



# Volunteering with Cleveland Pools

## Frank's story

### Why did you decide to volunteer with Cleveland Pools?

I joined as much as anything out of selfishness, because I would love to go for a cycle ride on a sunny summer's day, then stop off at the pools for a dip. What could be nicer!?

I had seen the pools on a heritage open day, when, like many people, I was delighted to see the actual site for the first time. I learned that volunteer trustees were tackling difficult stuff like funding, planning permission and getting a lease from the council, and then it struck me that here were all these other volunteers doing practical work keeping the place maintained. So along with the others I pulled out weeds and supported a few events and met a lot of new and interesting folk in the process.

### What did you gain from being a volunteer?

Seeing a priceless piece of practical heritage, that was on the verge of being lost forever, being saved for the local community. Becoming part of a team that will likely go on for a long time to come.

Whilst I started out helping with maintenance I also got involved in developing the new website for the pools. A team of us were keen to update the look and content of the website. It was great when it went live and I enjoyed the challenge.

### How do you feel about the support you had as a volunteer?

When I joined, many years ago, it was largely a case of choosing a broom or a spade to keep the site up to scratch. Since then things have changed significantly now that we have a paid staff to guide us through what needs to be done. That cuts both ways, they look after us and we offer our help to them.

### Would you recommend this kind of volunteering to someone else?

Of course. It's a chance to be part of a rare opportunity to bring a priceless piece of history back into good practical use. When people mention the pools in the future, you can say with pride, yes, I was one of the people that made it happen.

