

# BIRTLEY COMMUNITY POOL

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER  
ISSUE 22



## What's Inside ?

### Community Feedback

Read what our customers are saying and see how your support has helped us achieve an outstanding 4.94 out of 5 average Google rating since reopening.

### Timetable Updates

Find out about more weekend swimming, gentle swim options, and our new Tuesday evening Aquafit class with instructor Jamie Colligan.

### Meet the Team

Get to know more of the staff and trustees who work behind the scenes to keep Birtley Community Pool welcoming, fun, and running smoothly.

### Volunteers Needed

We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help at the pool. If you're interested in supporting our community, get in touch – we'd love to have you on board!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR  
FROM THE BIRTLEY  
COMMUNITY POOL  
TRUSTEES**

As we dive into a brand-new year, we want to thank every swimmer, supporter, volunteer, and member of staff who helped make 2025 such a success. Your continued support means everything to our community pool, and we're excited for what's ahead.

We've welcomed your feedback and made some updates on the timetable for you to explore. Here's what's coming up this January!

# Meet The Team



Graham Fuery

## Trustee

You may have spotted Graham around the building, often with tools in hand!

With years of experience in pool management and caretaking, his knowledge and dedication help us keep the pool operating smoothly behind the scenes.

Sue Alexander

## Trustee

A recent addition to our trustee board, Sue is deeply committed to both the pool and the wider community. Before becoming a trustee, she supported us as the minutes secretary, and she continues to bring organisation, care, and enthusiasm to everything she does.



Zoe

## Leisure Attendant / Acting Lead Leisure Attendant

Zoe is a dedicated and hardworking member of the team who frequently steps up as a Lead. She has taken the responsibility in her stride and does an excellent job supporting colleagues and customers alike.



Jake

## Leisure Attendant / Acting Lead Leisure Attendant

Jake has been a great support to the team, regularly stepping up as Lead when needed. He approaches the responsibility with a positive attitude, helping to keep poolside running safely and efficiently.

# Become a Trustee

We're looking for new Trustees to join the charity board – especially individuals with experience in community engagement, volunteer management and / or marketing. If you're passionate about community projects and want to help shape the future of Birtley Community Pool, we'd love to hear from you!

> Email:  
[info@birtleycommunitypool.org.uk](mailto:info@birtleycommunitypool.org.uk)



## Volunteers Needed

Whether you have a few spare hours or can commit to a regular schedule, your support will help us continue providing excellent services to the community.

We are currently recruiting for the following volunteer roles:

- Practical Tasks Volunteers
- Administration & Reception Volunteers
- Fundraising & Income Generation Volunteers

If you'd like to get involved, please email us at  
[info@birtleycommunitypool.org.uk](mailto:info@birtleycommunitypool.org.uk)

Your time and effort will be invaluable in supporting the pool's success!

# Customer Feedback

## Member Statement

"I have attended the Birtley Baths since they opened in 1972. Thank goodness they have now opened as the Birtley Community Pool. As an 86 year old I still manage 20 lengths of the pool, albeit with a new style all of my own. Before leaving the pool I enjoy total relaxation floating vertically in the deep end, enjoying the sounds of excitement and mischief coming from the adjacent kid's pool. My old GP always made a point of saying to his older patients, that regular visits to the baths, if possible, was the best medicine available in Birtley. I now know very much what he meant and totally agree."



## Our Google Reviews



Since reopening as Birtley Community Pool in September 2024, we've been blown away by your support online.

- 49 Google reviews (Sept 2024 – Dec 2025)
- 46 x 5-star reviews
- 3 x 4-star reviews
- Average rating: 4.94 out of 5



Your reviews help more people discover the pool and support our future funding and sustainability. Thank you for taking the time to leave such positive feedback.

# Member Statement

"I used to attend the Birtley Pool when it was run by the Council and when I took on my membership I paid a certain fee which I cannot remember what it was but when I reached the age of 60 the fee went down to £19 per month, when Birtley Pool closed I drove from Birtley to Blaydon which was not a short distance, then the crunch came when Birtley Community Pool was about to open I had to make a decision did I stay with Blaydon baths at a cheaper rate or move back to Birtley to support the Community. My heart was telling me I needed to Support Birtley and signed up for the monthly membership and have been coming ever since. It is a pleasure to attend I love the friendliness of all the staff, they are always willing to help me as I it seems a strange remark to make but I do not swim I come to exercise in the pool and need the assistance of dumbbells and a woggle which the staff get for me often before I ask now.



I don't have the best of health both mentally and physically and find coming to be pool a tremendous benefit in every way possible. A chat at reception either on my way in or on my way out. When I spoke to Lewis (Senior Operations Manager) once he thanked me for staying at the Community Pool I thought that was a lovely thing to say. These staff may be the only ones some people see at the pool in a day and I hope like me they appreciate and feel the benefit of such a caring and friendly team of staff."

# Timetable Updates



## More Weekend Swimming Available

Good news! We've heard your feedback and added more public swimming on Saturday mornings, giving you extra flexibility to enjoy the pool.

Check the January timetable to see the additional availability.

## New Aquafit Class

- When: Tuesdays at 7:15pm
- Where: Improver Pool
- Instructor: Jamie

This class is ideal for those looking to improve fitness in a fun, low-impact way!

## Gentle Swimming Options

If you prefer a calmer, more relaxed swim, we offer a range of gentle swimming sessions:

- Aqualntro Thursdays 7pm & AquaSocial Mondays 10:30am
- Improver pool open from 6:15am till 1pm weekdays
- Quieter times to swim are 9:30am to 12:30pm on weekdays

## Family Photography Sessions

We'll soon be offering family photography sessions at the pool once a month. It's a great way to capture special family memories! More details, dates, and booking information coming soon – keep an eye on our website and social media.



# Parking Update



## Customer Reminder

To help maintain a positive relationship with our neighbours, please:

- Use our car park or alternative nearby public car parks, such as the large parking area near Morrisons during busy times (Mon to Fri 3-7pm).
- Do not park in the residential streets by the pool.
- Park within designated bays in the pool car park, please do not take up two spaces.

Thank you for helping us keep our community respectful and welcoming!

## Statement from Local Councillor Joe Sowerby

"It has been brought to the attention of local councillors that some users of Birtley Community Pool have been parking on the surrounding streets. We understand that this is an issue for residents, however the pool has provided sufficient parking options for pool users, but some are personally choosing to ignore this advice and causing issues for residents. Whilst infuriating there is little to be done except remind users not to park in residential areas, where possible we will try and come up with solutions if the issue keeps happening."

— Cllr Joe Sowerby, Birtley and Barley Mow for Gateshead Council



# January Term Timetable

**Running from Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January  
to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**

## Birtley Community Pool Timetable

Term Time - 3rd January to 22nd February 2026

**\* Please Note - pool closure due to private event on Tuesday 3rd February 09:30 - 11:15 \***



# Donations

Help Us Make a Splash! 

We're still fundraising for exciting new inflatable obstacle course sections, and your support can make a big difference! Donations are gratefully received via our GoFundMe page:

👉 [gofundme.com/new-obstacle-course-inflatables-for-birtley-community-pool](https://gofundme.com/new-obstacle-course-inflatables-for-birtley-community-pool)



**Birtley Community Pool**



**On behalf of the Birtley Community Aquatic Centre  
CIO trustee board**

Yvonne Probert  
Chair

Matthew Grant  
Treasurer



**Funded by  
UK Government**



**SPORT  
ENGLAND**

## Contact Us



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