

Lazonby POOL

Annual Report 2020



Lazonby & District Swimming Pool Association Ltd

Charity No: 1123849

Company No: 6553636

www.lazonbypool.co.uk

Lazonby & District Swimming Pool Association

is a registered Charity and Company Limited by guarantee. The Pool operates as a not-for-profit organisation and is reliant on funds raised through admission fees, kiosk sales and Camp Site booking fees, to help cover its annual running costs.

Fundraising and grant applications are needed regularly to upgrade and add to the buildings and infrastructure of the Pool.

Without a dedicated team of Trustees, Committee members, lifeguards, volunteers and the support of the local community, the Pool would not be able to function. The Pool also needs to be constantly planning for the future as well as covering all day to day eventualities, so the work is constant and ongoing.

We need to ensure that Lazonby Pool continues to provide a 'unique' community resource of Swimming Pool, Camp Site and Community Play Park.

The Trustees / Directors for 2019-20

Jill Eastham - Chairperson

Jill Eastham –Acting Treasurer

Karen Bouch- Secretary

Andrew Davies

Sarah Henderson

Belinda Lloyd—resigned June 2020

Donald Scott

Stuart StJohn

2020

2020 will be long remembered as the only year in the history of Lazonby Swimming Pool, that the Pool did not open at all due to the devastating outbreak of covid-19. The initial lockdown of the country from March to June meant that the Pool, Camp Site and Play Park could not open at all. From July we were able to open the Play Park with signage to follow the guidelines for social distancing and personal sanitising. Unfortunately due to the restrictions on social distancing and sanitising etc, the Committee felt that a 'safe' environment could not be provided for either the Camp Site or Pool, so the Pool and Camp Site remained closed all season.

This obviously had a massive impact on our financial position with the loss of most of our income. We were fortunate in gaining the government £10,000 grant for businesses affected by covid-19 and Eden District Council paid the annual Rural Pools grants, paid usually on opening and closing, but granted this year to support the rural pools. This has enabled the Pool to meet the usual annual running costs, that still have to be met whether we are open or not—ie. insurance, pest control, water rates, telephone and basic electricity etc used. We have also had many donations from regular users of the Pool to support the Pool during this crisis, for which we are very grateful. The response from both locals and also campers who had their bookings cancelled has been very understanding and supportive of the situation albeit with disappointment that folk could not have their usual summer swims.

On a positive note, the build of the Disabled Block was completed days before lockdown but unfortunately any grand opening has had to be postponed until whenever the Pool is able to open again. Funders that supported this build also provided funds for the extension of the Pool perimeter fence to enclose the area of grass behind the pool, a large equipment storage shed and a disabled hoist. The fencing has been completed and a 'wildflower' garden area has been created at the far side of the grassed area with a memorial bench in Chris Hill's memory placed there.

The supply of the shed has been delayed due to covid-restrictions and the weather but hopefully it will all be in place for the start of the 2021 season.

2020

We have also made use of the unbelievable run of good weather through most of lockdown and the summer, to keep up with maintenance work and some upgrades at the Pool.

Stuart StJohn and his boys made the most of their 'family' bubble by painting the pools during a heat wave in lockdown— so different to trying to do this job pre-opening when we are battling with night frosts!! Work has begun on repainting the steps and rails and there are plans to repair the concrete edging around the pool surround before next season. The weeds around the Pool grew up to 'meadow' height during lockdown making the Pool area look even more abandoned !! So volunteers have tackled the weeds since lockdown was lifted and also weeded the front area between the road and kiosk and planted ground cover plants and shrubs in the area between the new Disabled block and the road. The circular landscaped area has been cleared with a dwarf wild cherry tree planted. A curved seating bench will be sited around this area for visitors and the bike rack stands will be sited between this area and the gate into the school field. In the spring.

Planned work for new flooring in the Toilet & Shower Block was eventually installed in the summer and we are hoping this will provide a surface that is easier to keep clean.

John Cantor was finally able to get up from Wales to install a new heat exchanger in October and this will be followed by a new compressor to be fitted in Spring 2021.

Other maintenance work will continue as long as funds permit and we await what might be possible on 2021.

The current 'November' lockdown has reminded us all that making any plans at present is very difficult and uncertain. Much as we hope that we can open in some way in 2021, the likelihood is that it will not be in a fully 'normal' way for some time but hopefully some 'controlled' use of the Pool will be possible.



Pool Painting by the StJohn 'boys' during the lockdown heat wave



A 'Chris Hill' Memorial bench sited on the new grassed off and fenced in area beyond the deep end of the Pool.

Fund Raising

We have for some time been considering installing an Automatic Chlorinator to help maintain a stable water quality in the Pool, particularly for chlorine and pH levels. The covid-19 outbreak made the addition of this piece of equipment much more important, when health and safety is so much more in our daily awareness. So it was decided to start fund raising for this equipment.

Josie Foster, a parent of young children in the village, kick started the fund raising with a Raffle during lockdown which raised an eventual fantastic total of £3726.32.



Many people also donated to the fund through PayPal or cash donations. Josie then followed this up with a Scarecrow Trail which ran over the week of 10th –16th October. & included entries from residents of the 3 parishes that the Pool was built to support– Great Salkeld, Kirkoswald and Lazonby. This raised £656 from entry fees and the purchase of maps to view the Trail. Winners were chosen by the Pool Committee and a Public Vote. The event proved very popular with 49 entries..It was heart-warming to see so many visitors touring the area to view the scarecrows with even visitors from Penrith & Dumfries.

Winners—Committee vote:

1st:	2nd:	3rd:
'Life's a Motorcycle Trial' by Jennifer Wilson	'Shaun the Sheep Water Leak Detection Squad' by Nicola Kirby	'Has anyone seen that mole?' by Dawn Kidd



Winners—Public vote:

1st:

'Working on a Vaccine'
by Kath Hall



2nd:

'Cinderella Carriage Ride'
by Karen Castle



3rd:

'Harvest Lady'
by Heather Strike



Funding



Build of the Disabled Wet Room

completed in March 2020 & funded by:

- ◇ Eden Community Fund
- ◇ CCC– Eden Community Grant Fund
- ◇ Direct Rail Services
- ◇ Kirkoswald & Lazonby Parish Councils
- ◇ People's Health Trust
- ◇ Sport England
- ◇ And many fundraising efforts and donations from the local community

Unfortunately a grand opening is postponed until the Pool is able to open.

Camp Site



Our small riverside Camp Site is usually very popular for those many visitors who come back each year & those newcomers delighted with finding such a “lovely little site. Unfortunately due to the lockdown for covid-19 & the subsequent restrictions in social distancing etc, we felt that it was not possible to have the site open safely for

visitors. Campers who had already booked were obviously disappointed but very accepting and understanding of the situation. Most have transferred their bookings to 2021. Once lockdown eased we also had a flood of bookings for next year so most weekends and school holidays are now almost fully booked. So we await with baited breath to see what develops over the winter and whether we can plan for the usual Easter opening of the site.

We spent last autumn reseeding the site as there were large areas where the grass was completely worn away. In January work parties, led by Belinda Lloyd, planted willow prunings from the willow tunnel on the Play Park, around 3 sides of the perimeter fence of the camp site. It is hoped that when established these will help with drainage of the site, an ongoing problem that we have during wet spells.

But if we can take anything positive from the enforced covid closure, it has been good for the site to have a summer season of non-use as the grass has reseeded well and become established across the site, resulting in difficulty in cutting it back to a normal level late in the season, once we could find a contractor with the correct equipment to tackle the long grass!



Community Play Area



The Play Area had to close during the covid lockdown from March to June 2020 but when we knew we could re-open it we had the task of cutting back the grass to a manageable level before we could let the public back in. Many contractors were unable to tackle the knee height grass but Lazonby resident, Kirk Harrison, was able to involve his employers, United Utilities, in cutting back the grass as a voluntary one-off contribution to the Pool. This was followed up by group work parties of local parents and volunteers to rake up the cut grass so that we were able to open the Play Area to the public with additional signage on covid-19 guidelines in late July.

As a result of the concerted efforts from parents of families that use the Play Area regularly, new volunteers came forward to do the weekly Safety Inspections on the Play equipment that are necessary to meet safety and insurance requirements.



With thanks to:

- ◇ ACT - Eden Rural Pools support
- ◇ Eden District Council—Tourism & Leisure Department
- ◇ Lazonby & Kirkoswald Parish Councils
- ◇ AST Signs - Shelly Hall
- ◇ Beacon Fire Protection
- ◇ Jeff Bellas, Plumber
- ◇ John Cantor, Heat Pumps
- ◇ Iain Henderson, Carigiet Cowen—professional support on land matters
- ◇ Guy Hurst— Cumberland & Westmorland Herald
- ◇ Chris Nichol, Builder
- ◇ Gareth Northwood—general repairs
- ◇ DCB (Compton House) Accountancy Services
- ◇ Laces' Garage - donation
- ◇ Lazonby C. of E. School
- ◇ United Utilities - Kirk Harrison
- ◇ Yanek Kowal—regular updates on Covid-19 guidelines for pools
- ◇ Funders
- ◇ Everyone who has supported the Pool through this difficult year with donations, practical help and involvement in fundraising projects, with especially huge thanks to **Josie Foster** for her efforts.
- ◇ AND last but not least **ALL THE VOLUNTEERS** who keep on top of all the maintenance jobs at the Pool, Camp Site & Play Park, including the weekly Safety Inspections for the Play Area.

Future Plans:

- ◇ Hopefully open in some form in 2021, even if it is in more controlled sessional use of the Pool.
- ◇ Hopefully install the automatic chlorinator
- ◇ Stay positive & look to the future