

BLU UPDATE October 2013



Autumn River Song

The moon shimmers in green water.

White herons fly through the moonlight.

The young man hears a girl gathering water-chestnuts:

into the night, singing, they paddle home together. Li Po

About 80 people came to the annual **BLU Forum and AGM** on 28th September. Was it the promise of free coffee and croissants? Or was it the chance to express views about the Lido and to hear Fusion managers' responses? Whatever the reason, it was great to see so many committed Lido users, from the gym, classes, the spa, the café and the pool.

Everyone was asked to write down their feedback so we have a detailed record. A full transcript will appear on our website shortly. In the meantime, we can report that the main themes were:

On the positive side:

The Lido in general: "I love the Lido! Long live the Lido!"

Clare Bushell's management.

The pool being open all year round.

The Lido Café

The wildflower meadow and planting round the Lido.

Needing attention:

Car park: "The car park is a scandal – running since 2007 Fix it soon!"

Rubbish disposal

Pool changing rooms

Provision and security for cyclists

Spa maintenance and client behaviour

More "whole pool" policy

Maintaining wide spread of classes

Prices at The Lido Café

The beach hut.

Communications (website, booking system, phones)

Responding to concerns about chaos in the **car park**, Clare Bushell told us that Fusion's application to Lambeth Planning for a pole-mounted camera on the Lido roof has gone to Lambeth's Conservation department for consideration. So we wait, and wait and wait...

The Big Spinathon takes place on 5th and 6th October to raise funds for Southside Young Leaders Academy, a charity founded by Pat and Andy Walker who were early BLU activists. The Academy provides a wide range of activities for disadvantaged young people in Camberwell, Brixton and Peckham. The overall target for the weekend is £2,000 and every rider will pay £10 per hour to take part. So if you'd like to ride please contact info.syla@btconnect.com. If you're not a rider, you can still help by

sponsoring [Andy. www.hernehillforum.org.uk/news/big-spin-thon-5-6-october-lido-appeal-sponsorship](http://www.hernehillforum.org.uk/news/big-spin-thon-5-6-october-lido-appeal-sponsorship). Every £1 you contribute will be doubled with the help of The Childhood Trust who have offered to match fund.

Pool hours are changing week by week as the light diminishes. **Summer swim timetable ends and winter swimming** starts on Monday, 4th November. For details see front page of BLU website. www.brockwelllido.com. Or see [Brockwell Lido winter swimming group](#) on Facebook.

Keep up to date with “dry side” news with [Brockwell Lido gym and spa forum](#), also on Facebook.

Read a wonderful piece about the joy of **cold water swimming** here. <http://gu.com/p/3j6q5>

Daily water temperatures on our [Twitter feed](#).

And an elegiac piece here: <http://www.brixtonblog.com/an-idyll-in-the-middle-of-the-city-brockwell-lido/16009>

There is huge enthusiasm for the **Ballet Tone** classes and requests for more of them and others that are not part of the standard high velocity gym scene. Mark is a massage therapist and yoga teacher (www.usethebreath.com) who teaches a **gentle and mindful yoga class** at the Lido on Tuesday mornings 6:35am, and a beginners’ yoga class 8.30pm.

Please ensure that you **book in to classes** via Fusion and register your attendance with Reception staff. If you don’t do this, class attendance is recorded as low and your class may get cancelled. If you are late arriving or Reception is busy, you can register after your class. But please make sure you do, in order to maintain the continuation of the class.

BLU is always ready to support other Lidos and we definitely support the users of **Charlton Lido** in their campaign to preserve that name in the face of a suggestion from GLL to change it to “Royal Greenwich Lido”. GLL are now consulting on “Charlton Lido and Leisure Centre”. Perhaps this is the moment to recognise Fusion’s wise decision to keep the name of our “Brockwell Lido” intact. You can write to GLL at lidoname@gll.org, copying info@wecallitcharltonlido.co.uk to suggest what you think the name should be.

Good news in Brockwell Park! There will be a **firework display** this year, on Tuesday, 5th November.

You can donate to the restoration of the historic **Clock Tower** in the park at <https://www.datanetsecure.com/brockwellparkcom/clocktower>

The **Herne Hill Music Festival** runs from 11th – 19th October. See programme at hernehillfestival.org.