

DRUMSHEUGH BATHS CLUB NEWSLETTER

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Lesley Inglis

Lesley Inglis, our much-respected swim teacher, will be retiring at the end of this year. After taking over in 2018 with only a handful of juniors, Lesley's passion and enthusiasm for swimming have helped grow our lesson programme where we now have over 60 children attending. Lesley also teaches adult swim lessons on a Tuesday evening and several individual lessons with adults and juniors each week. Lesley's last lessons will be the week before Christmas. A collection will be made and if any members would like to contribute, please speak with a member of staff.

Although Lesley will be a tough act to follow, the provision of good swimming lessons at the Club is a priority. Following a recommendation from Lesley, we are in discussions with an Edinburgh-based swim school to take over our swim lesson programme from January. A more detailed email will be sent out to all members of the swim lesson programme as soon as we have new arrangements in place.

Gym Toilet

As you may have noticed the gym toilet has finally reopened and is back in operation. After a recommendation from our plumbing and drain specialists, a Saniflo unit has now been installed. For the unit to work effectively and to prevent further blockages, members are asked to only flush toilet paper. Please use the bins provided to dispose of paper towels, sanitary items, or "flushable wipes".

Voluntary and Social Activity Programme

Much progress has been made across several of the previously identified Voluntary & Social Activity Programme (V&SAP) target events and groups. These are detailed below.

Talking Heads Series

We had a successful talk by Jacqui Horsburgh on the RLNI last week, and 2 further talks are confirmed before the end of this year.

Thursday 16 November | A Poetic Introduction

By Lizzie Smith

Friday 1 December | A Journey through Photography

By Doug Corrance

Call out to members: Charlie Raeburn and Doug have asked members if they have any "blackout sheets"? These are needed to cover the high area of glasswork between the studio and the gym changing area, to create a cinematic atmosphere in the studio for Doug's talk.

The planning phase for a Talking Heads Series 2 has started, topics being suggested are:

- Swimming conversations
- Living healthier - a possible panel debate
- The Scottish Judicial System- reflections

Members are invited to contact Charlie if there are other areas of interest they would like to propose.

Activity Groups

Three groups have been successfully launched and are underway, via the use of flyers on the members notice board. These are;

The Bridge Club

Trish Gordon is leading this group. The initial meeting was held in the club lounge on 21 September. The October meeting was postponed due to a lack of numbers. Discussions are to be convened to consider how best to re-launch the club and whether to widen the scope to a 'Games Club'. If any members are interested in joining the bridge club, please let Trish know at 07885364325.

The Book Club

The inaugural meeting was held on 11 October in the members lounge. Get-togethers are to be held every 6 weeks on Tuesdays at 6.30pm.

Cycling Group

A group of keen wheelers have revealed themselves. The first ride is scheduled for Sunday 12 November, probably a circular route to Cramond.

The Directors - what do we do?

The Board is presently made up of 6 members with skill- sets required to assist the Club's general manager with the operation of the Club. We have finance, legal, building, management, and employment expertise and rely on external consultants when more specialist advice is required.

Each month we will profile the role of one of our directors.

Robert Robertson

I am a retired Chartered Surveyor and a holder of the RICS Building Conservation Diploma. My principal role on the Board has been to instigate a Quinquennial Review of the state of the fabric and services of the Baths. This having been completed I have been involved in meeting with the Club's architect and bringing forward proposals to deal with the issues which have been identified by these reviews. I have also been involved in assisting Paul with the more mundane but important maintenance issues that arise on a regular basis with the Club's fabric, plant and machinery.

External repairs to the fabric of the building.

The Board is delighted to announce that confirmation of an award of grant funding from Edinburgh World Heritage Trust has been received.

Members may remember that in March 2022 the Board commissioned a condition survey of our building to identify works required over the following five-year period. This will be updated every five years, so that a rolling programme of required capital expenditure can be planned and budgeted for.

Working with our accredited conservation architect David Willis of CLWG Architects, the Board identified that the first phase of works should be to the external fabric of the building - principally overhaul and repair of slated roof areas, repointing to brick chimneys, renewal of rainwater goods, repainting and mastic repairs to windows and lime mortar repointing to rubble walls - and these works were put out to tender.

After initial discussions with Edinburgh World Heritage Trust, who showed a willingness to support the project from the start, a detailed application for grant funding was worked up and submitted. There was a delay in consideration of the application by EWHT, due to an internal reorganisation of the way in which that body is funded, but in October we were delighted to receive confirmation that we have been awarded £100,000 repayable funding towards the works. Effectively, this takes the form of an interest-free loan, repayable after 10 years. This obviously represents a significant contribution towards the funding of the works.

The legal formalities remain to be completed of course, but we are pushing ahead on all fronts and hope to be able to start the works early in 2024. More information will be provided at a members' meeting in the new year.

Kind Regards
Paul Dunlop
General Manager