



## **Festival of Nature set to make waves with River Avon theme for 2016**

The [Bristol to Bath Festival of Nature](#) is taking to the water this summer, offering wildlife-lovers of all ages the chance to go on a wild adventure along the River Avon. This is the first time in its 14-year history that the festival has included the city's waterscapes as part of the programme and it will allow participants to take a journey along the river, uncovering the delights of the Avon and the wildlife it is home

**Bath & North East  
Somerset Council**

This Newsletter has been prepared by Bath & North East Somerset Council on behalf of the River Avon Project. The Council is working in partnership to deliver a Water Space Study in 2016/17.

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The festival is also extending its programme this year to include events in Keynsham on Sunday 19

June before culminating in Bath in Royal Victoria Park for its finale on Saturday 25 June. Arts, performances and workshops will spring up on river banks en-route as the Festival meanders along the Avon over the course of the two weeks.

The festival gives people the opportunity to discover and enjoy the natural world through an imaginative programme of hands-on activities, workshops, performances, celebrity talks, local market stalls and much more. It also encourages people to take positive action to support and protect wildlife in their area.

A Waterblitz is also being planned to help raise awareness of water quality issues across the Bristol Avon Catchment. Organisations, community groups, schools and members of the public will have the opportunity to collect water samples from freshwater bodies (streams, ponds, lakes) to create a snap shot of water quality levels at a catchment scale.

Volunteers can now register to help out at the



#### **Trip to the Himalayas**

A fieldwork trip was taken by our River Avon Project Intern to Northern India. Trekking through the Himalayas and conducting research of the rivers situated there, to see how they have changed over time and how past floods had an impact on the area. A flood was reconstructed from 1994, using a variety of tools such as channel reconnaissance, channel cross-sections, boulder size and gradient.

All in all it was a fantastic trip with great learning opportunities and outcomes.

festival by filling in the form at this link: <http://www.bnhc.org.uk/festival-of-nature/volunteer-form/>



## **Project Updates**

### **Water Space Study**

Evidence gathering and mapping is currently underway to inform the Study. A project brief is now available on the website [here](#).

Public consultation events are also being planned as part of the Festival of Nature 2016, including:

- Open Studio Event in Central Bath on 18<sup>th</sup> June
- A series of themed walking tours delivered by Historian Mike Chapman, and local experts from the Mayor's Guides in Bath and the Kennet & Avon Trust
- Family friendly bat activities where you can learn about species living along the River Avon in Bath on 25<sup>th</sup> June
- A Big Bat Survey event after dusk in Bath's City Parks on 21<sup>st</sup> June

For information on the river and canal and the Water Space Study, visit

[www.bathnes.gov.uk/riverandcanal](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/riverandcanal) or email [riveravon@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:riveravon@bathnes.gov.uk)



### **Water Spaces Open Studio Event - 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

Emerging design ideas and concepts for improvements to the River Avon and Kennet & Avon Canal with Bath & North East Somerset will be shared at a drop in open studio event in central Bath.

### **River Corridor Bat Survey Launched**

Clarkson Woods have been appointed by Bath & North East Somerset Council to undertake an ecology survey to monitor horseshoe bat activity in the River Avon corridor between April and September 2016. Environmental volunteering opportunities are available, contact [riveravon@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:riveravon@bathnes.gov.uk) if you are interested.

### **Destructor Bridge Update**

The first phase of the launch of the new Destructor Bridge is underway at Crest Nicholson's Bath Riverside development. The new bridge installation is a collaboration between Crest, B&NES and Britannia Construction.

The launch, which involves pushing the bridge at a controlled rate over the river with specialist equipment, has experienced a technical problem. The work has been temporarily stopped and will recommence as soon as possible.

For the latest updates see:

[www.bathwesternriverside.com](http://www.bathwesternriverside.com)

### **Partnership announced for development of Riverside Development at Bath Quays South**

### **Riverfly Conference – 7th May 2016**

Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART) are hosting a Riverfly Conference in Calne, Wiltshire on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Book your ticket here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bart-riverfly-conference-2016-tickets-20034345266>

Bath & North East Somerset Council is delighted to announce that it will be entering into a partnership agreement with successful design, engineering and management consultancy company BMT, and creative workspace provider TCN to regenerate the derelict buildings at Newark Works, on the south side of the river in Bath. The partnership will allow the Council to secure an anchor tenant for Bath city's central business district and will provide a secure location for BMT's new regional headquarters.

See the update presentation from the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 Stakeholder Update, which illustrates the latest development plans for Bath Quays North, South and Waterside [here](#).

