

BIRTLEY COMMUNITY POOL

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 28



What's Inside ?

Solar Panels Update

Find out how much we've raised so far, why our plans have changed, and our proposed new location for the solar panels.

Meet a Trustee

Got an idea for how we can improve, have a question, suggestion or concern? Find out how you can speak directly with a trustee and share your feedback.

October Half-Term Fun

Keep the family entertained this half-term with our inflatable, slide and lily pad sessions, plus plenty of opportunities to make a splash!

How you can get involved

Discover how you can support Birtley Community Pool and help us continue serving our local community.

OCTOBER AT BIRTLEY COMMUNITY POOL

October is here, bringing a little autumn magic to Birtley Community Pool! 🍁 Whether you're looking to keep the kids entertained over half-term with our inflatables, slide and lily pad sessions, or stay active with one of our aqua classes, there's plenty to enjoy this month. We're also sharing an important update on our solar panel project, giving you the opportunity to meet a trustee and have your say, and looking for more volunteers to help support our community pool. Dive in to find out what's happening this October!

Solar Panels Update

Proposed area for solar panels



We're pleased to share an update on our plans to install solar panels at Birtley Community Pool. This project will help us reduce our energy costs, lower our carbon emissions and secure a more sustainable future for the pool.

Proposed area for solar panel installation



Fundraising Progress

We've now raised £45,500 from funding organisations towards our £50,000 target, thanks to the generous support of several organisations:

- National Lottery – £20,000
- Sir James Knott Trust – £17,000
- Barbour Foundation – £5,000
- Rothley Trust – £2,500
- Moto Foundation – £1,000

We've also received £845 through our JustGiving campaign and £315 through GoFundMe, bringing the total raised to £46,660. Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising so far!

Why Plans Have Changed

Following the successful fundraising efforts, our solar panel supplier carried out a technical survey, including a structural assessment of the pool's flat roof. Unfortunately, this identified that the roof cannot safely support the weight of the solar panels.

We therefore asked our supplier to investigate alternative locations, including car ports above the car park and the south-facing wall of the pool.

Unfortunately, these options were not financially viable.

The only viable alternative identified is a small area of grassland between Durham Road and the western end of the pool.

What would the proposed installation look like?

The proposed installation would have a relatively small footprint, with just 50 solar panels occupying an area of less than 40 square metres. The panels would be enclosed by a 1.8-metre-high green anti-climb metal fence.

The proposed location will only just be visible through the trees from a few of the nearby residential properties and not at all from the other nearby properties. A path for dog walkers will remain between the pool and the new fencing. The surrounding trees will not be affected by the installation.

How will the solar panels benefit the pool?

The project is expected to:

- Reduce the pool's electricity consumption by 14%.
- Cut annual carbon emissions by approximately 6,900 kg.
- Save around £7,000 a year in electricity costs.

These savings would make a significant contribution towards securing the pool's long-term financial sustainability.

Solar Panels Continued



Have Your Say

As the proposed location is outside the pool building, we will need full planning permission from Gateshead Council before installation can go ahead. We intend to submit our initial planning application shortly, but we want to share our plans with our customers and the local community first.

We welcome your feedback, comments and questions about the proposal.

Please email info@birtleycommunitypool.org.uk to share your views or ask a question. We aim to respond promptly and will also publish a frequently asked questions document on our website next month.

You can also speak directly with a trustee at one of our monthly drop-in sessions. We want to hear from you and keep our community informed as the project progresses.

Thank you for continuing to support Birtley Community Pool as we work towards a more sustainable future.

Meet a Trustee

We'd Love to Hear From You

Your community pool is here for you, and we want to hear what you think!

From the first Saturday of each month, a trustee will be available in the pool's spectator area between 11am and 1pm for an informal chat with customers and members of the local community.

Whether you have feedback, a suggestion, a question about the pool, or a concern you'd like to discuss, this is an opportunity to speak directly with a trustee in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

You don't need to make an appointment – simply come along, say hello and have a chat. We value your feedback and look forward to hearing from you.



When: First Saturday of every month, 11am–1pm

Where: Spectator area at Birtley Community Pool

We look forward to seeing you!

October Half-Term



Inflatable Sessions

Monday: 11am–12pm and 1pm–2pm

Wednesday: 11am–12pm and 1pm–2pm

Friday: 1pm–2pm

Saturday: 2:30pm–3:30pm

Sunday: 1:30pm–2:30pm

Slide & Lily Pad Sessions

Monday: 9am–10:30am

Tuesday: 9am–10:30am and
1pm–2:30pm

Thursday: 9am–10:30am and
1pm–2:30pm

Friday: 9am–10:30am

Saturday: 12pm–2pm

Sunday: 11am–1pm

Aqua Classes

- Aquafit – Tuesday at 12pm
- Aquafit – Tuesday at 7:30pm
- Aquafit – Wednesday at 9:30am
- AquaIntro – Thursday at 7pm
- AquaSocial – Friday at 10:30am

General/Lane Swimming

Plenty of time available for general and lane swimming, please check the green sections on the timetable.

Plan your visit! Please check the pool's latest timetable before travelling. We look forward to welcoming you for some half-term fun!



Running from Monday 26th October to Sunday 1st November 2026

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

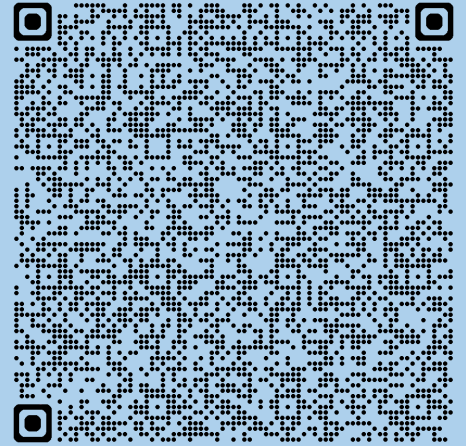
Your time and effort will be invaluable in supporting the pool's success!

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**



Contact Us



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