



SETTLE AREA SWIMMING POOL

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025



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2025

NOW WE ARE FIFTY

This summer marks the 50th anniversary of the official opening of the Settle Area Swimming Pool and we are planning a big celebration.

The highlight will be a carnival at the pool on Saturday 21st June.

There will be entertainment and stalls in the carpark (Bibby's have kindly agreed to move their coaches for the day) and Settle College are letting the pool make use of the playing field behind the building. There will also be events in the pool itself.

Giggleswick and Settle brass band were among the first to sign up for the event and Home Barn Foods will be doing the catering.

Events will start at 10am and run through to 4pm. Individuals who are able to volunteer to help on the day and local organisations that

would like to take part are asked to get in touch through info@settlewimmingpool.co.uk.

In advance of the carnival there will be an auction and social evening at the North Ribblesdale Rugby Club on Friday 6 June starting at 7pm. Further details of both the carnival and rugby club event will be publicised nearer the time.

In order to provide a lasting record of how the community came together to build the pool and the story of our first 50 years, the Museum of North Craven Life, based at the Folly, has agreed to work with the pool to create a permanent on-line exhibition opening in June.

If you have materials or photographs that you would like to feature in the exhibition or have memories that you would be happy for us to

record for the project do get in touch again through info@settleswimmingpool.co.uk.

Finally, Gallery on the Green in Upper Settle that is famed for being housed in a former BT phone box is to stage a temporary exhibition related to the pool and its first 50 years this summer.

SHOP DONATION POINT MOVES TO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE



The donation centre team - ready to sort

New arrangements for the collection of items donated for sale at the pool charity shops came into force from the start of April.

A new collecting centre has now opened at a business unit on the Sowarth industrial estate. The unit is opposite Arla and at the first entrance beyond the local authority recycling centre.

As before, donations will be accepted on Tuesday and Friday mornings between 9.30am and 12.30pm. We are now selling from the new centre – especially larger items that cannot be displayed in the shops and we are hoping to extend the opening hours shortly. Look out for details on social media.

The new arrangement provides more space to accept and sort donations ready for taking to

the two shops in the centre of Settle, or, where appropriate, sale on line as well as at the centre. The new arrangement will also make it easier for volunteers, who up to now have had to work outdoors in all weathers.

The containers in the pool carpark are being sold and donations are no longer being accepted there.



The entrance to the new collection point

2030 HERE WE COME

A new business plan for the next five years has been adopted by the pool trustees.

Covering the period from April 2025 to March 2030, it looks forward to a time of relative stability after some of the biggest changes in the pool's history. But the trustees stress that in the long-term they remain ambitious for further development of facilities to meet the expectations of pool users and supporters.

The new plan builds on the one adopted in 2020 that set out the strategy for the rebuild that took place between 2021 and 2022.

Reviewing the previous plan the document says that we not only exceeded our expectations, but also overcame some massive unexpected challenges. These included the closure necessitated by the nationwide covid lockdown; the damage caused by Storm Arwen that ripped off large sections of the pool roof; and the massive rise in gas prices following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The plan stresses the vital role played by community support for the pool and the

continuing importance of the fund-raising shops that now generate income of around £100,000 a year – essential to keep the pool going and pay off the loans taken out to enable the redevelopment.

The new plan recommit to the pool's vision of 'More People, More Active, More Often' and our mission: 'To help our community lead active, fun and sociable lives by working with partners to provide a local health and wellbeing hub that people love.'



You can read the full plan on the pool website at [SASP Business Plans](#)

WHAT YOU TOLD US

As part of the preparation for the new business plan we conducted a survey of pool users and supporters early in 2025. More than 260 people responded, 256 of them on line and a further ten on paper. Nearly 80 percent of the respondents were female and the largest proportion (88) was in the 60-69 age group.

In terms of what people like about the pool, the friendliness of the staff was mentioned most frequently, as was convenience and the cleanliness of the modern facilities, especially in the changing area.

In terms of areas where we could do better, the most frequently mentioned were requests for higher water temperatures and lower prices. There were a number of criticisms of changes made to the timetable at short notice; the number of people swimming lengths during open sessions; and specific maintenance points, particularly regarding the showers. The limited opening hours of the café was referred to by a number of respondents, as was lack of communications between trustees and users. A number of respondents went into details about particular issues.

In light of our recent environmental audit we asked how important the environment was to respondents. Two hundred and twenty eight said it was either very or quite important to them, with just 27 saying it was not important.

The trustees are grateful to all respondents for their comments and have reviewed them in detail. A detailed response and analysis is on the pool website at [customer surveys](#)

Users are also encouraged to raise with staff and trustees specific issues that have not been addressed in the response.

A GREENER POOL

Creating a more environmentally friendly pool has long been part of our ambition. We took a big step forward with the addition of a bank of solar panels during the redevelopment work in 2022. The Swim England grant for a second bank has helped greatly. One of the conditions of the grant was that we undertake an environmental audit with the help of the consultants Right Directions. Following their help, we lifted our ratings from 39 per cent to 70 per cent within a few months late in 2024.

In practical terms, the addition of cavity wall insulation into sections of the old building and the new doors between the pool and changing area have helped make the building more environmental sound. We are also working on

further recommendations and have adopted the following policies that we are publicising on our new environment noticeboard in the reception area.

We aim to:

- reduce our carbon footprint.
- increase our positive impact on the environment.
- reduce any negative impact on the environment.
- ensure we comply with all laws and regulations regarding the environment.
- monitor our energy usage and record, as far as possible, all aspects of our impact on the environment.
- publicise to our staff, customers and supporters, information on our environmental impact in order to encourage more environmentally friendly activities.
- work with other local and national groups to increase awareness of environmental issues.

ATTENDANCES UP

Attendances are on the up both in the pool and in fitSpace. Numbers taking part in swim sessions rose by nine per cent between 2023 and 2024, whilst, attendance at fitSpace sessions rose by 135 per cent over the same period. To date 80 users have been through the gym induction process, A full breakdown of comparative attendance between 2023 and 2024 is included in the new business plan.

In total there were more than 27,000 visits to the centre last year: 24,000 to the pool and 4,000 to fitSpace and the gym. In addition, three hundred children attend group swimming lessons each week.

PEOPLE

The appointment of Leah Galloway as our new operations manager late last year has helped create a staff structure more suited to an organisation that is increasingly 'more than just a pool'. Leah works three days a week helping share much of the administration work with centre manager Tash Ward.

Two trustees who have played key roles in the development of the pool in recent years are stepping down this summer. Secretary Ian Orton, is leaving after eight years in that role, as is Rosie Sanderson, who was secretary of the old charity before becoming our treasurer. Since the last AGM, Elaine Howarth, and Robin Bates have both joined the trustees on a co-opted basis.

The election of new trustees and officers will take place at the pool AGM on July 17. Anyone interested in becoming a trustee should get in touch with Ian Orton – details below.

KEEP IN TOUCH

For the latest information about sessions at Settle Pool visit the timetable section of our website at

<http://www.settleswimmingpool.co.uk>

Follow us on facebook, twitter and instagram

<https://www.facebook.com/SettleAreaSwimmingPool>

<https://x.com/SettlePool>

<https://www.instagram.com/settleareaswimmingpool/>

COULD YOU BE A POOL TRUSTEE?

Settle Area Swimming Pool is looking for new trustees to join our board. The main requirement is a commitment to the continuing success of the pool as a resource for the whole community. If you are interested or just want to have a chat, without obligation, get in touch with Ian Orton, the secretary, through secretary@settleswimmingpool.co.uk or call him on 07841 577 991.