

6 August 2002



Dear Member

The Lido is open

Good news! The Lido will remain open until the normal end of the swimming season in mid September. The threat of closure so widely reported in the media has been avoided because Lambeth Council has pledged funding to enable the Lido to remain solvent and to complete the swimming season. The Council appears willing to discuss arrangements for the winter and for the 2003 swimming season but further negotiations on this are still to take place and the amount of funding has not yet been determined. Thank you to Clare Whelan, executive member for the Environment, who visited the Lido on several occasions, attended a BLU steering meeting and stated that Lambeth is committed to keeping the Lido open as a community resource. Thank you also to 15 Councillors who gave up part of their Sunday morning on 21 July to visit the Lido.

Now BLU members----Lambeth has given a helping hand----it is crucial for users to give strong support. Please -----use the Lido if you don't want to lose it!!

Although the immediate threat of closure has been lifted, the Lido is by no means out of the woods---its future is crucially dependent on steady use—we need to make up for a disastrous June and July due to bad weather.

- Please tell everyone you know that it is open—they may think it has closed.
- Do use it—that is the best way to improve cash flow and to prove that it is a treasured community resource---- otherwise we may lose it in the future. Try it on a less than sunny day when few people go. Take a friend. Ask them to join BLU.
- Try the new Lido café on Monday to Thursday evenings from 8.00 for food, drink and a swim.

What has BLU done this summer?

We have Contacted Councillors and provided information about the Lido

We have focused on getting to know the new council and ensuring that they know about the Lido.

- BLU steering invited Clare Whelan, executive member for the Environment, to attend a meeting to discuss the Lido.
- We invited all councillors to a reception at the Lido on 21 July to see a display giving information and conveying users' feelings about the Lido. They saw a Yoga class in progress and Whippersnappers provided drummers and a performance by members of the children's acrobatics class. This was very successful with 15 councillors and the Mayor attending.
- We have given information packs to all councillors telling them what users think (based on 873 returned questionnaires), what we know about other Lidos and giving them the 6 criteria we have agreed for the future of the Lido (copy available on the web site).

We have organised a petition and collected over 2000 signatures in a week. This has been passed to Cllr Clare Whelan

We continue to work with the Lambeth Steering Group to explore the longer-term solution for the Lido. In mid August we will know who has responded to the invitation to express interest in maintaining the Lido and establishing an adjacent profitable activity to subsidise it.

What can you do? Please help recruit new BLU members by asking a friend to complete one of our membership application cards or to e-mail us at memberships@brockwelllido.com.