



UNIT SALES HIT NEW HIGH

The new donation unit on the Sowarth Industrial Estate (*pictured above*) has transformed the operation of the pool's funding-raising shops.

The larger space means we are now able to accept and display a wider range of donations. Turnover has soared since the unit opened earlier this year. People making donations are now able to see what we have to offer and often go away with a bargain or two.

The unit also offers better working conditions for our dedicated team of volunteers, no more working in the rain alongside the containers in the pool car park. And with longer opening

hours things are more convenient for people making donations and potential buyers.

The posting of videos showing the range of potential purchases on offer has raised interest in our fund-raising shops, though sometimes with unintended consequences when goods featured in the videos have been snapped up before the next opening session.

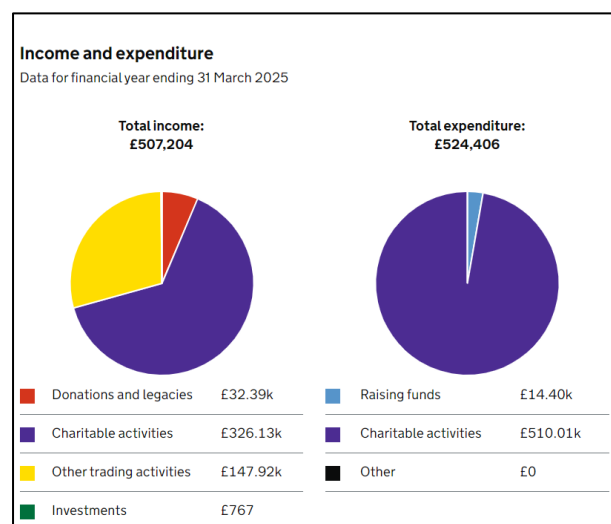
The two shops in the centre of Settle, the original one on Duke Street and pop up next to the Royal Oak, continue to thrive too.

You can see current opening hours for all the shops on the pool website

www.settleswimmingpool.co.uk .

SHOPS KEEP US GOING

The importance of the fund-raising shops to pool finances was clearly illustrated in the graphic that appeared on the Charity Commission's website following the submission of last year's annual accounts.



As you can see, last year, even before the unit opened, the shops (other trading activities) accounted for almost a third of our overall income.

The growing income from our retail operations means we now have high hopes that this year we will go into the black – covering all day to day running costs from takings at the pool and from the shops.

But that does not mean that we are out of the woods. Over the next few years we still must pay off the loans that helped finance the major redevelopment project undertaken in the early 2020s. And there are plenty of current expenses to be met as can be seen below.

INFLATABLE FUN

The pool has a new inflatable for our popular family friendly sessions that make a trip to the pool more than just a chance for a dip. The predominantly red-coloured floating contraption, known as Spike Island, fills most of the 20-metre pool. It was installed at the start of September after the old one had to be



replaced following years of service. The new device cost around £4,000 but as it continues to draw crowds to brighten up those winter weekends it should soon pay for itself.

Details of the inflatable sessions are on the pool website.

CHLORINE DOSIMETER REPLACED

A less visible but even more important piece of pool equipment was replaced over the summer. The chlorine dosimeter measures the level of chlorine in the water and adjusts accordingly. The old one was wearing out, requiring not only regular monitoring but frequent adjustments by pool staff and occasionally even temporary closure of the pool. The new one, costing around £8,000, was installed in August and should last many years.

NEW SPINBIKES

The spinbike sessions are proving to be most popular dryside activity but heavy use takes its toll and so we have now taken out a lease on eight new bikes.

ANNUAL MEETING

The charity responsible for Settle Pool has new officers. Ian Orton, who had been secretary since the pool became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in 2017, stepped down at the annual meeting in July, as did

Rosie Sanderson, who had been treasurer throughout that period.

In praising the contribution the two had made to the pool, joint chair Chris Hirst said: "Whilst the great changes that have taken place in recent years have been very much a collective effort, it is fair to say that we would not have been able to achieve what we have done without the efforts of our secretary, Ian Orton, and treasurer, Rosie Sanderson. We are delighted that they are both to continue to work as volunteers in our shops."

Mike Smith, formerly joint chair with Chris Hirst, is the new secretary and Ken Larkins the new treasurer. Chris Hirst is now sole chair and Ian Dryburgh will continue as vice chair. Jean Littlewood was confirmed as a trustee as was Robin Bates. Robert Bellfield will also join the board of trustees. The remaining board members are Anne Galloway and Elaine Howarth.

Centre Manager Tash Ward told the AGM that the past year had been a successful one, with increased use of the fitSpace facility, the creation of the new gym and increased pool usage. She also praised the support given by users to the staff and the friendly atmosphere they helped to create.

Outgoing treasurer Rosie Sanderson, said that whilst finances were now in a much better



Centre Manager Tash Ward addresses the AGM

position than a year ago there remained a need to pay off the loans that had helped finance the redevelopment. Doing so would take a number of years. The charity shops continued to thrive and were essential to the pool's continued existence and these relied on the contribution of more than 40 volunteers.

The meeting began with a tribute and period of reflection in memory of Carole Hill, a dedicated shop volunteer who had died sudden just two weeks earlier.

CARNIVAL DRAWS CROWDS



Dani de la Wonk entertains the carnival kids.

The pool's fiftieth anniversary was marked in style at the height of the summer with a carnival that drew the crowds.

It was very much a family occasion. For the children there was a bouncy castle, face-painters and a show by entertainer Dani de la Wonk. The crockery smashing stall was a draw for all ages, as were demonstrations by the emergency services. Present too were a range of local community groups, including the organisers of the Flowerpot Festival.

Music was provided by the Giggleswick and Settle Brass Band in the morning and the Batty Moss Buskers later in the day. No one should have gone home hungry with Home Barn Foods producing a steady stream of burgers, butties and pizza slices, whilst bouncing cow ice creams and truly scrumptious sweets catered for those with a

sweet tooth. More than 160 took advantage of a day of free swims in the pool.

Earlier more than £1,700 was raised for pool funds in a fiftieth anniversary auction held at North Ribblesdale Rugby Club.

As a lasting record of what the pool has meant for the area, a podcast, with some of those in the original fund-raising efforts, is now available on the pool website at <https://www.youtube.com/@SettleAreaSwimmingPool>, alongside the video made to mark the re-opening of the pool after the redevelopment work carried out in 2021-2022.

LANGCLIFFE TEAS DO US PROUD

The pool was fortunate enough to be allocated the final Langcliffe Teas session of the summer. The event, organised by Jenny Beasant raised an amazing £1,600. The trustees offered thanks to all who took part.

MAYOR PRAISES POOL



Pool chair Chris Hirst with David Skaith

The Mayor of York and North Yorkshire, David Skaith, has praised the support that the people of Settle and district have given to the town's swimming pool.

The mayor was at the pool this summer to see what can be achieved when a community comes together over a long period of time to back a much-needed local facility.

As well as seeing round the building, he was told of how the pool was built as a result of

decades of fund-raising and how the fund-raising shops were essential to keep the pool afloat.

PARKERS PAY UP

The introduction of a 'donation box' by the pool entrance has made it easier for people using the carpark who are not coming into the building to help contribute to the pool running costs. Around £1,600 has been raised from campervans and others over the first nine months. And now a new box and updated signs are being added to make clear the relationship between the pool and carpark, which is owned by North Yorkshire Council but made available for use by the pool and the coaches used to transport Settle College students.

200 CLUB RENEWAL TIME

The 200 club has been raising funds for the pool for more than 30 years. Members pay £30 a year to enter the monthly draws. Existing members will be offered the chance to renew at the end of the year and, as usual, it is expected that places will be available. For more details see the 200 club section of the pool website and, if you are interested in going on the waiting list, email secretary@settlearea swimmingpool.co.uk

A MERRY PRE-CHRISTMAS

A sale of Yuletide items donated to our charity shops held at the pool on 1 November raised more than £1,000. Thanks to all involved.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Follow us on facebook, twitter and instagram

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

[Settle Area Swimming Pool \(@SettlePool\) / X](#)

[Settle Area Swimming Pool \(@settleareaswimmingpool\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)