we get down to democracy." Lidos were the place to be seen and to see, indeed the spectator was as important as the swimmer with huge viewing stands and balconies. Beauty parades, diving competitions and water polo attracted the masses to their local paradise where the only requirement was a suitable swimming costume and a desire for fun.

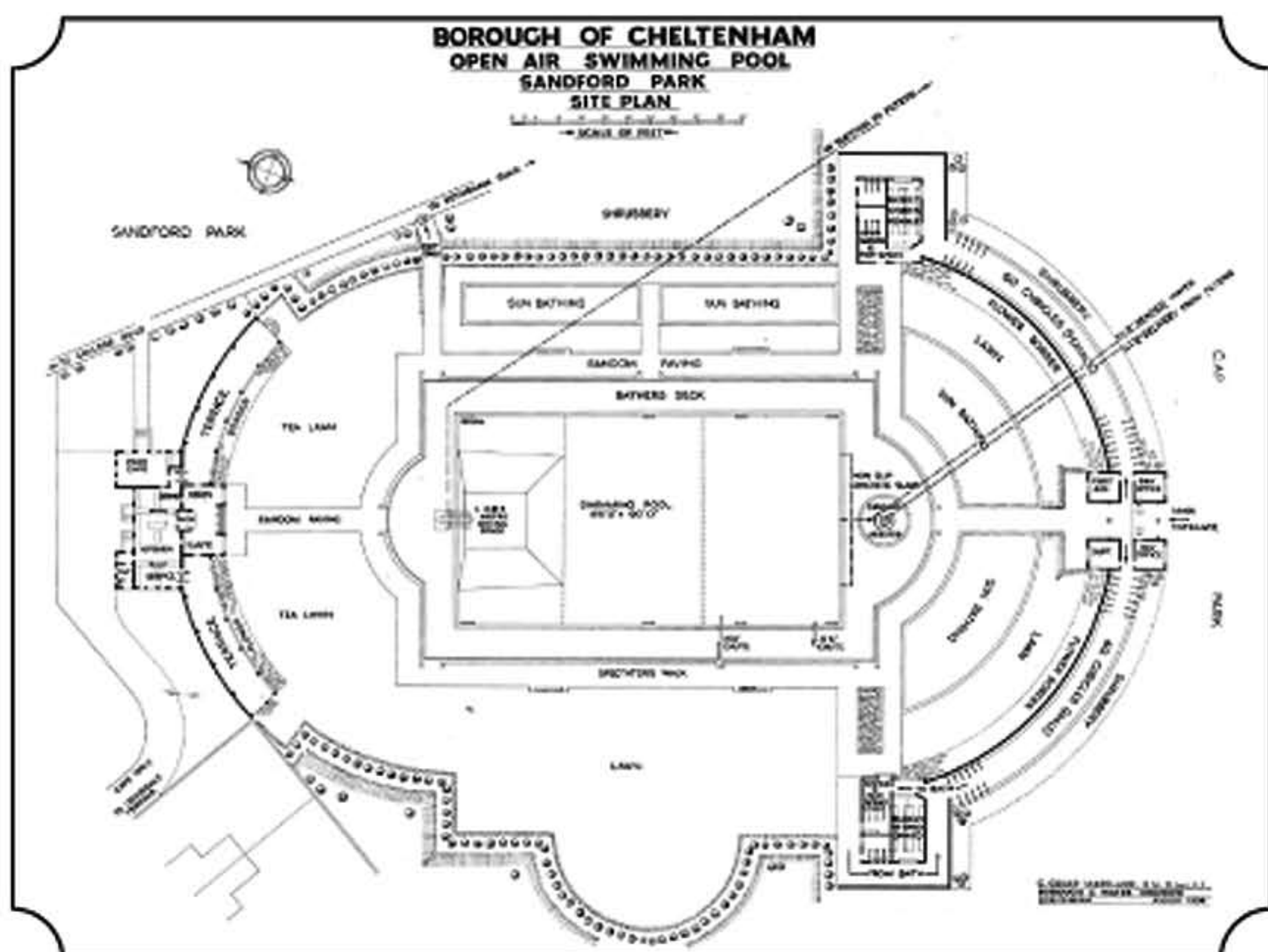


Sandford Parks Lido in the 1930s showing the diving stages

The popularity of lidos continued into the 1970s but with the advent of cheap travel abroad, coupled with pressure on local authorities to cut costs, their prosperity was threatened. It is important to note that swimming facilities with their large overhead costs are not the most profitable of ventures and most are subsidised. With this in mind it is understandable that so many were forced to close since the 1980s. In London alone, out of sixty-eight lidos open in 1950 only eight remain in 2006.

Those which remain open do so thanks to the affection of users who have fought up and down the country to save their personal retreat from the pressures of everyday life. Many campaigns have failed and hundreds of grand structures have been demolished, but those that survive are enjoying a revival in popularity. Some of this is due to global warming and the prospect of increased summer weather but more so to the idea of an outdoor retreat where every sector of the community can meet, relax and enjoy a dip in the water. Some believe lidos to be old fashioned and irrelevant to modern life yet the same 1930s philosophy of a healthy nation and inclusion for all, regardless of class or age, remains today and is now as important as ever.

Concept of Sandford Parks Lido



Revised drawing including the Cafe complex 1934

The style of the buildings at Cheltenham owes much to earlier public park and garden architecture. This traditional style contrasts with some of more modernistic seaside lidos built elsewhere in Britain in this period. Buildings, walls, the pool and the planned landscape contribute to the site's individual character and provide a strong sense of enclosure to the visitor. Lawns to the south and west and sun decks to the north and east of the pool were designed to meet the needs of sun worship and activities alike. The lido is set within a landscape planted with a rich variety of shrubs and trees, including Lombardy poplar and yew hedges - these have now matured and are an essential part of its character.

It is significant that Cheltenham councillors had visited the lido at Guildford, which was also built within a lush parkland landscape with similar style buildings, prior to the designs being prepared for Sandford Parks Lido. Gould Marsland, the Borough Engineer, worked the buildings, pool and landscaping into an ambitious overall concept, which displayed a very strong awareness of how the planning of lidos as outdoor architecture presented opportunities to harness the regenerative qualities of air and sunlight. This is what makes Sandford Parks Lido so special and significant, as it was developed and still survives as a site where the pool, buildings and landscape were all designed as a unified whole.

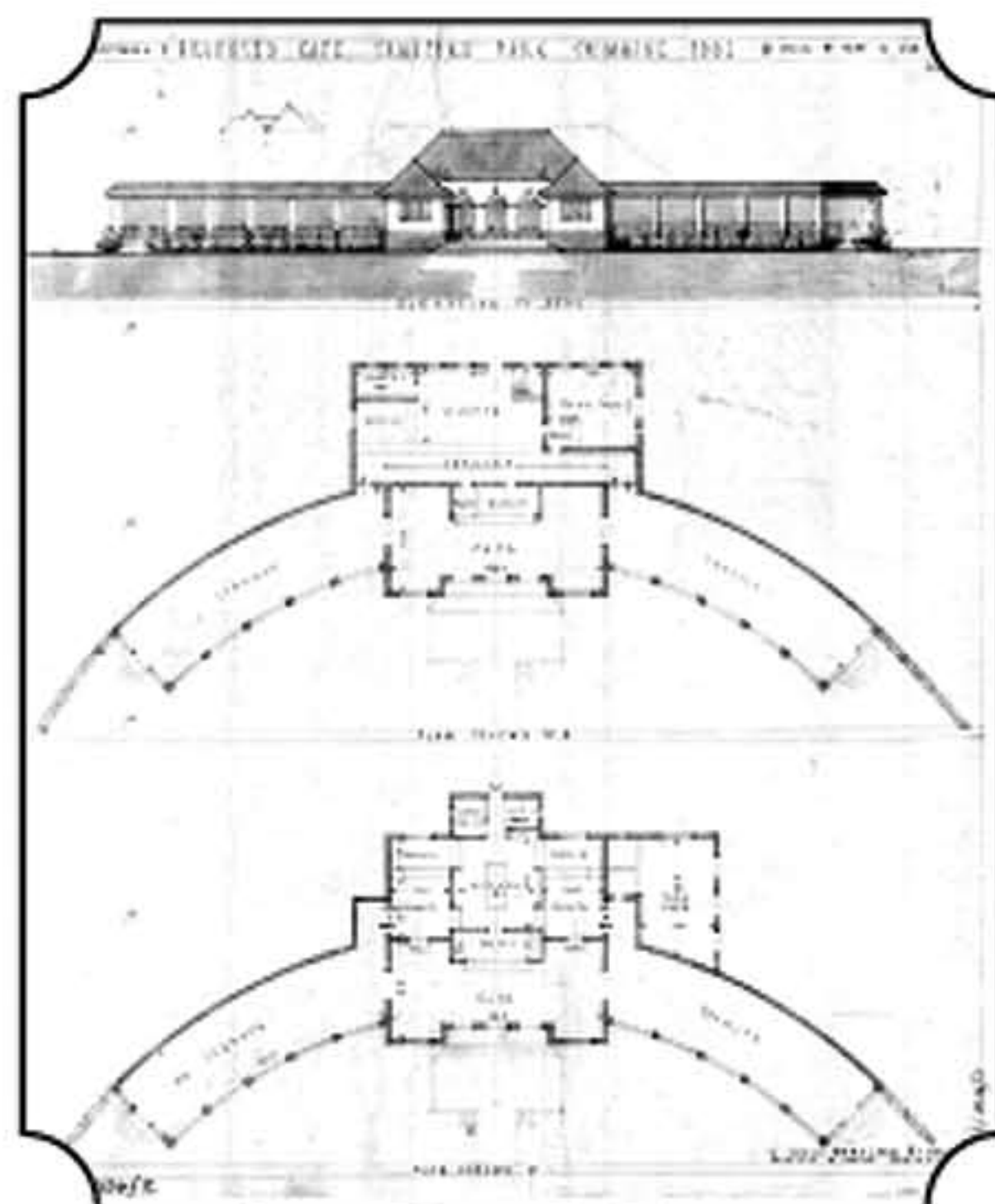
Other lidos, such as the pools built by London County Council between 1937 and 1939, were built as tightly-enclosed groups in the latest architectural style. Others, such as the International Modern style Saltdean Lido in Brighton, are noted for their individually remarkable buildings, whilst some are located in park landscapes.

The drawings of August 1934 show how the Borough Engineer, Gould Marsland approached the design of the lido, and its links via a now-closed entrance to the newly-opened playing ground at Sandford Park. The buildings embrace in curved quadrants both the north and south ends of the site. They comprise a main south entrance with ticket office, turnstiles and flanking changing cubicles and toilets, and a café and flanking open-sided loggias opposite.

The focal point of the overall design is the pool, its length (165 feet, just over 50 metres) conforming to the standards then promoted by the Amateur Swimming Association. Considerable thought was given to the patterns of circulation and movement around the pool. The bather would move from the main entrance and ticket office to change in the outside cubicles and take their basket of clothing to the basket store (now the heated changing rooms) to hand to an attendant. Following their swim bathers would walk around the rear of the toilet blocks to a collection hatch where another attendant returned their basket of clothing and the walkway lead them back to the outdoor cubicles. Consideration was also given to the segregation of the bather and spectator, both in respect of the toilet and wash-room facilities, and the careful design of low stone walls separating the swimmers from a pedestrian area, which flows from the main entrance to the café. The main formal axis of the design, indeed, passes from the main entrance through the fountain, which originally

served to aerate and purify the water, and along the centre of the pool to the central point of the café pavilion at the other end. A small children's pool within the northern enclosure (adjoining the park) was added in May 1936. As the photographs of page 11 show, this was accessed from Sandford Park, whereas now the park and pool are effectively separated.

The café, which was opened in 1936, survives essentially as it was designed, with a central café flanked by open-fronted loggias or terraces that over look the pool. It was enlarged at a later design stage - already sketched in this drawing - and the interior was remodelled in the 1980s.



Proposed layout of Cafe 1934

History of Sandford Parks Lido



The Cheltenham Chronicle and Gloucestershire Graphic dated May 25th 1935, heralded the arrival of 'Cheltenham's New Swimming Pool' with the following, "On Saturday of this week will be opened the new 'luxury' Swimming Pool at Cheltenham Spa. This is the largest pool in the West Midlands, measuring 165ft by 90ft and built at a cost of £16,000. The pool varies in depth from 3ft to 6ft 6in and at the deep end there is a 9ft well beneath a 5-metre diving stage. The usual chutes are provided, the highest being 17ft 6in high. The water (approximately 500,000 gallons) is filtered, purified, and aerated, and by means of a very modern heating plant the temperature is maintained at not less than 70 deg. F. from the first day of the season to the last. It is situated in beautiful park-like surroundings next to the Sandford Park, with excellent provision for sunbathing, café, etc."



*Mayor E.L. Ward
cutting the first sod*

Originally the land was owned by Cheltenham College and was purchased by Cheltenham Borough Council for use as allotments in 1927. The first proposal was heard at a Council meeting to suggest that the town would benefit greatly if they built a lido. The Council committee was split, half fully aware of the benefits it would bring not only for the local community but also for visitors. However, there were grave concerns over committing such expense at a time when the country was struggling with financial depression and mass unemployment.

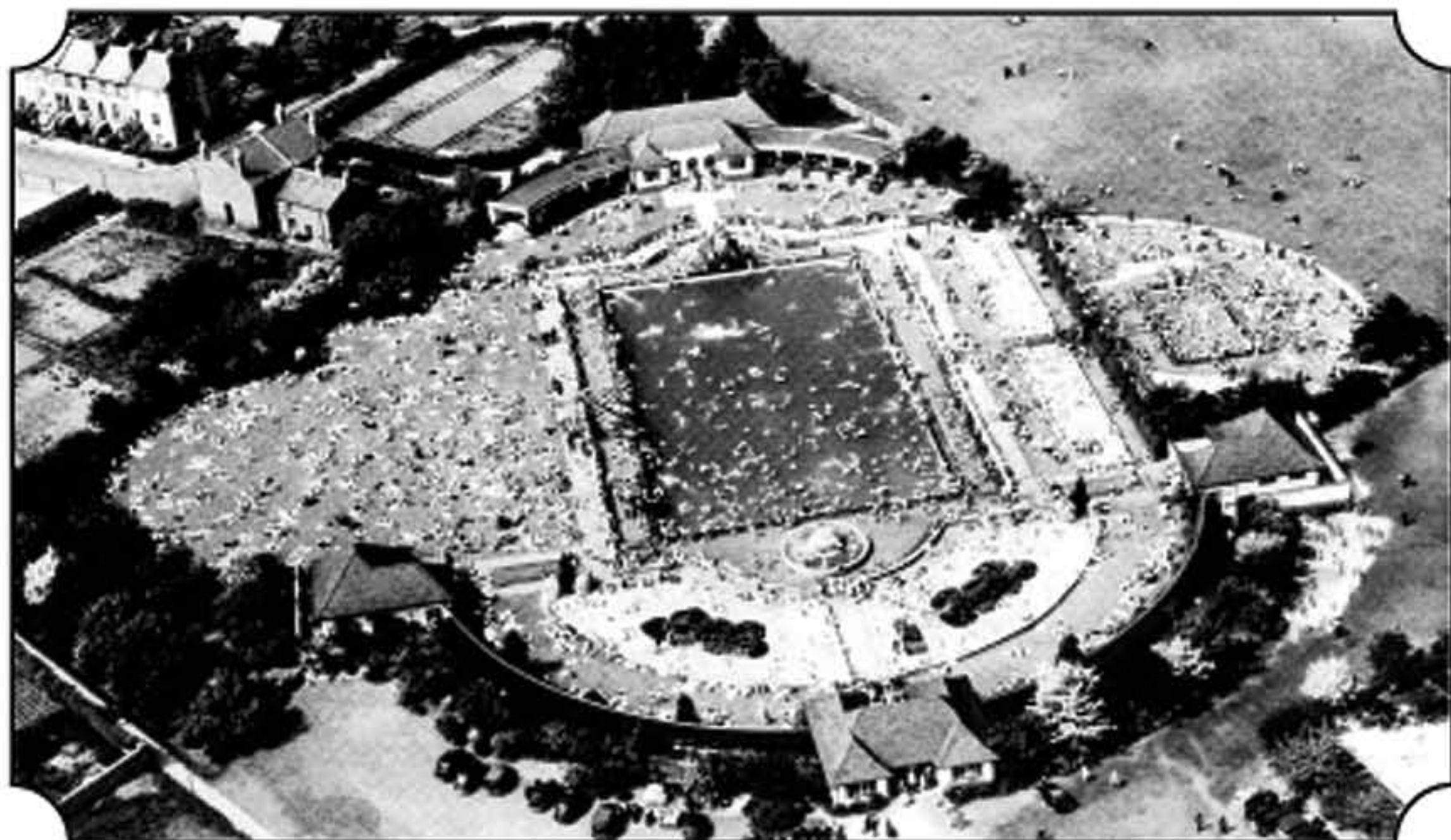
Mr Waite said "if, as I hope, the members of this council will keep uppermost in their minds the needs of our people from a health point of view, the urgent necessity of greater provision being granted to the rising generation for the exercise of swimming and the increasing vogue for the joyous freedom of open air bathing, which we all now realize is no 'flash in the pan', then I feel sure that there can be no two opinions on

the wisdom of this scheme. This town should make its proper contribution to an urgent national need which is to raise the standard of health and physique of its people."



The builders of 1934

It was finally decided favourably by a majority vote and the Council sought a loan from the Ministry for Health. Work started in the late autumn of 1934, which was hard physical labour carried out during the worst weather months of the year.



Sandford Park Lido in the 1930s

For some time while the work was in progress this site was almost knee-deep in mud, seriously delaying the job. During the excavation of the pool itself an extensive vein of peat was uncovered, necessitating many more tons of concrete being used than was originally contemplated. This method of combating the layer of peat would later cause additional problems for the Charitable Trust. The project was finally completed in early 1935 at a cost of £15,700.

The Opening Ceremony was an important day for Cheltenham and started at 3pm with a procession of open-top motorcars travelling from outside the Municipal Offices. These took the Mayor of Cheltenham and his wife, along with dignitaries from neighbouring cities and towns, from the Municipal Offices to the Lido.

500 mayoral guests awaited their arrival at the new bathing pool, along with a very large company of the general public. Almost as many watched the proceedings from Sandford Park looking through the new metal fence boundary.



First newspaper advert

It was a grand day with special trains and buses bringing people from all over the county to enjoy the warm water in this ultra modern swimming facility.

After the Mayor declared the pool open the Mayoress pressed an electric button that set in action the cascade aerator. The aerator, now referred to as the fountain, still stands as a magnificent feature as you enter the grounds. (To start the aerator 'fountain' requires a plant engineer to open up several gate

valves; therefore we consider that the electronic switch could do no more than to instruct the plant engineer to start the process, an elaborate illusion for the watching crowd.)

The first people to enter the water were members of Cheltenham Swimming and Water Polo Club with a diving display. This was followed by a mannequin display (local models) of the latest swimwear of which the majority came from Cavendish House.

The first Manager was Lt Commander Roy Berryman Edwards who had previously successfully opened Sandown Pool in the Isle of Wight. Following the success of Sandford Parks Lido he moved on to open an outdoor pool in Maidenhead, followed by an indoor pool in Crewe.

In 1937 he was called back to the Navy and in 1939 he was posted on HMS Watchful to be Rendering Mines Safe Officer. He was killed whilst dismantling a mine on a south coast beach.



*Lt Commander Roy
Berryman Edwards and
his wife*

Very few lidos of the inter-war period had heating systems for their water. Perhaps people really were harder then. The heating of the pool was a unique feature and one of the first tasks of the staff was to stoke the coal fire boiler. As many lidos in the country remain unheated, visitors to Sandford Parks Lido are often surprised that the pool water is heated. (see page 22)



Staff from the opening season

The traditional lifeguard uniform is very different to that of today. One regular customer can recall a lifeguard attempting a rescue and then himself needing assistance as he struggled to swim in the cumbersome uniform along with a very heavy thick rope.

The café was built using some of the £1,000 profit from the first lido season. During the opening ceremony six willow saplings were planted. The willows were a gift from the Isle of Elba. An additional section of land was taken from Sandford Park to create the Children's Pool.

The lido remained operational during the war years and wounded servicemen were brought to several extra hospitals improvised in Cheltenham. Exhausted soldiers from Dunkirk were also sent here to recuperate. A tattered cockney sergeant resting his men before their next posting described the Sandford Pool as "Heaven after Hell". In 1942 America joined the war and the pool car park was turned into a petrol depot to supply their convoys passing through. Two ropes were fixed down the centre of the car park to make a path for bathers, except on occasions when the area was required for testing survival equipment, which was done in close secrecy. Records show that, in spite of war-time, an average of 90,000 people visited the lido between 1943 and 1945.

After the opening of the indoor swimming facilities in Cheltenham in 1971 the future of the lido came into question. There were times when the lido would break even or show a slight surplus. However, after a poor summer in 1982 the lido faced the first calls to close or to sell the site. Supporters rallied round, petitioned the council and the lido was protected for the next few years. In 1983 and 1984 attendance levels totalled over 232,000, proving the decision to be a good one.



Repairs carried out in 1996

Structural surveys were carried out that uncovered serious cracks in the pool tanks and the Local Authority was finding it difficult to justify the level of expenditure required. Unsuccessful repairs were carried out in 1989 and 1994 but it was estimated that £250,000 was needed to maintain the ageing structure.

Charitable Trust

With the mounting costs of repairing and running the facility, the first calls were heard for the lido to close. A tide of local support voiced its opinions on the potential closure and a committee of users, local politicians and local media began the 'Save our Lido' campaign. Following extensive negotiations with Cheltenham Borough Council a charitable trust was formed and a 25 year lease was signed on 1st April 1996.

Sandford Lido Limited is a registered charity whose prime objective is to provide the facility of Sandford Parks Lido in the interest of social welfare with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents and visitors of Gloucestershire and the surrounding area. Sandford Lido Limited was set up to protect Sandford Parks Lido and in its first 10 years attracted over 1,200,000 visits. With the assistance of initial grants from Cheltenham Borough Council and Gloucestershire Environmental Trust an investment of over £370,000 has been spent on maintenance and improvements.

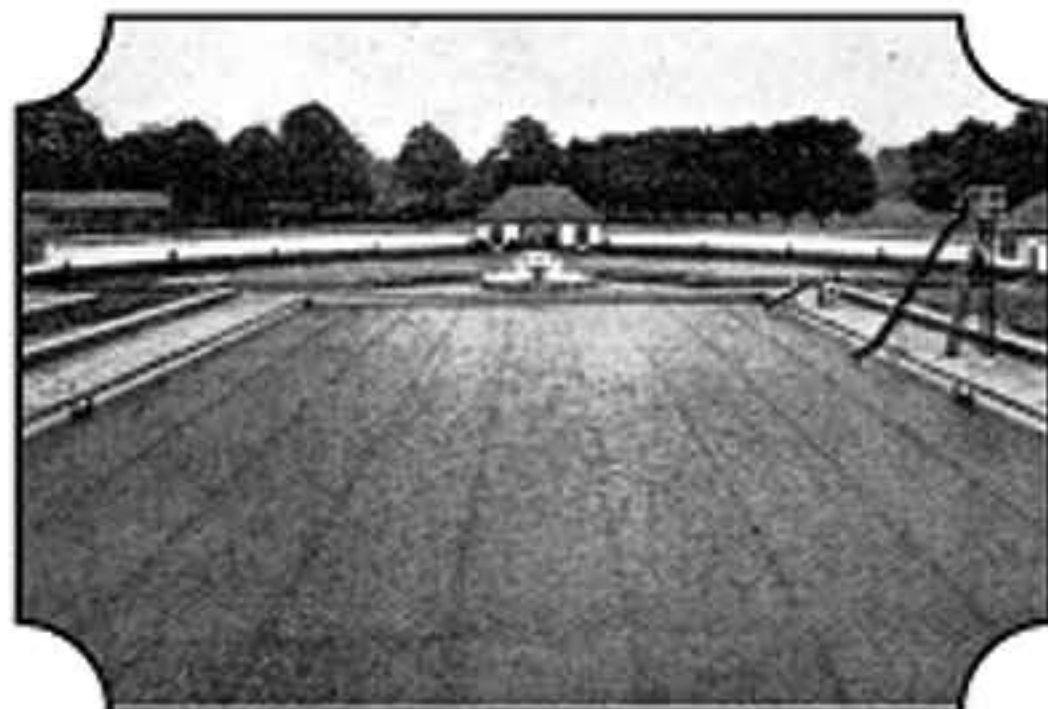


Photo taken from the diving stage

Our charity has a voluntary board of directors with a range of professional skills. We employ a full time chief executive and deputy manager who possess the relevant professional qualifications and skills. The lido is currently open to the public for six months every year and employs up to 50 full time and part time seasonal staff and volunteers. In addition to this we have support from 'Friends of the Lido' and community organisations. The charity receives income from the operation of Sandford Parks Lido, a license fee for the operation of the café, rental income from Reach Fitness and an annual gift aid from the car park.

History of Problems

The main pool tank was constructed in three sections with two expansion joints which were to give minimal movement when filling and emptying the pool. Due to the lack of ground support these expansion joints were under considerable strain. Attempts to repair the joints have been carried out over the years.

1989 - Main Pool Expansion Joint Repairs

The two expansion joints are located at the shallow end and just before the diving pit at the deep end. The deep end expansion joint had cracked and required some serious repair. In 1989 Cheltenham Borough Council conducted these repairs.

1994 - Harris and Sutherland Report

In 1994 Cheltenham Borough Council conducted a radar survey of the pool and its immediate surroundings. The radar probing started on site on 28th March 1994 and Harris & Sutherland carried out their inspection on 29th March 1994.

Here is an extract from the Harris and Sutherland report:

"The pool tanks at Sandford Lido are nearly 60 years old and are coming to the end of their life. The movement of the tanks cannot be halted. However, the tanks can be repaired to extend their life, although regular maintenance will be required. The proposed remedial works plus regular maintenance will extend the life of the structure some 5 -10 years. This period could

well be exceeded but maintenance costs will no

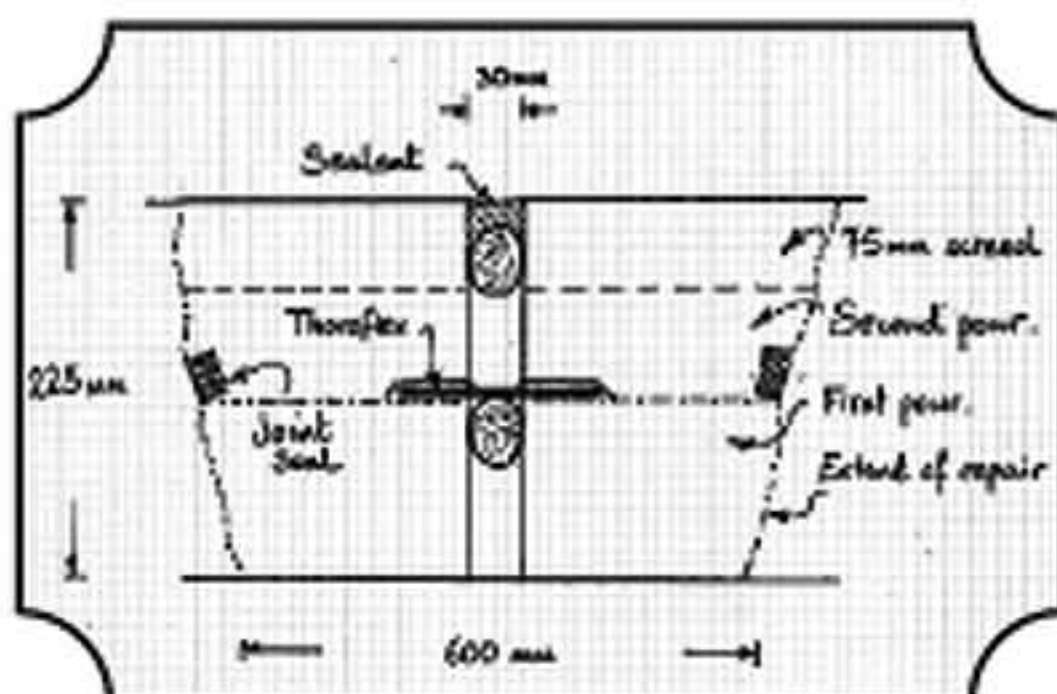
doubt increase. In short term we recommend that cracks are suitably repaired and the formed joints, re-waterproofed. This will increase the life of the pool but the council must recognise that regular maintenance, albeit minimal, will be required. In our opinion the council should consider replacement of the existing tanks with new ones"



1994 Radar survey highlighting the cracks in main pool tank

1996 - Since becoming a trust

The newly formed charitable trust was aware that one day major refurbishment of the main pool tank would be required. Until this time they had regularly carried out repairs to prolong the life expectancy of the tank. The main repair took place in 1998 employing the advice of structural engineers and swimming pool architects.



Detail of repairs to expansion joints

Unfortunately both attempts to repair the structure failed. The Trust realised the only option remaining was to complete a major refurbishment which would require substantial investment.

1998 - Main Pool Expansion Joint Repair

It was decided that Sandford Lido Limited would again undertake repairs to the expansion joint in the main pool in order to extend its life expectancy.



Expansion joints damage highlighted in 2005

A feasibility study was conducted in 2005 to establish all of the issues that needed rectifying in order to extend and guarantee the future of the lido. Specialist services of structural engineers ensured the correct methods and materials would be used throughout the project and a specification was written and costed.

The main issues included structural stability, water loss through cracks, water circulation and re-establishing the paving, decking and tiling design of the 1930s.

The trust then began the fundraising process to secure the finance needed for the refurbishment.

Funding Secured

Lovely lotto lolly for Lido

Cash will mean its restoration can begin

CHELTENHAM'S SANDFORD PARKS LIDO, WHICH WAS CLOSED FOR 10 YEARS, WILL BE RESTORED TO ITS ORIGINAL GLORY. THE PROJECT, WHICH IS BEING FUNDED BY THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND, WILL BE COMPLETED BY 2008. THE LIDO WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WILL BE A MAJOR ATTRACTION FOR VISITORS TO THE AREA.



Gloucestershire Echo headline

28th June 2006

In 2006, Sandford Parks Lido secured funding for the refurbishment of the main pool. £250,000 was raised from direct donations (Buy us a pint appeal), £50,000 from Gloucestershire Environmental Trust with Landfill Tax contributions from Cory Environmental Ltd and £382,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

"Sandford Parks Lido contributes significantly to Cheltenham's central conservation area and is nationally important." - taken from the Heritage Lottery statement.

Nerys Watts, Heritage Lottery Fund Manager in the South West commented; 'Historic outdoor pools are like gold dust and Sandford Parks Lido is a real gem. Whether you're cooling off in the summer sun, taking the kids for their first swimming lessons or just enjoying the history of the site, the restored Lido will benefit everyone in Cheltenham and beyond.'



Supported by

The National Lottery®

through the Heritage Lottery Fund



**Heritage
Lottery Fund**



*Logo designed by
Richard Birks which
publicised the 'Buy us a
Pint' fundraising appeal*



Refurbishment 2006/7

The facility closed on the 3rd September 2006 to permit early access for the constructors to commence work. Initially works concentrated on solving the stabilisation of the main pool tank. This involved over a hundred support piles being driven up to 9 metres down through the original base to find supporting ground. A grid of reinforcement rods were then laid over the existing floor and tied into the piles and the existing walls to create an extremely strong and stable tank. The Heritage Lottery Fund approved one significant alteration to the original dimensions from 165ft (50.29m) to an ASA approved 50m distance pool, one of only a handful in the



Piling rig driving piles into tank base

UK. To achieve this, a new wall was constructed and all original features reinstated.



New scum channel blocks

It was hoped that the existing scum channels could be reused for the refurbishment but it became clear that the blocks could not be removed undamaged. Using original drawings and traditional fireclay methods new scum channel blocks had to be specially made. This process added several weeks to the already tight schedule.

The 1980s blue mosaic tiles which lined the side walls of the pool were removed and replaced with traditional white swimming pool tiles of a similar design to the original.

Consideration was given to colour matching and design layout of the pool surround and promenade areas which over time had been disregarded and replaced by a mismatch of different paving slabs. Again, using original drawings, and determining which of the paving slabs on the site were original, a distinct pattern was discovered.



Poolside tiling laid in original pattern

All the render on the fountain base was removed and layers of paint carefully removed from the fountain bowls. Lead work was placed under the original coping stones to prevent water penetrating the new render and all of the fountain given a fresh coat of white paint.



Repair work on fountain



Inlet/outlet covers cleaned to waste.

In order to conserve water consumption and provide better water quality the shallow end scum channel was provided with new pipe work which connected it to the deep end balance tank. This would ensure that all water returns to the filtration system and not



Original 1930s engineering

One of the special features of Sandford Parks Lido is the original 1930s engineering within the plant room. Refurbished in 2001, when many others had been replaced with modern equipment, it has now been painted in traditional colours and continues to be a major aspect of our conservation policy.

Throughout the refurbishment project, wherever possible, original fittings were cleaned and reinstated.

The Living Archive

One element of the Heritage Lottery Fund application was to collate and preserve a wide range of historic information about Sandford Parks Lido and to present this using modern technology. Newspaper cuttings, photographs and film footage have been collected to display in a 'living archive' at the lido and on a dedicated website. This is complimented by a growing collection of personal memories from young and old that define 'lido life'. We invite you to send us your personal memories and images to include in this constantly expanding and evolving archive.

We are particularly interested in items from the 1950s to the present day. Ask yourself this question: 'why is the lido important to you and your family?' We would like to know what aspects you find important.



*Eric and Peter Barton
in the 1950s*

This is one example of a personal memory received in 2006.

On the right is Marc Barnes, Lifeguard / Pool Attendant.

“In 1965 I was appointed Foreman of both Sandford Pool and (the then) Alstone Baths. After the retirement in 1970 of Sid Hooper/Superintendent, I was appointed Acting Superintendent for approximately one year pending the arrival of the newly appointed Director of Recreation of Pittville Pools viz: Dennis Smith, who then in 1971 appointed me as one of three Duty Managers at the new complex (which also included Sandford Pool). In 1983 I resigned and emigrated to the USA. Happy memories!”



Tour & Mobile Talks

Another aspect of our successful Heritage Lottery application is our heritage tours. The tours comprise a historic presentation followed by a site tour and during our summer season it will conclude with a swim. Places are limited and we advise that you book your tour via Reception to avoid disappointment.

We can even bring the same presentation to your school or organisation, but without the swim! We also offer mobile talks which involve a presentation and display of historic information.

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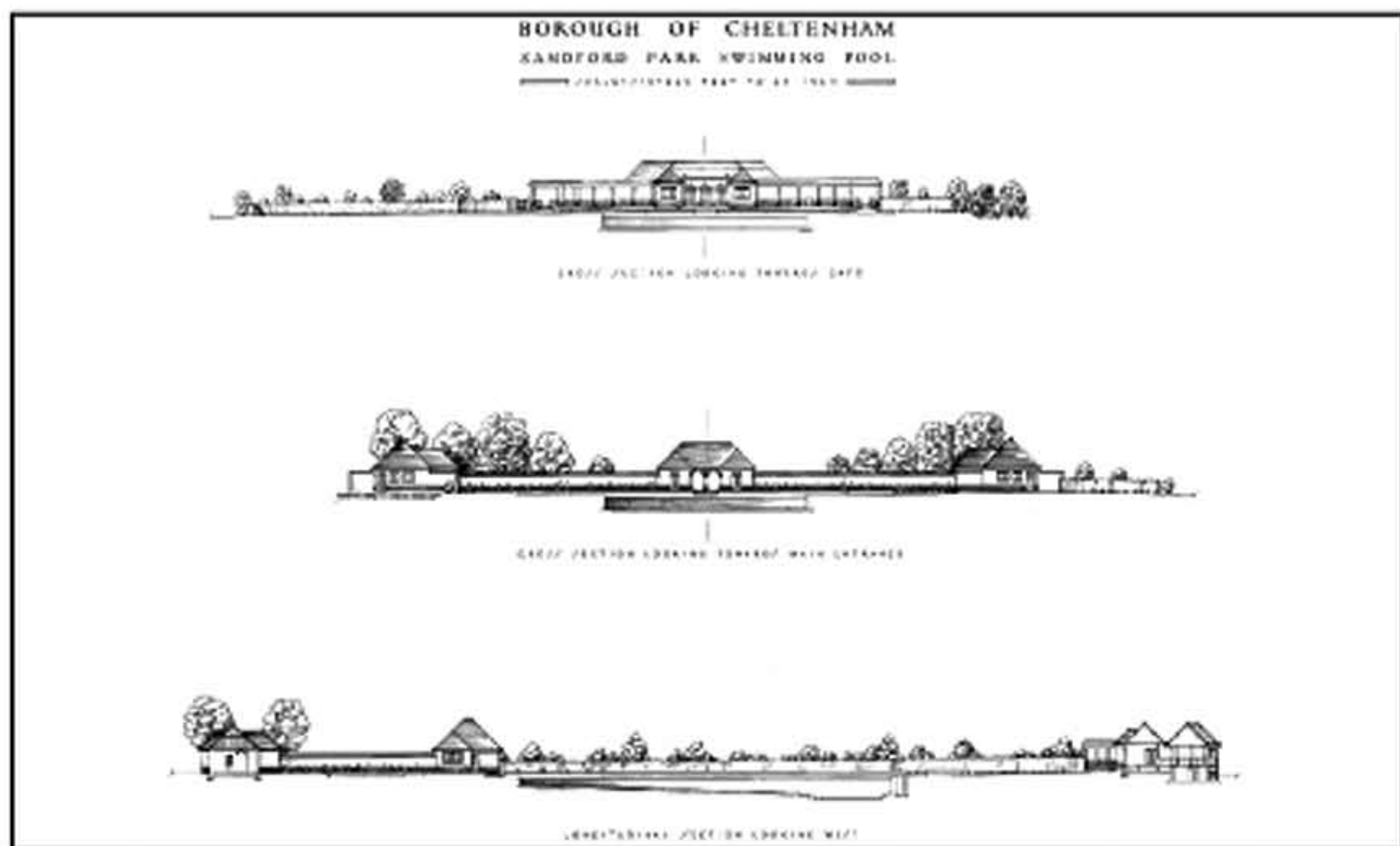
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For useful websites see: www.sandfordparkslido.org.uk

www.lidos.org

Our Conservation Policy

Sandford Park Lido is included as a case study in Janet Smith's book *Liquid Assets* and is listed as one of the ten best lidos by Ken Worpole, author of the 1996 government report on *People, Parks and Cities*. We have seen that, as well as promoting health and well-being, lidos offered venues for shared recreation and sun worship that were very relaxed by the standards of the time. They also presented opportunities to their designers, to design new forms of outdoor architecture. Sandford Parks Lido's design is based on an integrated approach to its three key elements - water, landscaping and architecture. Its balance of careful symmetry and landscaping provides a setting for competitive sport, relaxation and leisure.



We need and value your views

In its application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, Sandford Parks Lido stated that it will commission a Conservation Management Plan. This will act:

- ❖ as a design brief for future work;
- ❖ as a baseline from which to evaluate the impact of any new proposals and developments and the opportunities and constraints provided by the site;
- ❖ as guidance for day-to-day management of the site;
- ❖ to inform decision making, prioritise work and help create interpretative and educational strategies for Sandford Park Lido, thereby enhancing public enjoyment;
- ❖ to include groups important to the use and conservation of the site.

Change can undermine or enhance the character and special qualities of this place, and must be informed by an understanding of the values invested in it. We have listed below the importance of the lido under several key headings. We want your views, to help us set out what lido users, the broader community and others value about the lido. We want to ensure that the character and values invested in this site are retained for future generations to enjoy.

Your contribution to understanding these values will provide a benchmark for promoting the lido, ensuring that it serves future generations of adults and children and informing any future work on the site.

Historic Value

The lido reflects important developments in 20th-century society, and in particular the growing importance of leisure and more informal approaches towards it.

Aesthetic Value

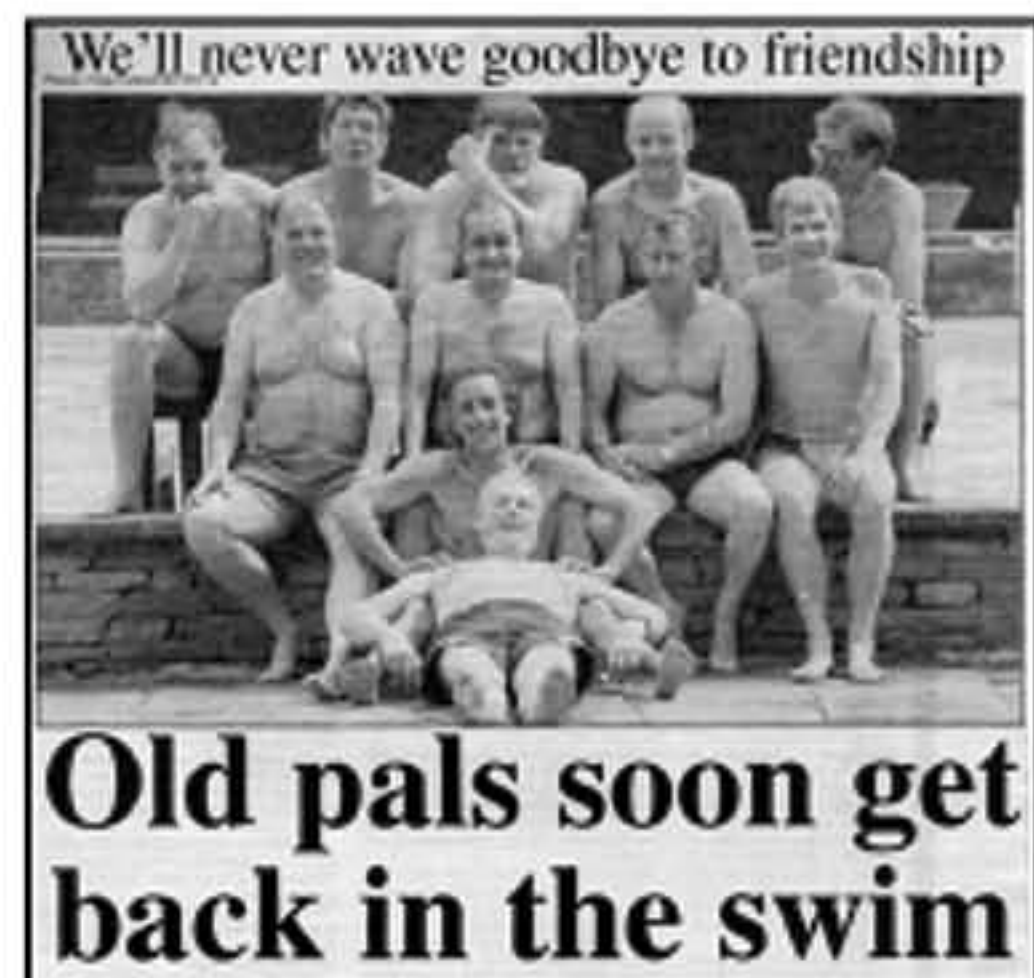
Sandford Parks Lido was designed as a place where the pool, buildings, walls and landscape were all designed from the outset as an integrated whole. This is, we would argue, a key element of the site's significance in a British and European context.

Educational Value

The lido can serve as a focus for life-long learning and the exchange of experiences between generations. It can also serve as an arena for the arts, and for children to learn about building and landscape design.

Community Value

The lido is a safe and wonderful environment in which children and adults can play, keep fit, relax, learn new skills, have fun and gain a sense of physical and emotional well-being.





Busy day summer 2006



View from the café loggia



Christmas Day swim 1994



Palestinian Refuge group 2005



Cbeltenham Triathlon 2006

The lido is a beautiful pool with great character, people and history. It has a wonderful personal feel to it and we are very lucky to have it. It would be a shame to change it too much, as many of the older features make it special.

Elaine Gisbourne, Cheltenham.

Cheltenham lido is an excellent day out for the whole family.

Mrs. M Chambers, Cheltenham.

An excellent place to come and get fit, socialise or just relax. I honestly love it.

Jamie Chew, Gloucester.

A delightful atmosphere, well organised, friendly and sensible. We all want to come again.

D. E Garner, Swindon

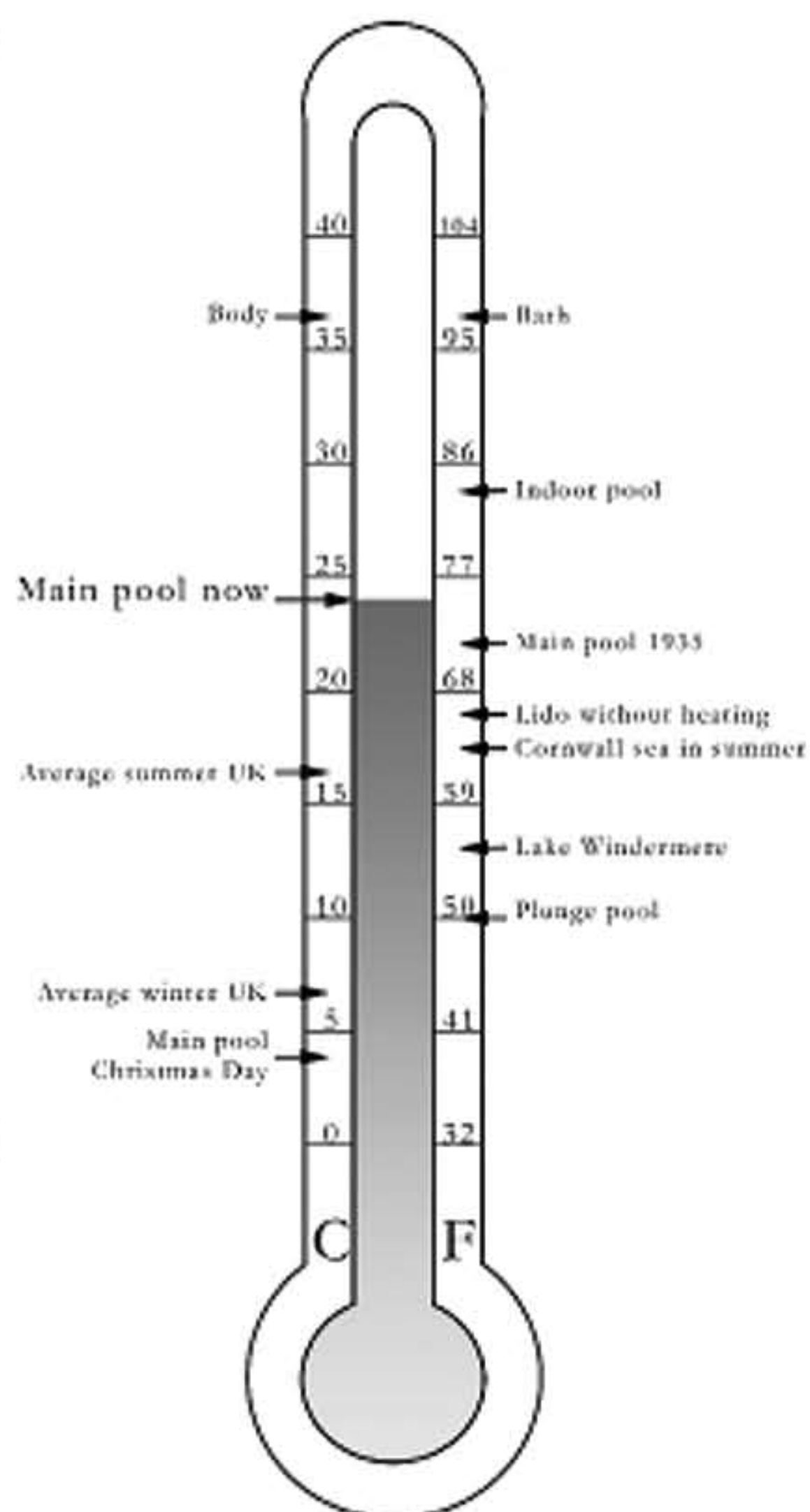
Superb, as always one of the best swimming pools in the country. 10/10.

Graham Kelly, Glasgow.

Written by Iain Barton with contributions from Julie Sargent & Jeremy Lake

Document created by Barton Media

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