

London Fields Lido

The London Fields Lido, a 50m x17m Olympic size, open air pool reopened in Oct. 2006. Rebuilt to highest modern standards with excellent disabled access, it opened with 25°C heated water, after 18 years of closure. The original 1930's low red brick buildings (Tardis like) hide this enormous modern pool. The Lido first opened in 1932 and remained open, apart from the war years, until its closure in 1988. The refurbishment was designed by S & P Ltd Architects & Interior Designers, who build pools and sports facilities all over Europe - contact <www.s-parchitects.com>.

The London Fields User Group (LFUG) have fought for the reopening for 18 years, saving the Lido from the bulldozer in 1990, while producing many proposals, designs and alternative funding proposals. Since the Hackney council decided to rebuild this facility in 2004, the council and their architect have included most of our suggestions. We are looking forward to the winter roof to allow school swimming in term time and to open the café as promised for 2007. See the Lido History.

Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) manage the pool for Hackney council, and is an employee owned not-for-profit organisation, structured as an Industrial and Provident Society, which manages more than fifty public leisure centres. For opening times etc. phone 020 7254 9038 or visit the Greenwich web page at <http://www.gll.org/centre/london-fields-lido.asp>.

Following a successful opening in Autumn 06, the Lido closed in December 17th 2006 to allow the original contractors to finish minor 'snagging' work, etc. and begin a further programme of improvements. The improvements will include security enhancements such as the installation of CCTV, an intruder alarm system, and an additional perimeter fence. Other improvements include the installation of a pool cover, reception improvements, queue control system, external cafe enclosure and additional bike racks. The London Fields Lido will be re-opening its doors to welcome swimmers during the Easter holidays, Saturday 31 March – Sunday 15 April 2007. Some of the work will be carried out after Easter, meaning that the Lido will need to close for about a fortnight for the installation of the pool insulation blanket (cover). After this the Lido should be permanently open.

We are now forming a SWIMMING CLUB to improve swimming standards, encourage people of all ages to swim for fun and healthy exercise, promote competitive swimming for young people and to keep the pool facilities to their present high standards. Send for details to info@londonfieldslido.org.uk