

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**30 October 5-7pm**

HALLOWEEN AT THE GRAVEYARD (converted Peace Garden)

**1 November 7pm**

Next Friends of Govanhill Baths meeting and every fortnight thereafter at GBCT HQ, 126 Calder Street

**3 December 9pm-3am**

LANARKSHIRE PARANORMAL SEARCHING FOR SPIRITS

**9 December 2pm**

GOVANHILL BATHS PANTO (with Citizens Theatre)

**15 December 12-3pm**

Pool of Memories film and booklet launch in new front suite with soup lunch

**December (date tbc),**

DEBASER FILUMS: 5, 6, 7, 8

**January 27**

BURNS SUPPER & CEILIDH (Langside Halls)

**February**

EMPORIUM FASHION SHOW

# Volunteers find full-time jobs

After providing a grand community service and contributing extensively to our building fund, three of our volunteer workers recently secured full-time jobs, in pharmacy, electronics and retail.

This is great news for them and for us.

We always need new volunteers. So, whether you want to develop work skills or just volunteer, come and join us

Our new CJS trainee has now joined the Emporium and

already makes a big mark with fashion, photography and marketing the baths.

The charity shop also has a new bargain corner, with expensive books sold at half price. Donations are rolling in by the bag-load. Thanks to everyone for their support, and keep an eye on the ever-changing, best-dressed window on the southside.

Emporium is on Facebook but you can also email us at [emporium@govanhillbaths.com](mailto:emporium@govanhillbaths.com).

## 5, 6, 7, 8

Debaser Filums finished making 5, 6, 7, 8 in the Calder Street building on 8-11 July. This new, exciting Edinburgh company found the main pool was the perfect setting for a 1950s-style dance hall and jive session.

Actors and dancers were joined by 30 Govanhill extras and 30 of their own. The film may raise much-needed funds for us. A red-carpet premiere is scheduled for December.

## Streetland

Gbart, CCP and Friends of Govanhill Baths organised activities for the successful Streetland festival on 29-30 April.

Volunteers are sought for the 2012 festival (4-5 May) to help with marketing, building support in the community with local businesses and managing sites during the event. Contact [streetlandinfo@googlemail.com](mailto:streetlandinfo@googlemail.com) if you can help.

## Special thanks

A special note of thanks goes to Willie Haughey, who

donated £500 to the campaign. His company, City Refrigeration Holdings, has grown from humble beginnings in Govanhill in 1985 with a turnover of £100,000 to become the biggest privately owned facilities management company in Europe, with a turnover of £400 million.

Thanks also go to Kinnaird Construction which stepped in at short notice to begin refurbishing the front suite of the pool building and Gordon Smith, of City Properties, for his always-affable and supportive help.

Again, our thanks to Govanhill Community Action group which, through Equally Well government funding has backed this project.

Its membership of 23 local voluntary groups guaranteed the beginning of phase one.

We also continue to acknowledge the help of Queen's Park Parish Church for allowing Govanhill Grub to take place there until the pool building is reopened.

Its members will always be welcome at the baths.

which attracted 400 people throughout the day. This was part of the Refugee Week and Big Lunch events.

## Licence

On 22 June Glasgow City Council granted the trust a licence to use the baths, valid until June 2012 after which it will convert to a lease.

The licence also authorised phase one of Govanhill Pool's refurbishment.

We are continuing to explore the agreement made, in principle, with the city council to hand over Govanhill Pool to the trust through its "asset transfer" scheme.



## Find out more

Centre for Community Practice (CCP) programmes will soon be based in the pool building. They include Govanhill Grub, a youth music project, art and craft workshops, social history workshops and much more. Get in touch and find out what's going on.

We also want to hear your ideas about the programmes you wish to see, or you may simply want to use the space for an event. You may even be a practitioner, formally qualified or not, who has a skill to share with the community.

Email [helen@centreforcommunitypractice.org](mailto:helen@centreforcommunitypractice.org) (Helen Ross) or [info@govanhillbaths.com](mailto:info@govanhillbaths.com) (Lisa Peebles, administrator) or you can phone the Calder Street office on 0141 433 2999 to find out more

## Moving stories

GBart, Friends of Govanhill Baths and CCP, along with our Govanhill Grub club, provided 200 lunches for the Moving Stories festival on 25 June,

## QUOTE OF THE POOL

Do you have a quote for the Poolside Guardian? Around 100 words will do...

"ALIENATION is the cry of people who feel themselves the victims of blind economic forces beyond their control.

It's the frustration of ordinary people excluded from the processes of decision-making.

The feeling of despair and hopelessness that pervades people who feel with justification that

they have no real say in shaping or determining their own destinies."

*Jimmy Reid. Rectorial address to Glasgow University students in 1971, described by the New York Times newspaper, which published the speech in full, as "the greatest speech since President Lincoln's Gettysburg address."*

*The shutters are off...*

# MAKING A SPLASH BATHS BUILDING WORK BEGINS

## THE REFURBISHMENT of Govanhill Pool is finally under way.

The Calder Street building's front suite will get the first makeover, beginning on 10 October 2011, marking the launch of phase one of its redevelopment.

Once this work is complete, the building will house Govanhill Baths Community Trust and the Centre for Community Practice (CCP).

The exciting work now going ahead enables us to begin developing a Wellbeing Centre, offering education, recreation and sporting activities and events; a centre for local people, run by local people.

Space will also be created for other community events.

The windows are back. The grotesque shutters are down. And the old sign, weather-beaten and crumbling, has gone, soon to be replaced by its shiny reincarnation. Our big move-in is scheduled for November, so look out for the launch.

This momentous news is testimony to the commitment and loyalty of everyone involved in the successful Save Our Pool campaign since the building was closed on 17 March 2001.

Special thanks go to all those who have given their time and energy to the cause, and to the various sponsors who have provided financial support.

The trust has also benefited from the Scottish Government's Social Enterprise and Equally Well community health



schemes, the Big Lottery Fund and many more, as well as the backing of Govanhill Community Action and the local community council.

## Thanks

We again wish to thank Nord Architecture, our sponsors, for their unyielding support. The trust also acknowledges the positive support from City Properties and Glasgow City Council for granting the licence

for us to use the building.

Throughout phase one of the re-development of Govanhill Pool, the trust will continue to explore conventional, innovative and enterprising sources of funding to ensure the building and its Wellbeing Centre benefits from the highest standard of refurbishment that it justly and rightly deserves.

We will continue to provide a range of programmes and services for Govanhill residents

and the wider community.

This will be done in close contact with the trust's partnership organisations and the whole community, including Friends of Govanhill Baths, Govanhill Baths Art and Regeneration Team (GBart), CCP, and the Emporium charity shop.

Phase one will also introduce Govanhill Baths Cinema Club and a range of educational and recreational activities.

● See [govanhillbaths.com](http://govanhillbaths.com)

Govanhill Baths workers circa 1931



"Me and my mates used to queue outside the building to get in. This would be in the 1950s and the place would be full to the gunnels. It would be so busy we'd be put in the basement boiler room to get changed. There would be dozens of us there.

The pool was so busy you couldn't really get a swim, and about 10-15 minutes later they would open the cubicle doors and put your clothes at the end of the pool.

Instead of using the diving dale some of the kids stood on the edge of the balcony and jumped into the pool, whereupon the attendant would throw them out and tell them they were barred..."

(Doors Open Day visitor)



PIC: Tom Manley

# POOL WORKERS: PAST AND PRESENT

## New appointments at the trust

OUR WORKERS would probably not have thanked us for balancing them so precariously on the corner of the deep end for a photo, as they did in 1931. They probably look a bit different too. However, three new appointments have recently been made by the trust. Helen Ross becomes the new manager of CCP, following the reluctant departure of Heather Lynch (for family reasons).

and develop the centre's various programmes.

Keighley Kerr is our new admin helper and Lisa Heidinger joins the Emporium charity shop staff. Both Keighley and Lisa's posts are being funded by the Scottish Government's Community Jobs Scotland fund.

The trust is delighted to welcome the new workers, who represent milestones in the trust's growth and development. We now have nine staff members, both full and part-time, and 15 sessional workers, who have joined us in the past year.

The trust would like to wish Heather every success for the future and gratefully acknowledges the energy, commitment and drive she gave to the manager's post.

Our new manager Helen, who has a background in Scottish history and social research, is keen to advance community-based research in Govanhill

The fundamental purpose of the trust is to reopen the baths and contribute to the social, cultural and built regeneration of Govanhill. Providing work for local people is key to this.



# Hundreds visit pool

ONCE AGAIN people came from far and wide (London, Edinburgh, Manchester, Derby, Sydney and Philadelphia to name a few) to visit Govanhill Pool on Doors Open Day for guided tours and to share many stories and memories about the baths.

We had a swimmer from the 1930s and 1940s (a winner of the Sea Cadets 1947 gold medal), an early learner from the 1950s wishing to book a family party in the main pool for her mother and we had one determined shower-seeker, hunting down the circular shower

sprinkler in the sauna suite because never had she seen or enjoyed one like it since.

Then we had the "bather" from the 1980s who swore she had never had a bath as deep and as refreshing as she had in the slipper baths; the "bride" who (as many did) went to the slipper baths on her wedding day in 1949 for a bath because there was not one (or a shower) at home; the mum who told us of "steamie" visits with her own mum every Monday morning in the 1950s.

Doors Open Day saw 1,076 visitors tour the building this

year, making a grand total of around 6,000 over the four years since the annual event began.

The message from every one of them continues to be unanimous, particularly when they catch sight of the main pool from the balcony: This pool should be up and running and open again.

Govanhill Pool is part of Glasgow's heritage and legacy, they say. It should be open for the 2014 Commonwealth Games, to visitors, spectators and competitors alike.

And people continue to donate and buy our refresh-

ments, with just under £1,000 collected.

This year however is the last time Doors Open Day visitors will see the original front-suite foyer. While its style and character will be retained - in line with the requirements of Historic Scotland - the space will be converted to accommodate the Wellbeing Centre.

Again our sincere thanks go to everyone who came along and supported the event, and also to the 30 or so local community volunteers who made Doors Open Day another resounding success. zzzzzzz



Refurbishment of Govanhill Pool is now under way

"Being unemployed in 1988 was miserable but the one pleasure which was affordable and clean was at the Govanhill Pool, talking to the Pakistani girls at ladies' night, Turkish Saunders, skylights and sunlight in the water. Fantastic, relaxing and very special..."

(Doors Open Day visitor)

**Nicola Sturgeon attends our AGM in June. As our local MSP she has kindly agreed to attend GBCT board meetings to offer advice on raising funds, given her experience of regeneration in the Govan area**



# Big Lottery consultation completed

THIS YEAR'S Refugee Week saw Govanhill Pool visitors complete questionnaires and study plans of our Wellbeing Centre, in preparation for our consultation submission to the Big Lottery.

Around 400 people took part in the consultation, telling us what they wanted in the centre. The process also involved local voluntary groups, faith groups and around 350 members of the public, in local cafes, pubs,



supermarkets and so on. Results will be published in the next Poolside Guardian. However, no one will be surprised to hear that almost all respondents want Govanhill Pool back.