

BIRTLEY COMMUNITY POOL



MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 25



What's Inside ?

May Half-Term

Find out everything happening during May half-term, including double inflatable sessions, slide sessions, and family fun across the week.

Fundraising

Read about volunteer Paul Snaith's incredible "Four Lakes Challenge" as he swims nearly 30 miles to raise money for the pool. Learn how you can support his fundraising efforts.

Meet the Team

Get to know some of the fantastic people behind Birtley Community Pool and the important roles they play in keeping the pool running smoothly every day.

How you can get involved

From volunteering to becoming a trustee, there are many ways you can get involved in our community pool.

MAY AT BIRTLEY COMMUNITY POOL

Welcome to our May newsletter! With May half-term just around the corner, we're looking forward to another fun-filled week at Birtley Community Pool. From inflatable sessions and slide fun to community updates and exciting fundraising efforts, there's plenty happening at the pool this month. As always, thank you for your continued support! Every visit, donation, and volunteer hour helps keep our community pool thriving.

Meet The Team



Ilan

Volunteer Lifeguard

We're incredibly appreciative of Ian's support as a volunteer lifeguard. He's always a lot of fun to have around, and our volunteers play such an important role in helping the pool operate successfully.



Paul & Chris

Practical Task Volunteers

Paul and Chris do a huge amount of work around the facility, helping complete practical jobs and maintenance tasks throughout the building.



Ami

Volunteer To Lifeguard

Ami started with us as a volunteer before completing her NPLQ qualification on one of the courses we ran. She has since joined our staff team as a Leisure Attendant and continues to be a fantastic member of the pool team.



Armela

Leisure Attendant

Our Leisure Attendants rotate between lifeguarding, cleaning, and front desk duties. This means they are always ready to support customers, maintain safety in and around the pool, and ensure the facility stays clean and well-presented.

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



Volunteers Needed

Whether you have a few spare hours or can commit to a couple of hours a week, 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

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

Funding Secured For Our New AquaSocial Session

We have just been awarded £9,000 funding from the Mayors Opportunity Fund at Community Foundation North East to enable us to provide a new low-cost session on Monday mornings called AquaSocial for older people. Although the session is open to all, people aged 65 and over will receive a discounted place as part of the funding offer. This will involve guided gentle exercises in our 1m deep improver pool, followed by socialising in our spectator area with a free hot drink and biscuit. We will also provide transport for older people in our local community who cannot get to the pool by themselves and support from a dedicated Lead Leisure Attendant throughout their visit. More details will be provided soon about this new initiative.



**Community
Foundation
North East**

We also received the following message from North East Mayor Kim McGuinness about the AquaSocial funding: "I'm delighted to be supporting the vital work of The Birtley Community Aquatic Centre. This investment recognises the vital role that organisations like yours play in supporting older residents to live well, remain independent, and stay connected to their communities. Your work makes a meaningful difference to people's day-to-day lives, and I am pleased to be able to support you to build on this impact."



Solar Panels Funding

We're delighted to share that we have successfully raised £37,000 funding towards our solar panels project from the National Lottery (£20,000) and the Sir James Knott Trust (£17,000). While this is a huge step forward, we are still applying to other local funds for the remaining £13,000 that we need. We have also set up our own GoFundMe page which enables our supporters to make a donation, please don't forget to add gift aid.

Every donation moves us closer to reducing our energy costs and carbon emissions, making the pool more environmentally sustainable for the future. Our GoFundMe link and QR code can be found at the end of the newsletter if you would like to support our project.

Lord Lawson Work Experience

Last month we welcomed Rohan from Lord Lawson School for a week of work experience at the pool.

Rohan got the full experience of working as a Leisure Attendant, with our team showing him the ropes across a variety of duties including:

- Cleaning and maintaining changing areas
- Lifeguarding duties
- Customer service on the front desk

We were delighted to give Rohan an insight into working in the leisure industry. Thank you to Rohan for all his hard work during the week!



SIR JAMES KNOTT TRUST

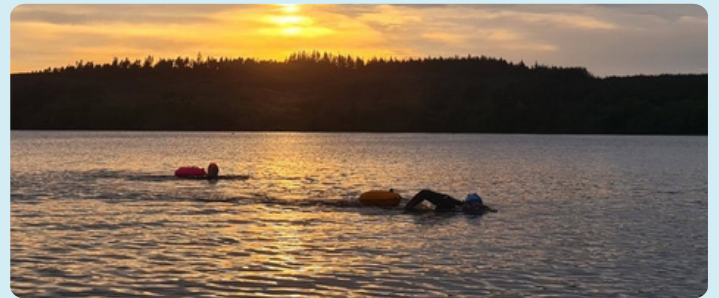
Volunteer Takes on Four Lake District Swims to Support Birtley Community Pool



Birtley Community Pool volunteer Paul Snaith is taking on an incredible fundraising challenge this summer to support our community-run pool. Paul will swim four Lake District lakes, covering nearly 30 miles in open water, to raise vital funds for the pool.

Paul's "Four Lakes Challenge" includes:

- Derwentwater – May (3.5 miles)
- Coniston – June (5.5 miles)
- Ullswater – July (7.5 miles)
- Windermere – September (11.5 miles)



Paul said:

"I've been swimming at Birtley Pool since the late 1970s and was the last swimmer out of the water on its final day in 2022. As a volunteer at the new Birtley Community Pool, I wanted to give something back to a place that means so much to me."

Lewis Herbertson, Senior Operational Manager at Birtley Community Pool, said:

"Paul represents everything that makes Birtley Community Pool special - dedication, community spirit, and a genuine love for the pool. We're incredibly grateful for his support."

Support Paul's Challenge

Every donation will help us continue providing affordable swimming and community programmes for local people. Please support Paul's challenge and share his fundraising page.

Donate to - <https://gofund.me/8a822e77c>

Timetable Updates



Double Inflatable Sessions + Slide

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

- 11:30am – 12:30pm
- 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Saturday

- 1:30pm – 2:30pm
- 2:45pm – 3:45pm

Sunday

- 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Slide Sessions

- Mon 8:30-11am
- Tue & Thu 8:30-11:30am & 1-4:30pm
- Wed 8:30-11am & 3-4:30pm
- Fri 8:30-11am & 3-4:30pm
- Sat & Sun 9am-1pm

May Half-Term (25th-31st May) Public Opening Times

- Monday 7am-2:30pm
- Tuesday 6:15am-9:30pm
- Wednesday 6:15am-7pm
- Thursday 6:15am-9:30pm
- Friday 6:15am-5pm
- Saturday 7am-3:45pm
- Sunday 7am-2:30pm

Lily Pad Sessions (Improver Pool – under 5s)

- Tue & Thu 1-4:30pm
- Sat & Sun 9am-1pm

Classes

- Aquafit: Tue 12pm
- Aqualntro: Thu 7pm
(Improver Pool)



May Half-Term Timetable

Running from Monday 25th to Sunday 31st May 2026



Birtley Community Pool Timetable Half Term - 25th May to 31st May 2026

Organised Public Activities	Swimming Club
Available for Pool Parties or Hire	Public Swimming - No Lanes
Swim City Lessons	Lane F - Fast Swimmers
School Swimming Lessons	Lane M - Medium Swimmers
	Lane S - Slower Swimmers

MONDAY	06:00	07:00	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00
Main Pool Six Lanes Depth 0.9m - 2.0m Temperature 29°C		Lane S Lane M Lane F		Lane M Lane F		Set Up Time	DOUBLE Inflatable & Water Slide 11:30 - 12:30	Closed	DOUBLE Inflatable & Water Slide 13:30 - 14:30
Improver Pool 1m - 20°C			Public Swimming	Water Slide & Public Swim 08:30 - 11:00					
Small Pool 0.7m - 31°C			Swimming & Walking in Water			Family Fun			Family Fun



TUESDAY	06:00	07:00	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00
Main Pool Six Lanes Depth 0.9m - 2.0m Temperature 29°C		Lane S Lane M Lane F		Lane M Lane F			AquaFit 12:00 - 12:45		Lane M Lane F			Lane S Lane M Lane F	Lane M Lane F	Lane S Lane M Lane F		
Improver Pool 1m - 20°C			Public Swimming	Water Slide & Public Swim 08:30 - 11:30				Water Slide & Public Swim 13:00 - 16:30				Public Swim	Derwentside & Gateshead Swimming Club		Public Swim	
Small Pool 0.7m - 31°C			Swimming & Walking in Water					Lily Pads for children under 5					Swim & Walk in Water			
			Family Fun									Family Fun				

WEDNESDAY	06:00	07:00	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00
Main Pool Six Lanes Depth 0.9m - 2.0m Temperature 29°C		Lane S Lane M Lane F		Lane M Lane F		Set Up Time	DOUBLE Inflatable & Water Slide 11:30 - 12:30	Closed	DOUBLE Inflatable & Water Slide 13:30 - 14:30			Lane M Lane F	Lane S Lane M Lane F			
Improver Pool 1m - 20°C			Public Swimming	Water Slide & Public Swim 08:30 - 11:00								Water Slide & Public Swim 15:00 - 16:30				Birtley Amateur Swimming Club
Small Pool 0.7m - 31°C			Swimming & Walking in Water										Swimming & Walking in Water			
			Family Fun									Family Fun				

THURSDAY	06:00	07:00	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00
Main Pool Six Lanes Depth 0.9m - 2.0m Temperature 29°C		Lane S Lane M Lane F		Lane M Lane F				Lane M Lane F				Lane S Lane M Lane F	Lane M Lane F	Lane S Lane M Lane F		
Improver Pool 1m - 20°C			Public Swimming	Water Slide & Public Swim 08:30 - 11:30			Public Swim	Water Slide & Public Swim 13:00 - 16:30				Public Swim	Derwentside & Gateshead Swimming Club		Public Swim	
Small Pool 0.7m - 31°C			Swimming & Walking in Water					Lily Pads for children under 5					Swim & Walk in Water	AquaFit 19:00 - 20:00	Swim & Walk in Water	
			Family Fun									Family Fun				

FRIDAY	06:00	07:00	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	
Main Pool Six Lanes Depth 0.9m - 2.0m Temperature 29°C		Derwentside & Gateshead Swimming Club 05:30 - 07:30	Lane S Lane M Lane F	Lane M Lane F		Set Up Time	DOUBLE Inflatable & Water Slide 11:30 - 12:30	Closed	DOUBLE Inflatable & Water Slide 13:30 - 14:30			Lane M Lane F
Improver Pool 1m - 20°C			Lane F	Public Swimming	Water Slide & Public Swim 08:30 - 11:00							Water Slide & Public Swim 15:00 - 16:30
Small Pool 0.7m - 31°C			Lane M	Swimming & Walking in Water								Swim & Walk in Water
				Family Fun								Family Fun




SATURDAY	06:00	07:00	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00
Main Pool Six Lanes Depth 0.9m - 2.0m Temperature 29°C		Lane S Lane M Lane F		Lane M Lane F				DOUBLE Inflatable & Water Slide 13:30 - 14:30	DOUBLE Inflatable & Water Slide 14:45 - 15:45	
Improver Pool 1m - 20°C			Public Swimming	Water Slide & Public Swim 09:00 - 12:00						
Small Pool 0.7m - 31°C			Swim & Walk in Water							
			Family Fun							



SUNDAY	06:00	07:00	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00
Main Pool Six Lanes Depth 0.9m - 2.0m Temperature 29°C		Lane S Lane M Lane F		Lane M Lane F				DOUBLE Inflatable & Water Slide 13:30 - 14:30	
Improver Pool 1m - 20°C			Public Swimming	Water Slide & Public Swim 09:00 - 13:00					
Small Pool 0.7m - 31°C			Swim & Walk in Water						
			Family Fun						

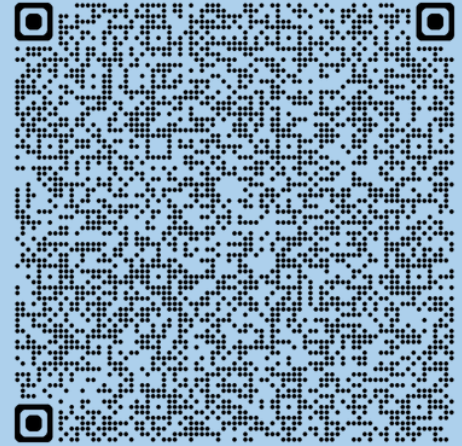


Donations

Help Us Make a Splash! 

We're now fundraising for solar panels, and your support can make a big difference! Donations are gratefully received via our GoFundMe page:

👉 www.gofundme.com/f/please-help-us-get-solar-panels-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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