

Marlens
Lake Care Team
Report to AGM
4 March 2018

Volunteers

It has been a very busy year for the volunteers. Not a week has gone by without volunteers patrolling the Lake and keeping it clean, tidy and in good repair. The volunteer force is healthy but we always welcome new volunteers to help, especially those who are free mid-week. Anyone with average DIY skills is welcome to join the Technical Team to keep our maintenance up to scratch.

Silt

Apart from our normal day to day tidy-ups we shifted mud from a drained Lake in early March and late September last year. In September we successfully used a digger to clean the model boat pool, which is our reservoir for flushing the main Lake when technically possible.

Water Retention

The late September Lake drain down gave Dyer & Butler the opportunity to finally resolve the penstock leakage issue that has plagued us since handover. We're happy to report that the penstock no longer leaks.

Splash Pools & Hand Pump

The splash pools have been drained and pressure washed several times during the year. The build-up of silt is unavoidable but our efforts at pressure washing and treating the concrete with an algae repellent appear to be working.

The hand pump has been troublesome. The internal mechanism failed in May and was removed and repaired by the Technical Team. In September it failed again because of a seal issue and was repaired but not reinstated due to the proximity of the close season at the Lake.

Promenade Flags

These have been maintained for NSC by the Technical Team, with new flags erected on the 5th April and taken down again when wrecked by the season's higher winds on the 20th November. The stump of the snapped main Salthouse Fields flag pole was also removed by the Marlens Technical Team when requested by NSC.

Seating

In November the Technical Team oversaw the temporary closure of the Lake whilst contractors occupied the site to install 5 concrete plinths which serve as robust seating by the side of the Lake.

Connectivity

During October and November we had broadband installed at the shutter store. The Technical Team installed the equipment and we now have a webcam available to view through the new Clevedon Marine Lake website.

Events

Marlens volunteers, in addition to working to keep the Lake in good order, have worked tirelessly to support a range of fund raising and other events such as: 2 Winterfests (2017 & 2018), Lake Open Day, the Marlens Open Water Series, the Cadence Triathlon, Thundercats, the Tides Festival, switch-on of Clevedon Christmas lights, St Nicholas Fayre and Light Up the Lake in December.

Maintenance

The Technical Team has completed all maintenance and repair tasks around the Lake and the shutter store. We've installed broadband, WiFi and a webcam, shelving, lashing rings for boats, hooks for swimmers' clothing, warning signs, prepared and painted the roller shutter door, replaced securing bolts for the Lake steps near the old pump house, re-secured Lakeside barge boards, removed a concrete ramp in the boat store and replaced it with a smaller step. All in all it has been another busy year for volunteers.

Personnel

All our volunteers are heartily thanked for all their efforts this year, as they have been in previous years. They are what makes our fabulous Clevedon Marine Lake work. Thank you everyone. But 2 people deserve a special mention:

Lorrie Parnell, our Volunteer Co-Ordinator, has been nothing short of stoic in getting the volunteer team organised. And,

Mike Mayhew, our Lake Warden, has been recovering from a knee replacement operation this year and has understandably had to take a very uncharacteristic back seat for once.

Thank you very much to these 2 lovely people for keeping us all in order!

Plans for 2018

This year has already started with Winterfest at the end of January and the installation of 2 cash donation boxes secured to the upper promenade wall (soon to be reinstated). There will be regular splash pool pressure wash sessions throughout the year between March and October – the first will be Saturday 10 March in time for Lake Day. The 17th March will see NSC's flags erected and the hand pump returned.

When we have a decent dry spell and some higher air temperatures the conditions will be right to install our murals. Subject to funding becoming available we will construct more concrete plinth seating and investigate the feasibility of a small shelter for swimmers at the pump house.

There is no intention to drain the Lake until the end of the year. This gives NSC time to secure appropriate permissions for Marlens to deposit silt over the sea wall using a digger, as manual methods have had limited effect.

Again subject to funding we would like to (may indeed have to) replace the roller shutter door and create an internal door through the boat store to provide both added security and access to a door manual override that we currently do not have. We also installed a water refill point at the shutterstore this week.

Alan Wilson

Trustee (with responsibility for Lake Care Team)