



## Cleveland Pools Trust Press Release

June 2022

### **The Future Is Certain for the UK's Oldest Lido; Cleveland Pools Trust Announce Operator Partnership**

**Cleveland Pools Trust is thrilled to announce its future operating partner will be Fusion Lifestyle. Following the completion of restoration work in Summer 2022, Fusion Lifestyle will manage the day-to-day running of the Pools. This will enable local people to enjoy swimming at this nationally important historic facility once again, following a major campaign and capital project to restore the venue.**

Fusion Lifestyle is a registered charity created to promote the benefits of healthy lifestyles and encourage participation in sport, physical and cultural activity. It manages around 60 facilities on behalf of its partners most of whom are either local authorities or trusts. Fusion Lifestyle operates existing renowned and successful outdoor swimming pools including Saltdean, Brockwell Park and Shepton Mallet lidos.

Paul Simons, Chair of Cleveland Pools Trust said:

'Fusion Lifestyle is an ideal operating partner for the Trust, they have a wealth of experience in the leisure sector and a real passion for engaging with communities to ensure maximum local benefit. We are very pleased to be working with them to deliver access for all to this remarkable, restored unique heritage pool.'

Anna Baker, Cleveland Pools Trust Project Director said:

'I am delighted with the progress we have made this year. Securing an operator for the project is the next step in ensuring the Pools' long-term use after years of hard work by so many people. The Trust set out to save this unique site which was at risk of being lost forever - thanks to community backing and huge volunteer efforts we are proud to say the Pools have been saved. The installation of the pontoon and water source heat pump later this year will complete the work required to make the site fit for purpose for many generations to come.'

Anthony Cawley, CEO at Fusion Lifestyle said:

'Fusion Lifestyle is delighted to be selected by the Cleveland Pools Trust as operators of this unique pool. The work that has been done by the Trust and volunteers to restore the pool is incredible and we look forward to working with the Trust and local community to ensure that as many people can benefit from access to this fantastic site as soon as possible.'



## **Pools Preview Period: September 2022 – Spring 2023**

The restoration of the site including the pools and listed buildings is on track to be completed in August. From September, Fusion Lifestyle plans to hold several events including cold-water swimming, guided tours, family activities and community group visits. Typically, high season for the Pools will run between April and September, therefore there will be a series of launch events to be held in Spring 2023 when the pools will be open to heated water swimming.

## **Planning Permission for the Pontoon**

At the request of the Environment Agency, due to the potential impact of climate change, the Trust has revised the design of the pontoon structure to be positioned in the River Avon. Once installed, the pontoon will provide infrastructure not only for visitor access as required under the conditions of the planning permission but to enable the operator of the pools to run a water source heat pump at that location, which will use energy from the river to heat the pool water in a sustainable way. Swimming in 2022 will be offered in unheated water; the first full season offering heated water swimming will commence in spring 2023.

## **Ends**

### **For Press enquiries:**

Liz Barette  
Flock Creative  
e: [liz@flock-creative.com](mailto:liz@flock-creative.com)  
t: 07737 293900  
w: <http://flock-creative.com>

### **Notes to editors**

#### **About Fusion Lifestyle**

Established in 2000, Fusion Lifestyle is a registered charity created to promote the benefits of healthy lifestyles and encourage participation in sport and physical activity. Fusion Lifestyle works in partnership with local authorities and other public sector organisations, to deliver choice and value for customers, helping them to live healthier and more active lives.

<https://www.fusion-lifestyle.com/>



## About Cleveland Pools

Cleveland Pools is the UK's oldest public outdoor swimming pool. Built in 1815, the site first opened as a river fed pool, and subsequently enjoyed a colourful history through the Victorian era to its heyday in the 1970s until Cleveland Pools eventually closed to swimming in 1984.

For a short time, it was used as a trout farm, but it was threatened with demolition as an alternative to repair. In 2003, the owner, Bath and Northeast Somerset council, put the site up for sale, and it was added to the English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register.

Thanks to the determination of a group of local people, the Cleveland Pools Trust (CPT) was formed in 2004 to rescue the pools from dilapidation. In 2006 its listed building status was raised from II to II\*.

Thousands of supporters from far and wide have joined the campaign to date and today the CPT has a diverse team of more than 100 volunteers who give their time freely: fundraising, engaging with the community, managing heritage assets, organising events and publicising progress.

The principal funders of the project are the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Further significant financial support has been received from Bath & Northeast Somerset council, Historic England, Salix Finance (the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund) and the West of England Combined Authority. Other major financial contributions have been made by grant making trusts, private donations, voluntary fundraising efforts and events and a crowdfunding scheme.

For more information on the restoration of Cleveland Pools visit:

<https://www.clevelandpools.org.uk/restoration>

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