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Birthday celebrations make a splash

Dive in: The kids of Templemore Amateur Swimming Club celebrated its 25th anniversary at Avoniel.

By Susan McCullough

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MEMBERS of the Templemore Amateur Swimming Club, based in the oldest pool in Ireland, made a splash last weekend when they celebrated their 25th anniversary at Avoniel Leisure Centre.

About 130 of the young swimmers turned out for the birthday celebrations, which included a bouncy castle, trampolines, football and pool and team games.

The activity packed afternoon gave the club the opportunity to reflect on the thousands of children it has introduced to swimming, since it was founded in November 1983.

Felicity Templeton, from TASC said: "The event went really well and the children all had a ball going from one activity to another. The afternoon was really a chance for the children to have a share of the celebrations and let their hair down.

"TASC really focuses on the sociable side of the club, so it was great to have so many of the members and their parents having a good time and relaxing."

The club works in the heart of east Belfast, providing a valuable service to young people in the community. It has over 300 swimmers who are encouraged to adopt a healthy, fun attitude to exercise and sport.

The Templemore ASC had a rocky beginning when its home, the Templemore Swimming Pool, was threatened with closure just as the club was getting established.

With assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Belfast City Council, the Templemore Development Trust was founded and the swimming pool, a listed building which was once the Templemore Public Baths, was saved.

Templemore ASC has recently been a new addition to the competitive circuit, which has seen them rapidly progress through the swimming leagues to now compete at the highest levels in Ulster.

The club, sponsored by Belfast City Council and Connswater Shopping Centre, welcomes learners and children of all ages and abilities and has participating members ranging from beginners through to Ulster and Irish Championships.

You can find out more about TASC by going to www.templemore.org.uk.