

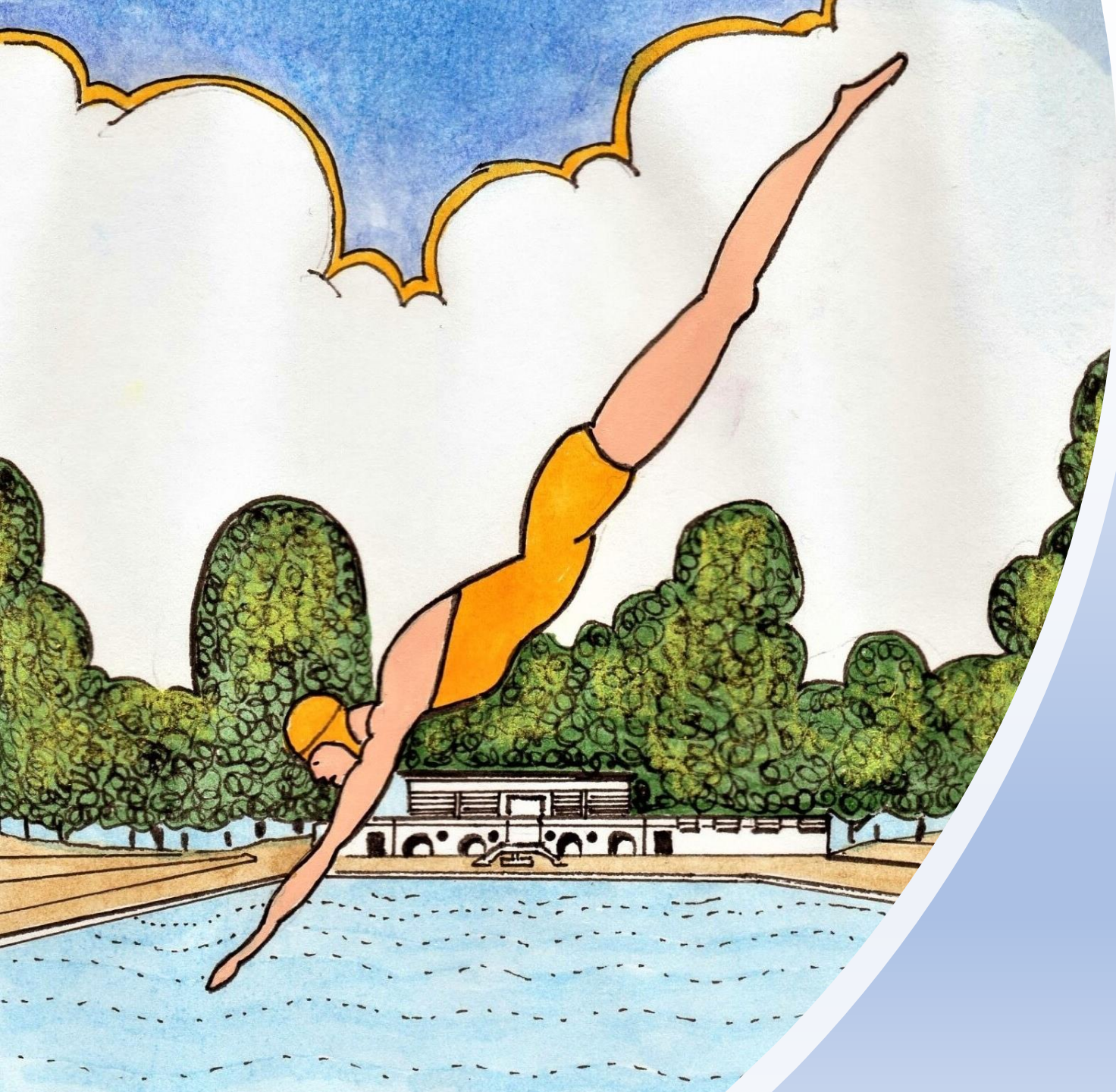


Trentham Swimming Pool

A timeline

THE SWIMMING POOL, TRENTHAM GARDENS, STAFFORDSHIRE

K.6272



Trentham Swimming Pool

Trentham open air swimming pool has now been closed for longer than it was open, but clear memories still remain.

Photos in family albums, old cine films and stories of learning to swim tell of carefree days spent there with friends and modest picnics.

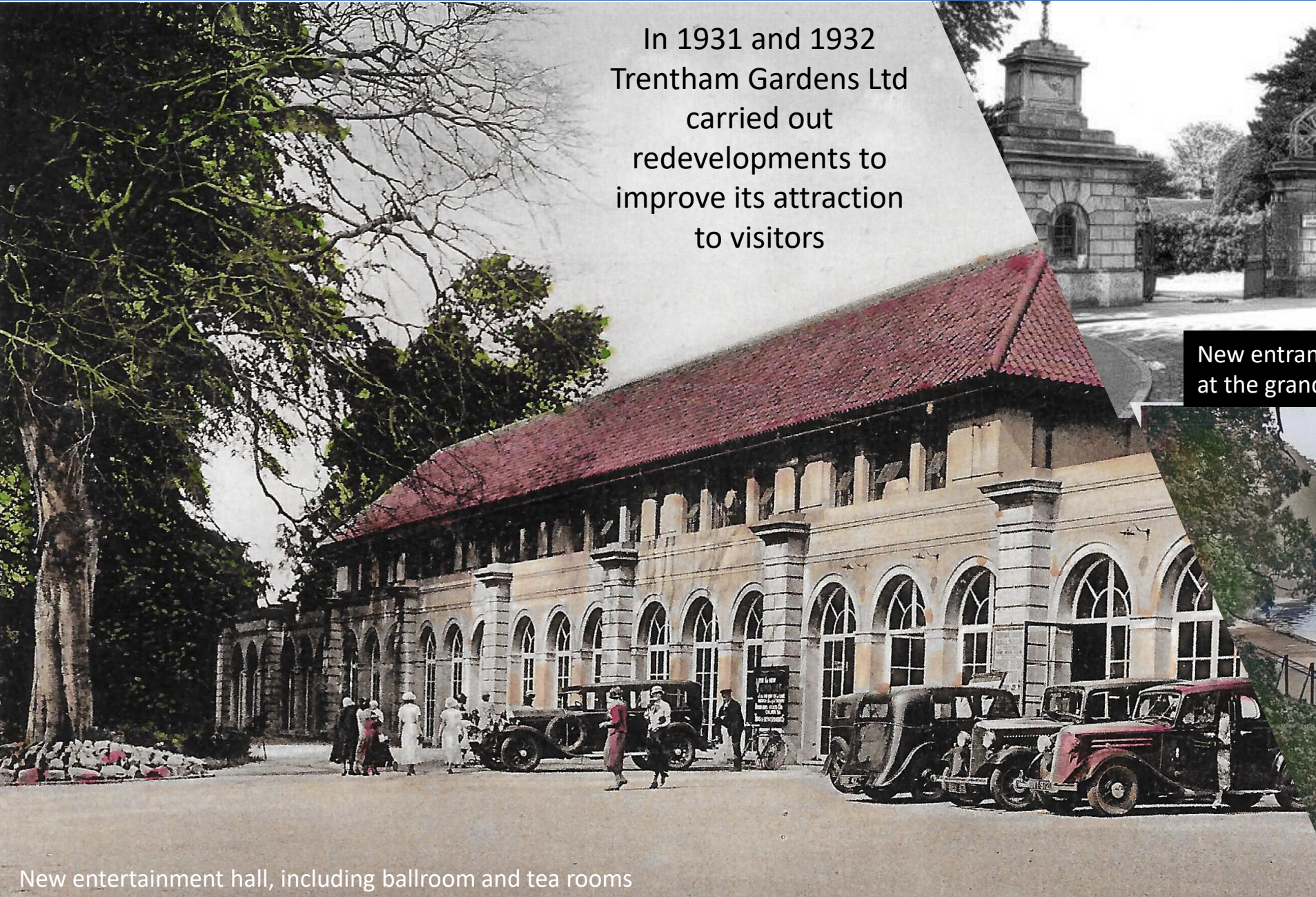
Hopefully this collection of images and vintage film footage will provide a timeline for the pool from its opening to closure and the plans for its revival that came to nothing.

The beginnings

In 1931 and 1932
Trentham Gardens Ltd
carried out
redevelopments to
improve its attraction
to visitors



New entrance using the gatehouses formerly
at the grand main entrance to Trentham Hall



New entertainment hall, including ballroom and tea rooms



Lakeside miniature railway

Announcement of construction of swimming pool

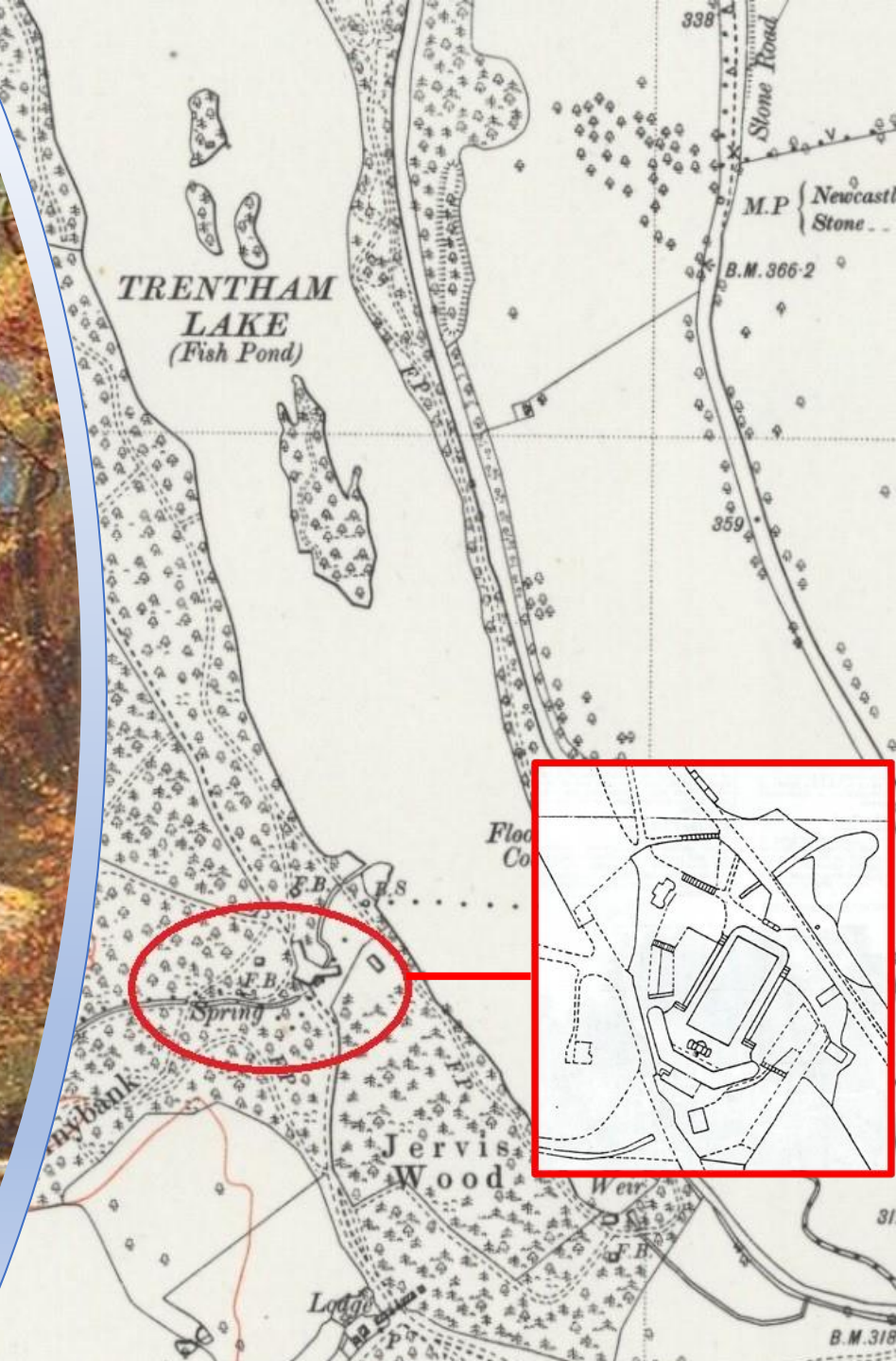
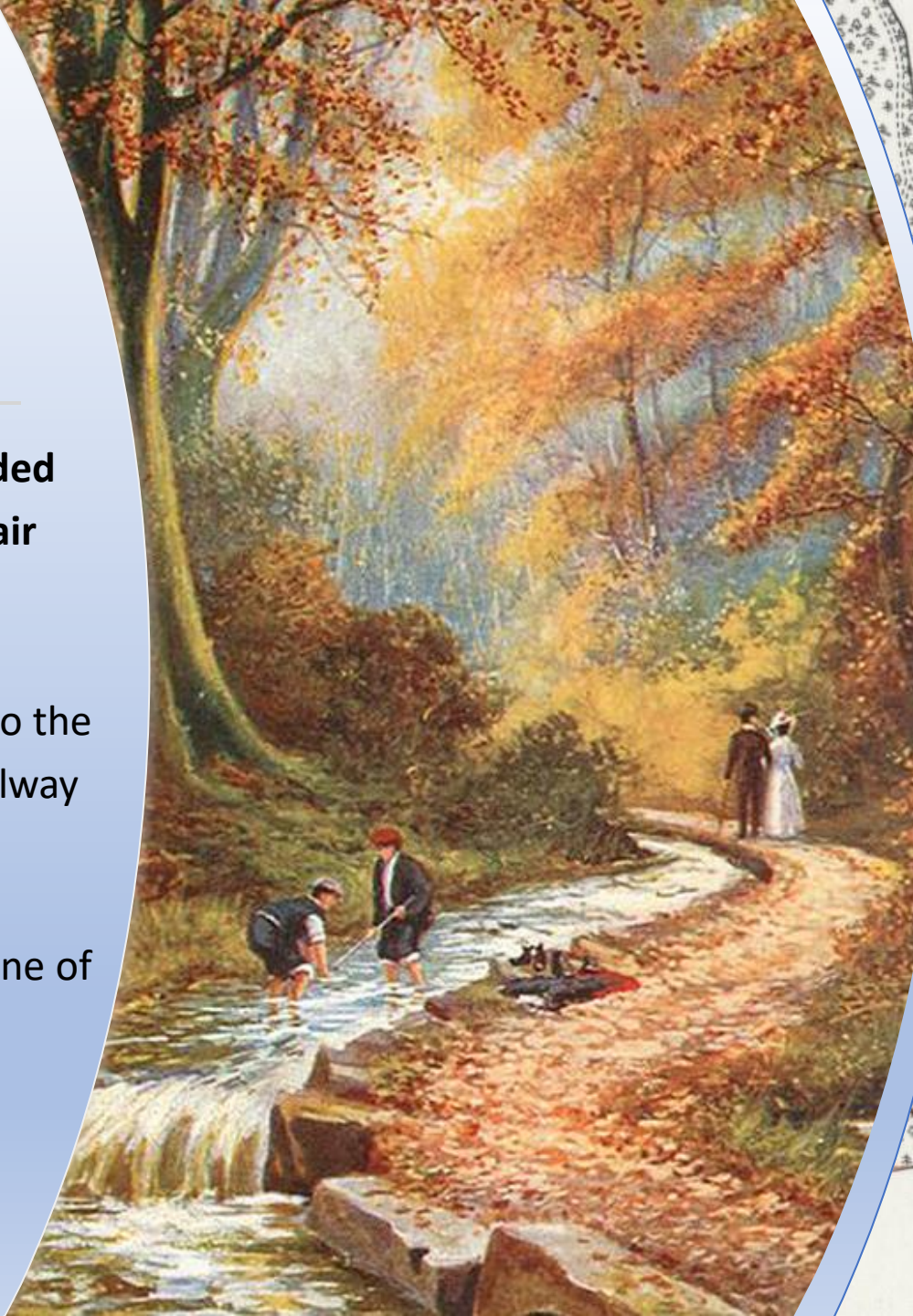
Attractions were further extended with the planning for an open-air swimming pool in 1935

Location in Spring Valley, close to the spring and near to miniature railway

New car park for motorists

Buildings to face the lake with one of the finest views in the Midlands

Cost estimated at £17,000



Excavations of the pool



On 23 February 1935, The Sentinel carried a photo of the early excavations of the pool under a light covering of snow.

Water supply

- 20inch pipeline to carry water from the spring to the boiler house
- Boiler to heat the water to between 60-70°F before passing into the pool
- Water to pass out at the deep end of the pool through the stream into the lake
- Chlorination unnecessary as water to be taken straight from the spring

The pool design and construction team

Mr Harold Goldstraw - architect

Mr Peter Lind - contractor

Mr E P Turner - chief engineer

Mr F P Plant - assistant engineer

Mr Keepen - foreman

Mr F Todd - resident agent

Mr E Boudry - manager

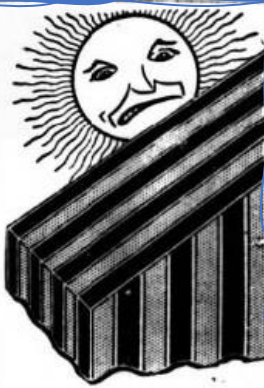
Design of the pool

Trentham swimming pool was Art Deco in style

- 130 feet long and 60 feet wide
- Shelved from 3 feet to 8 feet 3 inches at deep end
- Concrete floor to pool, inlaid with white tiles to denote lanes
- 15 feet diving stage
- 3 springboards and a water chute
- A water chute for children at shallow end
- Attached buildings for clothes rooms and cubicles
- A café over the clothes rooms
- A terrace over the cubicles
- Seats for spectators along two long sides
- Green terrazzo effect for surrounding paths
- Hidden lights under the water for use at night-time
- Striped sun blinds on the outside



LYCETT'S of BURSLEM



'Phone 7187

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BLINDS

of ALL KINDS
ROLLER SHUTTERS
LIGHT PROOF BLINDS

Actual Manufacturers of all kinds of
Outside and Inside Blinds, Holland
Blinds, &c., for Shops and Private
Houses.

INQUIRIES
INVITED.

PATTERNS and PRICES
on Application.

ALL THE SUNBLINDS ROUND THE
CAFE OF THE NEW SWIMMING POOL
MADE AND FIXED BY US.



Some of the Contractors

TAKE YOUR

Jantzen

SWIM SUIT

WITH YOU TO THE

TRENTHAM SWIMMING POOL




THE BRA-TIE is a beautiful new model with a unique brassiere fitting. The bands pass through tunned hems and are brought round to form a tie-belt, thus allowing perfect adjustment to the figure. It is made in the attractive new fancy weaves, in glorious colours, and can be had either with a half skirt in front or skirtless. Prices:

Skirtless 19/6
With Half Skirt 22/6

But if by any chance you forget it—you will be able to hire one there. **JANTZEN** Swim Suits are acknowledged by men and women of discrimination as being the finest in the world. They fit—perfectly and permanently—moulding and supporting the figure in trim neatness. The range this year includes many attractive features—beautiful new fancy weaves, new and lovely styles and colours. For men there is a new heavy ribbed fabric that is proving extremely popular.

We have the pleasure of supplying the Trentham Swimming Pool with suits for hire—and naturally—they are **JANTZEN** Suits.

WE HAVE IN STOCK A COMPLETE RANGE OF 1935 MODELS, AND WE INVITE YOU TO COME WITHOUT DELAY AND CHOOSE YOUR OWN JANTZEN.

THE "Y" BACK is the most popular men's suit for swimming and sunbathing. It is deep cut to allow unhindered speed in the water, and the shoulder straps never slip from position. Skirted and skirtless models are available. Prices:

Skirtless 16/6 With Skirt 19/6

THE TRUNKS are available this year in Jantzen standard fabric and in the new heavy ribbed knit that is so much in demand. The belt is unusual in that it contains a small and useful pocket. Prices: 15/6, 16/6 and 19/6

HENRY WHITE (Sutherland House) LIMITED

NEWCASTLE

'Phone 6401

'Phone 5054

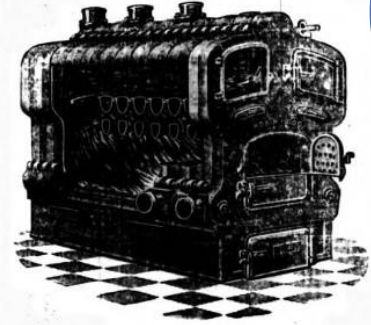
Est. 1895

G. S. HALL,

Heating Engineers, HANLEY

Part Contractors at the Trentham Swimming Pool.

Two 13 Section
Robin Hood
Major Boilers of
a total of 3,000,000
B.T.U.S. heat the
water for the
Swimming Bath.



A Beeston Domestic Boiler.
List No. EX, supplies Hot
Water for the Wash Basins,
etc.

HALLS OF HANLEY FOR ROBIN HOOD BOILERS.

THE BIRMINGHAM and MIDLAND COUNTIES VAL DE TRAVERS PAVING Co. Ltd.

ASPHALTE CONTRACTORS for Roofing, Street Paving, &c.

DERBYSHIRE LIMESTONE TAR PAVING for Footpaths, Playgrounds,
Promenades, &c. Tared Limestone supplied to the Trade.

'Phone Midland 4307-8. 5, Lower Temple Street, BIRMINGHAM

The whole of the Electrical Installation including the unique
under-water Floodlighting and the Electric Kitchen has been
carried out by:—

Blackburn, Starling & CO., LTD.

Electrical Engineers, HANLEY

Telephone - 2444 Hanley

Recent Installations carried out by us include: McIlroy's New Store, Cavendish
Furniture Co., Lucille, City Arcade, Stanway Bros., Bedford Works, Shelton, Hanley
Pottery, Palmers New Saw Mills, Premier Mineral Water Co., Bocen Hall, Cheshire,
Darlaston Hall, Staffordshire.

C. E. MOULTON

Plumber & Decorator, 9, Sneyd Street, TUNSTALL

The Entire Plumbing Work &
Decoration of the Trentham
Bath & Restaurant was . . .
entrusted to us.

'Phone : 7974

The Clock

The mosaic tiled clock with fish shaped fingers hung above the door of the restaurant.

It was made by Henry Pidduck & Sons Ltd, Market Square Hanley.

It disappeared after the pool closed.



THE NEW SWIMMING POOL AT TRENTHAM GARDENS

*Another Attraction for North Staffs.
Beauty Spot*

Trentham Gardens—already famed as one of the beauty spots of England—have now an added attraction by the provision of an open-air swimming pool.

The new swimming pool, which is one of the finest of its kind that has ever been constructed, is beautifully situated in a natural valley, among delightful scenery, and everything points to its becoming the Mecca for swimmers from the whole of the surrounding area.

Although the official opening will not take place until next Tuesday, the pool is already attracting thousands of visitors.

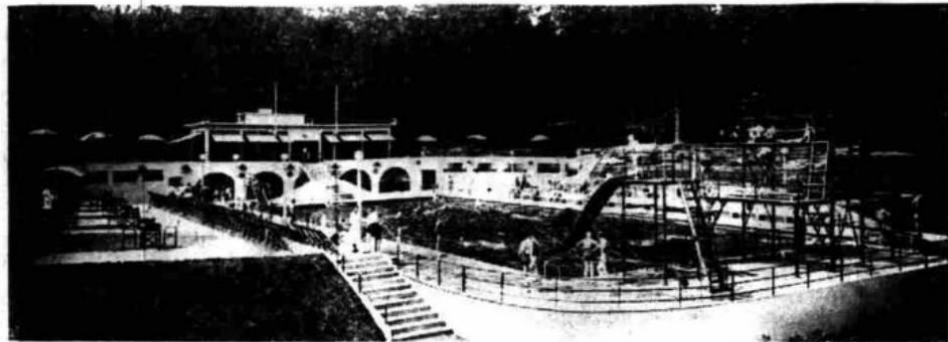
TRENTHAM OPEN-AIR BATH



These early bathers were Joan and Jack Glover. Joan was the daughter of Mr Emil Percy Turner, the chief engineer on the project

TRENTHAM GARDENS :: SWIMMING POOL ::

THE BEAUTY SPOT OF ENGLAND



ure Spring Water, heated to comfortable temperature.

Open Daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Special Floodlight Bathing every Saturday and Sunday until 11 p.m.

Refreshments at Moderate Charges.

Inclusive Admission—Spectators and Bathers—Ordinary Days:—

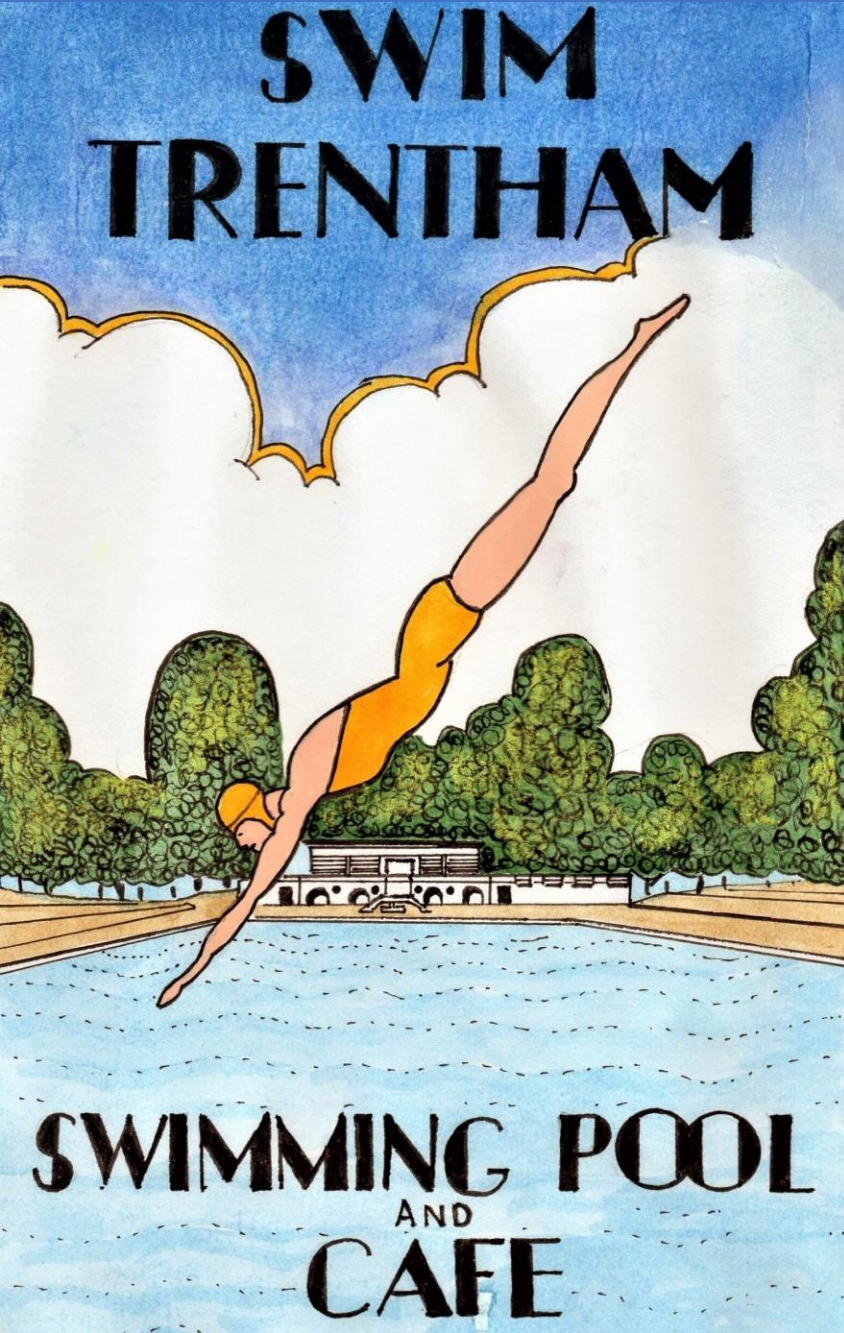
Adults, 1/-; Children, 6d.

Sundays and Public Holidays:—

Adults, 1/3; Children, 9d.

Free Car and Cycle Park.

Notice of closure in preparation for the formal opening



TRENTHAM GARDENS SWIMMING POOL

Open Daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The Pool will be closed to the Public
MONDAY NEXT, JULY 8th—all day.
TUESDAY, JULY 9th—until 6 30 p.m.

The Formal Opening Ceremony will take place on TUESDAY, JULY 9th.
Admission by invitation only.

TRENTHAM SWIMMING POOL

One Thousand Guests at Opening Ceremony

About 1,000 guests were present at the opening of the new **swimming pool** in **Trentham Gardens** this afternoon.

The new **pool**, which is beautifully situated in a natural valley, among delightful scenery, is 130 feet long by 60 feet wide, and is fed by springs. There is a constant flow through the **pool**, and the water is raised to a temperature of between 60 and 70 degrees.

Other special features include under-the-water lighting, terraces, and an imposing general building—including a large cafe—in the futurist style.

These features, and the beauty of the spot chosen for the new **pool**, won the admiration of everyone present.

The opening ceremony was performed by the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent (Alderman A. C. Harvey), who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, and Mr. T. H. Averill (Chairman of the Stone Rural Council). They were received by the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland.

TRENTHAM SWIMMING POOL

New Amenity to Famous Gardens

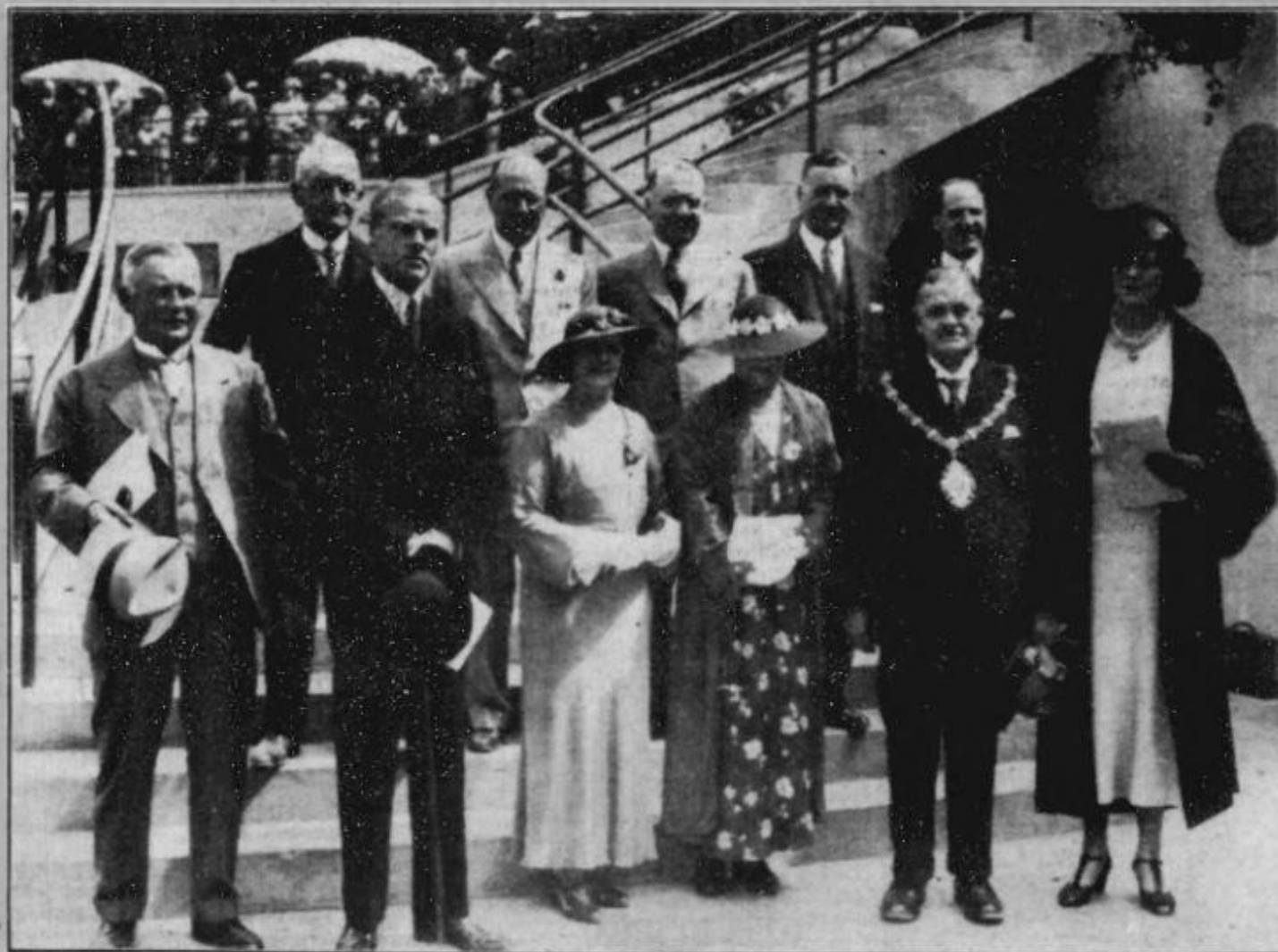


Photo: Templeman, Stoke

In the front row are the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Stoke, and Mr. Goldstraw, the architect



The Opening Speech from the Duke of Sutherland

"It gives me great pleasure to come down to my old home and see the wonderful change that has taken place in the making of the swimming pool. I have always been a keen swimmer and know from personal experience the great advantage it confers on the health of the individual.

If England is to be an A1 nation it should encourage youth in outdoor sports. I am glad to note that North Staffordshire is in the forefront with swimming, having such champions as Norman Wainwright and Bob Leivers.

I hereby announce my intention of giving a swimming trophy for a competition amongst the pupils of secondary schools in the district."

Reply from Alderman A. C. Harvey Mayor of Stoke on Trent

"The presence of the Duke and Duchess demonstrates their continuing affection for Trentham ...

I want to assure the Duke and Duchess that the people of the district really appreciate Trentham Park and express the fervent hope that it will never be built on. The park is one of our few open spaces and the free use of it is one of the greatest privileges that the children and the toilers of the district can enjoy.

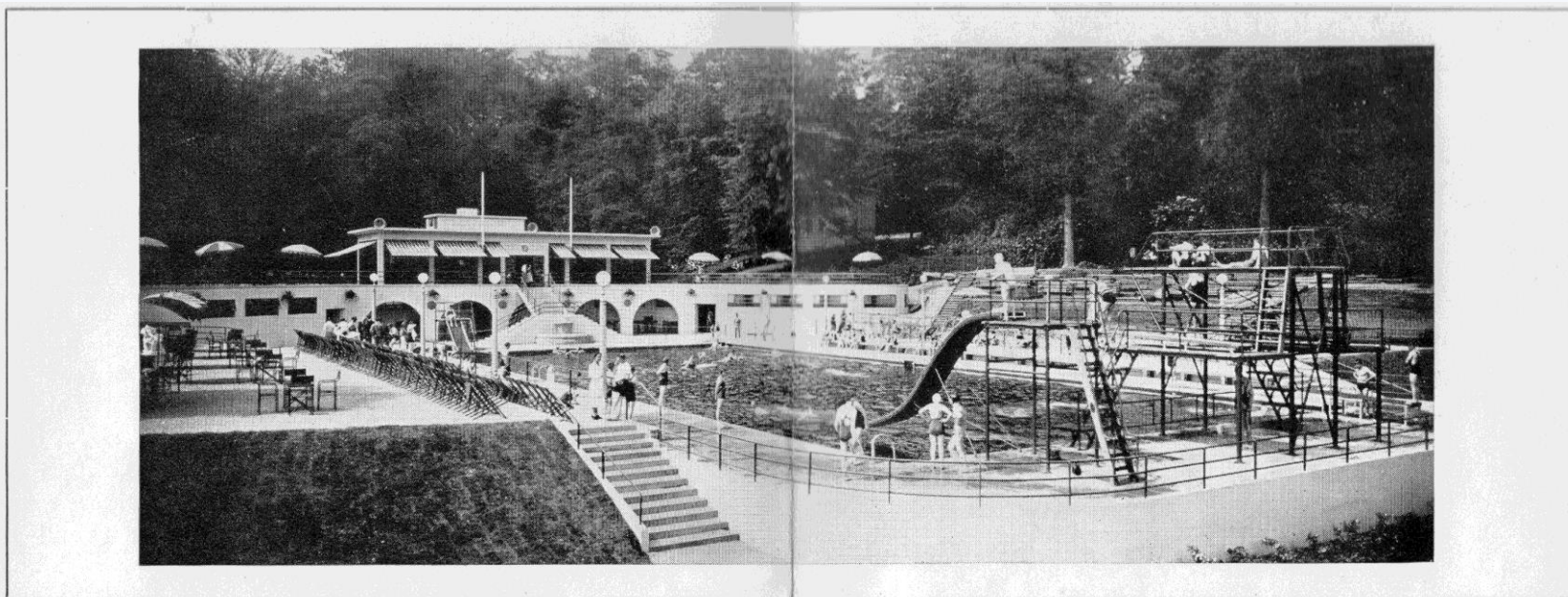
The Duke and Trustees have developed the gardens in a marvellous way and have thereby contributed largely to the amenities of North Staffordshire.

In conclusion I thank the Duke for the offer of the trophy and congratulate those responsible for erecting the pool."

Opening Programme

After the formal speeches the guests settled down to watch the display of swimming and diving.

Two of the star attractions were two local Olympians: Norman Wainwright and Bob Leivers



Photographs by Templeman, Hanley

25 Mr. Averill will then introduce the Vice-Chairman of the Trentham Pool Amateur Swimming Club (Mr. Spencer Stanway) to present to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and to the Duke and Duchess the following ladies and gentlemen taking part in the Display :

Mr. Norman Wainwright
Mr. R. H. Leivers
Miss Edna Hughes
Miss Nora Wall

Mr. Norman Brookes
Mr. Tom Scott
Mr. Walter Scott
Mr. Ernest Jones

DISPLAY of SWIMMING and DIVING

Under the auspices of the Trentham Pool Amateur Swimming Club, affiliated to the Midland Counties Amateur Swimming Association, and the Staffs County Amateur Swimming Association

(UNDER A.S.A. LAWS)

30 Exhibition Swim of Four Lengths Crawl Stroke by Mr. Norman Wainwright (Hanley A.S.C.) Champion of England. Olympic and International Swimmer

Exhibition Swim by Miss Edna Hughes (Walsall A.S.C.) 100 yards Champion of England. Olympic and International Swimmer

Diving Display by Mr. Ernest Jones (Newcastle A.S.C.) Champion Local Diver



Exhibition Swim, including the Crawl, Breast, and new Butterfly Stroke, by Mr. R. H. Leivers (Longton A.S.C.) 440 yards Champion of England. Olympic and International Swimmer

Mannequin Parade by Miss Mollie Shaw's Young Ladies, of Swimming Costumes, kindly provided by Messrs. Jantzen, through the Agency of Messrs. Henry White, Ltd., Newcastle, Staffs.

Surprise Item—Duggie Ascot, of London, the World's Worst Surfoplanist

Display of Fancy and Slow Motion Swimming by Miss Nora Wall (Smethwick R.A.A.) Champion Swimmer of the Civil Service

Display of Speed Swimming by Mr. Norman Brookes (Oldham Police A.S.C.) International Water Polo Player. Former Sprint Champion of England. Olympic and International Swimmer



Demonstration of Back Stroke Swimming by Mr. Norman Wainwright

Diving Display by Messrs. Tom and Walter Scott, International Divers

M.C. for Swimming : Mr. SPENCER STANWAY, President Staffs. A.S.A.

The Display is timed to finish at 4-40



Norman Wainwright Exhibition swimmer

Norman Wainwright, a local Olympian, undertook the first exhibition swim at the official opening with four lengths of crawl stroke



Congratulations at Wembley 1937 following international success against Germany

NORMAN WAINWRIGHT.

INTERNATIONAL CONTESTS 1932 - 1948.

1932	Olympic Games
1933	v Sweden
1933	v Scotland & Wales
1934	v Scotland & Wales
1934	Empire Games
1934	European Championships
1935	v Scotland & Wales
1936	Olympic Games
1937	v Germany
1937	v Scotland & Wales
1938	Empire Games
1938	European Championships
1938	Europe v America
1939	v Scotland & Wales
1939	v Denmark
1947	European Championships
1948	Olympic Games

He was selected for three other international fixtures but could not accept through business and other reasons.

The above is a record never equalled by any other English swimmer.

Norman Wainwright – Life and achievements



Norman with his trophies and medals and his coach Harry Koskie in 1937



Born in 1914, Norman learned to swim when he was three years old, when his father was manager of the Hanley Public Baths.

He subsequently swam for Hanley Amateur Swimming Club and became a top national and international freestyle swimmer for most of the decade before the Second World War.

He competed in three Olympic Games (1932, 1936 & 1948); he won medals at two European and Empire Championships (1934 & 1938); was Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) champion 21 times; and held 50 ASA and British native records.

After the opening of Trentham pool, it became his training base and he rented a cottage in the Gardens. He was a true amateur, receiving no sponsorship or patronage. He worked for Richards Tiles throughout his swimming career, eventually becoming a senior executive.

In 1938 Norman married Betty Porter and settled in Trentham and remained here until his death in 2000 at the age of 85.

Text and images courtesy of Paul Newman <http://wp.renewableway.org.uk/index.php/people-2/norman-wainwright/>

A FINE tribute was paid to Norman Wainwright, Hanley's Olympic swimmer, by Captain B. W. Cummins, President of the Amateur Swimming Association, during the dinner which followed the A.S.A. Championships at New Brighton on Saturday evening.

After complimenting Wainwright on his courage in deciding to defend his 220 and 440 yards titles at 32 years of age, despite an absence of nearly seven years from training and serious swimming, Captain Cummins said that, as far as he knew, there was no record in the world of a swimmer aged 32, having recorded such fast times as those returned by Wainwright during the championships.

Olympic Games

Wainwright, who is still the British native record-holder for 220 yards and the A.S.A. and British native record-holder for 440 yards, is to defend his Staffordshire 100 yards title at Willenhall next Saturday evening.

Mr. L. H. Koskie, Wainwright's coach, was so pleased with the performances of Wainwright that he told the *Sentinel* this morning that he was confident that Wainwright would still be good enough, even at 34 years of age, to represent Great Britain in the Olympic Games in 1948.

Mr. Koskie added that he was very appreciative of the facilities which were extended to Wainwright at Trentham Swimming Pool during his preparation for the A.S.A. events.

Bob Leivers – Exhibition swimmer

Robert "Bob" Thomas Hanford Leivers (27 December 1914 – 28 August 1964) also swam at the official opening of the pool. He was a leading British middle-distance freestyle swimmer in the 1930s. He competed for Great Britain in the Olympics of 1932 and 1936 and won Gold and Silver medals at the 1934 and 1938 Empire Games. He mainly trained at Longton Baths and during his career was famous for his friendly rivalry with his fellow Potteries swimmer Norman Wainwright

Bob ran the family butchers' business, with shops in Longton and Meir. He married Winifred May Leivers (née Degg) and they had two children.



In 1937 the City of Stoke-on-Trent honoured its two famous international swimmers, Bob Leivers and Norman Wainwright

Medal record in Men's swimming events

Commonwealth Games

G	1938 Sydney	1500 yd freestyle
G	1938 Sydney	4×220 yd freestyle
S	1934 London	4×200 yd freestyle
S	1938 Sydney	400 yd freestyle

European Championships

S	1938 London	1500 m freestyle
B	1938 London	4×200 m freestyle



Bob Leivers – Exhibition swimmer in action – rare footage



Film courtesy of Ray Johnson and the Staffordshire Film Archive

The pool in 1935



Image – William Blake – Potteries Museum and Art Gallery

Trentham Pool Amateur Swimming Club

TRENTHAM POOL SWIMMING CLUB

Opening Night Fixed For Monday Next

The newly-formed **Trentham Pool** Amateur **Swimming** Club will hold its opening night on Monday next from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Monday has been fixed as the club night, and an invitation is extended to both ladies and gentlemen to become members. The subscription rates are low, and full particulars can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. Boudry, **Swimming Pool** **Trentham** Gardens

Soon after the official opening the **Trentham Pool**

Amateur Swimming Club

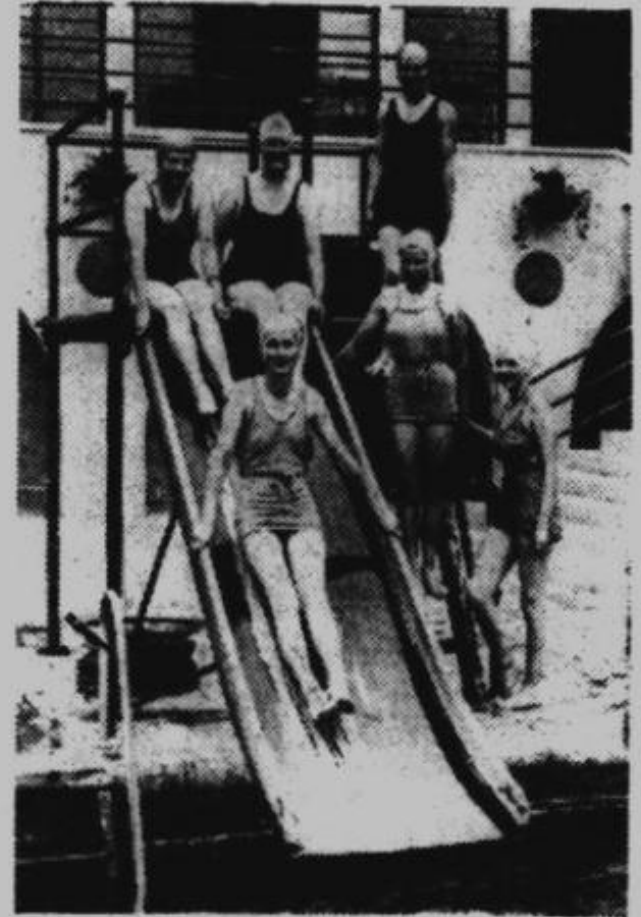
was formed on 13 July 1935.

The Hon Secretary was Mr R Boudry, the general manager of **Trentham Gardens**.

The Club held its first gala on Saturday 7 September 1935

Stainless Steel Chute

The chute at the deep end is of a new type, and has a stainless steel surface. Its switch-back design gives a real thrill. At the shallow end, a small chute is provided for the children.



On the diving chute at Trentham Baths

TRENTHAM GARDENS SWIMMING POOL

Floodlight Bathing!

TO-NIGHT and TO-MORROW NIGHT
UNTIL 11 p.m.

: COOL DRINKS AND
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

Join the **Trentham Pool Amateur Swimming Club**:—Apply, Hon. Secretary: R. Boudry

First Gala of Trentham Pool Swimming Club

EVENING SENTINEL, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1935

TRENTHAM POOL SWIMMING CLUB GALA



Team from Stafford King Edward VI. School, who won the Sutherland Trophy, open to Secondary Schools, at the Trentham Pool Amateur Swimming Club gala; and Mrs. Milton, Miss K. Larsen and Miss Phyllis M. Harding who gave an exhibition.

Visit of Leading Swimmers

TRENTHAM POOL
CLUB'S GALA

SATURDAY'S EVENT

The initial gala of the Trentham Pool ~~Swimming~~ Club, to be held at Trentham on Saturday evening, promises to be a unique event.

Many of the country's leading swimmers, divers and water polo players are to take part, among those due to give exhibitions being:—

E. H. Temme (Plaisow A.S.C.), English water polo international; Olympic, European and Empire Games representative; the only swimmer to conquer the English Channel both ways.

F. G. M. Milton (Oster A.S.C.), English international water polo player; former champion swimmer of England; Empire and European Games representative.

Mrs. Milton (Miss Irene Pirie), Hammer-smith A.S.C., Canadian and British Empire champion; a sister of the famous "Bob" Pirie, who is expected to put up a good show in the Olympic Games next year.

Miss Katinka Larsen (Finchley A.S.C.), ladies springboard diving champion of England; finished second in European Games last year; our hope for Berlin next year.

Miss Phyllis Harding (Coventry Three Spires A.S.C.), British Empire and English back-stroke champion and record holder.



THE "SUTHERLAND" TROPHY (supplied by Henry Pidduck and Sons, Ltd., Henley).



THE "SUTHERLAND" TROPHY (supplied by Henry Pidduck and Sons, Ltd., Henley).



THE "SUTHERLAND" TROPHY (supplied by Henry Pidduck and Sons, Ltd., Henley).

First award of the Sutherland trophy for the winners of the team competition amongst secondary schools in the district.

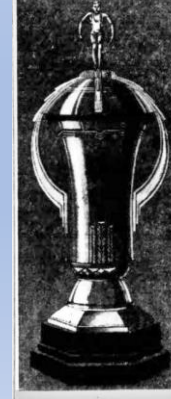
Supplied by Henry Pidduck & Sons Ltd



THE "SUTHERLAND" TROPHY (supplied by Henry Pidduck and Sons, Ltd., Henley).



THE "SUTHERLAND" TROPHY (supplied by Henry Pidduck and Sons, Ltd., Henley).



THE "SUTHERLAND" TROPHY (supplied by Henry Pidduck and Sons, Ltd., Henley).

Opening hours and charges

Trentham Swimming Pool

Open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.



SPECIAL FLOODLIGHT BATHING
EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

until 11 p.m.

(weather permitting)

Trentham Pool Amateur Swimming Club

Affiliated to the
Midland District Amateur Swimming Association and
the Staffs. County Amateur Swimming Association
meets every Monday

7-30 to 9-0 p.m. May and September

8-0 to 10-0 p.m., June, July and August

Details on application to Manager of Pool



TARIFF of CHARGES

INCLUSIVE ADMISSION (payable at Main
Entrance to Gardens) :—

SPECTATORS and BATHERS

Sundays and Public Holidays

Adult 1/3

Child 9d.

Other Days Book of
Ten Tickets

Adult ... 1/- 9/-

Child ... 6d. 4/6

(Fee includes the use of Dressing Cubicle,
Clothes Hanger, Deck Chair, etc.)

Hire of Costume ... 6d.

„ Child's Slip ... 2d.

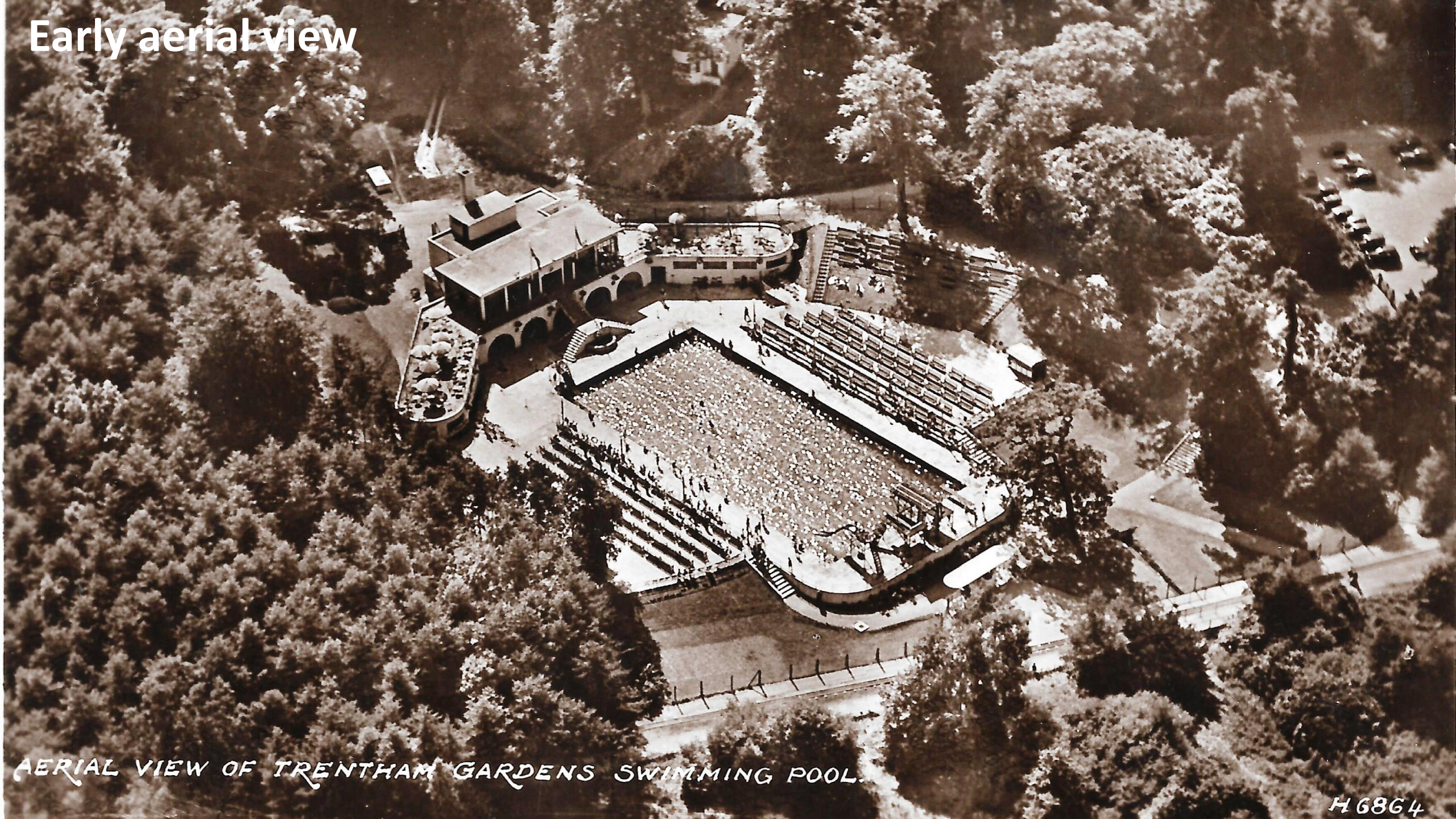
„ Cap ... 2d.

„ Towel ... 2d.

Free Parking for Cars and Cycles

REFRESHMENTS at MODERATE CHARGES

Early aerial view



AERIAL VIEW OF TRENTHAM GARDENS SWIMMING POOL.

H 6864

Early postcard

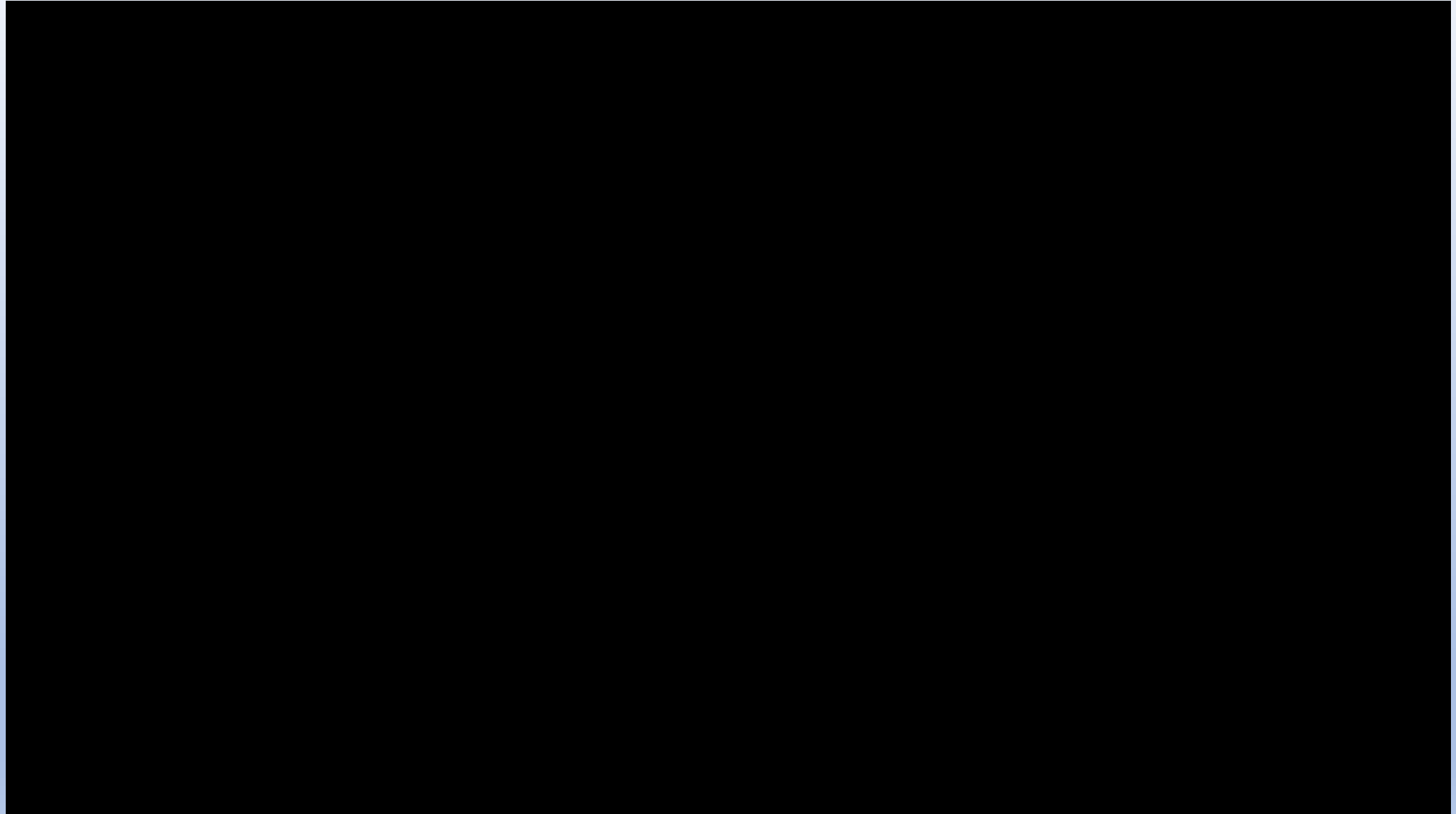


1930s - 1940s



TRENTHAM SWIMMING POOL.

Vintage film footage of the pool in the 1930s





Many visitors arrived by the lakeside miniature railway

35769.

The lakeside miniature railway

Construction of the two-foot gauge miniature railway began in early 1934.

Opened on Good Friday 30 March 1934

Ran the whole length of the lake and terminated near the southern tip.

Engine and five coaches supplied by E. E. Baguley of Burton on Trent for £895.

Another engine ordered for the second season with additional coaches.

A third loco and more carriages were delivered in June 1938.

Line re-laid in the same year with a passing loop so two trains could operate.

The railway operated throughout World War Two.

The engines originally had numbers, but by the 1950s they bore the names Brora, Golspie and Dunrobin, names connected with the Sutherland ancestral estate in Scotland.



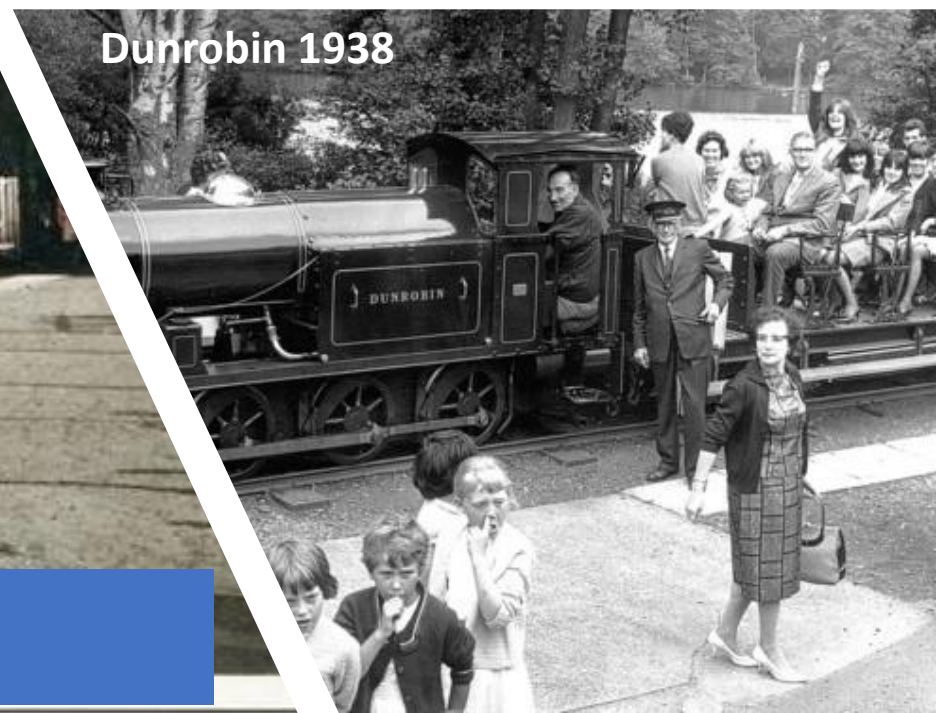
Brora 1934



Golspie 1935



Dunrobin 1938



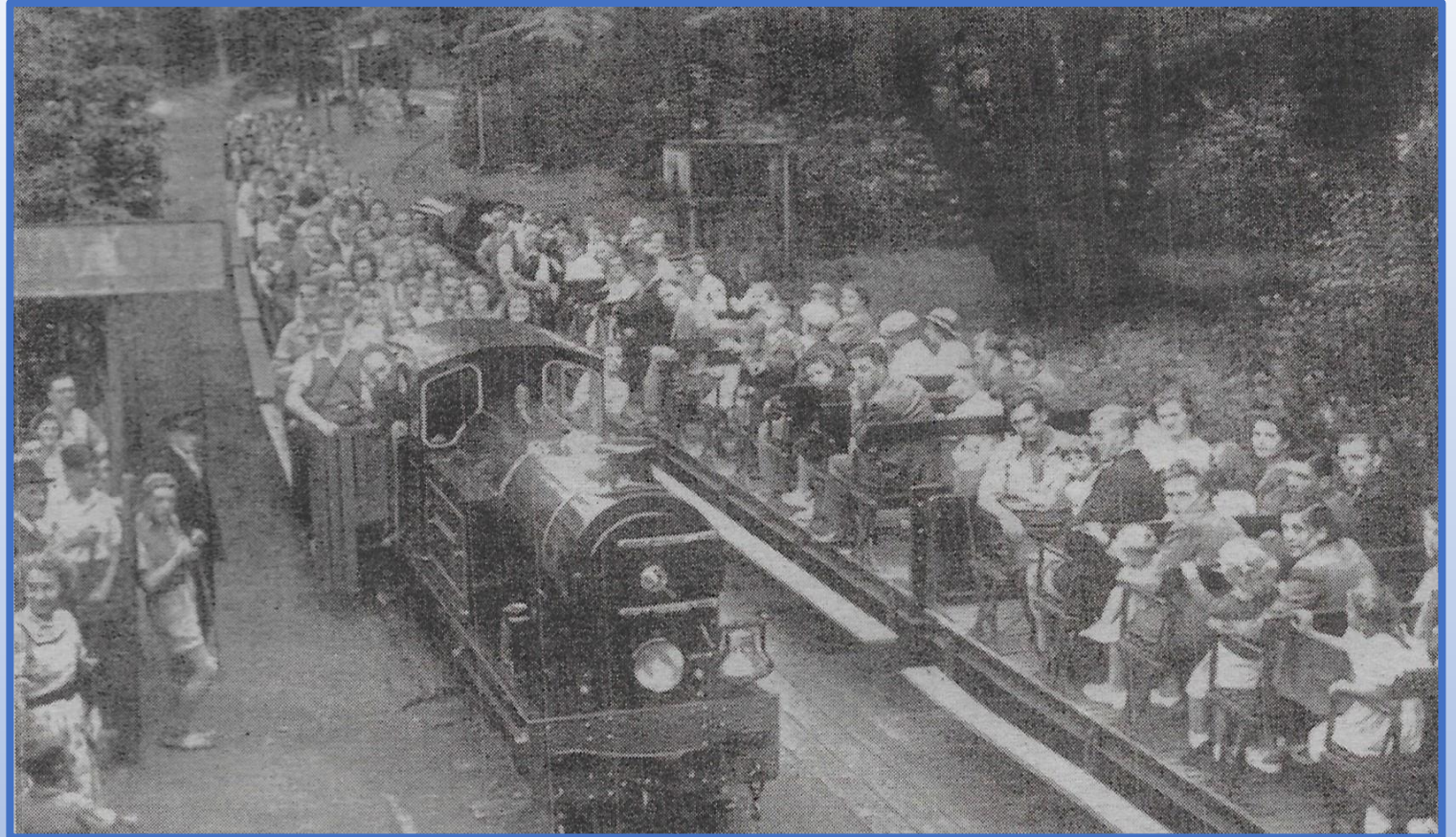
The three locomotives that ran on the Trentham Gardens railway

Driving the trains

For 30 years the principal train driver on the Trentham Gardens railway was Jack Gouldstone.

He started work there in 1938 and can be seen leaning out of Dunrobin's engine cab.

He lived in the house within the grounds of Trentham School on the Stone Road and had ten children with his wife Freda. Sometimes the children acted as unofficial conductors on the trains.

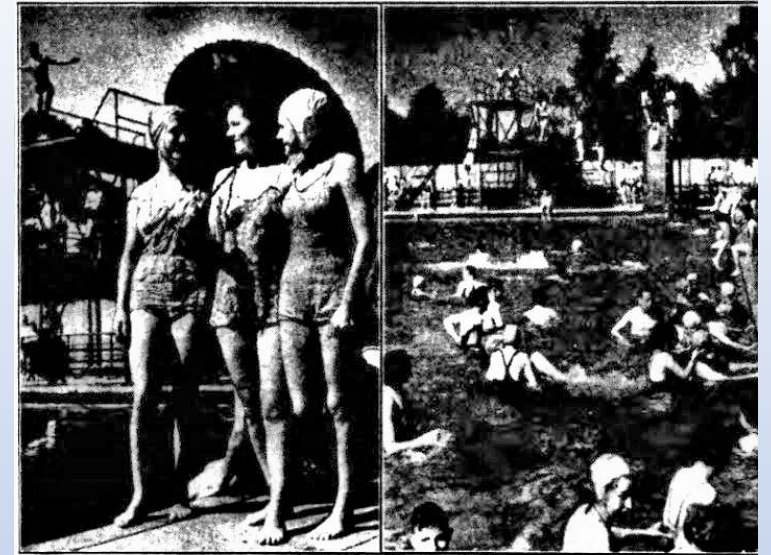


A conductor's story

“In the 1960s I was a ticket conductor on this train and Jack Gouldstone was the driver. The conductors had to stand on a running board by the side of the carriages and hang on with one hand and take money and issue tickets with the other, while the train reached speeds of over 20 mph. Sometimes conductors fell off and Jack had to stop while we picked up all the money that had been scattered over the tracks and by the lake. Today Health and Safety would not allow it.” Duncan Cartlidge 2012 https://www.francisfrith.com/uk/trentham/trentham-railway_memory-275021

The pool remained open during World War Two

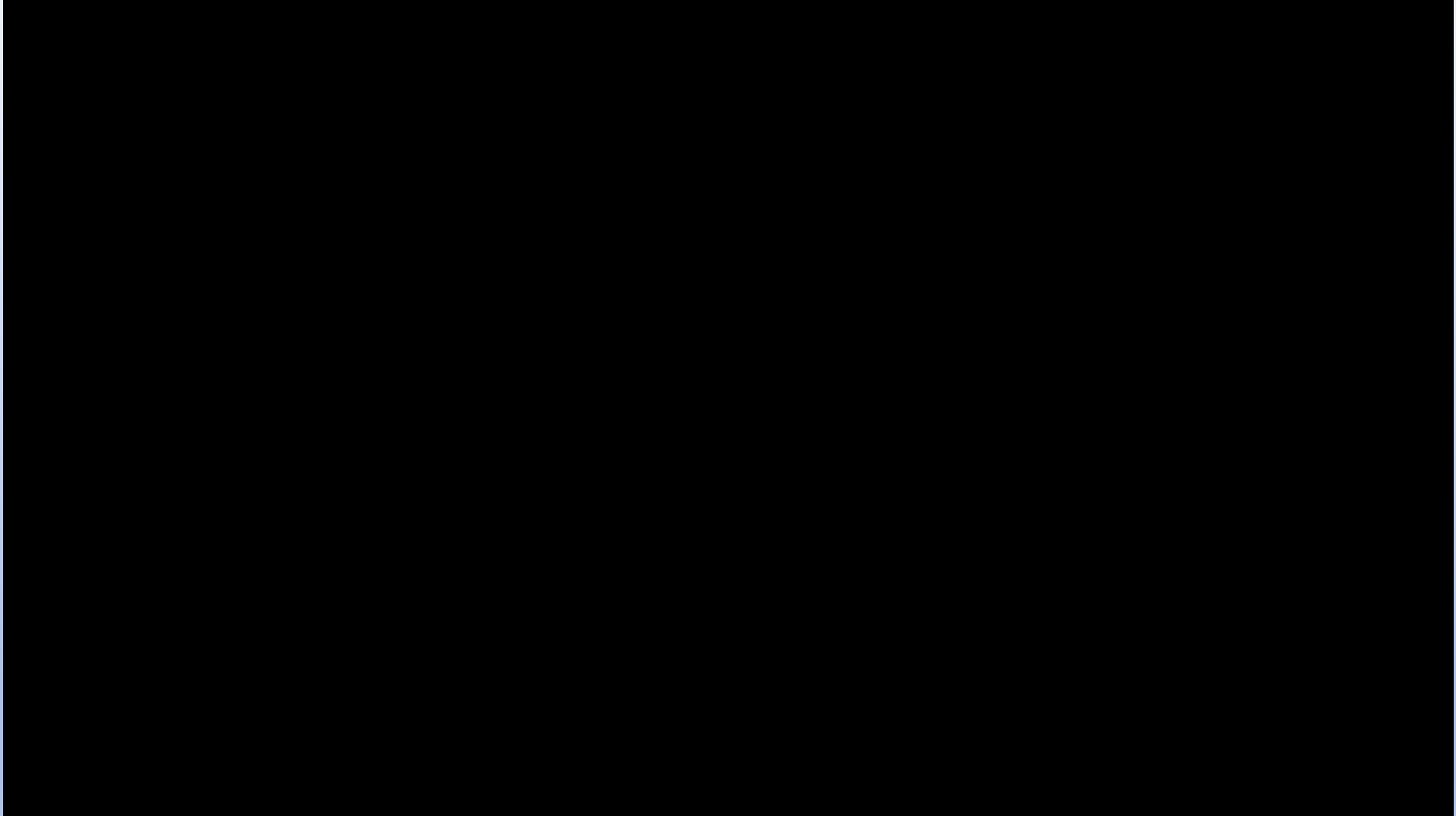
Evacuated bank staff from the Central Clearing House, based in the Gardens Ballroom, and convalescent soldiers from the local camp made good use of the pool during their occupation



WORKERS' PLAYTIME.—With the continuance of the warm, sunny spell, the swimming pool at **Trinham** Gardens has become an even more popular rendezvous. Clerks from the **Banks Central Clearing House**, which is closed down shortly, seek relief from the heat by a refreshing plunge into the cooling waters of the pool during their leisure hours.



Vintage film footage of the pool in the 1940s



1940s - 1950s



SWIMMING POOL

TRENTHAM GARDENS

Popular destination for day trips in the 1950s

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1953

SATURDAY, 23rd MAY
DANCING TO NORMAN JONES AND THE TRENTHAM GARDENS BALLROOM ORCHESTRA. from 8 p.m.—11.45 p.m.
Licensed Bar applied for
Admission to Gardens and Ballroom 3/6.


SUNDAY 24th MAY
A LIGHT ORCHESTRA will play in the BALLROOM during tea from 3 p.m.—6 p.m.

WHIT MONDAY, 25th MAY
DANCING to The BLUE STARS ORCHESTRA and NORMAN JONES and The TRENTHAM GARDENS BALLROOM ORCHESTRA from 8 p.m.—1 a.m. Licensed Bar applied for
Admission to Gardens and Ballroom 6/-

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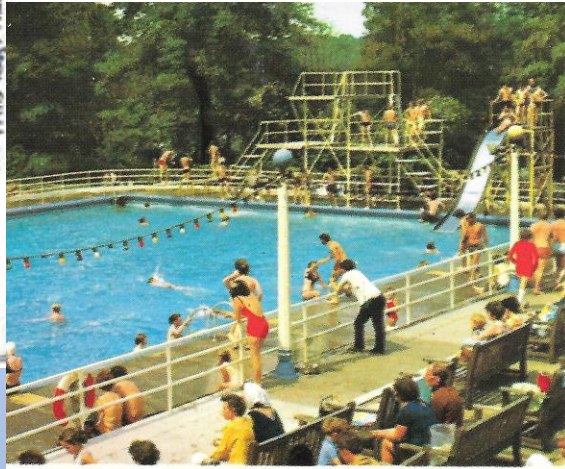
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Dear Mummy and Daddy
I did have a nice time there. This picture is the swimming pool.
I had three ice-creams I had to go on the train.
love
xx xx Penelope xx

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Greetings from TRENTHAM GARDENS

Postcard sent in 1957



1950-60s



THE SWIMMING POOL, TRENTHAM GARDENS, STAFFORDSHIRE

K. 6272

Still swinging in the 1960s



There were regular swimming galas, diving competitions and bathing beauty contests with celebrity judges.



Noele Gordon
20 July 1961



Pat Phoenix
21 May 1966



David Frost
22 July 1973

Long Distance Swimming Championships in Trentham Lake



The pool was not the only place for swimmers! Trentham Lake was used by The British Long Distance Swimming Association and the Amateur Swimming Association for 3 mile and 5 mile races between 1963 and 1982.

Competitors used the swimming pool facilities for briefings and changing.

Local resident and long distance swimmer Dilys Beynon recalls her involvement: “*My introduction to Trentham Pool was in April 1963, when the British Long Distance Swimming Association, ran a pre-season training course in the pool, prior to its seasonal opening.*

We camped within the grounds and had the use of a small hut to gather for hot drinks and games. But we were always up again at dawn to do our training in the pool. Happy days!”



Dilys with her champion's trophy for the Trentham Lake swim in 1970

COMING ATTRACTIONS!

THIS SUNDAY at 1.30 p.m.
THE FABULOUS

TRENTHAM LAKE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Midland Championships of the British Long Distance Swimming Association. The second annual 2 lap (approx. 3 miles) race round **Trentham Lake** including entrants from all parts of Britain. Why not make a day of it and bring the kiddies. Usual admission charges — Adults 2/6, Children 1/-.

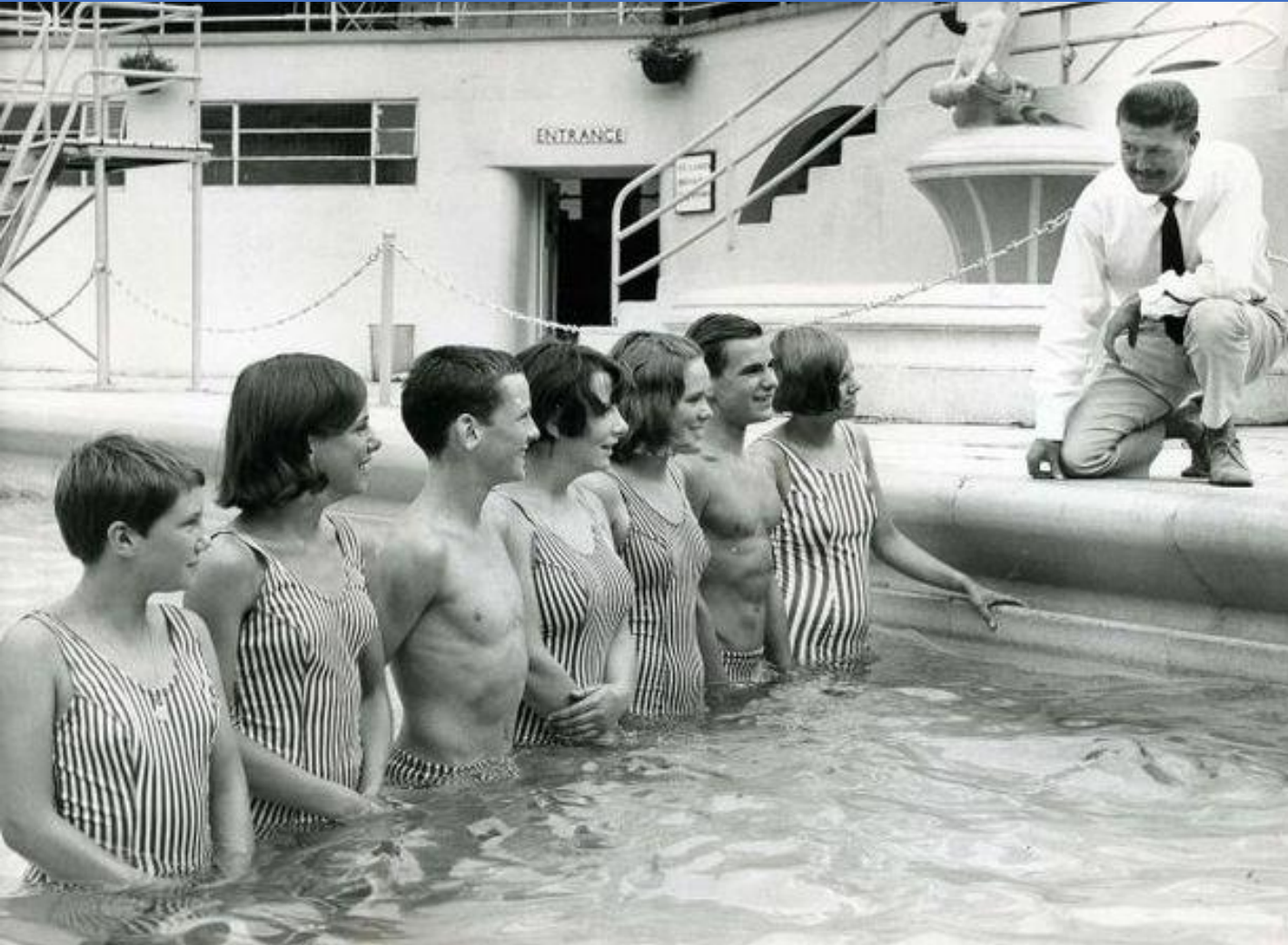
The magnificent Highland Restaurant will be open for meals before and after the race. Avoid disappointment book your table by phone — Tel.: Stoke-on-Trent 57341, Ext. 54.

Swimming

Long-distance races in **Trentham Lake**

The first Midland long-distance **swimming** championships will take place on **Sunday** and will cover two circuits of **Trentham Park lake**—a distance of approximately three miles—starting at 1.30 p.m.

Use of pool for training



Coach Ray Fear with young COSSACS swimmers at the pool. Often known as the “Swim Kids”, some went on to swim the English Channel.

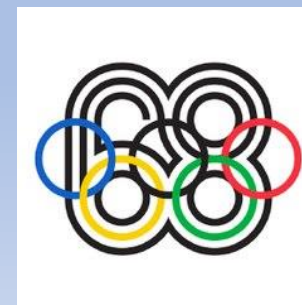
Olympic swimmers Norman Wainwright and Bob Leivers both used Trentham Pool for training purposes.

Norman Wainwright in the 1936 Olympics



Dilys after record breaking Channel relay swim 1974

When practicing for long distance swims, including the English Channel, in the 1970s, Dilys Beynon was allowed to swim all night in the Trentham pool, often for 12 hours without interruption. Her efforts were supported by Reg Jones the pool manager. Dilys was one of the last people to swim in the pool before it closed.



Some swimmers taking part in 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico also used the pool for training

Trentham's Hollywood Lido

Philip Bradbeer, general manager at the Gardens until 1983, was interviewed for The Sentinel - Way We Were August 2002

“ The pool was open from May to the end of August. Sometimes attracting over 20,000 on a Bank Holiday weekend. Folks came from all over the Midlands. There was always a tremendous atmosphere.

Later the management organised BBQs by the pool with The Place nightclub. We'd get complaints from as far as Penkhull about the smell of the food and the music could be heard in Barlaston.

The pool was also used for swimming and diving competitions.

The pool was a wonderful place for families and young people. I can't think of another pool that came anywhere near it.

It was like a Hollywood film set.”

The Way We Were

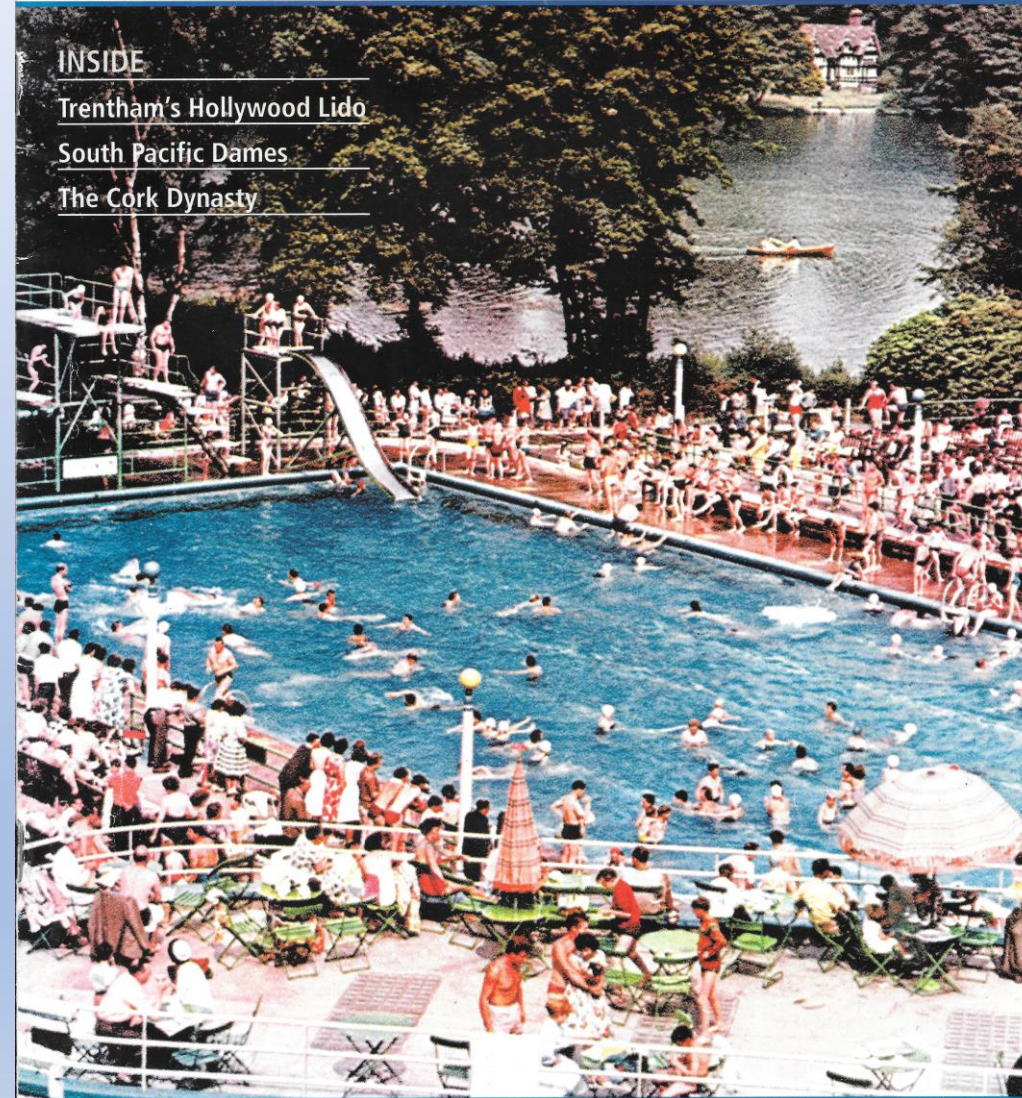
NUMBER 84 ★ AUGUST 2002 ★ £1.50

INSIDE

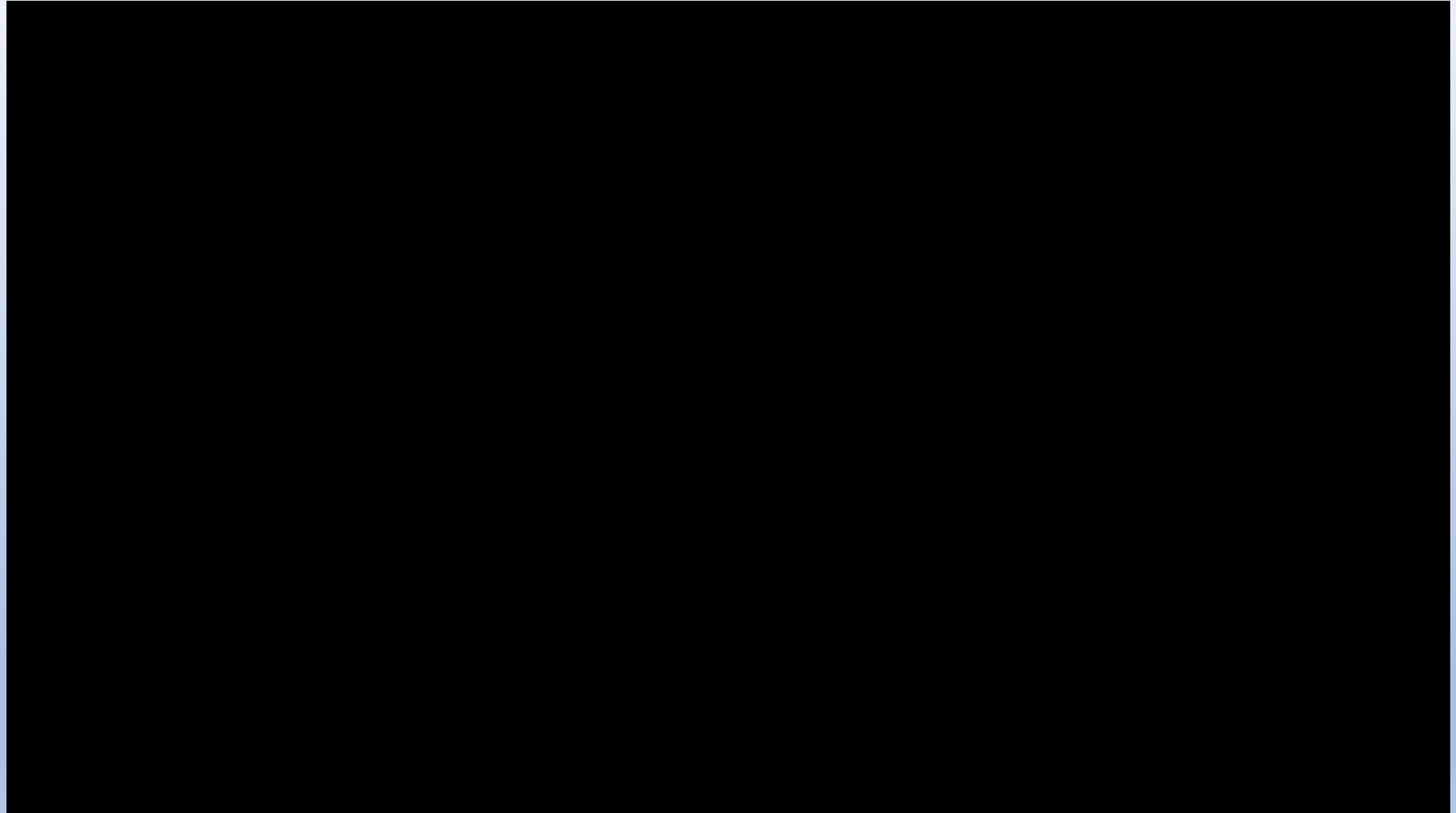
Trentham's Hollywood Lido

South Pacific Dames

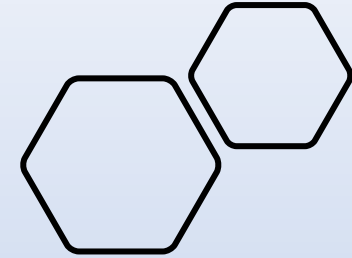
The Cork Dynasty



Vintage film footage of the pool in the 1960 and 70s



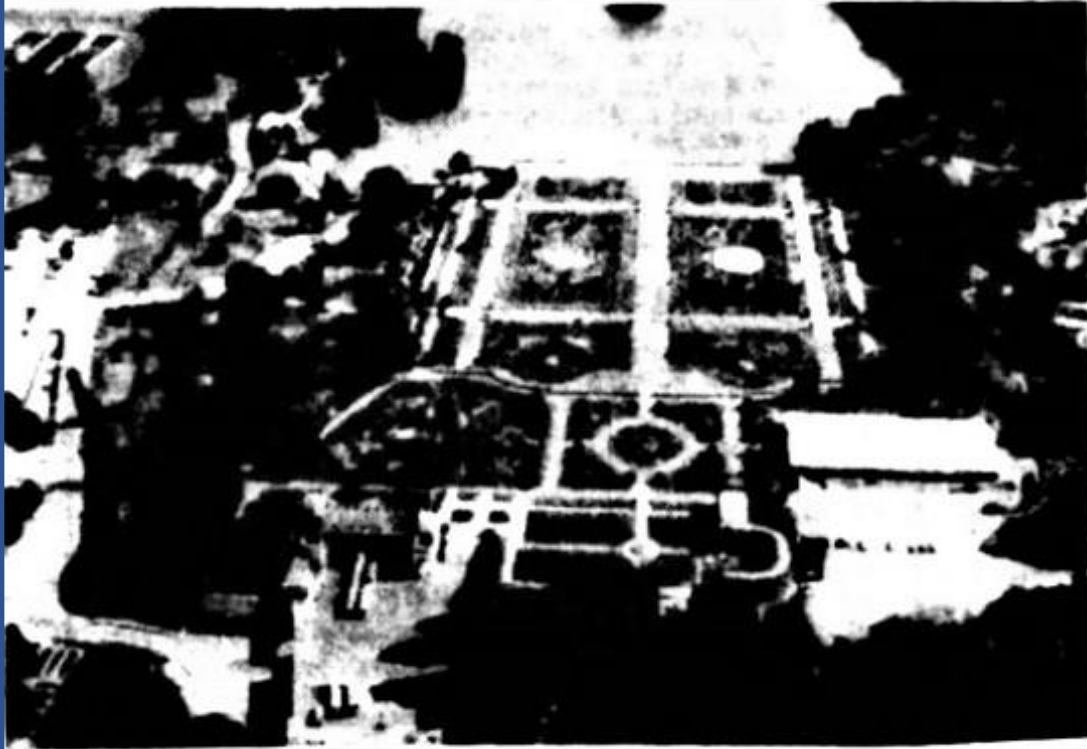
Decline and closure



The pool declined rapidly after the long hot summer of 1976 and soon fell into disrepair.

The major factors were damage from subsidence, caused by coal mining activities at Hem Heath Colliery, plus the lack of recent investment and the increasingly uncertain financial situation.

Countess to sell Midland leisure centre



For sale . . . Trentham Gardens at Stoke-on-Trent, which have belonged to the Countess of Sutherland's family for over 200 years and were laid out by Capability Brown.

Trentham Gardens, one of the first gardens in the country to be opened to the public, are to be sold by the Countess of Sutherland whose family has owned the property for nearly 200 years.

The gardens, at Stoke-on-Trent, have developed into one of the Midlands' leading pleasure and entertainment centres visited by many thousands of people each year.

No price is being quoted by the owner's agents but the 720-acre gardens are likely to fetch about £2 million.

Demolished

Mr. Richard Lalonde, a partner of Lalonde Bros. & Parham, of Bristol, joint agent with Cluttons of London, said that they were already dealing with one of two interested parties.

Birmingham Post Reporter

"There is considerable development potential in the recreational areas of the leisure gardens. There is a lot of space available and we understand that the right sort of planning application would be received fairly favourably," he said.

He said that they expected interest from public companies but did not rule out the property going to a private buyer.

The public was allowed into the grounds of **Trentham** Hall on public holidays during the owner's absence before the hall was demolished in 1911. It was built in 1633 and rebuilt in 1838 by Sir Charles Barry, architect of the Houses of Parliament.

In the 1920s the public was allowed in regularly and now the gardens are

open every day except Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

War service

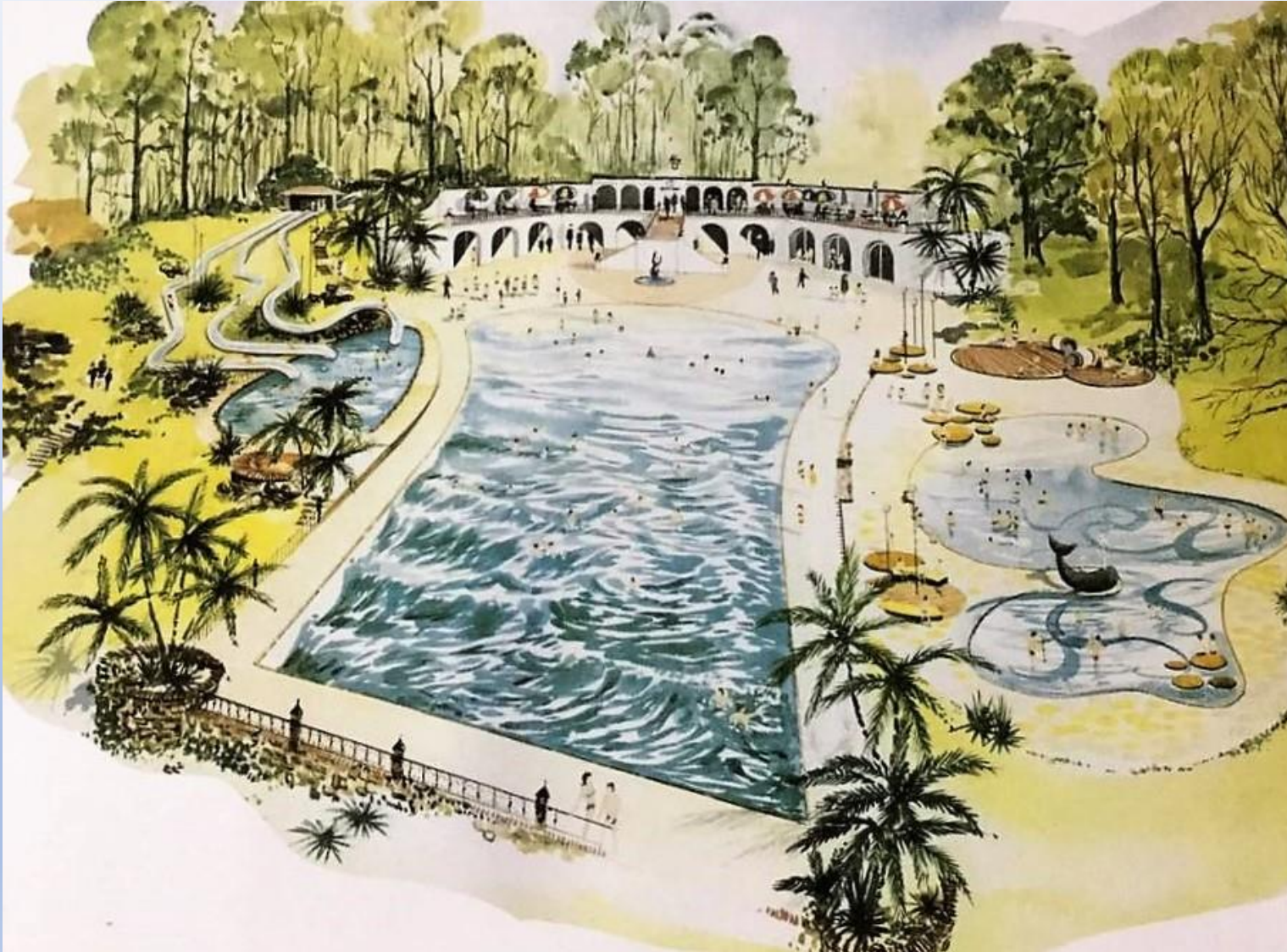
The gardens became so popular that by the fourth Duke of Sutherland's will trustees were set up to administer the estate as pleasure gardens.

In 1931 the ballroom which accommodates 3,000 people was built and a **swimming pool** complex was added in 1935. During the Second World War the Bankers Clearing House was transferred to **Trentham**.

A 450-seat restaurant and bar were built adjoining the ballroom in 1964. Its facilities are now used for conferences, exhibitions and entertaining and are run by about 140 staff.

The gardens were laid out by Capability Brown at the end of the 18th century.

John Broome's vision for Trentham



John Broome, owner of Alton Towers, bought the Gardens in September 1981 for around £3 million. In July 1982 he announced his plans for “Project Trentham”.

The famous lido was to be refurbished, with the addition of a wave machine and several water slides to become the “Spring Valley Wild Water Lido”.

There were proposals to construct a retractable roof over the pool, capable of withstanding two feet of snow. A jacuzzi, sauna, solarium, gymnasium, bar and restaurant would also feature.

The plans for the estate did not materialise, despite some initial investment and improvements taking place. Broome sold the estate to the National Coal Board in 1984 and the pool's fate was inevitable.

Decay

1984



Former ticket office



Art Deco light fittings in café

Dereliction



Demolition



The pool was finally demolished in early May 1986 by the National Coal Board.

The buildings were bulldozed into the pool.

End of the line for the miniature railway

Due to the decline in visitor numbers to the Gardens, three trains were no longer required, so Brora was moved to Scotland. It now resides in its own shed on the platform of the private station for Dunrobin Castle the ancestral home of the Dukes of Sutherland.

In the early 80s the remaining engines were renamed Trentham Express and Trentham Flyer.

The line closed in 1987. The track was lifted in 1988 and the engines were moved to storage at Alton Towers.

Eventually Dunrobin/Trentham Flyer re-entered service on a railway at East Links Family Park, Dunbar.

Golspie/Trentham Express is currently in the care of the Stafford Narrow Gauge Railway Society at its Amerton Farm base.

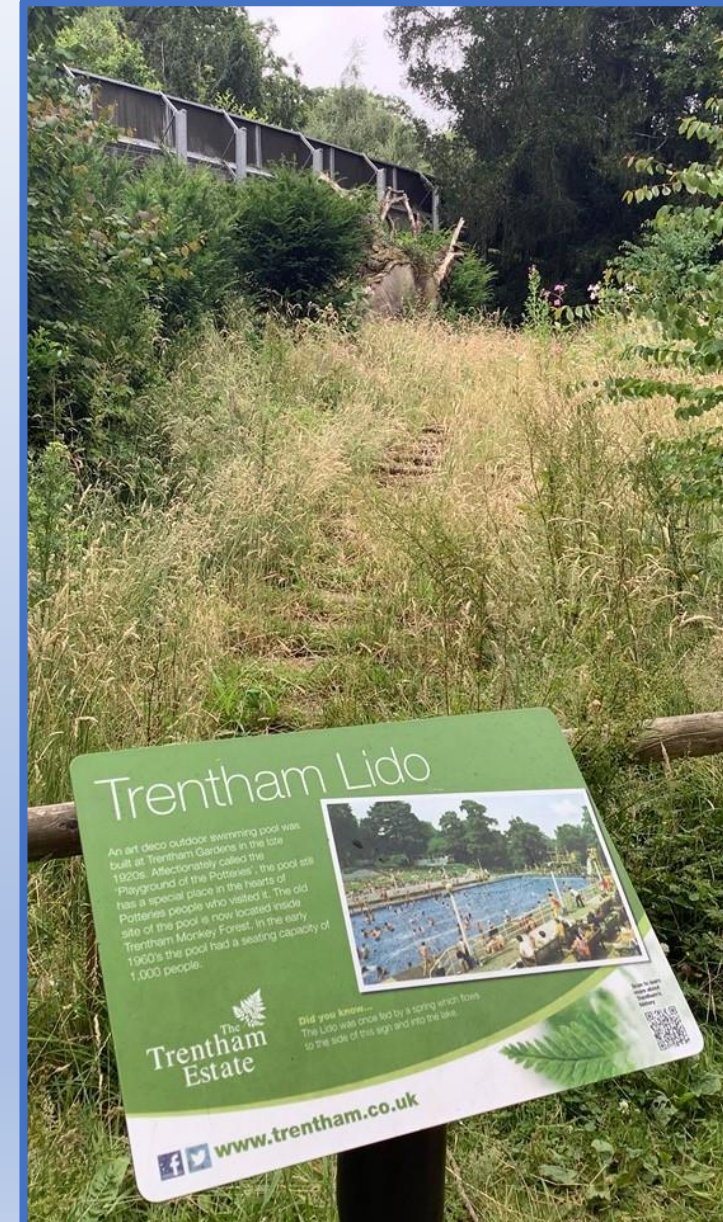


Trentham Flyer 1986

Hidden traces of a former era

Apart from people's nostalgic memories, the only traces of the pool are the remains of a set of steps that rise up from the main path on the western side of the lake and disappear into the fenced compound of the Monkey Forest.

The only remains of the train route is the well trodden path along the lake towards its southern tip, where there was once a turnaround and small station.



40 years of memories

Jungle Playground
Heated **Swimming Pool**
Crazy and Miniature Golf
Boats & Motor Boats

Italian Gardens
numerous other
Show Gardens
Two Garden Shops

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STILL THE BEST
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FOR ALL THE
FAMILY

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(STAFFORDSHIRE)

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wonderful

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where there's something for everyone
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Excellent, fully licensed catering **ORGANISE YOUR
NEXT COACH TRIP OR WORKS OUTING
TO TRENTHAM GARDENS—**

Snaps from the Miles' family album



1955 Steve Miles

Ted Miles, my Dad, loved the pool and his favourite thing was to let me dive off his shoulders when I was little. Our family spent very many happy weekends there. He was so sad when it closed.



1955 Ted Miles, swimming pool lifeguard,
3rd from the right



1964 Jacqui Miles

I remember striving to dive from the high platform like the "big boys". I could go feet first easily but head-first was a big challenge for a 12-year-old. I eventually got the courage and did it, but I don't think I was very elegant. I preferred to jump and enjoyed the feeling of leaving my tummy somewhere in mid flight.

You could never swim in the pool. It was always too full, you just stood in the water like a sardine!

It was like going on holiday for us poor Stokies!



My friends and I could never afford the 9d to ride the train and it was quite a trek on foot. So we'd walk along the track until we heard the train coming, then hide in the rhododendron bushes until it passed, run after it and jump on the running boards of the rear carriage. The first section of track after the station was inclined upward so the train would be going slow enough to catch. After about halfway along, however, we had no chance of running after it, but we'd be nearly there by then anyway.

The water and changing rooms were freezing. There was a mangle to squeeze the water out of your costume!

The changing rooms had concrete walls separating the cubicles. I remember so well the cold concrete floor which was wet, slimy and slippery and I didn't like walking on it in my bare feet

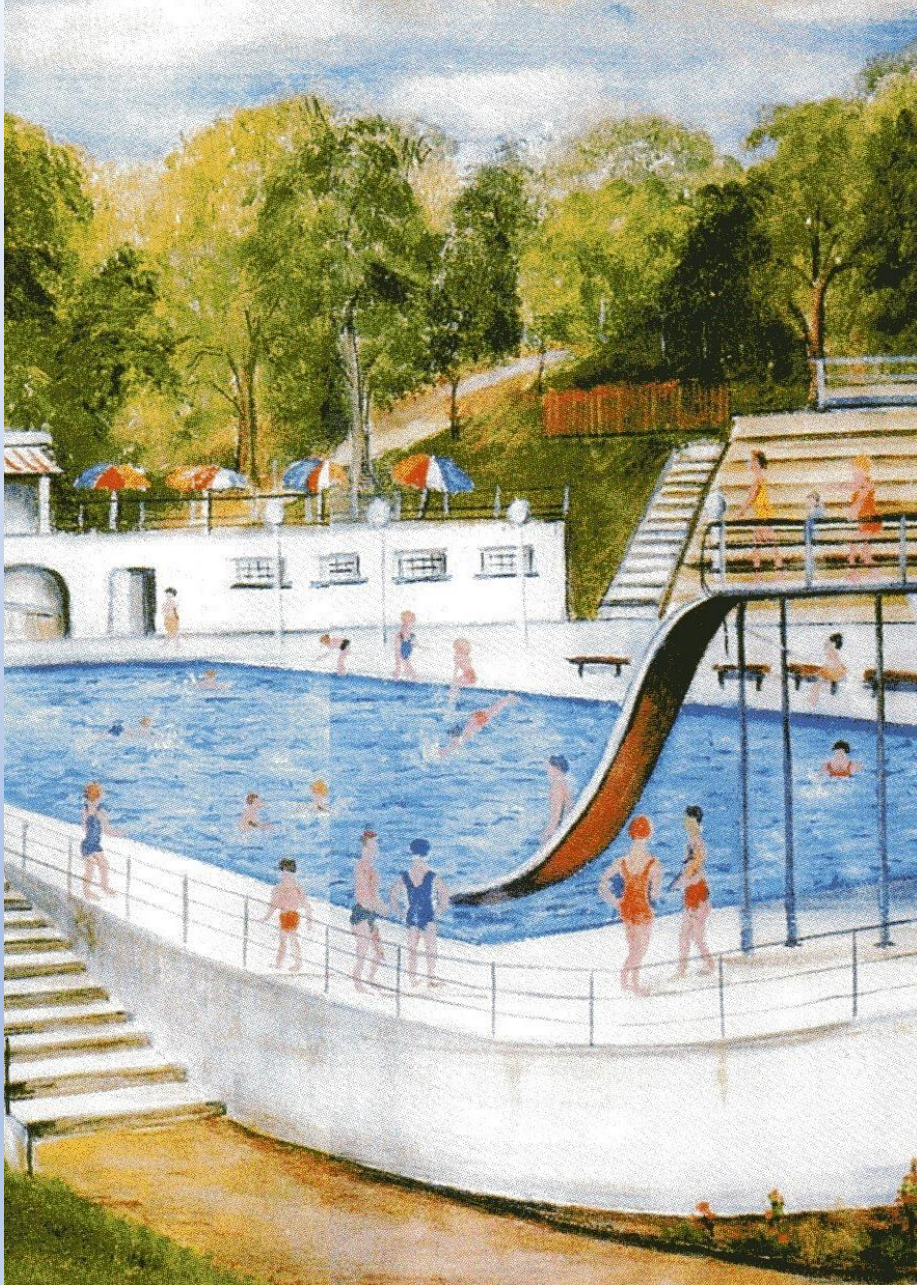
Spent many a happy hour in the pool. But I also remember a dirty foot bath in and out of the changing room.



We went in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Loved cycling along to spend time there with my sister

I remember the baskets. They had a metal disc on with a unique number. You had to remember the number to get your clothes back, but if you couldn't, you just pointed out your basket on the shelves behind the attendant.

There were always lots of flies in the water under the slides, attracted by the sun cream coming off the swimmers. But it was still fun.



The Potteries Playground

This month's painting by Alf Wakefield depicts a scene from yesteryear which is familiar to thousands of North Staffordshire people. Trentham Gardens swimming pool was a favourite venue for a day out for 40 years until it was forced to close through mining subsidence.

SURROUNDED BY TALL TREES and built in the art deco style, the open-air swimming pool at Trentham Gardens was like a setting for a Hollywood movie in the 1930s.

Both before and after the Second World War, it was a magnet for North Staffordshire people. On a sunny Bank Holiday it wasn't unusual for the pool to attract up to 8,000 visitors, most of them there to swim.

Alf Wakefield has reproduced a scene on a day when the pool was relatively quiet and the elegant architecture could be seen to its best advantage. Among the distinctive features were the broad staircase up to the balcony cafe and the arches leading to the changing rooms.

Another well-remembered item

was the large ornamental clock with fingers in the shape of fish which was fixed on the cafe building and could be seen from all corners of the enclosure. What most visitors didn't know, however, was that the steel-work structures supporting the diving stages and the slides were made at Shelton Bar, where the artist himself was employed for many years as a foreman electrician.

The pool – known universally as Trentham Baths – was first opened in 1935 when the Hanley-born Olympic swimmer Norman Wainwright did the first length. Among the spectators was the Countess of Sutherland, whose family had formerly lived at Trentham Hall and then owned Trentham Gardens.

In the early days many people walked all the way to the baths from Stoke or Newcastle, although the last

half mile could be done in comfort aboard the miniature railway which ran alongside Trentham lake and past the swimming pool.

Visitors soon found, however, that the first dip in the pool could be a shock to the system, as it was fed by a small stream and the water was always very cold, even on the hottest day.

As Alf recalls, the sun seemed to shine all the time in the pool's heyday in the late 1940s and 1950s. Some children spent the whole day there, sustained only by jam sandwiches and a bottle of water.

In the 1960s thousands of young people were attracted to the popular Friday night barbecue and disco around the pool, organised by a local night club.

Attendances continued to hold up well in summertime even into the 1970s, but the venue finally had to close in 1975 when the bottom of the pool was found to be damaged by mining subsidence.

Some years later the bulldozers moved in and nothing now remains of a place which for 40 years was a much-loved Potteries playground.

Sentinel Way We Were July 2002

Painted memories

A lazy day at the pool by Jo Watson





Produced by
The Trentham at War Project

Research - Marilyn Vigurs

Thanks to the following:

Vintage Film - Ray Johnson and the Staffordshire Film Archive

Images from various sources, including Stoke Postcards, Staffordshire Archives, Dilys Beynon David Cooke, Jacqui Dance, Julie Godwin, Alan Myatt, Paul and Elisabeth Newman, Helen Randall and Peter Skilbeck

News cuttings – Staffordshire Sentinel and Birmingham Post

Paintings – Alf Wakefield and Jo Watson

Sources – Trentham Reflections by Graham Bebbington
Churnet Valley Books 2005
and

Tales from the Towers: The Unofficial Story Behind Alton Towers
by Nick Sim Theme Park Tourist publications 2013

Thank you for watching

If you have any photos or film or memories to share, please contact us
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