

Jesus Green Pool

Cambridge

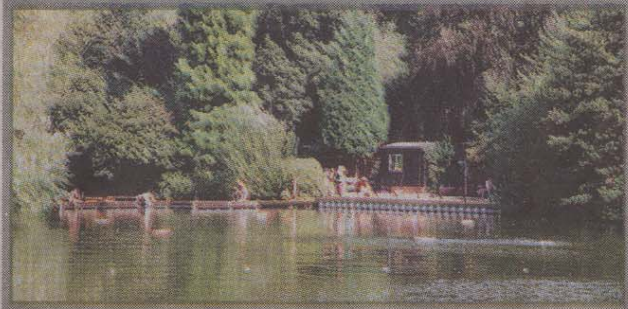
The longest outdoor pool in the country at 100 yards, Jesus Green is beautifully situated with large grassy sun-bathing areas, and surrounded by mature trees. Modern changing facilities, hot showers, and Fair Trade catering.
Tel: 01223 302579; www.jesusgreenoutdoorpool.co.uk



Brockwell Park Lido

London

Set in Brixton's Brockwell Park, it was the star of Lucy Blakstad's blissful documentary *The Lido*. On a hot summer's day it can attract up to 3,000 visitors, and the Friday evening themed barbecues are famous. One of the city's happiest and most democratic public spaces, and a great hangover cure.
Tel: 020-7274 3088; www.thelido.co.uk



Hampstead Heath Ponds

London

There are three ponds – men's, women's, mixed – on the Heath, as well as Parliament Hill Lido at the foot of the Heath. Nude bathing is allowed in the single-sex ponds. The Men's is a last bastion of chess-playing Hampstead émigré culture.
Tel: 020-7485 4491



Hampton

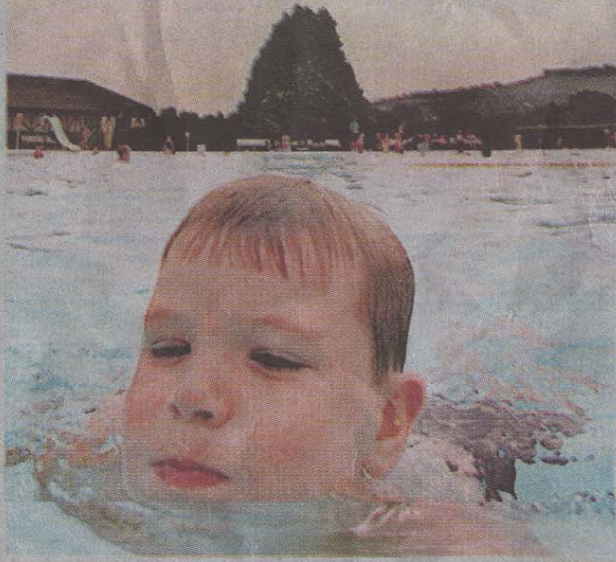
Middlesex

One of the few heated outdoor pools to stay open all year; every Christmas more than 1,000 people take the plunge. It has a café, gym, sauna, plus picnic area, and was saved from closure by local community action in the Eighties. There is also a separate learner's pool with graded entry.
Tel: 020-8255 1116; www.hamptonpool.co.uk

THE TEN BEST LIDOS



Ken Worpole, the author of 'Here Comes the Sun', a history of 20th-century open-air architecture, chooses his favourite public pools



The Lido

Ilkley, Bradford

Opened in 1936, this lido is enjoyed by up to 4,000 people a day during the summer season. The pool contains a fountain and is surrounded by lawns, with picnic tables and deck chairs. "Enjoy a seaside atmosphere on your doorstep" is its slogan.
Tel: 01943 600453; www.bradford.gov.uk



The Jubilee Pool

Penzance

Opened in May 1935, this is the largest open-air pool of its type in the UK. It has stupendous curves and wonderful terraces, and it received a Grade II listing in 1993. In the dazzling sunshine of the "Cornish Riviera", it is an absolute must for aficionados of the lido cult. Fed by the icy blue Atlantic sea-waters, it is not for the faint-hearted.
Tel: 01736 369224

TOMORROW >>

THE TEN BEST HOLIDAY ACCESSORIES

AS CHOSEN BY THE TV PRESENTER JAYNE MIDDLEMISS

The Ten Best is edited by Caroline Wingfield. E-mail: c.wingfield@independent.co.uk



Saltdean Lido

Brighton

This lido shares the same white, curvilinear forms as the even more famous De La Warr Pavilion at Bexhill. Set on chalk cliffs overlooking the Channel, Saltdean is perhaps the best preserved lido in Britain. The original design included a library.
Tel: 01273 880616; www.saltdean.info/lido.htm



The Oasis

London

Every city centre should have one: a modern, heated outdoor pool open all year. In the winter you can swim on your back and look up at the stars. A favourite with the writer Roger Deakin, whose book *Waterlog* was launched here; the only publishing party where guests were asked to bring a swimsuit.
Tel: 020-7831 1804



Sandford Parks Lido

Cheltenham

"A well-kept classic," according to one enthusiastic swimmer I know. Set in four acres of landscaped gardens, with a café, facilities for those with disabilities, and free table tennis, volleyball and basketball.
Tel: 01242 262626; www.sandfordparkslido.org.uk



Stonehaven

Aberdeenshire

When this popular Olympic-sized art deco pool was threatened with closure in the Nineties, a campaign by local people not only saved it but trebled usage of the pool. One of Scotland's few outdoor heated pools – it's heated to 84F – it is also the venue for midnight swims and discos.
Tel: 01569 762134; www.stonehavenopenairpool.co.uk