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10 Parishes Fun Time at Wivey Pool

GEAR up your family and friends for fun and frolics at Wivey Pool this summer. There are many things to plan for and look forward to and a few ways you can help out.

The pool opens on Saturday 20th May for another great season. Membership is still excellent value for all the family (Junior £15, Adult £20 and Family £45 - forms in Wiveliscombe House, early May) and all our volunteers are fully trained to give you super service.

The heated pool has a modern and efficient filtration system and our well-stocked shop has healthy refreshments for adults and children alike.

The pool is open for early morning, afternoon and early evening swim sessions; we are planning exercise classes and beginner and improver lessons.

10 Parishes Swimathon

This season we are trying a new competition - The 10 Parishes Swimathon.

There will be parish heats for each of the 10 Parishes on Sunday 18th June. Any team of 4 people from any

of the 10 Parishes should submit their team's names to Phil Cookson by 1st June.

The age groups are Under 15s, 16-35, 35-50 & 50-plus; mixed groups are fine.

Teams should get sponsorship to cover entry fees for the heats (only) a minimum of £20 per team for adults and £10 per team for U-15s. This will cover the charity's event costs and go towards forthcoming improvements in the pool's heating system.

The top team from each parish will enter the 10 Parishes Swimathon Final on Saturday 9th September, our final day of the season.

The winning team will win a celebratory 10 Parishes Swimathon art work to display in their parish. There will be equally great prizes for second and third. The heats and the final will be followed by a barbeque.

The annual Cup Gala (for teams of young people) will be on 3rd September.

Pool hire

Further excellent value can be yours by hiring the whole pool for your own private party - we even have a big barbeque for you to use. For members £15 per hour; non-members £25 per

hour, local clubs £7 per hour. A pool attendant must be present at £7 per hour.

You can also gain free First Aid training by attending our pool attendant training course on 13th and 14th May. In return, all we ask is about two hours of your time each week to watch over the swimmers. Check out the pool attendant responsibilities on our page at www.wiveliscombe.com

We would also like you to join our team if you can spare two hours a week as a gate welcomer.

COME AND JOIN IN - even if you can only make it to the pool once all summer you will receive as warm a welcome as the regulars. We look forward to seeing you.

Membership: Mary Humphries, 624903
Pool Attendants: Moira Brown, moirabrown14@btinternet.com, 624721

Gate Attendants: Jane Cowling, pcowling@freeuk.com, 624142

Hire: Audrey Matcham, audreymatcham@talktalk.net, 623736

10 Parishes Swimathon: Phil Cookson, phil.cookson@homecall.co.uk, 623707

Out of Hours Security: Jo Harding, 624655

Swimming Pool: Chairman's Report for Season 2005

IN October 2004, we placed our new winter cover over the pool, saving us from having to empty and manually scrub the inside of the pool in the spring of 2005.

Many thanks go to the team, led by Frank Blaker, who tied and screwed the cover down. It had the desired effect, when in the spring, we were able to dose the pool with chemicals and bring the water back to a good sanitary level.

We had an early start to the preparation of the pool, after agreeing that a small film company from Bristol could use it for an outside location in the beginning of May.

Due to the fact that the film was set in the 30s, we were asked to paint the changing rooms in a suitable shade for that period and although I, personally, had reservations when I first saw the shade of green chosen, I had to admit I was pleased with the results.

Not only that but Robert Richardson, the manager of our local Co-Op, chose the pool for some community work. One Saturday in April, along with the usual band of helpers, five Co-Op managers, some resplendent in overalls, turned up and painted the whole of the external fence and most of

the changing room doors in the required green.

They were also very generous in paying for the paint and other materials required.

In early May a couple of sign writers from the film company arrived to paint some pool rules on our walls and make sure everything was set up for filming.

The company spent two days filming at the pool. It was interesting to see how things were done and amazing to hear how noisy our little town was as tractors and lorries passed by and planes flew overhead - stopping production on a regular basis.

The pre-season pool attendants course, along with the one booked for June, resulted in thirteen new PA's.

2005 saw the first Aquathlon held at the pool, an event consisting of swimming followed by running and organised in the main by Sarah Heard and Joy Munnion on behalf of Kingsmead Society.

Although the number of participants was low, everyone seemed to have fun and judging by the glow in their cheeks, they'd given the task their all!

The season on the whole was a good one with the usual highs and lows.

It was lovely to see so many new faces as well as those more familiar ones who support the pool year in, year out. Mother nature gave us everything from glorious sunshine to a week of rumbling thunderstorms!

Numbers were up on the gate as well as in memberships - this led to the usual, occasional, problem of too many people wanting to use the pool.

As far as I'm aware no one had to wait more than 10 minutes outside the gate and everyone's tempers seemed to keep themselves in check.

As usual, the rotas struggled to be filled towards the end of the season but I think most of our team did their bit and we must always remember that it is supposed to be voluntary!

The season ended on a slightly sour note with the pool being broken into no less than four times during

the last week.

Some damage was done to the summer cover and anything that wasn't nailed down was thrown into the pool, including the cover and roller system, which fortunately comes apart and was therefore easily retrieved.

The members' swimming gala took place on the last day of opening and although down on numbers, was enjoyed by those attending.

The filtration system was drained down and the pool cover was replaced by Frank and friends, before the autumn wind saw the leaves from the trees.

As always, we are looking for more people to join our committee and our team of pool attendants. Twenty will have to renew their qualification this year if

they are able to continue helping us, and whilst we have a handful that do return, it is inevitable that some will be unable to commit to another two years. Please consider the positions - we can never have too many helpers.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone for their time and effort over the past year; the pool really does depend on people being generous with their time.

It is hoped that we will be able to show the film, which was made at the pool and is about 15 minutes long, on April 21st in The Bear skittle alley from 7.30pm. We'll also be selling season tickets so please come along if you can. The expected date for the start of the season is May 20th.

I'm sure you'll have noticed . . . By our correspondent Jas

I'M sure you'll have noticed how in the past this column has remarked on litter and other mess scattered on our pavements.

There are times when it might be thought that things are getting better and then, sadly, another plague of empty drinks cans and water bottles appear, but there's one mess that just doesn't go away.

Recently returned from a day out and about, we wearily pulled off our shoes to discover an unpleasant chunk of chewing gum stuck to the sole of one of them.

It's not easy to remove it but while the cleansing was taking place we fell to wondering what it is about those who use the stuff that they have to spit it out wherever they happen to be when the need arises.

And as that is usually on a pavement, that's exactly where it goes to await the unwary victim of thoughtlessness.

That day out included some time in Exeter for shopping therapy and lunch. As usual, we put the car in that multi-storey this side of, and behind, Debenhams.

The only real way to get into the main part of the city is by use of a sloping footbridge. If you've ever done that you'll have surely noticed the vast spread of dumped gum underfoot, all squashed and apparently difficult to

remove. No doubt the local council has given up on the problem because it's still there.

We expected the same on reaching the main street, but not at all, because there is a huge restructuring programme being undertaken and that part of the street, where only buses and taxis can drive, has had brand new pavements put in place and all those gum-stuck pavings have gone to wherever such things go. It all looks quite wonderful, if only for that reason.

Mind you, if you choose to look hard you'll find some of those spots so the spitters-out are still at it and determined to make their mark.

They're still at it in Taunton where, a day or two later, we were quite appalled at the measles of that stuff everywhere.

Back here things are not that bad but if you look it's there and particularly noticeable on the tarmac put in place not so long ago on the High Street's east side's pavement. Which is perhaps where we picked up our sticky piece of gunk.

So how about it, chewing-gum chewers? Can we think that we really don't want any more of those yucky grey marks on our pavements and wrap it in something for disposal back home when the taste has gone?

Or, if you like, you could stick it onto your own shoes.

Jas

Wivey Pool seeks proposals for unique piece of art or craft

ALL artists and craft workers across the 10 Parishes are invited to submit design proposals for a unique piece of artwork that will be a fun and enduring trophy for the "10 Parishes Swimathon". The budget is £200.

The inaugural competition is in Summer 2006, with Parish Heats in June. The winning team will be invited to display their trophy in a public place in their parish until the following year.

Any interested artists should submit their proposals to Phil Cookson, 4, South Street, Wivey, TA4 2LZ or phil.cookson@homecall.co.uk by 20th April.

The winning proposal will be chosen in early May and the piece will need to be completed by 11th June.

Apologies for the cancellation

APOLOGIES to everybody who looked forward to 'The Celebration of Motherhood' at St Luke's, Langley, on March 26th.

Unfortunately, due to unseen circumstances, it had to be cancelled but it is hoped that something similar will be arranged later in the year.