



Friends of Otley Lido

Volume 1 | Issue 2
June 2023

WE ARE MAKING A BIG SPLASH!

*We are as determined
as ever to Make a Big
Splash for Otley and our
wider Community!*



*Photo Courtesy of
Simon Hulme*

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TEAM TALK: WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

We are a small but tight team of 8 volunteers who live locally in and around Otley and we dedicate our time and efforts to restore our Otley Lido. We formed a Community Interest not for profit Company. All our accounts and details are publicly available on the Companies House at [Friends Of Otley Lido Company House](#) and also on our website at www.otleylido.com Full Committee meetings are held monthly with additional subcommittees covering Build and Design, Funding, Fundraising, Social Media and Marcomms, Treasury and Accounts and Membership held when required. Have you got any time and passion to help us with any of these streams or just generally help out? Get in Touch!

MEET FRAN: COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILE OF THE SEASON:

My name is Francesca Gains and I joined FoOL at the start of their crowdfunding campaign in September 2021

I attend the monthly committee meetings and help with events and other ways of keeping in touch with supporters. There is such strong community interest in re-opening the Lido and its important to keep supporters up to date.



So I've leafleted during the crowdfunding campaign and helped on our stall at the Otley Show for example. Going forwards I hope to help with identifying and applying for funding. I also attend the Future Lidos

(<https://futurelidos.org/>) network meetings on behalf of FoOL to link with other campaigns to re-open lidos and learning from the huge growth in interest in bringing back lido swimming in communities across the country. I have always loved swimming in outdoor lidos and seek them out whenever I'm on holidays or travelling. I have

family links to Otley and always thought it was an awful shame the pool had closed. During lockdown I was trying to find out where to swim locally and came across the FoOL's campaign. I was so pleased to see their work to get the pool open again and so I went along to an open day at the pool site. I think the experience of the last few years made me more determined to actively support such an incredible local community asset which has the potential to offer huge benefits to Otley and the wider community.

The FoOL are a very intrepid and committed group of people. They love swimming and Otley in equal measure. But the thing I like most about working with FoOL is that they are very welcoming and friendly. When I went along to my first meeting I was nervous and not sure what to expect and I was impressed by their inclusive and open way of doing things. There are opportunities to get involved in a number of ways and that strong community support is going to be key in the next stages of the campaign.

It's about time we formally introduced Fran (and Meg and John who all joined the team in 2022 and the newly recruited Imogen). We are lucky to have you all on board :)

We are keen to consult with local young people on their thoughts about the lido and its future so if this is something you would be interested in, please let us know.

2022: A YEAR IN REVIEW FUNDING & FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Following the successful crowdfunding for Phase 1 we are now focused on securing Funding for the main project. We are researching all funding avenues possible, and it is becoming clear that we must get through Phase 1 to demonstrate to the larger funding partners that we are capable and have the plans in place to move through to Phase 2. This will be where we have cleared planning permission and can apply for large funds from bodies such as Lottery Funding, Sports England / Swim England funding and Government grants such as the Towns Fund or the Levelling Up funds and any other Town or City grants that might be available such as S106 Community Infrastructure Levies etc. If you have funding experience, please get in touch.

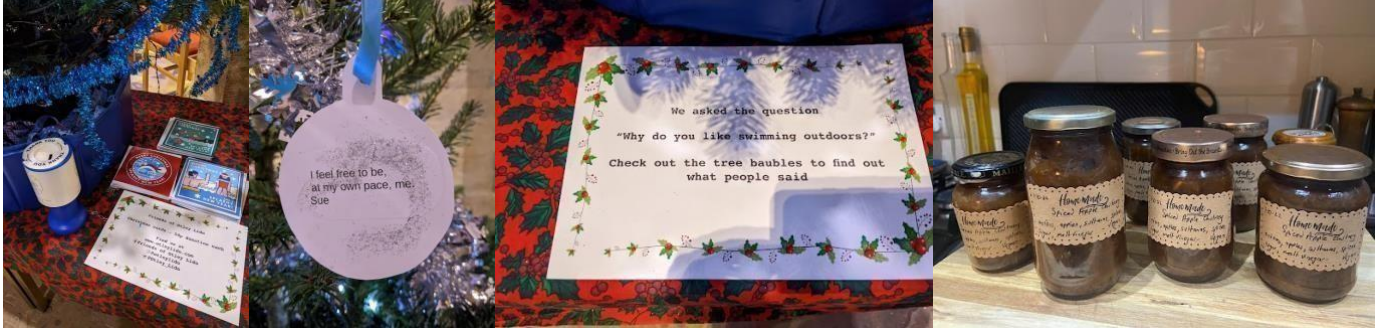
SECURING OUR FUTURE: DECLARING THE LIDO AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Although the current owners of the site have told us there are no plans to sell, we want to secure our Lido by registering it as an Asset of Community Value. This will ensure that our Lido is protected so that if the owner Leeds City Council decided to sell the site, we would have preferred options to be able to buy the site for the community within a limited period of time. Leeds City Council have not said they are intending on going out to open market and please note, they remain committed to assist us in our project.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Once again you came out in force to support us at the Victorian Fayre in December, and we were glad to see so many of you. Your efforts, helped along by the success of our Water beads game, raised a total of £870.00 towards future lido costs. Thank you for all your contributions and conversations.

The Christmas tree festival was also a greatly attended event and we loved your contributions to our theme of 'swimming outdoors'.



OUTDOOR SWIMMING:

Outdoor swimming is continuing to have a revival in the national press with an article in the Guardian in which we are proudly featured. [The Guardian: Lidos Live Again - UK Braces for Outdoor Swimming Pool Revival](#) There's been a recent announcement of planned investment for two open-air pools and further development of a reservoir site in east London, all backed by local authority funding, to capitalise on the demand for openair swimming ([Evening Standard April 2023](#)) - Also in East London wild swimming enthusiasts have raised funds to develop a new wild swimming spot.

Our hope is that more and more people want to get behind this resurgence to create open air swimming opportunities for more communities.

Lidos live again: UK braces for outdoor swimming pool revival

Renaissance for open-air swimming as communities restore derelict sites and campaign for new pools



► Cleveland Pools in Bath. Built in 1815, the lido is the UK's oldest outdoor pool and will reopen fully this year. Photograph: Hudson Architects



A huge new wild-swimming spot is coming to east London

Campaigners have raised £500,000 to turn an industrial site into a park for nature and open-water dips

Written by James Manning Tuesday 7 February 2023

SUSTAINABLE FOCUS

One aspect for the FoOL Design, Build & Procurement team is consideration of sustainable solutions for the project. Primarily this involves evaluating the design and build options - in order to maximise sustainability in both the construction and subsequent operation of the venue - against the financial criteria for the project such as availability of capital and achieving long-term financial sustainability in its future operations. Inevitably, there is a balance to be struck between the capital requirements - and hence the affordability - and the positive impacts achieved.

In this newsletter, we'd like to focus on two examples. Firstly, we are currently analysing if - and how - the existing infrastructure can be incorporated into the project. This would significantly reduce the carbon footprint associated with construction. However, the trade-off is it has the potential to limit factors including the design, layout and on-site facilities which may impact the financial sustainability of the venue.

Similarly, low-carbon power solutions such as solar panels - to take advantage of the southern facing aspect of the site - heat pumps, and various other options also require evaluation. However, we are not just considering the options to produce energy but also how the site can minimise its energy consumption and losses.

Whilst we would love Otley Lido to be a beacon of sustainability - and we shall consider all options - it is also important to acknowledge the additional investment this requires. This shall need to be funded - or financed and re-paid - thus placing further demands on the project. Sustainability - like many other aspects of the project - is being approached with a desire for excellence but also pragmatism.

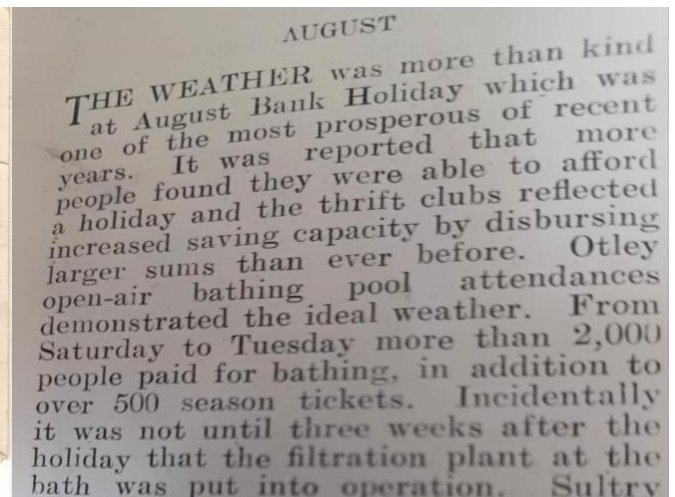
NEXT STEPS

After the success of the crowdfunding campaign and the funds that were secured, we are determined to make sure that we have the right advice to bring our vision to life. It's a complicated business contemplating building a lido but thankfully we have support and guidance from some people who are experts in the field of swimming pool builds and the challenges of the lido site. See final page for a diagram of where we are in the process.

It may seem from the outside that there is little progress. Please be reassured we are still working away behind the scenes. The next stage is a watertight business proposal which will give us the best possible opportunities to access future funding. It will also provide what we need for a convincing and evidenced report for the planning application process.

We have joined the national group Future Lidos of other like-minded organisations bringing about the restoration of the beloved lidos up and down the country. They have secured funding for a funded Future Lido Liaison person, and we are regularly meeting with them on their main board and the various streams underneath so we can network and link up with professional guidance.

HISTORICAL NOTES:



Picture 1: Painting the Otley Lido -can anyone date this? Get in touch! **Picture 2:** From the Wharfedale Observer C 1937

FINAL WORD...

If you want more information about any of the topics or would like to see a spotlight on any of our plans e.g., sustainability, design etc., drop us a message and one of us will be happy to answer your questions, it may even be featured in the next edition.

Most importantly, we want to know what you want to read!

You can reach us via email at friendsofotleylido@gmail.com or our socials

Website: www.otleylido.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofOtleyLido/>
Twitter: https://twitter.com/Otley_Lido
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/otleylido>
Community Interest Company registered at Companies House (10008956)

The following Diagram shows where we are with the Otley Lido Restoration Project marked with the dotted Current Study Area.

Otley Lido Project Review

