

# WELCOME TO THE RCT TOGETHER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: 09

JULY 2025 – SEPT 2025 – PADDLING POOL & SPLASHPAD EDITION

---

RCT TOGETHER

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES AND RESIDENTS TO THRIVE



[RCT Together - Supporting Communities and Residents to Thrive | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council](#)

## Content:

- Page 2 – Summer Highlights 2025
- Page 3 – Council Support
- Page 4 – Lifeguard Recruitment & Training Outcomes
- Page 5 – Treorchy Paddling Pool
- Pages 6 - Lee Gardens Pool, Penrhwceiber
- Page 7 – Aquadare Splashpad, Aberdare
- Page 8 – Butchers Pool, Ynysybwl
- Page 9 – Gwernifor Paddling Pool – Mt Ash
- Page 10 – Community Development Team Contact Details

Community Paddling pools and Splashpad provided free access to facilities along with events and other free activities such as free fruit, food, entertainment and games during the Summer Holiday period of 2025

- Treorchy Paddling Pool
- Lee Gardens Pool (Penrhiwceiber)
- Gwernifor Paddling Pool (Mt Ash)
- Butchers Pool (Ynysybwl?)
- Aquadare Splashpad – Aberdare

## Summer 2025 Highlights

### **Community Engagement and Visits**

Over 10,126 visits were recorded across five community-run pools and splashpads, highlighting their popularity.

### **Volunteer and Lifeguard Support**

The initiative employed **22 lifeguards** and engaged **62 volunteers** to ensure safe and smooth operation.

### **Fundraising and Social Impact**

Fundraising across the groups raised in excess of £89,238, enabling free access and activities, generating a social return of investment (SROI) for every £1 invested, it generated £37.07 of Social Value.

### **Pool Locations and Community Well-being**

The four pools and Splashpad enhanced community well-being with safe summer recreation spots.



# Council Support



## Safety and Maintenance

- Leisure ensured pool safety through lifeguard recruitment & training, water testing, and regular maintenance tasks. Approving repairs and negotiating agreements for water use to maintain facility operations.

## Facilities Management

- Corporate Estates managed lease renewals and updating Safe Operating Procedures in line with guidance from Leisure.

## Community Collaboration

- Community Development Team coordinated planning meetings and supported groups to access funding for activities.



# Lifeguard Training



## Comprehensive Lifeguard Training

- A variety of training programs equipped lifeguards with essential qualifications and skills for pool safety and supervision. **17 people completed pool related training in 2025.**

## Succession Planning Strategy

- Lee Gardens Pool funded National Pool Lifeguard Qualification (NPLQ) for volunteers who repaid the cost through work shifts, ensuring future lifeguard availability.

## Career Development Opportunities

- The program supported career growth with some lifeguards moving into leisure centre roles, fostering community engagement. **22 x lifeguards were employed to support paddling pool activities in 2025.**



# Treorchy Paddling Pool – Friends of Treorchy Park



<https://treorchy.org.uk/>

Email [treorchypark@gmail.com](mailto:treorchypark@gmail.com)

Tel: 07865 354402

## Renovations and Improvements

- Significant upgrades improved water circulation and structural integrity of the paddling pool in 2025.

## Visitor Engagement

- The pool welcomed 838 visitors including children and adults, with many fun activities throughout summer including “ALN quiet sessions” which were appreciated by families.

## Volunteer Lifeguards

- Five new young volunteers trained and passed lifeguard exams, helping to ensure pool safety.

## Community Support

- A GoFundMe campaign raised over £5,095 in 24 hours to fix a pump, showing strong local support. Thank you also to Pen Y Cymoedd and RCT Council for additional funding.



**Friends of Treorchy Park  
PADDLING POOL  
OPENING TIMES 2025**  
**Open 11am to 5pm 7 days a week**  
**12th July to 7th September**  
**Hokey Cokey Entertainments**  
on various days (weather dependent)  
Keep updated using our Facebook Page

**Tuesday and Thursday**  
**11am to 2pm ALN session only**

**FREE FRUIT**  
for kids  
to availability

A huge thank you to  
the Unite Union  
for helping us provide  
fresh fruit for the children



### ON BUSY DAYS!

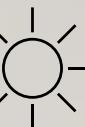
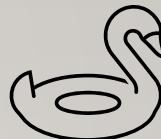
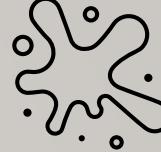
Please be aware that we cannot guarantee access on busy days and if our pool capacity is reached, we will introduce sessions using armbands. On these days, this could mean limited time in the pool! If it gets very busy, we may even have to restrict entrance to the entire paddling pool area. Please bear this in mind when coming to the park.

Email: [treorchypark@gmail.com](mailto:treorchypark@gmail.com)

“My kids have had a whale of a time with you through the summer, right up ‘til today in the rain ☺”



“Thank you all for giving your time that allows our kids to make memories they will always remember” (parent)



# RCT TOGETHER

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES AND RESIDENTS TO THRIVE



# Lee Gardens Pool - Penrhiwceiber

Contact 07775 792543

<https://www.leegardenspool.co.uk/contact-us>



## Summer Season Success

- Lee Gardens Pool attracted nearly 5,000 visits in 31 days during the successful 2025 summer season, with 794 individual children and 540 individual adults attending.

## Lifeguard Training and Staffing

- Six lifeguards trained to NPLQ standards replaced volunteers, supported by dedicated staff and payroll services. We continue to pay for the training of volunteer lifeguards & watching them flourish is very rewarding. Huge thanks go to Megan, Morgan, Ella, Cody, Lowri and Carter who gave up their summer holiday to do lifeguarding at the pool.

## Accessibility and Inclusion

- Pool accessibility improved with ramps and aqua wheelchairs, fostering an inclusive, welcoming environment for all visitors.

## Community Support and Funding

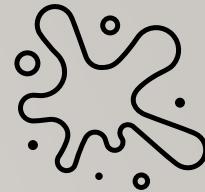
- Funding from local organizations including RCT Council, Interlink & Welsh Church Act covered operational costs, enabling maintenance and various community programs.



24 volunteers and 7 staff kept everyone fed, watered and safe. Thanks also to St Winifreds Church (Penrhiwceiber) for organising the food for Street Games and Fit & Fed

# RCT TOGETHER

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES AND RESIDENTS TO THRIVE



## Aquadare Splashpad – Friends of Aberdare Park (FOAP)



### **Inclusive Outdoor Play**

- Aquadare Splashpad offers a dynamic and accessible play area with quiet sessions for children's diverse needs.

### **Community and Volunteer Support**

- The splashpad is supported by volunteers and strong community ties, with year round fundraising events ensuring operational sustainability.

### **Sustainability Initiatives**

- 2025 marked the first year of solar panel usage, reducing the splashpad's environmental impact towards Net Zero goals.

### **Ten Years of Success**

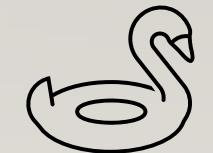
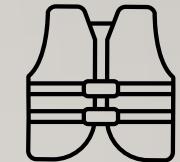
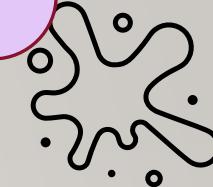
- Celebrating a decade of community engagement, the splashpad is praised for fun, safety, and weather suitability.

**9 volunteers all helped run and support the splashpad - THANK YOU**

We are now looking to recruit more volunteers for 2026. If you are interested, please contact us on [foaberdare@gmail.com](mailto:foaberdare@gmail.com) or phone 07789 212146  
<https://www.facebook.com/AberdareParkWales/>

‘Thank you all for your time and Volunteering’

‘I saw how much fun the kids were having when I was up there today. Perfect for this weather’



**RCT TOGETHER**

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES AND RESIDENTS TO THRIVE



## Butchers Pool – 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Message



### Community Management Milestone

- Butchers Pool celebrated 10 years of successful community management showcasing strong local commitment and resilience.

### Visitor Support and Activities

- The pool hosted 1,751 summer holiday visits supported by lifeguards, volunteers, and engaging children's events.

### Funding and Partnerships

- Funding was secured from grants and local organizations, enabling operation and community projects at Butchers Pool.

### Volunteer Importance and Future Needs

- Volunteers are vital to the pool's operation, with urgent calls for more help to sustain the facility long-term.

**Heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported us in 2025.**

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2026!

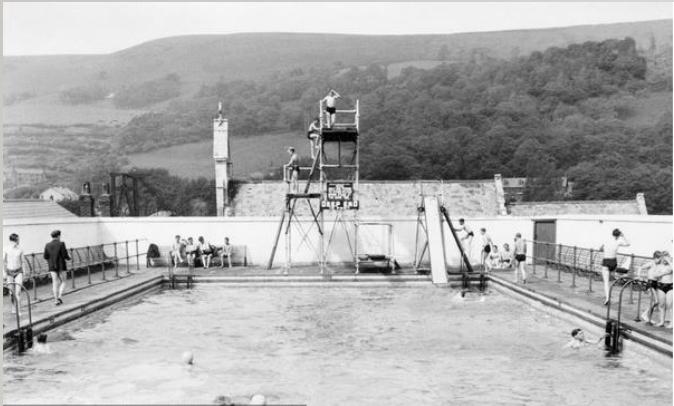
Volunteers are the lifeblood of Butchers Pool and it is their efforts that keep this much-loved community facility alive.

Looking ahead, we urgently need more people to come forward and join our volunteer team. Without greater community involvement, the future of the pool is at risk. Please consider giving a little of your time. Together, we can keep Butchers Pool open for many more years to come.

Please contact [Hayley@ypwales](mailto:Hayley@ypwales) for any further information.

<https://www.ynysybwlvision.wales/butchers-paddling-pool>





## Summer Season Success

- Gwernifor Pool welcomed over 2,515 visitors during the six-week summer holidays in 2025.

## Inclusive Quiet Sessions

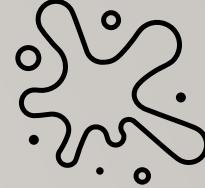
- Weekly quiet sessions were held every Thursday to support children with Additional Learning Needs.

## Community Support and Funding

- Funding was secured to help cover repair costs and maintenance.

## Resilience and Safety

- The team quickly responded to any challenges and lifeguards ensured a safe environment for visitors.





And don't forget you can contact any member of the Community Development Team ☺

**Get in touch with the team**

**Community Asset Transfer**

**Get in touch with the team**

**Community Resilience Hub and Neighbourhood Network Team**

**Get in touch with the team**

**Funding and Resource Support Team**



Ariennir gan  
Llywodraeth Cymru  
Funded by  
Welsh Government



Funded by  
UK Government



Wedi ei ariannu gan  
Llywodraeth y DU