



Victoria Baths

Newsletter

Issue 12

Crafty Goings On

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Introducing our very own Gin

Together with local artisan distillery, Winding River, we're delighted to have launched a unique and rather delicious Victoria Baths Gin.

It's been expertly produced with botanical extracts including Juniper Berries, Bergamot and Kaffir Lime Leaves.

You can get your hands on a limited edition first batch, on sale now in our online gift shop (collection only). Every bottle purchased supports our work - cheers!



Photo: Ariane Dean

Gifts galore in our online shop

Our newly launched Gin (pictured above) is just one of many Victoria Baths themed items you'll find on sale in our online shop.

From jigsaws to tea towels, mugs, stationery and coasters - there are plenty of great gift ideas for friends and family, alongside some perfect Christmas stocking fillers too.

What's more, all purchases come with the added feel-good factor that your shopping is helping to ensure the future of this beautiful building.

Shop now at:
victoriabathsshop.com

Note: The online shop closes for Christmas on 16th December.

Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair



Photo: Jo Shaw

We were absolutely delighted to welcome The Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair (GNCCF) to Victoria Baths for the first time in October.

It was such a treat to see their first event here go swimmingly, so much so that we're pleased to announce that they'll be back again with us next year - and beyond.

Ann-Marie Franey and Angela Mann, co-founders and Directors of GNCCF said:

"On behalf of our exhibitors we would like to thank all our visitors and the team at Victoria Baths for making the Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair 2021 a tremendous success. Everyone loved the venue. We look forward to making Victoria Baths the Fair's new permanent home".

Save the dates: Next year's Fair: 14th-16th October 2022

Find out more and sign up for news at greatnorthernevents.co.uk

COP26 and sustainability - could you help us to step up to the challenge?

Following COP26 in Glasgow last month, we wanted to update you on how we're playing our part in reducing carbon emissions.

Our Events Manager, Kat Mulhall is taking the lead following training with The Carbon Literacy Project towards the Carbon Literacy Standard and GC Business Growth Hub's 'Journey to Net Zero' training.

Kat's busy researching sustainable power sources to heat the building so we can open year-round and is working with other arts organisations in Manchester as part of a city-wide network to support the City of Manchester's goal of reducing carbon emissions by 50% in 2025 and by 100% in 2038.

As Kat reports, "We're taking a broad view and considering our environmental impact across the board, from supplies we buy for the tea room to the lighting choices we make. We're also keen to use our position as a venue to support visitors to make sustainable choices too. The entire staff team have been contributing their ideas for making improvements, but there's more we'd like to do and we'd welcome volunteer help, so if you have skills in this field and are interested in supporting us to improve our sustainability credentials, we'd love to hear from you".

Can you help? Drop us an email at enquiries@victoriabaths.org.uk

Victoria Baths - as seen on TV!



Photo: BBC

Commercial filming is a really important income stream for the Baths, and despite the challenges of the pandemic, we're pleased to report that 2021 was another very busy year for TV and film requests.

In May we played host to the BBC's MOTDx fronted by Jermaine Jenas, with special guests Blossoms (pictured above). More recently, we were delighted to welcome Manchester-born singer songwriter Pip Millett to film for the BBC's 'Later... with Jools Holland'.

Other notable mentions include filming for the Tokyo Paralympics, The Sky comedy Brassic, Peaky Blinders, an advert for Brewdog, as well as a recording of the Kantos Chamber Choir for a special edition of Radio 4's Sunday Worship at the start of COP26.

Fancy seeing some of the results? Series 3 of Brassic is currently showing on Sky Max and Peaky Blinders Season 6 will be on BBC One in the New Year. Watch our social media feeds for updates.

Well loved, well missed

Alison Kershaw, who died in October, was Curator of Contemporary Arts in the early days of Victoria Baths' closure and restoration. She was integral to establishing the arts programme hosting local and international artists and exhibitions, bringing life and vibrancy back into the building.

Alison's creative legacy lives on today, not least her "Well Loved" sign. Initially intended to hang on the clock tower for a couple of weeks, the artwork now hangs inside the Males 2nd Class Pool for all our events. A fitting tribute to a much loved woman artist.



Thanks to our retiring Trustees

We'd like to say a huge thank you to four Trustees who retired from the Board of Victoria Baths Trust this year:

Jill Earnshaw whose time as a Trustee included three years as Chair and who stayed on to help with crisis management as the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

Amy Lewis who contributed her skills as a cultural consultant and professional fundraiser to the work of the Trust and the trading business.

Alex Roy whose expertise in strategy and the economy was invaluable to the work of the Trust and the Restoration Task Group.

Martin Gaw who supported the Trust through the Covid-19 crisis, overseeing two successful bids for funding from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund.

On behalf of the staff, the volunteers and all our supporters, thank you for your dedication and hard work; please keep in touch.

Dates for the diary

Here's how our calendar of events for 2022 is shaping up so far:

SpringFest 2022

Arts and Music Weekender
9th - 10th April

Swim Weekend

Gala Pool swimming and lots more
10th - 11th September

Festive Winter Fair

Crafts, gifts and festive fun
12th - 13th November

Wednesday Lates

A series of evening events
Dates TBC

Midweek Opening/Guided Tours

Starting again in March

Gill Wright Memorial Fund and Prize

Former volunteer and Project Development Manager, Gill Wright is sadly missed by many, many people since she passed away earlier this year.

Having given careful consideration to how best to mark Gill's considerable contribution to Victoria Baths, we've established a new Fund at Victoria Baths Trust in Gill's name, as a continuing memorial.

Victoria Baths Trust is now accepting donations to the **Gill Wright Memorial Fund**, which will be used to support activities and projects at Victoria Baths which were close to Gill's heart: **Restoration, Community Arts and History.**

A huge thank you to all those who have already given; the fund already totals over £1,000. Suitable projects for the Fund's support will be approved by the Victoria Baths Trust Board and we'll share the details with donors and supporters once the first project is decided.

If you'd like to contribute, cheques should be payable to 'Victoria Baths Trust'. For other ways to pay or for more information on the fund, email our Engagement Manager, Gwyneth Brock: email gwyneth@victoriabaths.org.uk

Gill Wright. Photo by Aidan O'Rourke.



The University of Manchester Gill Wright Prize

How wonderful to learn that The University of Manchester (UoM) is launching a new prize in Gill's name for the highest dissertation in their Heritage Studies MA.

Dr Jenna C. Ashton, Programme Leader, MA Heritage Studies at UoM, who nominated the prize to be made in Gill's name, said:

"Gill was a wonderful and inspiring practitioner and activist, and completely committed to academic expertise as well as community knowledge. Her practice encapsulates the type of work I hope our Heritage Studies students go on to be involved in".

We look forward to announcing the first prizewinner in a future newsletter.

Obituary



Maurice Watkins CBE. Photo by Georgina Child.

Maurice Watkins CBE, who died in August, was a Patron of Victoria Baths, alongside his many other charitable and professional duties.

Maurice had an extraordinary career in sport and the law. Joint senior partner of Brabners LLP solicitors in Manchester, Maurice was also a director of Manchester United for many years, as well as chairman of British Swimming, overseeing the team's successful Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 Olympic cycles. His extensive charitable work earned him a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 2011.

Passionate about swimming, Maurice swam at Victoria Baths as a boy and became a generous supporter of Victoria Baths Trust. We were very lucky indeed to be able to name him amongst our Patrons and Archangel supporters.

Contact Us

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