

# BACK IN THE BATHS AT LAST

*Celebrating 10 years of struggle: 2001-2011*

**T**HE CLOSURE of Govanhill Baths on March 17, 2001 led to the launch of the Save Our Pool campaign.

In 2005 the Govanhill Baths Community Trust was established, officially replacing the original group.

Now after 10 long years of struggle, the trust is proud to announce the reopening of the historic baths in Calder Street, returning them to public use.

The strength and depth of support from the local community and beyond was instrumental in ensuring a successful campaign.

Special thanks must go to Govanhill Community Action and Govanhill Housing Association.

Recently the trust has also won the support of Glasgow City Council; City Property; City Building; the Scottish Government's Social Enterprise and Equally Well community health schemes; and the Big Lottery Fund.

Members of the community trust and the Centre for Community Practice will be based in the Calder Street building once the refurbishment is complete, which we hope will be in May.

The refit is the first of three development stages.

Stage one comprises community-based social and enterprise work, and the reopening of the ladies pool, toddlers' pool, sauna and Turkish baths.

These exciting developments are huge steps towards having



The Govanhill Swimmers entertain the crowd in the pool area (see overleaf)

the whole building back in use for the community.

### Art auction

Our disused Edwardian swimming pool was recently transformed into a venue for a brilliant auction and exhibition of work of some of the

world's leading contemporary artists, emerging talents and local school pupils.

The auction was launched on Thursday March 17 and is the first of a series of events to celebrate 10 years of the pool campaign.

The board of the community

trust would like to thank everyone for their support (visit [www.bathsauktion.com](http://www.bathsauktion.com)).

The fundraiser was organised by Govanhill Baths Community Trust and attracted around 120 people on the first viewing evening.

(turn over)

(Art auction continued) Many visitors commented on the stunning ambience of the exhibition area.

With delicate lighting, musi-



Renowned artists donated to the auction

cal accompaniment, refreshments on hand and the surroundings of the main pool artistically draped, some 65 exhibits were on show.

The artworks were carefully hung on the tiled walls of the pool itself and on the doors of the original poolside changing cubicles. Featured were Turner Prize winner Douglas Gordon, Turner Prize nominee Lucy Skaer and Becks Futures winner Toby Paterson, as well as the prestigious work of Nathan Coley, Sam Ainsley, Claire Barclay, Kate Davis, Alan Michael, Ilana Halperin, Nick Evans, Sigga Bjorg Sigurdardottir, Erica Eyres, Ross Collins, Jane Topping and Lorna Macintyre.

### Struggle

The auction was formally launched by local MSP Frank McAveety who congratulated the efforts of the community in its 10-year struggle to reopen the baths and thanked the trust for coming up with the creative fundraising auction event.

He pointed out that it was all

testimony to what a community can achieve by working together, despite seemingly overwhelming odds against it.

The trust would like to offer its grateful thanks to all the artists, so many of whom donated the proceeds of their work to the campaign.

The live auction took place on the following Saturday evening, helped along by entertainment from the Dean Queasy band and the Voicebeat choir.

With a good flow of prospective bidders seeing the exhibits throughout Friday and Saturday, around 100 people gathered at 7pm to make their bids. Gavin Strang, from Lyon & Turnbull auctioneers in Edinburgh, took the podium and set the stage, drumming up around £5,000 in bids for the assembled works. What's

## STREETLAND

FOLLOWING the success of the first Streetland last year, the festival of creativity and the street is back for 2011. It has music, dancing, street performance, gardening, exhibitions, film and cooking in and around Westmoreland Street. Govanhill Baths Community Trust is again a key partner in the project and will host belly dancing, drumming, singing, art workshops, Bollywood dancing. Excitingly these events will be in the main pool in the baths. Streetland will also be unveiling a new mural for the walls of the CCP, courtesy of the Govanhill Youth Project.

more, the auctioneers have also generously agreed to donate some of their unsold work in the near future.

The auction was the fruits of the hard work of Govanhill Baths art and regeneration team which is run by local artists. The auction was such a success, it is likely to be a regular event in our fundraising calendar.

### Thanks

Grateful thanks go to Seth Shwaiger for curating; Scottish Opera for lending us draping materials; The Co-operative (again) for donating wine and other refreshments; CPE Lighting for fittings and labour; HSS Hire for electrical generating prowess.

We should also thank our main sponsor NORD Architecture for its development work on our projects; Glasgow City Council for delivering safety barriers to place around the pool; The Pandora pub for use of facilities while the auction was being set up; and the staff and pupils of Holy Cross, Cuthbertson and Annette Street primary schools and Hollybrook secondary school, who embraced the auction project.

Finally but critically, thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time to plan and organise the auction; to scrub up the pool; to act as "invigilators"; to serve refreshments; to design and sell merchandise; and far too much more to mention.

Auction money will be added to the fund to refurbish the front section of the Calder Street building, creating offices and a public space.

## UNITED WE WILL SWIM: THE RETURN OF THE GOVANHILL SWIMMERS

**A**ROUND 200 people gathered outside the pool building on Saturday March 26 to greet the Govanhill Swimmers arriving at the end their "tour" of the local area.

They did their warm-up exercises before going inside to perform in front of a packed audience around the main pool area which they themselves had spruced up, sparkled and glistened.

The audience was treated to a superb, entertaining rendition of the historic sport of dry and underwater swimming, backed by the theme music from Chariots Of Fire (see picture overleaf). People were roaring with laughter, shouting support for each "competitor" and in rapt attention as the drama unfolded in cacophonies of music, cheering and applause.

The performance captured the joys of local people who have used the baths since 1917 but also the sadness since the council closed the building in 2001.

Anecdotes and memories jostled with histories of struggle and local commitment. What else should we expect from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

## FRIENDS OF GOVANHILL BATHS

The friends' group meets every fortnight on a Tuesday. The next meetings are April 19 and May 3.

If you have some information or even a story for the Poolside Guardian email [info@govanhillbaths.com](mailto:info@govanhillbaths.com)

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NEW WEBSITE  
[www.govanhillbaths.com](http://www.govanhillbaths.com)  
big thanks to  
[tim@soundslikedesign.co.uk](mailto:tim@soundslikedesign.co.uk)  
for the magnificent work

## Emporium charity shop now open

**O**UR NEW charity shop, The Emporium, at 465 Victoria Road was opened earlier this year to great success.

The ribbon was cut by the RSAMD Govanhill Swimmers, who did their "dry swimming" exercises to the delight of shoppers and other passers-by.

The Emporium has been an even greater success than the old shop in Calder Street, and donations just keep rolling in.

Shop manager Inga Zaiцева said: "We are all very excited and hope our supporters will not only come along to buy goods but also continue to donate.

"We are always looking for



The Govanhill Swimmers helped launch the new charity shop, The Emporium

clothes, household goods, small electrical items and small pieces of furniture.

"Clothes perhaps not perfect for sale can also be donated

since we recycle them to raise funds. Why not pop in and grab a bargain."

The Emporium has been so busy an assistant manager has been employed, despite the shop having as many as 30 volunteers who help out whenever they can.

Our charity shop has also benefited from a Big Lottery grant of £10,000, plus leaseholders Glasgow City Council has given us a 50% rent reduction and four months rent-free.

The Emporium will also soon be offering tailoring and alteration services, and will soon be home to a southside sewing network.