



SETTLE AREA SWIMMING POOL

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2022

WE'RE BACK BIGGER AND BETTER



POOL READY TO RE-OPEN

Settle Area Swimming Pool is re-opening this autumn following completion of the year-long redevelopment programme.

We are now taking bookings on the ClubRight system and the new timetable is on the website. This has been substantially revised to take account of

the many additional facilities that now make us 'more than just a pool'.

The aim is to return to the old pre-covid booking systems as soon as possible.

That means that online bookings have priority, followed by phone bookings.

Walk-ins will be accepted provided there is space in a particular session.

Whilst the building has undergone major changes over the past year, there have also been a number of changes in the staffing. Several of our long-time staff have moved on and we wish them all well in their new lives.

We are also delighted to welcome many new faces, both on the payroll and as volunteers. They are all eager to meet you, our users, as we get back up and running.

One outstanding feature of Settle Pool and the reason we are now building back better when many other pools around the country are under threat is because of the tremendous support given to us by the local community.

That is shown both in the many generous donations that we receive from businesses, organisations and individuals, but also in the very many people who give willingly and regularly of their time.

In some cases that relates directly to the pool and that will be increasingly the case in our new enlarged format, but crucially it includes the shop that has proved such an essential part of the life of the pool since it opened and especially during our year-long closure for redevelopment.

We thank all our volunteers but we also want to remind you that we can also do with more help. That includes running the 200 club (*see below*) and as trustees.

Members of the 11-strong group of voluntary trustees have put in many hours of work over the past few years seeing through the redevelopment project. We are so grateful to have on board some folks with great skills, for instance, in terms of financial management and dealing with building contracts.

Quite rightly the term that any trustee can serve is limited, six years is generally the maximum, so we are on the lookout for supporters who will help us through the next stage in the life of the pool. Do get in touch if you want to know more – no obligation.

FITSPACE

Our wellbeing centre, fitSpace, is the major new feature of the redeveloped pool.

A flexible dry space sited to the right of entrance hall, fitSpace will offer a wide variety of classes and events to complement the activities in the pool.

fitSpace will be a space for everyone.

There will be:

- Sessions to test your fitness
- Sessions just to enjoy
- Soft play for children
- And space to hire for your own activities.

Exercise classes will include:

- Pilates
- Circuits
- Spin Classes.

FOR CHILDREN

We will have children's soft play sessions and children's workouts.

EXTERNAL HIRE OF FITSPACE FACILITIES

We will also be hiring out our rooms to external businesses that can provide sessions such as chair-based exercises, children's messy play and much more.

MORE THAN JUST FITNESS

We won't just focus on physical activity but wellbeing too!

And you can just pop in to our café to chill out inside or outside the pool.



Tash Ward

Helping to develop fitSpace will be a major part of the work of our new Business Development Manager Tash Ward.

Tash, who has five years' experience in the leisure industry, was formerly club manager of Anytime Fitness in Ilkley. She has a sports management degree from Leeds Beckett University and is a qualified fitness instructor and personal trainer.

Tash says: "I have a passion for sport, having participated and competed in a variety of sports throughout my life, I understand the importance of having access to and participating in sport for your mental and physical wellbeing.

"My main sport growing up was karate in which I became a black belt and world champion at the age of 14. Growing up in Thailand and going to an international school I was able to learn a variety of different sports from many different countries and cultures, which only grew my love for sport and fitness.

"My love for the outdoors attracted me to the Settle area and my partner and I moved here in 2020. We welcomed our baby boy in January 2022 and my priorities changed. I wanted to be closer to home and wanted a new challenge in my career, which led me to this role at Settle Area Swimming Pool.

"My goal is to bring my experience and love of sport and fitness to the local community and provide a space for everyone to participate in not only physical activities but also have access to

wellbeing groups. I look forward to taking on this new role and meeting you all once we reopen. If you ever need any help, please do not hesitate to approach me, I'd be more than happy to help."

GIVE ME SUNSHINE



Our bank of solar panels

When storm Arwen ripped large parts of the roof off the pool in November 2021 it created a big set-back – not least for our plans to keep the pool open during most of the building work. But it also created an opportunity.

Unlike the old roof, the replacement – paid for through insurance – was able to accommodate solar panels, thus representing a chance, not just to go green but to save on our energy bill and generate income through sale of surplus electricity to the grid.

But how to pay for this substantial addition to our construction bill?

We immediately allocated the generous donation from last year's Hellifield

Harness Races to this fund and also the money raised through our participation in the Coniston Hall dragonboat event. But that still left a big shortfall. Crowd-funding proved the answer. In just over two months we raised more than £8,000 from 79 donors, topped up by another £700 as a result of gift aid and by 10 July we had reached our target.

The retail revolution

The pool charity shop in Duke Street Settle marked its fifth anniversary in May this year. Over the past five years the shop and associated on-line sales have raised more than £275,000 for the pool and helped pave the way for the current redevelopment.

The shop is run entirely by volunteers, who not only staff the shop but check donations for items of special value in



The Duke Street charity shop

categories from jewelry to books and antiques. They also organise the on-line sales and receive donations at the containers by the pool on Tuesday and

Friday mornings. More volunteers are always welcome.

The 200 Club: organiser needed

The 200 club has been raising money for Settle Pool for more than 25 years.

Other fund-raising efforts have come and gone but the 200 club has been a constant – up to now.

Julie Smith has run the club for the past eight years, initially on behalf of the Friends of Settle Pool and now on behalf of the pool charity itself, but she has decided that 2022 will be her last year and so it is crucial that we find someone urgently to take on this important role that not only raises £2,000 a year for the pool but also maintains the link between the pool and many of our long-standing supporters.

The job involves a fair bit of administrative work towards the end of the year in sending out renewal notices and receiving payment – some by BACS payment and some by cheque. The organiser also has to find new members to fill any vacancies among the 200 – though at present there is a waiting list so that is not a big problem.

After that it is a matter of organising the regular monthly draws and notifying the winners.

It adds up to a bit of work but hopefully not too much and it could be shared between two or three volunteers.

And just a reminder of how the 200 club works. The 200 members each make a donation of £20 a year, collected in January, and in return they are given number which is entered into a monthly prize draw to win a cash prize from £20 up to £200 at Christmas!

There are ten monthly draws – February to November – with prizes of £50, £30, £20 in each draw. In the Christmas draw there are five prizes of £200 each.

Thus, half of the £4,000 collected each year goes in prize money – the rest is donated to the pool.

Over the years the 200 club has supported the pool to the tune of at least £30,000.

Do get in touch if you think you want more information about what is involved.

Backstroke Flora



Summer in Settle would not be summer without a profusion of flowerpots in

various imaginative guises and venues. The dolphin which for many years was the pool's contribution was re-located this summer and so we had our own flowerpot swimmer demonstrating back stroke in the carpark by shop collection containers.

Farewell to The Friends



Alan Smith chair of The Friends with Pat Taylor of the pool trustees

The Friends of Settle Swimming Pool ceased to exist as a separate charity in November 2021 having completed its 25 year mission to help keep the pool afloat whilst at the same time raising sufficient funds to enable the current redevelopment programme to go ahead.

The separate charity was created to build up funds for the time when major redevelopment work was needed. But the change in the pool's charitable status Since its creation in the 1990s The Friends raised more than £300,000 for

the pool. Half that money went on repairs and helping fund school transport for swimming lessons and the rest was handed over to pool trustees last year as a contribution towards the rebuild.

The change in the charitable status of the pool means the separate fund is no longer needed so now both long-term and immediate fund-raising are done through the main pool charity.

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GRANNY HOUSE BELL BUSK

Granny House holiday cottage in Bell Busk is a luxurious and spacious 400 year old farmhouse that sleeps 6, combining the best of the modern with the best of the traditional offering panoramic views from all windows

Situated on the old pack horse route between Skipton and Settle, Granny House is characterful and comfortable.

This is tranquillity realised, you will love it from the moment you arrive, a stylish hidden gem, a retreat that will leave you feeling rested, happier and healthier. It is a paradise for nature lovers, outdoor enthusiasts and gardeners. With the dark sky designation, it is possible to see the Aurora during solar flares. The Pennine way and cycle route 68 are just down the lane.

<https://www.bellbusk.co.uk>

THE REDEVELOPMENT - A YEAR IN PICTURES



October 2021 - the bulldozers move in



Working on site - winter 2021



The new build starts to take shape



It's a big job putting in the foundations



It's wall going to plan - spring 2022



And indoors – a pool with a view



Up on the roof



The entrance hall takes shape. Summer 2022