

TOLLESBURY
PARISH
COUNCIL

**WOODUP AMENITY
POOL**

INFORMATION EVENING
9TH APRIL 2024

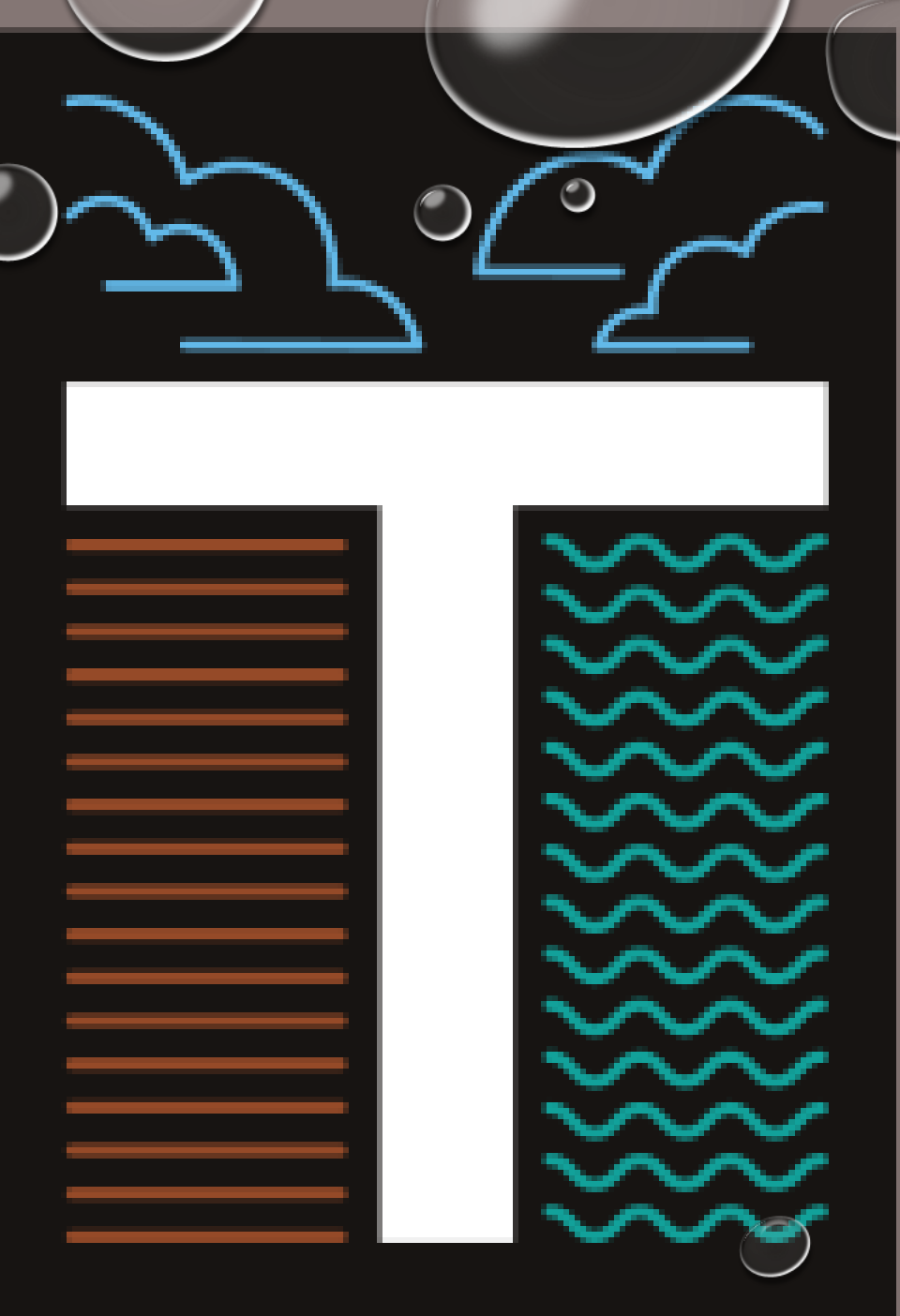


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AGENDA

1. What is Woodup Amenity Pool? A brief history
2. About tidal pools
3. Running and maintaining Woodup Pool
4. The role of volunteers
5. Questions





What is Woodup Amenity Pool?

A Brief History

THE LAKE AT WOODROPE

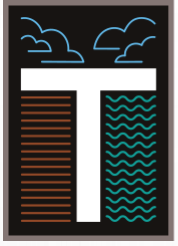
Mr G H Wombwell of the King's Head Hotel, offered land at Woodrope and volunteered to construct a marine lake which would also be suitable for teaching youngsters to swim.

At 1.30pm on June 8th, 1907, the lake at Woodrope was opened by Lady de Crespigny, in the presence of the Earl of Warwick, and many other distinguished visitors and village people. The village was bedecked with bunting for this auspicious occasion.

April 1925 saw the conveyance of the pool to Tollesbury Parish Council for £250.

Information from 'Tollesbury to the Year 2000'

Photo: www.facebook.com/TheTollesburyArchive



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WOODUP AMENITY POOL



[Reinstate Maldon Swim Lake, \(Swimming, Paddle Boats And Sports All Year\) | Facebook](#)

Of course, Woodup Pool once had a larger neighbouring saltwater pool: Maldon Marine Lake. Sadly, after the death of a swimmer in August 2002, the marine lake was closed and Maldon District Council was fined £200,000.

As a result, Woodup Pool was reclassified as an 'amenity pool', rather than a swimming pool. Furthermore, significant works had to be undertaken, at great expense, to improve safety. A regime of risk assessments was also introduced.



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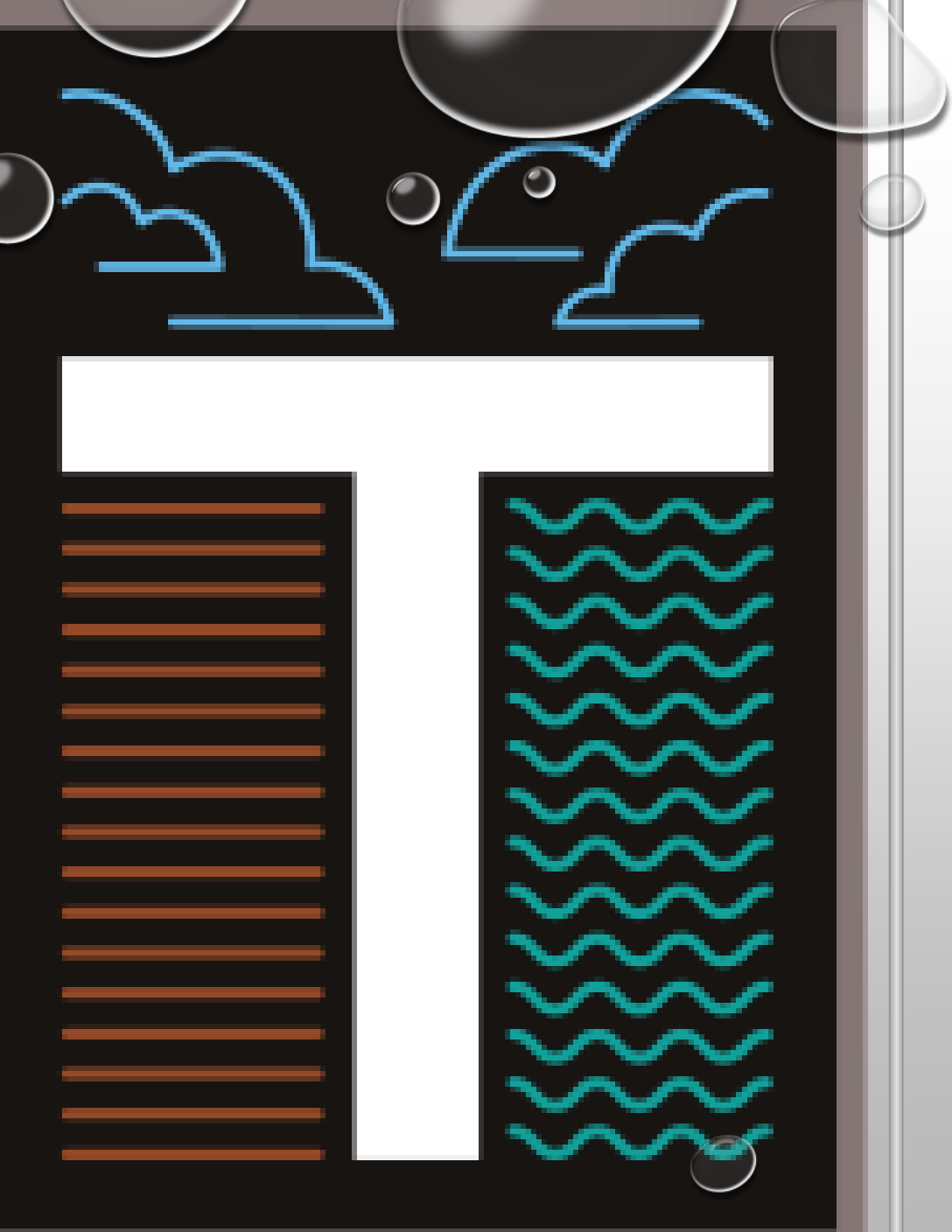
TOLLESBURY'S TREASURE!

‘Woodup pool, also known as Woodrolfe Pool is a very basic saltwater bathing pool that even has its own little beach at one end! The pool is a back-to-basics natural pool with no chlorine or any of the other stuff: ideal for kids with skin conditions! It is open between May and September, and is free to visit, making it a great place to take your little water babies for a splashtastic time!

You get to enjoy swimming in greeny grey expanse of water, overlooked by tilting masts, peeling hulls, and rickety sail lofts, but this just adds to the feeling of a traditional swim in a pool that has been open since 1907!

In the summer there's a portable toilet facility on hand and there are also picnic tables set out to make it all a bit more civilised! But still a pleasingly earthy swim experience that wild kids will love.’

[Woodup Pool | Day Out With The Kids](#)



About Tidal Pools



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TIDAL POOLS

The Woodup Pool is a tidal pool which means Tollesbury Parish Council are entirely reliant on nature for refilling the pool. Although the Parish Council uses the tide tables to plan when the pool is emptied and refilled, tides are weather-dependent and the advertised tide heights are just predictions. Predictions DO NOT include meteorological effects.

West Mersea Tide Times

Wed 3rd Apr 2024

Tide	Time	Height
Low	00:23	1.17m
High	06:46	3.80m
Low	13:23	1.42m
High	19:30	3.44m

West Mersea is the nearest location where tides are monitored.
For a thorough update please visit **Tide Times**

[Tollesbury Parish Council | Essex](#)

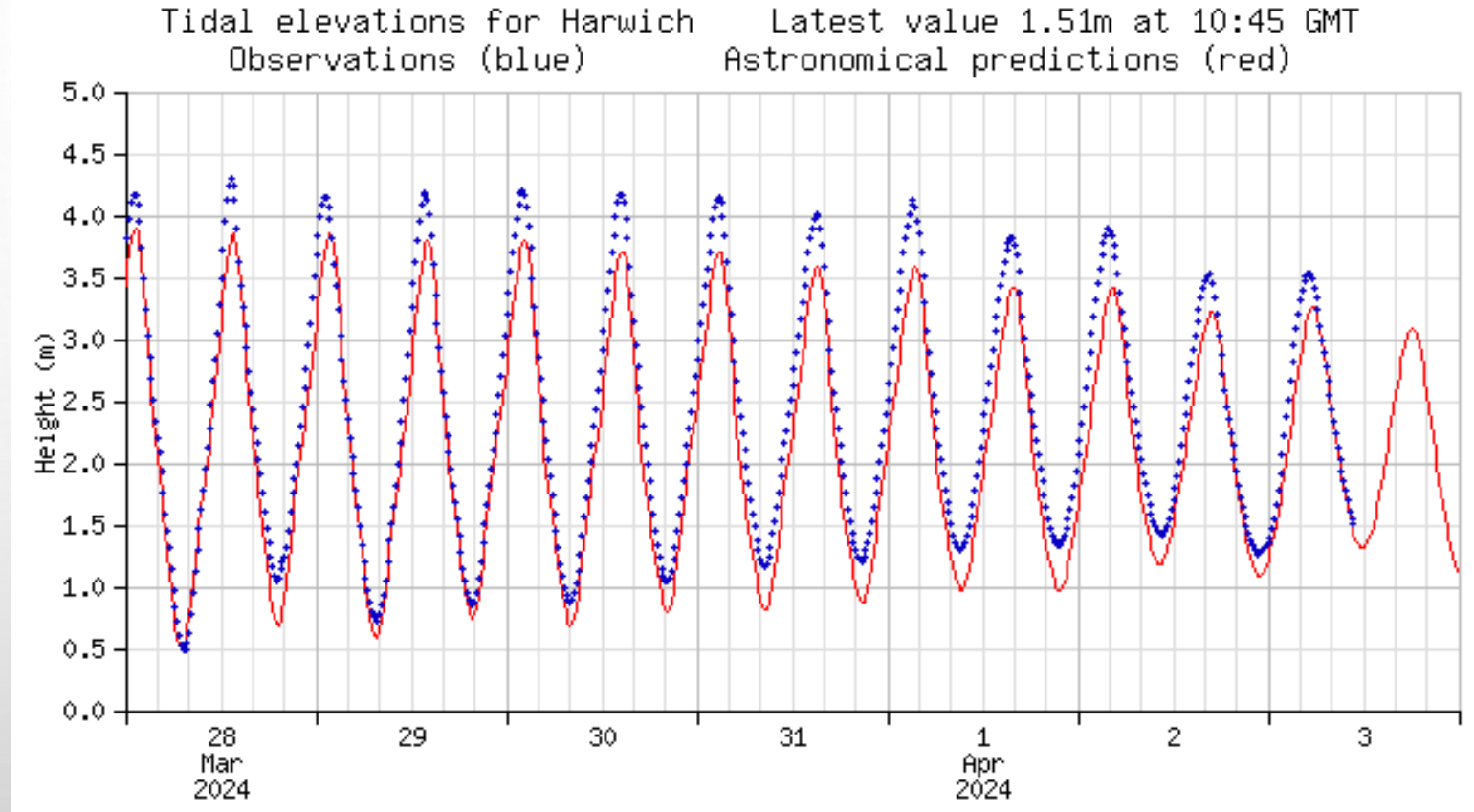


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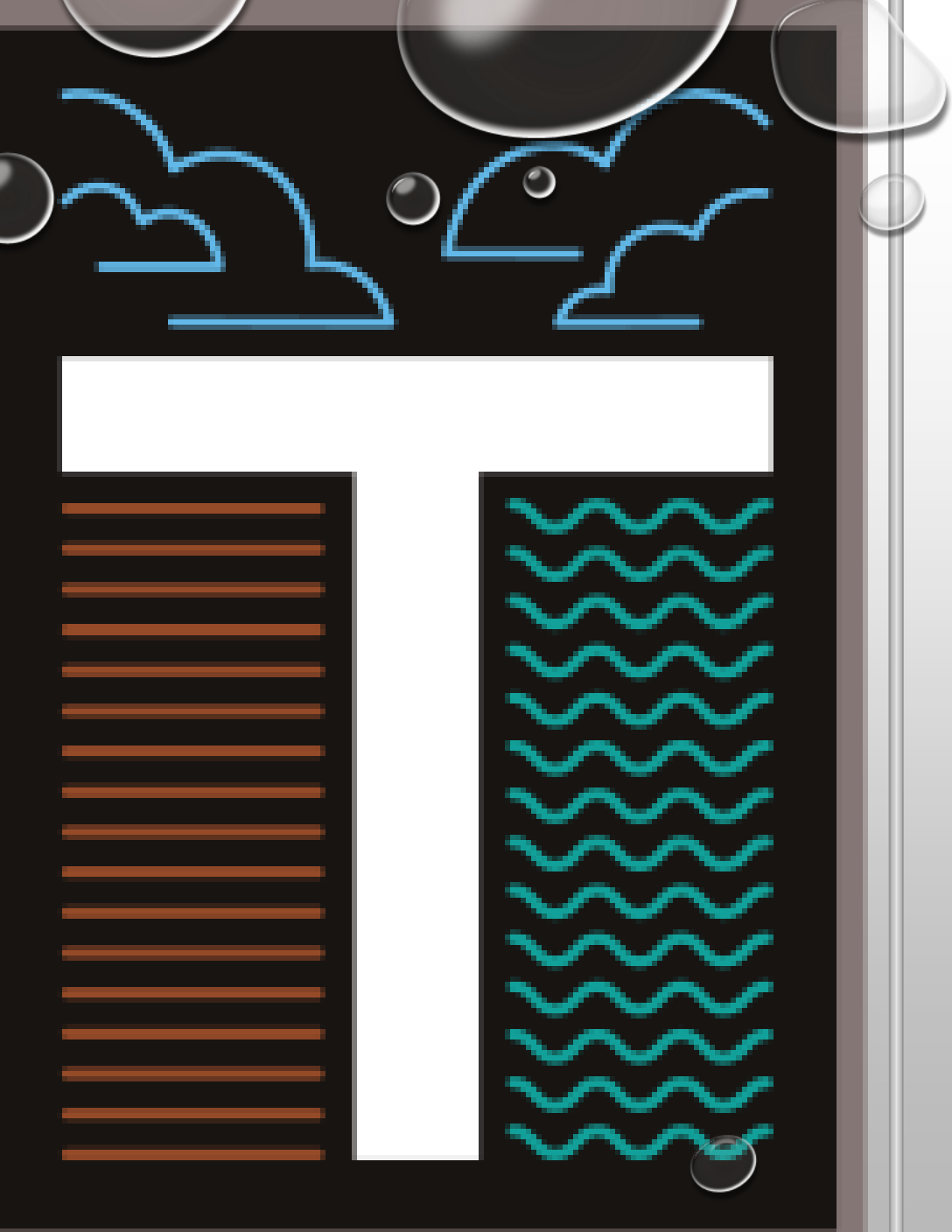
TIDE PREDICTIONS

Weather, which can have a profound effect on the tide, is impossible to predict when calculating tide tables. For example, a strong wind blowing on to land has the effect of piling up the water, giving a higher than predicted tide.

In the upper reaches of estuaries, the riverbed and shape of the estuary can distort the tidal pattern.



[Real-time/near real-time data display for Harwich | National Tidal and Sea Level Facility \(ntsrf.org\)](https://www.ntsrf.org/)



Running and Maintaining Woodup Pool



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FLUSHING THE CREEK

Woodup Pool is regularly flushed to try to maintain good water quality: fortnightly in season and monthly out of season.

The pool is emptied at low tide, with the timing carefully calculated to ensure the water from the pool flushes Woodrolfe Creek. This task requires a knowledgeable operative to open the sluice gate in stages and monitor the water flow. It is in no way similar to emptying the bath!



<https://www.google.com/maps>



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FILLING THE POOL

Tollesbury Parish Council plan the flushing of Woodup Pool to coincide with the tide when it is on the make, ie in the day or two before the highest predicted tide.

This carefully calculated decision allows for the pool to be topped up, if necessary, on the subsequent tides.



[Woodup Pool | Tollesbury Parish Council | Essex](#)



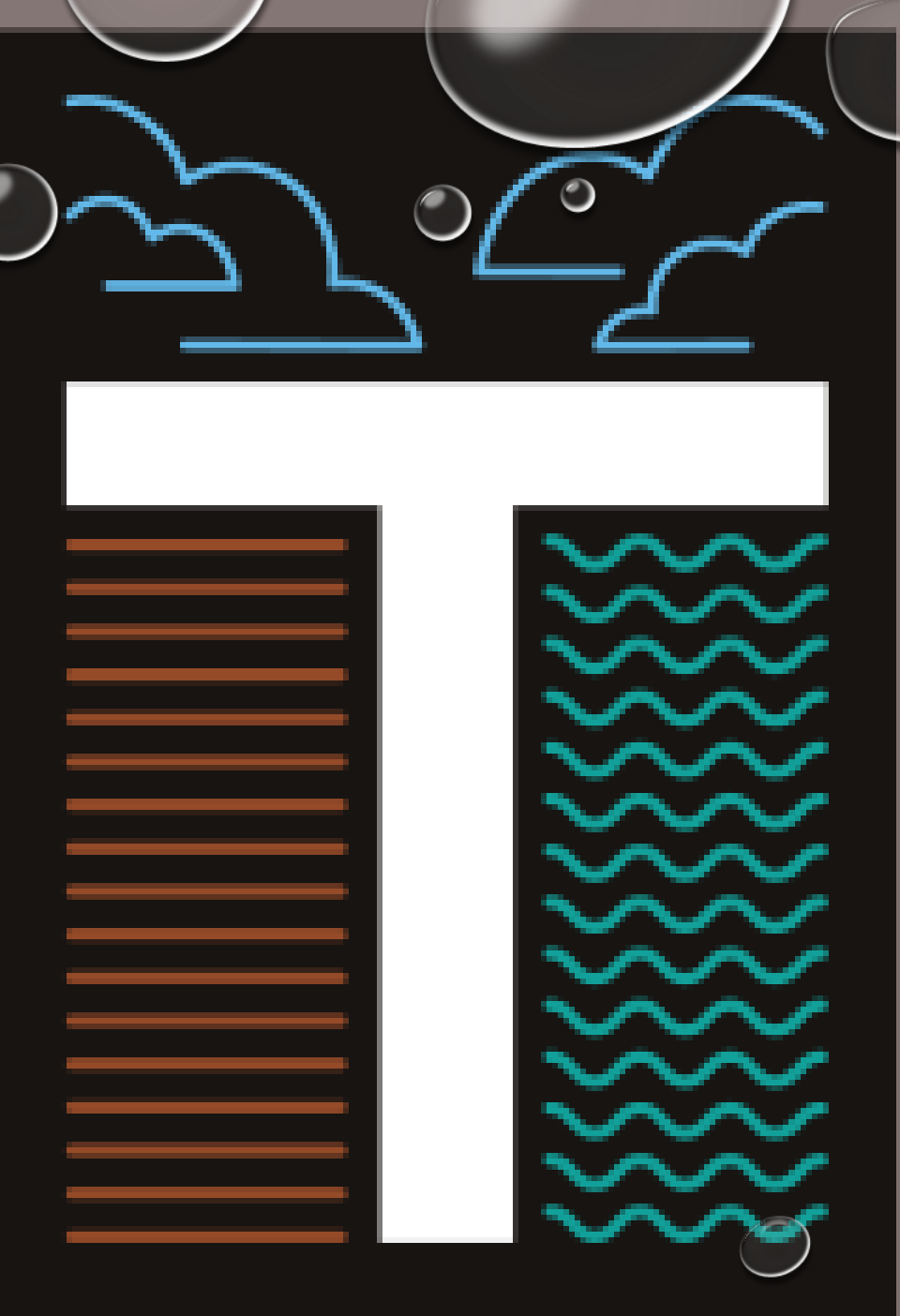
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THE SLUICE GATE

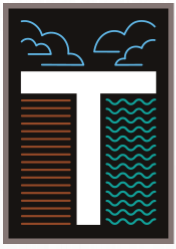
Sometimes, the sluice gate becomes clogged with small bits of gravel or shells, preventing it from fully closing. The result being that the pool gradually loses water.

As soon as Tollesbury Parish Council or FACT notice this, a plan is put in action to top up the pool at the next available opportunity...even if this is at 3am!





The Role of Volunteers



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WOODUP POOL VOLUNTEERS

We have been able to maintain Woodup Amenity Pool over the years thanks to the small team of volunteers on the Woodup Pool Committee and the wider Parish Council.

The general operation and maintenance is time-consuming and requires significant attention from the Parish Clerk and the volunteers on the Parish Council, not to mention answering questions from the community.

Not every salt pool has survived the test of time, and the increased attention and resources that are demanded. Without our community partnerships, we would struggle to keep the pool open.

- ✓ Holding regular meetings to plan tasks on the maintenance calendar
- ✓ Liaising with the risk assessor
- ✓ Contacting contractors to request quotes and arrange repairs and maintenance
- ✓ Respond to usage requests
- ✓ Update the website
- ✓ Answer queries and complaints



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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

As an amenity pool for the community, Tollesbury Parish Council have always benefitted from the support of local businesses and organisations in the running of the pool.



DRAKE BROS., Yacht and Boat Builders, "Woodrolfe," Tollesbury, nr. Witham, Essex.

Previous partnerships have included a close working relationship with Mouse (Trevor Green) of Frost and Drake Boat Yard. Mouse emptied and refilled the pool for the Parish Council on a regular basis in exchange for use of the Hard to launch yachts on occasion.

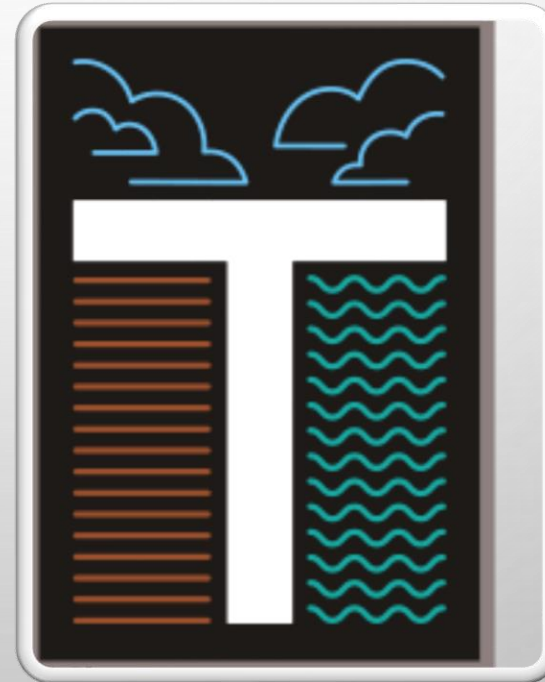
www.facebook.com/TheTollesburyArchive

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

More recently, Fellowship Afloat (FACT), who had been users of the pool since 2016, joined the Woodup Pool Committee. Besides flushing the pool on the instructions of Tollesbury Parish Council, FACT also voluntarily carry out a number of additional tasks which would otherwise require contractors.

Examples include:

- ✓ Carrying out general year-round maintenance;
- ✓ Assisting with repairs, for example the rebuilding of a section of the pool wall at the start of 2024;
- ✓ And clearing weed and other debris.

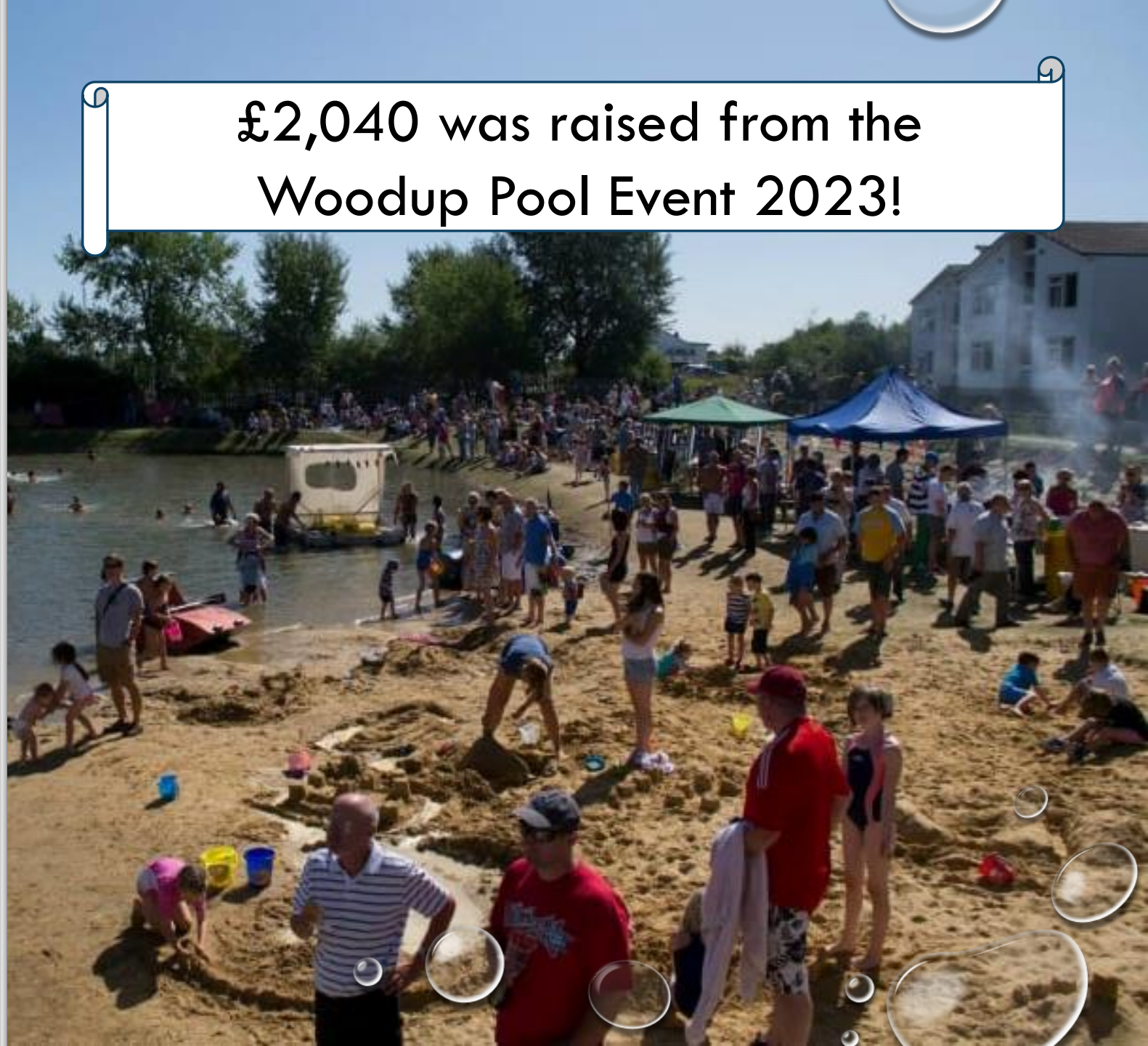


Although FACT, as users of the pool, have a vested interest in maintaining the water level and quality to a useable standard, the team frequently go above and beyond what Tollesbury Parish Council ask of them. Without FACT jumping to the rescue, the 2023 pool fundraising event would not have gone ahead!



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£2,040 was raised from the
Woodup Pool Event 2023!





ANNUAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure for 2023/24 for Woodup Pool:

- Community Protection Officers (CPOs) - £61*
- Contract (grass cutting) - £245
- Maintenance - £2,945 (this includes the lifebelts of £1,500)
- Toilet - £1,913 (the weekly hire cost increased by 50% against the previous year)
- Litter collection - £316 (green wheelie bin during the 6 weeks school holidays)
- Projects - £3,437 (this includes the bi-annual risk assessment, which costs £1,990)
- Water testing - not charged by MDC in 2023/24

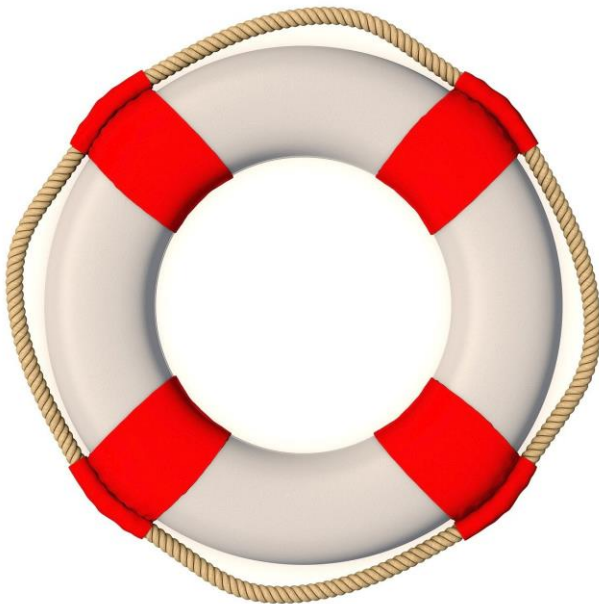
Total £8,917

*During the school holidays, the Parish Council has an agreement for the CPOs to patrol 1.5 hours per week around the pool area. The CPOs' cost during 2023/24 was £40.53 per hour. This cost will be £42.47 per hour in 2024/25.

DONATIONS



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Tollesbury Parish Council are very grateful for the donations they have received which have been put towards the ongoing upkeep of Woodup Pool.



Sponsorship by three local businesses recently enabled the council to purchase new lifebuoys and durable housings.



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HOW YOU CAN HELP

Ahead of the summer season, Tollesbury Parish Council organise a Woodup Pool Cleaning Party.

Volunteers come equipped to carry out various jobs. If you would like to join us to help with this year's clean up, we would be delighted for you to join us on Sunday 12th May 10am-12pm.

Please put your name down against one of the jobs and bring the necessary equipment with you.

Task	Equipment required
Raking the sand	✓ Garden rake ✓ Garden forks ✓ Bucket ✓ Gloves
Pruning	✓ Secateurs ✓ Loppers ✓ Thick gardening gloves
Cleaning ➤ BBQs ➤ Benches ➤ Picnic tables ➤ Signs	✓ Bucket ✓ Cleaning cloth ✓ Scrubbing brush ✓ Washing up liquid ✓ Gloves



Any questions?

