

OCCUPY! OCCUPY! OCCUPY!

**CELEBRATING
20 YEARS
OF THE
OCCUPATION
OF GOVANHILL
BATHS**

2001-2021





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Introduction

It has been twenty years since Glasgow City Council threatened to close Govanhill Baths for good. Kingston Swimming Club received notice of the closure which was covered by the Evening Times on the 15th of January 2001.

Residents of the community took the article as a call to action. Two days later on the 17th of January a meeting was organised and the now famous Southside Against Closure Save Our Pool Campaign was established.

There were events at weekends, gala days, marches, occupations of other Glasgow City Council buildings and every Wednesday evening campaigners joined the picket line and sang the Save Our Pool Songs to cheer their friends inside. The campaigners were from all parts of the community: children; parents; grandparents; artists, professionals; academics; the unemployed, the Asian community, the Irish community

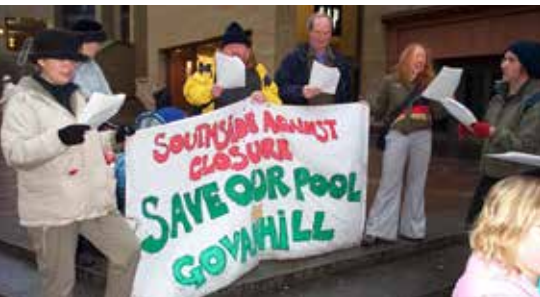
—a real cross-section of people working together to save their local baths.

On the 7th August mounted police were sent to forcefully remove the group, in what has become known as The Battle of Calder Street.

The Save Our Pool campaign continued and in December 2004 Govanhill Baths Community Trust was established. Since then the Trust has been campaigning and fundraising to reopen the Baths as a Well-being Centre—contractors are in place and the work is about to begin.

To celebrate what was the beginning of one of the most powerful stories of community action in Scotland's history, we are hosting a series of exciting projects throughout the year.

Events are free and booking information is provided on the back page.



On the 21st of March 2001, a dozen protestors entered the Baths and chained themselves to the cubicles (2001 was the 30th anniversary of the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders Work-In so occupation was in the air). The Baths were occupied for 140 days, with a 24 hour picket outside. The longest occupation of a public building in British history.

On Our Streets: Protest and Celebration

10-21 March 2021

On Our Streets is part of the 20th anniversary celebrations and marks the start of the occupation on 21st March 2001. It includes a series of events which use the 24hr picket outside the Baths as a starting point to explore the importance of the street as a place where people come together to effect social change.



Radio Buena Vida

Wednesday, 10 March,
10.45am-11.00am

www.buenavida.co.uk

Join us on radio Buena Vida with original members of the Save Our Pool campaign to hear just what it was like to occupy a building 20 years ago and what it means to them today.

Online Film Screening

Saturday 13 March
2.00pm-5.00pm

The Govan Banners

The Govan Banners is a community-based documentary made by Plantation Productions, Portal Seniors Film Club and directed by filmmaker Kirsten MacLeod. It tells the story of the mysterious Govan Banners, found on May Day 1979 in a dusty Govan Union Hall, wrapped in newspapers and forgotten for 40 years. One proclaims 'Unite for the Struggle! Spanish Workers Dying for Democracy' and the other celebrates the 1820 Scottish democracy movement, but their origins were unclear. The Portal Seniors Film Club set out to uncover the mystery behind the banners—why were they made and how were Govan and Glasgow people involved Spanish Civil War?

United We Will Swim... Again

Frances Higson's celebrated 2015 film about the campaign to save Govanhill Baths.

The films will be complemented with archival footage showing protests and parades from Glasgow's history.



Online Banners & Occupation Exhibition

www.govanhillbaths.com

The exhibition will showcase banners used during the 24-hour picket outside the baths in 2001. The picket took the occupation into the street, and was vital to the success of the campaign to save the baths. These banners will be shown alongside new community banners commissioned by Govanhill Baths Community Trust, as well as photographs and press clippings from the occupation.



Cauld Tatties, Radio Buena Vida

Wednesday, 17 March,
11.00am-12.00 noon

www.buenavida.co.uk

Kenny Martin, Save Our Pool campaigner, will be in conversation with Cauld Tatties Bryce Drennan on the food they ate during the occupation.



Online Discussion

Thursday 18 March
6.00pm-8.00pm

Host speakers from a range of backgrounds will lead a discussion about the importance of the street as a public space: in protest and celebration; street architecture; the importance of banners and much more. Speakers include Dr David Featherstone, Geographical and Earth Sciences at the University of Glasgow; Helen M. Hughes, Textiles Conservator, Glasgow Museums; Fiona Hayes, Curator of Social History, Glasgow Museums; Jonathan Charley, former Director in Cultural Studies in Strathclyde University's Architecture department; and Rachel Dallas, Glasgow South Anti-Racism Art Project, alongside some original members of the Govanhill Baths picket line.

Online creative placard-making workshop with Rumpus Room to honour UN Anti-Racism Day

Saturday 20 March, 11am - 12 noon

The workshop will take place over Zoom.

Recommended ages 12+

For more information and to join the workshop please email Rumpus Room at rumpusroomteam@gmail.com

Anti-Racism Pop-up Picket Line

Saturday 20 March & Sunday 21st March

The Save Our Pool picket line, marches and demonstrations carried a clear anti-racist statement.

Attach your anti-racist placards and signs at the railings of Govanhill Baths, 99 Calder St, in a demonstration of solidarity on UN Anti-Racism Day.

On Our Streets is funded by a grant from Glasgow City Heritage Trust.

Sunday 21st March

the day the occupation began in 2001!

We would love to be able to organise a huge parade and street party, but that isn't going to be possible. We have arranged an evening of events and we're asking for your help! At 6.00pm on the 21st we want you to open your windows and doors, find your pots and pans, try out your singing voices and your best chants, and **Make Some Noise for Govanhill**. The baths would never have been saved without the local community coming together, and even though we can't meet in person at the moment, we are still a powerful force for change. So get your friends, family, and neighbours involved, and send a message that Govanhill is united, no matter what stands in our way! Make sure to share photos and videos of you joining in with the hashtag #makenoiseforgihill. We will have a display of banners and placards on the railings of the community garden as well as:

Ando Glaso

(Romani for "in tune") and the Unite, Fight & Sing Choir, led by Lorna McKinnon (a young protester for the Save Our Pool campaign) will play live music from the Save Our Pool Song Book, on Facebook 5.00pm-6.00pm



OURS

We will screen OURS on a loop in the window of 126 Calder Street and Facebook.

OURS follows the inspirational journey of Govanhill Baths from closure, grass roots protest and occupation to community ownership. Facing the challenges of the COVID -19 pandemic, Govanhill Baths Community Trust have built innovative



solutions to support the community. **OURS** is a short documentary film made by Written in Film, commissioned by Community Land Scotland. 7.00pm-9.00pm

Six original **Save Our Pool** protestors will commemorate the start of the Occupation, on Facebook 8.00pm.

Radio Buena Vida will play the Save Our Pool Songs at www.buenavida.co.uk 8.00pm-9.10pm



<https://www.facebook.com/GovanhillBathsCommunityTrust>

Diving In:

a deeper look at the history of Govanhill Baths

In our 20th anniversary year, we wanted to take a closer look at the history of our amazing building. An online talks series covering everything from tiles and tenements to swimmers, socialists, and the history of local queer spaces. All of the events are free, and will be streamed on Zoom and Facebook Live. Why not come to all of them and see what you discover! For more information email: katherine@govanhillbaths.com



The Socialist Sunday School Experiment

Thursday 25 March, 7.00pm

Panel discussion: Prof David Kitchener, (retired) University of Bolton; Dr Jessica Gerrard, A/Prof, Melbourne Graduate School of Education.

Did you know that Govanhill used to have a Socialist Sunday School? The Socialist Sunday School movement began in the 1880s, and between 1896 and 1932 there were as many as 83 groups recorded in Glasgow alone! The aim was to promote and share socialist values, and to offer an alternative to Christian Sunday schools. Join us for this special event, with a globe-spanning panel!

Get in touch

If you were involved in the Save Our Pool campaign in 2001, please get in touch.

Email archive@govanhillbaths.com or call 0141 433 2999. We have set up a Save Our Pool Campaign History Group on Facebook please join the <https://www.facebook.com/groups/163451462226627>

This Wonderful Game: a History of Sport in Govanhill

Thursday 22 April, 7.00pm



Panel discussion: Pat McGeady, Third Lanark AC; Ingrid Shearer, Glasgow Building Preservation Trust; Graeme Brown, Hampden Bowling Club; Paul Donald, Scottish Swimming.

With our famous neighbour Hampden Park just down the road, Govanhill's sporting history is often overlooked. But this small and mighty borough has a long history of both amateur and professional sport! Join us to learn about Glasgow's lost football club, the efforts to save a local bowling green from closure, and memories of swimming at Govanhill Baths back in the day. You'll also learn some Edwardian exercise routines which you can practice in your own home!

Meet the Author:

Bruce Downie

Thursday 24 June, 7pm

Author's talk: Bruce Downie, chaired by Paula Larkin.

This event is an opportunity to get a sneak peak at a new book about the history of Govanhill Baths led by its author Bruce Downie. If you are a local history buff, this is an event not to be missed!

Govanhill's Queer Spaces

Thursday 29 July, 7.00pm



Panel discussion: pink peacock collective; Dr Jeffrey Meek, Glasgow University; more speakers TBC.

The existence of safe spaces to meet and spend time has always been important to the queer community. We know that our baths building was a place for gay men to meet and socialise. But what is the history of queer spaces in Govanhill, and Glasgow more widely? And what kind of spaces exist nowadays?



Terrific Tiles!

Saturday 28 August, 2.00pm

Workshop:

Usma Ashraf, with support from the GBCT Ceramics Workshop.

Have you ever wondered how tiles are made? Would you like to have a go at making one for yourself? Community artist Usma Ashraf will lead this workshop for children aged 6 to 12 with the opportunity to make your own clay tile and have it fired in GBCT's kiln! We will be providing a small amount of free clay for this activity, which you will be able to order before the event. Watch this space!



Circus Fun Day

Saturday 3 July

2.00pm – 4.00pm

During the occupation there were lots of fun events at weekends on Calder Street. Circus Fun Day remembers the 101 day of occupation community Gala Day on Saturday 30th June 2001. We celebrate the diversity and community spirit of the Save our Pool campaign with spontaneous circus tricks, dance, music and chalking on the streets around Govanhill.

Radio Buena Vida

Radio Buena Vida is an online community radio station based in Govanhill. It's simple ethos is to champion and play emerging as well as established artists from the diverse and independent music scenes in Scotland (and beyond) and to offer a platform to charities and organisations tackling wider social issues.

When not in lockdown, Radio Buena Vida broadcasts live from the window of local independent record shop and cafe 'Some Great Reward'.



schedule

www.govanhillbaths.com
tel 0141 433 2999

Wednesday 10 March 10.45am-11.00pm	Save Our Pool campaigners www.buenavida.co.uk
Saturday 13 March onwards	Banner & Occupation Exhibition www.govanhillbaths.com
Saturday 13 March 2.00pm-5.00pm	Film screening of The Govan Banners & United We Will Swim www.govanhillbaths.com/occupy-booking-form
Wednesday 17 March 11.00am-12noon	Kenny Martin, on Cauld Tatties www.buenavida.co.uk
Thursday 18 March 6.00pm-8.00pm	Panel discussion around the street as a public space for protest and celebration. www.govanhillbaths.com/occupy-booking-form
Saturday 20 March 11.00am-12noon	Creative placard making workshop to honour UN Anti-Racism Day to book: rumpusroomteam@gmail.com
Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 March	Anti-Racism Pop-up Picket Line Peace Garden, Calder Street
Sunday 21 March 5.00pm-9.10pm	Ando Glaso and Unite Fight & Sing . . . 5.00pm-6.00pm Make Some Noise For Govanhill 6.00pm OURS Film screening 7.00pm-9.00pm Save Our Pool Protesters 8.00pm-9.00pm Save Our Pool Songs 8.00pm-9.10pm www.buenavida.co.uk www.facebook.com/GovanhillBathsCommunityTrust
Thursday 25 March 7.00pm	The Socialist Sunday School Experiment www.govanhillbaths.com/occupy-booking-form
Thursday 22 April 7.00pm	This Wonderful Game: a History of Sport in Govanhill www.govanhillbaths.com/occupy-booking-form
Thursday 24 June 7.00pm	Meet the Author: Bruce Downie www.govanhillbaths.com/occupy-booking-form
Saturday 3 July 2.00pm-4.00pm	Circus Fun Day Govanhill
Thursday 29 July 7.00pm	Govanhill's Queer Spaces www.govanhillbaths.com/occupy-booking-form
Saturday 28 August 2.00pm	Terrific Tiles! www.govanhillbaths.com/occupy-booking-form

To all the Save Our Pool campaigners, especially those who have passed away

