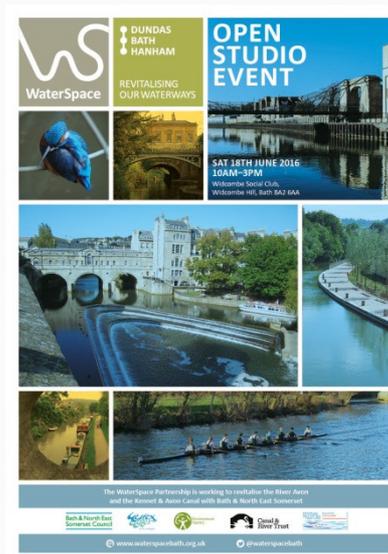


River Avon Newsletter

Issue 4 June 2016



River Avon themed Festival of Nature arrives in Bath and Keynsham this week!

The UK's largest free celebration of the natural world arrives in Bath and Keynsham this week, closing with a family-friendly celebration, marking the grand finale of a wild adventure along the River Avon in Royal Victoria Park on 25th June.

This is the first time in its 14-year history the Festival has celebrated the region's waterscapes.

Join in for one of the events that the WaterSpace Partnership are organising for the Festival, together with our many fabulous volunteers and local interest groups:

- [WaterSpace Study Open Studio Event](#) – Preview the ideas and proposals being considered to improve the River Avon &

**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.

Canal in the area. Drop in on Saturday 18 June 10am – 3pm to the Widcombe Social Club, Bath.

- [Behind the Scenes at Sewage Treatment Works](#) – Saltford Sewage Treatment Works Saturday/Sunday 18/19 June
- [WaterBlitz](#) - 10-25 June. Help us collect 500 water quality samples, sign up for your free pack.
- Join one of our amazing guided [River Avon Walking Tours](#) – 14-25 June.
- [Brilliant Bats Event](#) – Join us for an exciting Big Bat Survey event after dusk in Bath's City Parks on 21st June. Almost sold out!
- [Self-Guided Walking Maps](#) – explore the River Avon and Kennet & Avon Canal.
- [Riverside Poetry](#) – Find beautiful poetry boards along the River Avon between Bristol and Bath during June! Sponsored by the Arts Council and B&NES Council.
- [Festival Finale Event](#) at Royal Victoria Park – 25 June. Visit our marquee for family friendly bat craft activities where you can learn about species living along the River Avon, eat like a bat and create your own bat box to take home. Find out about projects you can get involved with. Witness the [River Spectacle](#) Art Installation!

All activities are free of charge and work on a first-come first-served basis.

For more details and to see the full Festival programme, go to www.festivalofnature.org.uk

Guest Slot – The River Regeneration Trust

The River Regeneration Trust is a not-for profit organisation. Their principle aim is to identify opportunities for regeneration and social gain within the River Avon and Canal corridor.

Over the past few years the River Regeneration Trust has researched and highlighted some of the most



Water Spaces Open Studio Event - 18th 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 at Widcombe Social Club.

http://www.bnhc.org.uk/?post_type=festival-of-nature&p=8954



important issues facing both our river and land based communities. These include the ever growing dangers from flood and drought, the needs of the many hundreds of Boat Dwellers and River Travellers and the neglect of the waterways environment.

The group is currently promoting land at Broadmead Peninsula for future development as part of the Joint Spatial Plan, and is interested in promoting floating homes as part of the housing mix

www.riverregenerationtrust.co.uk/media/pdf/bpscopingstudy.pdf

They are also interested in supporting Riverside buildings coming back into use (such as the Boathouse at Pulteney) and in re-establishing a Bath Annual Boating Festival.

With thanks to Dave Laming Chair of the RRT for providing content for this guest slot.

To find out more visit their website:
www.riverregenerationtrust.co.uk

If your organisation is interested in a future guest slot get in touch! Contact:
riveravon@bathnes.gov.uk

WaterBlitz until 25 June 2016

Take part in the first ever Bristol Avon WaterBlitz and join the race to collect 500 water quality samples from across the catchment area during the Festival of Nature.

www.wessexwater.co.uk/waterblitz/



Project Updates

Water Space Study

A project brief for the WaterSpace Study is available on the website [here](#).

For information on the river and canal and the Water Space Study, visit www.waterspacebath.org.uk or email riveravon@bathnes.gov.uk

Boater Survey

The Boaters Survey 2016 has had, over 70 responses received so far! It will run for a further three weeks **until 4th July 2016**.

The survey is being carried out by Consultancy Atkins Plc on behalf of the newly formed Bath WaterSpace Partnership (made up of B&NES Council, Canal & River Trust, the Environment Agency and Wessex Water). The survey will help the partners better understand what the needs are for live-aboard boaters and how they can be better provided for.

- [Link to e-survey](#)
- [Downloadable survey](#) (Pdf)

You can download a poster to advertise the survey [here](#).

New Walking Trail Map & Poetry Trail!

A new [walking trail map](#) for the Newbridge to Windsor Bridge was launched on 10th June – we recommend you try it! During June there is [Riverside poetry](#) at three points along the route, which you can also listen to online!

Design Visit to Paddington Basin & Olympic Park Waterways

At the beginning of June, Officers from the Water

Space Partnership and the Council's Environment & Design Team were invited to join Canal and River Trust officers for a design meeting to discuss some of the projects that have been delivered on London's waterways. There were some inspiring projects, will give plenty of ideas for the Water Space Study in Bath & North East Somerset. Some of these ideas will be shared at the upcoming Open Studio event (and will be posted on the website after this event).

Saltford Brassmill

The Water Space Partnership is working with the Avon Frome Partnership and volunteers at Saltford Brassmill to create a new walking trail map from Bath to the Brassmill at Saltford.

The Brassmill is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and is well worth a visit, it is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, or can open other times for pre-arranged groups. Find out more on their website: www.brassmill.com

Meetings & Discussions

The Water Space Study project Team, have met with members of the K&A Boaters Action Group and attended their 13th June meeting to publicise the Boater survey.

The Kennet & Avon Boating Community website is a fantastic resource:
www.kanda.boatingcommunity.org.uk/

Last night (14th June) members of the Water Space project team met with the River Avon Users Consultative Committee (RAUCC), to discuss project ideas for inclusion in the Water Space Study. We also took a water quality sample for WaterBlitz together!

If you are interested in finding out more about RAUCC group, or would like to get involved please get in contact. Email RiverAvon@Bathnes.gov.uk and

I will put you in touch.

The project team also attended Saltford's Parish Council (7th June) meeting to introduce the Water Space Study. The need for further clarity in relation to Mooring at Mead Lane was raised; this is being looked at as a project by the WaterSpace Partnership.

