

BIRTLEY COMMUNITY POOL

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 23



What's Inside ?

February Half-Term Fun

This half-term we're introducing a brand-new inflatable run, designed especially with younger swimmers in mind, but still fun and challenging for older children too!

Your Feedback Matters

Our annual customer survey is now open, giving you the chance to share your thoughts and help shape the future of Birtley Community Pool.

Behind the Scenes

Find out what our team achieved during the Christmas closure, including deep cleaning and staff training to keep the pool safe and welcoming.

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!

FEBRUARY NEWS FROM BIRTLEY COMMUNITY POOL

As we head into February, we want to thank you for your continued support of Birtley Community Pool. From families enjoying weekend swims to regular lane swimmers, class attendees, volunteers, and supporters, you are the heart of our pool.

Here's what's coming up this month, including half-term fun, ways to share your feedback, and a behind-the-scenes update from our Christmas closure.

Meet The Team



Dean Cox

Trustee

Dean supports us with a variety of practical tasks around the facilities. With his background of working at the pool and a long-standing connection to Birtley, his experience and local knowledge are greatly valued.



Anne Atkinson

Trustee

Anne joined the board last year as Assistant Treasurer. She brings great financial management experience and enthusiasm to the role, and we're delighted to have her as part of the board.



Thomas

Leisure Attendant

You can usually spot Thomas around the centre with a spray bottle or mop in hand, he's one of our super cleaners keeping the pool spotless for you all. He's a dedicated hard worker that we're so pleased to have as part of our team!



Charlie

Leisure Attendant

Charlie is another one of our dedicated lifeguards. You may have caught one of our DJ inflatable sessions where DJ Charlie was spinning some decks and bringing a whole new layer of fun to inflatable sessions.

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 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

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

Have Your Say

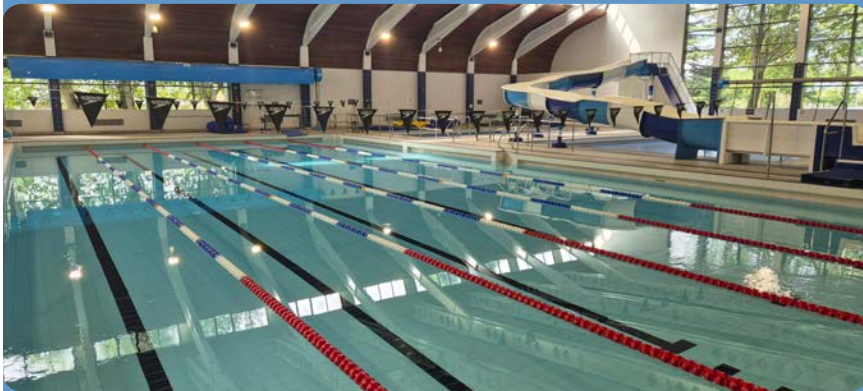
Annual Customer Survey

Our annual customer survey is now open and we'd love to hear your thoughts on what's working well and where we can improve. Your feedback really matters to us and helps shape the future of our pool. It will also help us with the funding applications we make for future improvements.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey, every response makes a difference.

👉 <https://forms.office.com/e/E5duiupEBR>

We've already reduced our gas and electric usage by 50% due to the new boilers, LED lighting, insulating the pipework and reducing electricity usage. We are also applying to funders to install solar panels on the flat part of the roof.



Share Your Story

Would you be happy to share how the pool has positively affected you or your family? We're looking for customers to give case studies to help us showcase the positive impact of the pool within the community.



If you'd like to take part, please speak to a member of the team or email us, we'd love to hear from you.

Pool Updates



Christmas Closure – What We've Been Up To

During our Christmas closure, the team worked hard behind the scenes to ensure the pool was clean, and ready for 2026!

We focused on:

- Deep cleaning across the building
- Essential maintenance work
- Staff training and development



RLSS NPLQ Lifeguard Course

Interested in becoming a lifeguard or refreshing your qualification?
We're running a 5-day Lifeguard Course.
Dates: 23rd-27th February
Price: £280

This is a great opportunity for adults of all ages who want to develop a useful life skill or explore new career opportunities like volunteering with us. This qualification also grants UCAS points.

To register your interest email
Lewis.Herbertson@birtleycommunitypool.org.uk



Pool Rules & Etiquette



Pool Rules

To help keep everyone safe and happy, please remember:

- Shower before swimming – it helps keep our water sparkling clean.
- Skip the swim if you feel unwell or have an open wound.
- Babies must wear swim nappies at all times.
- Be respectful to our coaches, lifeguards, and fellow swimmers.
- Avoid swimming on a full or empty stomach.
- Walk, don't run! The poolside can be slippery.
- No mobile phones or photography – for everyone's privacy and safety, please do not use phones or take photos/videos in the changing areas, poolside, or around the pool. This rule helps protect and safeguard all our swimmers, especially children.

Lane Etiquette

- Choose a lane that matches your speed.
- Take care when entering an occupied lane – Sit at the side and hang your legs in the water to signal your intention to join, and wait for swimmers to complete two laps before starting to swim.
- Split the lane for two swimmers; circle swim when there are three or more.
- Rest in the corner of the lane so others can turn easily.
- Avoid wide strokes like butterfly when lanes are busy.
- Equipment (e.g. fins & hand paddles) can only be used if safely and in consideration of others.



February Half-Term



Inflatable & Water Slide Sessions

Inflatable & Slide Sessions:

- Mon, Wed & Fri 12:30-1:30pm & 1:45-2:45pm
- Tue & Thu 1:45-2:45pm & 3-4pm
- Sat 1:15-2:15pm & 2:30-3:30pm
- Sun 1:15-2:15pm

Slide Sessions:

- Mon-Wed & Fri 10-11:45am
- Thu 10am-1pm
- Sat & Sun 10am-12:30pm

Aqua Classes

All Aqua classes will run as normal during the February Half-Term:

- AquaSocial Mon 10:30am
- AquaFit Tuesday 12pm
- Aquafit Tuesday 7:15pm
- Aquafit Wednesday 9:15am
- Aqualntro Thursday 7pm

New Inflatable Run

What's new?

- A smaller inflatable run, perfect for younger children
- Still a fun challenge for older kids to test their balance
- Running alongside our current inflatable means shorter queues and more variety
- A more confidence-building option for children who may find larger inflatables daunting

Public Swimming

General public and lane swimming is available during February half-term during the following times:

- Mon 6:15-11:45am & 3:30-9:30pm
- Tue 6:15am-12:45pm & 4:45-9:30pm
- Wed 6:15-11:45am & 3:30-7pm
- Thu 6:15am-1pm & 4:45-9:30pm
- Fri 6:15-11:45am
- Sat & Sun 7am-12:30pm



February Half-Term Timetable

Running from Monday 23rd February to Sunday 1st March



Birtley Community Pool Timetable

Half Term - 23rd February to 1st March 2026

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

	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
MONDAY	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45
Main Pool 6 Lanes 0.9m - 2.0m 29°C		Lane S Lane M Lane F Public Swimming			Lane M Lane F Water Slide & Public Swim 10:00 - 11:45		Set Up Time	Inflatables & Water Slide session 1 12:30-13:30	Inflatables & Water Slide session 2 13:45-14:45	Set Up Time	Lane S Lane M Lane F Public Swimming		Derwentside & Gateshead Swimming Club		Lifeguard Training Lane M Lane F Public Swim	
Improve Pool 1m - 29°C		Public Swimming			AquaSocial											
Small Pool 0.7m - 31°C		Family Fun		Parent & Baby	Family Fun			Family Fun	Family Fun			Lifeguard Training	Public Swimming			
TUESDAY	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45
Main Pool 6 Lanes 0.9m - 2.0m 29°C	Tri Coaching 06:30-07:30	Lane S Lane M Lane F Public Swimming			Lifeguard Training Water Slide & Public Swim 10:00 - 11:45		AquaFit 12:00 - 12:45	Set Up Time	Inflatables & Water Slide session 1 13:45-14:45	Inflatables & Water Slide session 2 15:00-16:00	Set Up Time	Lane M Lane F Public Swim	Derwentside & Gateshead Swimming Club		Public Swim	
Improve Pool 1m - 29°C		Public Swimming			Walking in Water							Public Swimming	AquaFit 19:15 - 20:00		Public Swim	
Small Pool 0.7m - 31°C		Family Fun						Family Fun	Family Fun				Family Fun			
WEDNESDAY	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45
Main Pool 6 Lanes 0.9m - 2.0m 29°C		Public Swimming		AquaFit 09:15 - 10:00	Lifeguard Training Water Slide & Public Swim 10:00 - 11:45		Set Up Time	Inflatables & Water Slide session 1 12:30-13:30	Inflatables & Water Slide session 2 13:45-14:45	Set Up Time	Lane S Lane M Lane F Public Swimming				Birtley Amateur Swimming Club	
Improve Pool 1m - 29°C		Public Swimming									Public Swimming					
Small Pool 0.7m - 31°C		Family Fun						Family Fun	Family Fun		Family Fun					
THURSDAY	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45
Main Pool 6 Lanes 0.9m - 2.0m 29°C		Lane S Lane M Lane F Public Swimming			Lifeguard Training Water Slide & Public Swim 10:00 - 13:00		Set Up Time	Inflatables & Water Slide session 1 13:45-14:45	Inflatables & Water Slide session 2 15:00-16:00	Set Up Time	Lane M Lane F Public Swim	Derwentside & Gateshead Swimming Club		Public Swim		
Improve Pool 1m - 29°C		Public Swimming			Walking in Water						Public Swimming	Aqualingo		Public Swim		
Small Pool 0.7m - 31°C		Family Fun						Family Fun	Family Fun			Family Fun				
FRIDAY	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45
Main Pool 6 Lanes 0.9m - 2.0m 29°C	Derwentside & Gateshead Swimming Club 05:30 - 07:30	Lane S Lane M Lane F Public Swimming			Lifeguard Training Water Slide & Public Swim 10:00 - 11:45		Set Up Time	Inflatables & Water Slide session 1 12:30-13:30	Inflatables & Water Slide session 2 13:45-14:45	Set Up Time						
Improve Pool 1m - 29°C		Public Swimming														
Small Pool 0.7m - 31°C		Family Fun						Family Fun	Family Fun							
SATURDAY	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45
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Improve Pool 1m - 29°C		Public Swimming														
Small Pool 0.7m - 31°C		Family Fun						Family Fun	Family Fun							
SUNDAY	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45	00 15 30 45
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Improve Pool 1m - 29°C		Public Swimming														
Small Pool 0.7m - 31°C		Family Fun						Family Fun								



Available for
Pool Parties
or Hire
16:00 - 18:00



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



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



Durham Road, Birtley, DH3 2PA



info@birtleycommunitypool.org.uk



www.birtleycommunitypool.org.uk



0191 4329 444



@BirtleyCommunityPool



@BirtleyPool