

10 September 2002



Dear Member

The Lido is now officially closed for swimming this year, but if you attend and find it is staffed, you may be able to get a few last swims. Yoga, Whippersnappers and other activities go on as usual. Call 020 7274 3088 to check details.

BLU is getting ready for the autumn when Lambeth Council will make some decisions about the Lido's future.

So get involved and come to the BLU members' meeting on **Saturday 5 October 10 - 12 noon at the Lido Café**. This is a meeting for ALL members to:

- find out about the proposals for running the Lido received by Lambeth Council
- have your say and give your views on these proposals as part of the consultation process with Lido users

We hope as many of you will be able to come as possible. It is really important for Lambeth Council to hear users' opinions on how they want the Lido to be run in the future. BLU is meeting with Council officers at the end of September to review the outline proposals submitted so far. A week before the BLU meeting on **5 October** you will be able to read more about the different organisations and their plans for the Lido on BLU's website. Check the website from 1 October when a summary of this information will be available: www.brockwelllido.com.

The **5 October** meeting is part of the on-going consultation process that BLU is organising to feed back your views to Lambeth Council. We want to hear your ideas about what you want to see in any future development of the Lido. This is an opportunity for you to share your opinions with others! There will be a chance to ask questions and discuss your views in small groups with other Lido lovers. However we must not raise our hopes too high. BLU's role in looking at options for the Lido is a consultative one. It is Lambeth Council executive members and officers who will make the final decision. As Lido users we will not on the 5th be able to make decisions about future management strategies for the Lido. We are determined to safeguard what we value and love about the Lido and your views and feedback are vital. So come and have your say!

We also hope that anyone out there who wants to get involved with BLU's work over the winter will come forward at the **5 October** meeting. Some of the 16 members of the BLU Steering Group will step down at our Annual General Meeting in January 2003 so we are looking for new volunteers! If you have a skill or feel passionate about what happens to the Lido then join us! We're especially looking for young people, people from diverse ethnic backgrounds or with disabilities, and with legal and business expertise to participate in shaping the future of the Lido. So if you see a role for yourself then e-mail us at info@brockwelllido.com or let us know on the 5th.

What has BLU done this summer?

- BLU Steering organised a **petition** in July. We collected over 2000 signatures in a week. We handed these to Clare Whelan, Lambeth Executive member for the Environment. As a result of the petition the Lido stayed open for the rest of the 2002 season. The threat of closure reported in the media was avoided after Lambeth Council pledged funding to enable the Lido to remain solvent this season. We orchestrated coverage of the threat of the Lido closing in the local and national press. This culminated in a full-page article in the *Guardian* on 31.7.02 – see our Web site – the same day the Council announced its bailout!
- We put on a **display** about activities at the Lido as part of an information session for Lambeth councillors at the Lido on 21 July. They saw a Yoga class in progress, a Whippersnappers' drumming session and a children's acrobatics performance. The Mayor of Lambeth and 15 councillors attended this reception.
- We continue to work with the **Lambeth Steering Group** to explore the longer-term solution for the Lido. Five organisations have responded to the Council's invitation to express interest in running the Lido and an adjacent profitable activity to subsidise it. With Council officers and an independent leisure consultant hired by the Council we are reviewing the five proposals using four short-listing points. We are assessing: i) the level of community involvement in each proposal; ii) planning implications for the Lido site; iii) income generation potential; and iv) the capability of the organisation to carry out its plans. Further negotiations between the Council, these organisations and BLU will take place throughout the winter.

What can you do? BLU has 834 members and wants to increase its membership to 1000. Recruit new BLU members by asking a friend to complete a membership application card or e-mail us at memberships@brockwelllido.com.