



FRIENDS OF  
**CARLISLE VICTORIAN  
& TURKISH BATHS**

## **ABOUT THE FRIENDS**

The Friends of Carlisle Victorian and Turkish Baths formed in May 2021 and became a CIO charity in April 2022. Our core aim is to bring Carlisle's Turkish Baths back into public use as a restored heritage asset and re-imagine the Victorian swimming pools as a centre for health and wellbeing.

We are proudly part of the UK's wider history and heritage, as one of only 13 original historic Turkish Baths still in working order. Securing the future use of these historic buildings is essential for the benefit of Carlisle's residents, communities and tourism industry. You can find out more about us and our work on our website:

<https://carlislebaths.co.uk/>

## **A BRIEF HISTORY**

From the mid 1800s onwards there were over 700 Turkish Baths built across the UK. Carlisle's Victorian baths were opened in 1884 and followed by the Turkish Baths in 1909. These facilities were part of a national movement to bring bathing, laundry and leisure facilities to local residents.

The Pools, including a larger swimming pool with viewing gallery and changing rooms, were added to the leisure complex in the 1970s. The suite of facilities were operated almost without interruption until October 2022, when they were closed by Carlisle City Council. Swimming facilities in Carlisle are now available at The Sands Centre but the Victorian swimming pools and Edwardian Turkish Baths were left without an operator.

## **THE STORY SO FAR**

The Friends launched a campaign to save the Victorian and Turkish Baths from closure and raise awareness of this incredible historic asset. You can find details of our campaign on our website and social media channels.

We have so far been successful in gaining widespread public support and have successfully commissioned a feasibility study (funded by the Architectural Heritage Fund and Cumbria Local Economic Partnership). This initial study demonstrated that the Turkish Baths are feasible, and we are working to develop both the business case and architectural plans for the building.

The 1970s pools have been demolished by Cumberland Council. By working with Cumberland Council and the Station Gateway Project, we are hopeful of fully redeveloping these buildings and reopening them for public benefit in the future.

## TRUSTEES

We are looking to recruit new trustees to our board who want to play an active part in writing the next chapter for this unique building and help bring the Victorian and Turkish Baths back into public use. We welcome applicants from all communities from a range of backgrounds and skills.

Our current board is made up of highly-motivated members who work alongside a committee who organise and manage our events, campaign activities, communications and digital presence, and support our fundraising. We wish to strengthen both the depth and capacity of our trustee board to ensure we have the necessary experience to help take us forward as we negotiate a community asset transfer, redevelopment and running of the Baths. We are:

**Julie Minns** – Chair of the board of Trustees. Julie is the founder and chair of the Friends of Carlisle Victorian and Turkish Baths. Julie was born and brought up in the Denton Holme area of Carlisle, just a few minutes walk away from the Baths. A Corporate Communications and Regulatory Policy professional, Julie has worked in both the charity and commercial sectors, and was a member of the Senior Management Teams of mobile network operator Three UK and the UK's largest electricity distribution network, UK Power Networks. A former local authority councillor, chair of school governors and trustee for the pedestrian charity 'Living Streets', Julie was elected Member of Parliament for Carlisle and North Cumbria in July 2024.

**Professor Emeritus Steve Yeates** – Secretary and Treasurer to the board of Trustees. Steve is a Director of a start-up company with a focus on international business development and intellectual property. He latterly held a range of senior leadership roles at the University of Manchester, including the Associate Vice President Research with responsibilities in strategic planning and delivery.

**Alan Lindsay** – Trustee and Co-Chair of the sustainability subcommittee. Alan has nearly forty years experience in educational leadership across a range of schools and local authorities, serving latterly as a Director of Education.

**Elsa Price** – Trustee and Co-Chair of the sustainability subcommittee. Elsa has nearly a decade worth of experience in the heritage and museum sector as a curator. She currently leads the Archaeology Department at National Museums Liverpool.

**Maggie Barradell** – Trustee. Maggie has over 35 years within the community development field, including working with multi-faith and youth projects. She also has many years' of political experience in local and national government. She is lead trustee for fundraising.

## NEW TRUSTEES

We are keen to hear from candidates who have skills which they feel would bring great benefit to the Friends. We believe our board would benefit in particular from further expertise in the following areas:

- Accounting and finance
- Leisure industry
- Legal
- Digital strategy

Successful candidates should be able to demonstrate:

- A passionate interest in seeing Carlisle's Victorian and Turkish Baths reopen
- An awareness of the challenges facing the leisure and heritage industry
- An ability to share their experience and expertise whilst working within a diverse team

All our trustees are expected to play an active hands-on role in the operation and activities of the CIO.

## TRUSTEE COMMITMENT

**Length of service:** Trustees typically serve a 3 year term with the option of an extension for a further 3 years.

**Time commitment:** Trustee boards meet quarterly, although special meetings can be called for urgent business. The trustees serve as a decision-making body, with overall responsibility for the charity. However there may be actions for trustees to follow up in between meetings and you will be expected to play an active role in the work of the CIO. Some trustees also serve on sub-committee groups, but this is not an expectation or requirement.

As a CIO, trustees hold no financial responsibility for the charity.

**Flexible approach:** All of our trustees, and everyone involved with the Friends, are volunteers. As such, we are a diverse group who aim to work flexibly, in a way that suits our members. This includes meetings both online and in-person, and flexible meeting times in evenings, on weekends, and during the working day.

**Compensation:** This is an unpaid, voluntary role. At the moment, the Friends are not able to offer any compensation for travel or subsistence to attend meetings.

**Application process:** Please email a CV and covering letter to [friends@carlislebaths.co.uk](mailto:friends@carlislebaths.co.uk) before midnight on Saturday 31 May 2025. Successful candidates will be interviewed.