

PRESS RELEASE

Free Swimming for over 60s Ends

As part of its intention to reduce the national deficit on public spending, the Government has withdrawn its subsidy on free swimming for the over 60s. This concession will cease at the end of July.

The programme has been a great success at Crewkerne Aqua Centre with the numbers of over 60s comfortably heading the table for all of South Somerset's 4 public pools. The Board of Directors at Crewkerne Aqua Centre have been keen to try to encourage the older participants to continue swimming but, regrettably, the cost of continuing the free swims, at over £26,000 per annum is just too great for the Centre's budget. However, the Board is making two offers available for the over 60s:

- A concessionary rate of £2.60 will be offered from August 1st, making a saving of 1/3 on the standard adult rate of £3.90.
- Unlimited swimming during regular programmed swimming times until 31st March 2011 will be offered for a one off payment of just £95. This works out at 7½ months for £12.66 per month.

Chairman Claire Saxby said: "Crewkerne Aqua Centre has proved to be a really popular venue for over 60s swimming and our Directors are very keen to encourage those who have taken up this healthy lifestyle over the last year to continue to come swimming. We would love to have been able to meet the whole cost ourselves but as a not –for- profit Trust who receives no subsidy from the statutory authorities we have no means of meeting the shortfall. I hope our supporters will appreciate the efforts we are making to serve our local community and our staff and volunteers will continue to make swimming at Crewkerne Aqua Centre an enjoyable activity."

End

Press Note: For further information press are invited to contact Neil Sturtivant, Aqua Centre manager on 01460 77665