

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

This issue...
Your guide to
Summer days in
our area



connect

The magazine for the people of Bath and North East Somerset | Summer 2014

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in our photo
competition
on page 6



A summer to savour

The important role
played by food hygiene



In the community
Student volunteers
make a difference



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including **B&NES at Chelsea**
and a **Victoria Bridge update**

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Welcome

Summer 2014

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Summer has arrived at last! The longer days and (hopefully) better weather offer greater opportunities for you to get out and about and make the most of living in Bath and North East Somerset. For some of you that could mean taking the family to your local park, treating yourselves to a meal out at your favourite restaurant, or even (weather permitting) having a barbecue.

Whatever you're planning, the Council is here to help ensure you have an enjoyable and safe experience. Take a look at page 10 for details of how you can protect yourself and your family from food poisoning – including top tips for cooking at home and checking the hygiene ratings of restaurants and takeaways across our region following inspections by the Council.

In addition we've made significant investments to replace old play equipment in parks throughout the district to offer even more family fun

for all. The new facilities (featured on page 14) are designed to encourage our children and young people to enjoy taking part in regular outdoor activities.

Meanwhile, it's great to see members of our young student population playing a positive role in the area through the Student Community Partnership – students volunteer in their local community, make friends with residents

"It's great to see members of our student population playing a positive role in the area"

in their neighbourhood and donate to food banks. Read more on page 18.

Also in this issue, you can find out how you can have your say on the "Getting Around Bath" transport strategy proposal, how to help keep our streets clean and check out the usual round-up of events happening across the region.

If you have any feedback on the issues raised in this magazine, please tweet me at @BathnesLeader or use #getconnected.

*Councillor Paul Crossley,
Leader of Bath & North East
Somerset Council*



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Newsdesk

Keeping you informed with the latest news from the area



The metal superstructure of the bridge has been dismantled and reconstructed

Progress at Victoria Bridge

The final phase of the refurbishment of Victoria Bridge is now in motion – and it's on course to reopen at the end of 2014

Works to refurbish the Grade II* listed Victoria Bridge commenced earlier this year; the final phase of a multi-phase project which started with the installation of a temporary truss in 2011. Victoria Bridge spans the River Avon connecting the Upper and Lower Bristol Roads, through the Bath Western Riverside development, making up part of the Bristol/Bath cycle network. In 2010, the bridge was closed to the public amid concerns about its strength and stability, after which the temporary truss was installed to secure the bridge and maintain public access across the river.

In June 2012 the Council Cabinet committed £3.4m of funding for the project, including the bridge's permanent refurbishment. The solution, developed in consultation with English Heritage, involves dismantling and reconstructing the metal superstructure using both original ironwork, which will be refurbished, and some newly fabricated steel components. When completed the bridge will look similar to the original structure.

All of the metal superstructure has now been dismantled and removed to an off-site

fabrication yard where original elements of the bridge are being refurbished and new steel components fabricated. Conservation work on the original stone towers at each end of the bridge and the construction of new backspan foundations have also now been completed and work to install the refurbished bridge will commence shortly.

Once the bridge has been installed, the temporary truss will be removed and the bridge fully opened to pedestrians and cyclists. It is anticipated that the works will be completed at the end of 2014.

Balfour Beatty are undertaking the construction work on behalf of the Council and have developed a construction method which enables the bridge, River Avon and towpath to remain open for public use for the majority of the construction programme. Some closures of the bridge, river and towpath are required however, mainly for safety reasons.

The specific timings for forthcoming bridge, towpath and river closures can be located on the project information boards

at either end of the bridge, on the Council's webpage at www.bathnes.gov.uk/victoria-bridge and on the Twitter feed: @_VictoriaBridge.



Find out more

Details about other major projects can be found on www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-control/major-projects

Herbs dig for victory

Models of characters from the TV show *The Herbs* made by B&NES Council's gardeners have helped South West in Bloom win two awards at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Parsley the Lion, Dill the Dog and Bayleaf the Gardener, on show in Bath's Parade Gardens last summer, were part of the display which won a Chelsea Gold Medal and the Diamond Jubilee Award for the Best Exhibit in the Great Pavilion.

Barry Cruse, Chairman of Bath in Bloom said: "It was brilliant to find out that our exhibit has scooped two top awards – thanks to the whole South West in Bloom team, and of course The Herbs! This is a fantastic example of community working at its best."

The Herbs were created by B&NES Council's Horticultural Excellence Team. Team Supervisor Matt Soan was responsible



for planting up the figures in Parade Gardens last year and went to the Chelsea Flower Show to set up the display with Jon Wheatley, Chairman of South West in Bloom, who designed and coordinated the garden. www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show

Cheques to charities

Outgoing B&NES Council chairman Neil Butters recently committed murder for five good causes. The retired railway manager organised a gala dinner, Murder on the Orient Express, at the Guildhall, Bath. The money raised, £11,000, was split between the chairman's five official charities – Age UK B&NES, Forever Friends RUH Cancer Campaign, the Quartet Community Foundation, the Research Institute for the Care of Older People and St John's Hospital. Each charity received a cheque for £2,200.



The cheques being presented to the five charities

Guests were treated to the famous Agatha Christie whodunnit performed by Bath Spa University drama students. Diners sipped cocktails with names such as 'Captain Hastings' and 'Miss Lemon' amid authentic GWR posters, old-fashioned luggage and railway signage. There was even a Hercule Poirot lookalike. Event sponsors were Crest, Network Rail, Hitachi Trains, Curo, and First Great Western.

Cutting child casualties

Did you know that an unrestrained child in a car can be killed in an impact with speeds as low as 5mph? If properly restrained, a child is three times less likely to sustain a head injury in a collision than an unrestrained child.

B&NES Council is running a campaign that aims to cut child passenger casualty rates and as part of the campaign are holding drop-in clinics about the correct way to fit in-car child seats. Parents or carers can also have their child car seats checked for safety and hear more about in-car child safety.

Previous campaigns have shown that over half of child seats were either incorrectly fitted or were incompatible with the vehicle. To help

tackle this road safety issue, the Council has also joined the Good Egg In-Car Child Safety Campaign, which is designed to ensure that babies and children are properly restrained in the car.

Events run from 9am to 4pm and take place on Thursday 19th June at Argos Car Park, Midsomer Norton; and Tuesday 19th August at KRFC, Keynsham.

B&NES Council would like local retailers/stockists of child car seats to obtain Good Egg accreditation (contact alex@dynamicadgroup.com). Parents can find out more about the scheme, including the retailers who have signed up to the Good Egg Charter, at www.bathnes.gov.uk

News round-up

Kindness can kill

A campaign has launched to address the ongoing problem of street begging in the City. The "Your Kindness Can Kill" campaign promotes the message that giving money to beggars does not help the problem and that it is better to donate responsibly to the organisations who support the homeless.

www.yourkindnesscankill.co.uk

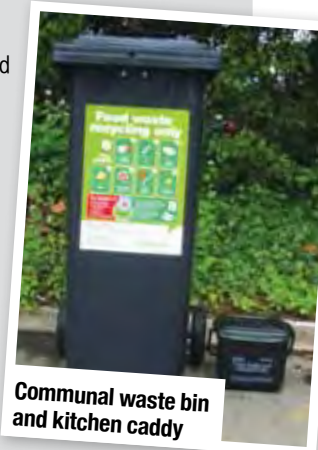


Traffic-free route

Work has begun on a new path for walkers and cyclists between Westfield and Midsomer Norton. The path between Pit Road and Shakespeare Road will provide a traffic-free route between a large residential area in Westfield, Midsomer Norton town centre and the main section of the Five Arches Greenway route. www.betterbybike.info

Collect more food

Food waste collection services have been extended by B&NES Council in order to recycle more and reduce the amount of rubbish sent to landfill. Most residents living in flats with communal recycling bin collections will be offered a food waste collection and the plan is also to encourage more schools to recycle their food waste. www.bathnes.gov.uk/foodwaste; www.bathnes.gov.uk/businesswaste



Communal waste bin and kitchen caddy

Reuse and recycle

Community organisations are being encouraged by B&NES Council to access free furniture, stationery and equipment that is no longer needed and is being given away locally. The national online re-use network WARPit (Waste Action Resource Portal) gives away hundreds of surplus reusable items that would have been wasted. www.warp-it.co.uk/bathnescommunity

Kelston landslip works

A busy road between Bitton and Bath has been closed since mid-February due to landslip. Investigative works by engineering experts have taken place on the subsiding ground in Kelston Road, Kelston, and trial boreholes and monitoring points are now in place. The subsidence has been caused by complex geological factors taking place up to seven metres underground. Specialist teams have been looking at the opportunities for a temporary road to bypass the works as well as finalising a permanent solution. The amount of ground movement on the site has considerably reduced further to the closure of the road, the works that have so far taken place and improving weather conditions.



A temporary stone footpath around the closure opened in May so that pedestrians and cyclists can bypass the works. Officers are now assessing the permanent works options – once the laboratory analysis of the soil samples are available, a programme for the final completion of the repairs will be set in place.

The council has a website page where people can keep up to date with the latest information. www.bathnes.gov.uk/kelston or tel 01225 394041. ■

Public toilet improvements

The Monmouth Street (Seven Dials) public toilets are due to re-open later this month. B&NES Council's lease to Healthmatic Ltd means that 15 public toilets in parks, play areas, green spaces and key transport hubs will remain open.

The new cubicles have high standards of cleanliness and safety and can handle large numbers of people. A coin entry of 20p, available 24 hours a day and seven days a week, allows access to a private cubicle with its own hand-washing and drying facilities.

The cubicles are built in the existing toilet buildings and are disability compliant with sharps boxes and baby-change facilities. The insides have an easy-clean tiled interior and hard-wearing fittings. ■

Bricks and mortar

The latest ongoing projects in your community



New bus shelters

The Bath Transportation Package has created over 30 new and replacement shelters so far this year, including this stop in High Littleton. Many shelters will feature Real Time Information displays with up-to-date bus arrival times.



Newbridge Park and Ride

Development has commenced with the removal of the southern boundary earth embankment to provide the room to accommodate the Highways improvement works.

Connect competition

Name the location?

This issue we're travelling back in time to the 1970s. Do you recognise which area this road in Bath is shown in the black and white image below? This photograph was kindly provided by the Bath Records Office (www.batharchives.co.uk).

WIN £50!



HOW TO ENTER

Email: Send your answer to connectmagazine@bathnes.gov.uk
Post: Send your answer to Connect Competition, Floor 1, Guildhall, Bath BA1 5AW

LAST ISSUE'S WINNER: Mrs Alison Rowe, Upper Weston, Bath
TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Competition open to residents of Bath and North East Somerset only. Employees of MediaClash and Bath & North East Somerset Council (or relatives) not eligible to enter. Editor's decision is final.

Clothing to help good causes

Thousands of pounds of counterfeit clothes seized by B&NES Council trading standards inspectors are getting a new lease of life. The Council has linked with the charity His Church to distribute the items to homeless centres and women's shelters. In raids over the last year, inspectors have confiscated hundreds of items with fake brands. However, storing the clothes while waiting for a court decision can incur costs and once the items are proved fake incineration or landfill fees then have to be paid for.

His Church takes the clothing, removes the labels and rebrands them with the charity's logo before passing them to good causes. Senior Coordinator Richard Humphrey said: "We are grateful to work with Bath & North East Somerset trading standards. Their work is essential in fighting counterfeiting and the sale of counterfeit goods which has a negative impact on local businesses."

www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/trading-standards ■



Counterfeit clothing is being recycled for charity



Temple Precinct, Roman Baths

Their Royal Highnesses The Earl and Countess of Wessex visited the Roman Baths to re-open the newly-renovated Temple Precinct, which has increased space for visitors and revealed more of the ancient monument.



Castle Primary School

Works are on track for a two-classroom extension to the school. Construction started on 7 April with completion planned for August.



Weston All Saints Primary School

Work on the new classroom extension is on schedule for completion at the end of June. Here we see the roof covering installed and internal partitions.

Celebrating their 130th anniversary this year

TREORCHY MALE CHOIR

LET ALL MEN SING



BATH ABBEY SATURDAY SEPT 27th • 7.30pm
with **Bath Male Choir**
Founder Conductor - GRENVILLE JONES

Bath's much loved Male Choir visit **Japan** this year 2014



Tickets - £25 (£23 concs) Nave; £17.50 (£15.50 concs) Rear Nave & Front Side Aisles;

£15 (£13 concs) Rear Side Aisles; £10 (£8 concs) Choir unreserved and south aisle wall unreserved;

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events diary

The summer events in our region include jazz, opera, World War I history, train rides, markets and the circus in Alice Park!

28-29 June

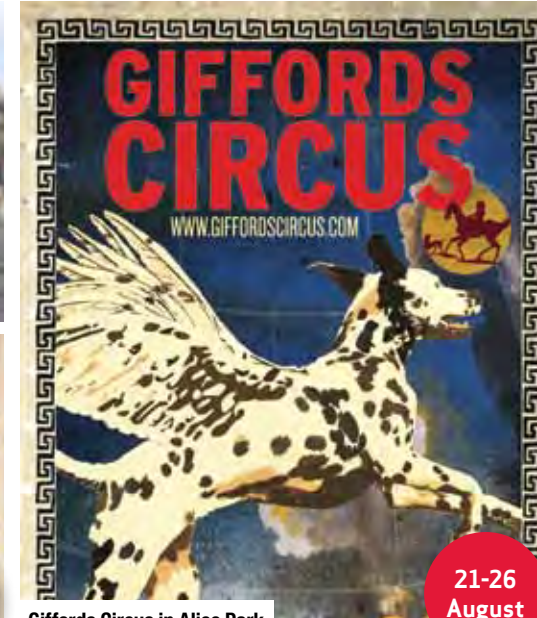


Cycling weekend around Bath



The Great War in Costume

19 July - 31 August



Giffords Circus in Alice Park

21-26 August



Money Mondays at the Roman Baths

14 July - 18 August



Keynsham Music Festival

30 June - 6 July

JUNE

■ Village Histories Exhibition

Until 31 August
Locally produced exhibition on the history of Timsbury, Kilmersdon and Chilcompton.
radstockmuseum.co.uk | 01761 437722

■ Timsbury Fun Day

21 June
Annual Community Fun Day with live music, craft stalls and food and drink.

■ World War One Centenary exhibition

1-11 August
A fascinating exhibition of local people's stories and memorabilia during the war years. Other events will be taking place across the region.
Bath Central Library.
fashionmuseum.co.uk | 01225 477789



Parade on Midland Bridge Road c.1914

Conygre Hall and Recreation Field.
timsburyfunday.co.uk

■ Midsummer at Midsomer and Summer Jazz

21-22 June
Family fun at Midsomer Norton South Station on the former Somerset and Dorset line. 10am-4pm.
rdjr.co.uk | 01761 411221

■ Cycling Weekend

28-29 June
Challenge yourself to cycle 20, 30 60 or 100-mile routes around Bath for a timed and fully marshalled cycling weekend to remember. Children under 16 go free with an adult. Register on the website.
bikebath.co.uk | 0845 388 0037

JULY

■ Lasting Impressions

Until 31 August
From Hiroshige to Whistler, this exhibition explores the Victoria Art Gallery's print collection, including works from the 16th to the 19th century.
victoriagal.org.uk | 01225 477233

■ Keynsham Music Festival

30 June - 6 July
The annual free festival returns with a week of music and art events, concluding with the Big Day in the Park on 6 July. Highlights include opera by candlelight and range of acoustic music events.
keynshammusicfestival.co.uk | 0117 986 868

■ War of Independence Drill Displays

5-6 July
Celebrate American Independence with military displays from His Majesty's Crown forces and a very loud canon. Children can join the regiment.
americanmuseum.org | 01225 460503

■ Midsomer Norton Fayre: A Community Festival

12 July
Annual Community Fun Day with stalls, a Midsomer Norton 'Bake Off' and other family activities Midsomer Norton. 12-6pm.
manager@midsomernortoncommunitytrust.co.uk | 01761 419133

■ Money Mondays

Mondays, 14 July - 18 August
One of a number of summer events at The Roman Baths where you can explore coins from the Beau Street Hoard collections including Saxon, Viking and Medieval examples. 6pm-8pm. Roman Baths.
romanbaths.co.ukcommunitytrust.co.uk | 01225 477785

■ The Great War in Costume

19 July - 31 August
The Fashion Museum celebrates the centenary of World War I with an exhibition tracing the transformation of women through their dress, including costumes from *Downton Abbey*.
fashionmuseum.co.uk | 01225 477789

AUGUST

■ Somerset Farmers Market

9 August
In the car park adjacent to Keynsham's busy High Street, this market will be bursting with local produce and live music.
somersefarmersmarkets.co.uk

■ Vintage Bus Rally

10 August
See and travel on a variety of vintage vehicles. Bristol Vintage Bus Group will even provide a free vintage bus ride to Avon Valley Railway.
www.avonvalleyrailway.org | 0117 932 5538

■ Giffords Circus

21-26 August
The vintage Giffords Circus arrives in Alice Park with their all-new show exploring Greek myth and legend.
www.giffordscircus.com | 0117 932 5538

Add an event

Any organisation or member of the public can add an event to our online calendar. Just register with us via the website. Events will be searchable by date or category. Visit www.bathnes.gov.uk/events to begin uploading.



A summer to savour

Food poisoning? No thank you! So how do you ensure that the food you prepare in your kitchen follows the highest standards of food hygiene?

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) estimates that up to 5.5 million people in the UK are affected by food poisoning each year. The grand majority of these believe that their illness was caused by food consumed away from home. However, you should beware because there are hidden dangers in your own kitchen that can lead to food poisoning. The good thing is that if you stick to some simple hygiene routines, you will avoid the unpleasant results of food contamination.

Food Safety Week runs from 16-22 June and the FSA's campaign this year will share useful advice about what we can do to protect ourselves and our family from food poisoning. The keynote of the campaign is "Don't wash raw chicken". This is because the most common cause of food poisoning in the UK is the food bug campylobacter, which is found in chicken – the campylobacter bacteria are responsible for around 460,000 individual cases and 110 deaths from food poisoning.

Cross-contamination

An FSA survey has established that more than a third of householders always wash raw poultry (chicken, turkey and duck) and more than half wash raw poultry some of the time. The danger is that when washed, bacteria on raw meat and poultry can spread to other foods and parts of the kitchen, including utensils and surfaces –



Cooking meat gets rid of any bacteria

this is called cross-contamination. The bacteria on raw meat will actually only be destroyed in the cooking process.

Cross-contamination can also happen if you prepare raw meat on a chopping board and then don't wash the board before preparing food, such as salad, that won't be cooked. This can also happen if raw meat is stored above ready-to-eat meals in the fridge, where meat juices contaminate the food below.

Other foods susceptible to contamination are raw eggs, raw shellfish, unpasteurised milk and ready-to-eat foods such as cooked meats, pâté, soft cheese and pre-packed sandwiches.

The four Cs

To ensure good food hygiene in your kitchen, remember the four Cs recommended by the FSA:

- **Cleaning** – work areas should be kept clean and food handlers should wash their hands regularly
- **Cooking** – food, especially meat, should be cooked properly
- **Chilling** – chilled foods should be kept cold and hot foods should be cooled as quickly as possible and then chilled
- **Cross-contamination** – raw foods should be kept separate from ready-to-eat foods, and surfaces and utensils should be cleaned thoroughly



Wash your hands regularly



Cook burgers and poultry until there is no pink meat left inside

How to prepare and cook food safely

Simple hygiene rules to avoid food contamination are washing your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water, then rinsing and drying them, working on a clear and hygienic work surface, and always using kitchen cleaning products, which are safe to use in areas with food. Chopping boards should be washed in between preparation stages, particularly in between preparing raw and ready-to-eat food, and cleaning cloths such as tea towels and dishcloths should be changed once a week or more.

When storing food in the fridge, ensure the fridge is set between 0°C and 5°C, and that raw meat is stored in covered containers at the bottom of the fridge. Also make a point of checking 'use-by' dates on food and never eat food after it has been dropped on the floor. Finally, when preparing ground meat products (such as burgers and kebabs) and poultry, always cook them until they are cooked right through – there should be no pink meat left inside and the juices should be clear.

Food hygiene when eating out

If you are worried about food hygiene when eating away from home, then you can put your mind at rest by using the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS), now being run by B&NES Council in partnership with the FSA. The scheme gives each food business a food hygiene rating on a scale from 0 to 5 after it has been inspected by a Council food safety officer. The top rating is '5', which means the hygiene standards are very good. The bottom is '0', which indicates urgent improvement is required. So when you eat out, look for a sticker like the one shown above right – this will demonstrate the food hygiene rating for that business. You can also check a restaurant's or outlet's ratings on the internet (ratings.food.gov.uk).

Seven restaurants have recently achieved the highest five-star hygiene rating from B&NES, proving that their standards of preparation, cooking and storing food, as well as their record keeping, are of the



Venues must prove high hygiene standards when preparing, cooking and storing food

highest quality. These restaurants are The Tandoori Gardens in Keynsham; The Waterside Café in North Parade, Bath; My Small World in Harris' Court, Bath; The Ship Inn in Temple Street, Keynsham; Café Lucca (The Loft) in Bartlett Street, Bath; Oriel Lodge in Lower Swainswick, Bath; and Hall & Woodhouse in Old King Street, Bath. ■



The food hygiene certificate

Case study: Five-star rating

The Tandoori Gardens in Keynsham is family-run restaurant and has been open for 14 years. It was originally awarded a three-star rating after an inspection in August 2013. With some great improvements, the premises were awarded a four-star rating in January 2014. The owner put the new rating sticker on his window and immediately noticed an increase in trade. After making further improvements the restaurant achieved the top five-star rating just weeks later.

A spokesperson for the restaurant said, "Having done all this work, finally achieving a rating of five has made us very proud. It has also been great for business. This weekend we were absolutely inundated with customers wanting to come in."



A five-star curry in Keynsham

Find out more



Food Standards Agency: food.gov.uk
Check hygiene ratings: www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/environment/food-safety/food-hygiene-rating-scheme



The capacity of the Park & Rides will be extended, reducing parking congestion in the city

Getting around Bath

Consultation on Bath's proposed transport strategy was launched in April. Now we'd like to hear your views so that the long-term plan corresponds to your transport needs

There has been enormous progress made in the past few years with transport facilities in Bath. Expanded Park & Ride sites, improvements at Bath Spa Rail Station, a new bus station, variable message signs, an Urban Freight Consolidation Project and new and improved cycle routes have all extended the range and quality of our transport options.

We do need to keep the transport momentum moving, however, because demand for transport in and around Bath is likely to continue increasing. The Getting Around Bath strategy sets out a long-term vision for transport in the city, covering the period up to 2029. The emphasis of the strategy is to promote sustainable transport and reduce vehicles, particularly in the historic core. Achieving this will enable more economic activity and growth, enhance the special character of Bath and improve the quality of life for local people.

Reducing traffic

Bath has a World Heritage status that attracts substantial numbers of visitors. As a result, too much traffic enters and

passes through the centre, leading to air quality problems and traffic congestion. All the outlined measures are designed to address this by reducing traffic.

A walkable city

Bath is a compact city that lends itself to walking. To extend this appeal, there are proposals to introduce better footways, crossings and public spaces. It is also possible that pedestrians could be given priority access in the daytime, in line with the overall reduction of traffic levels. Walking routes within the city and on the main radial routes could also be improved. Good pedestrian links to the centre, alongside accessibility for those with mobility impairments, are especially important for new development sites.

A cycle-friendly city

Cycling will be promoted through better cycling routes. Existing routes for cycles can be expanded and coordinated to form a coherent, safe network that will attract new cyclists. A continuous off-road route alongside the river could be a key part of the cycle network.

The objectives

- To support and enable economic growth, competitiveness and jobs
- To promote sustainable mobility
- To widen travel choice
- To widen access to opportunities such as jobs, learning and training
- To improve air quality and health and reduce vehicle carbon emissions
- To safeguard and enhance the unique historic environment
- To improve quality of life in the city

Separate consultations for Keynsham and the Chew Valley and for the Somer Valley area will be starting later in the year

Car parking

Parking remains an essential element of the transport plan. To avoid creating more long-stay spaces in the centre, the long-stay capacity of the Park & Rides at the edge of the city will be extended.

Bus and rail networks

The electrification of the Great Western main line from London to Bristol and beyond is in progress and will free up

capacity in the local area. Trains from Bath will be larger and additional trains travelling from Bristol Temple Meads to London will create more seats from Bath. The proposed MetroWest network will also see the upgrading of services and more frequent trains between Bath and Bristol.

Heavy goods vehicles

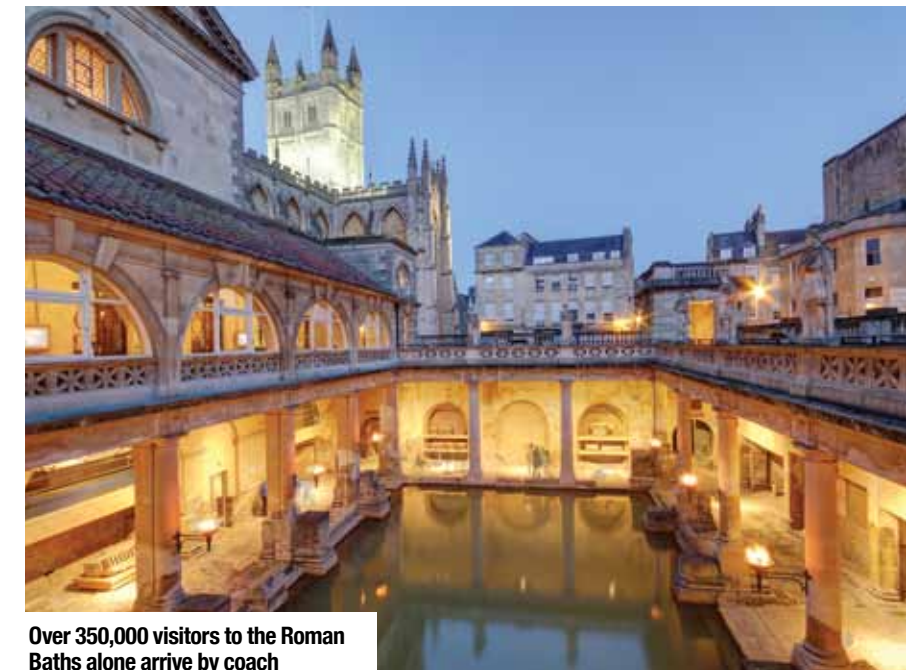
The creation of a freight consolidation centre has reduced the number of large

vehicles entering the city centre and the further promotion of the scheme will encourage more businesses to take part. Cycle deliveries are another idea, and there may also be scope to reduce loading and unloading during the working day.

Coach parking

Bath has huge numbers of tourists and visitors and many of these arrive by coach. Because the Avon Street Coach Park will be lost as part of the flood alleviation scheme, there is a need for a new coach park – it is suggested that this could be outside the city centre, with associated drop-off points within the centre.

Feedback and comments from residents about the proposed Getting Around Bath strategy is welcomed over the summer period before the plan is finalised. ■



Over 350,000 visitors to the Roman Baths alone arrive by coach



Less traffic in the city will reduce air quality problems and congestion

“The emphasis of the strategy is to promote sustainable transport and reduce vehicles, particularly in the historic core”

The proposals are as follows

- Introduce a walking/cycling plan to make Bath the UK's most walkable city
- Use a parking strategy to support economic growth, while also reducing the amount of off-street spaces within the city centre
- Support the greater use of buses and rail to reduce the number of cars entering the city
- Continue to expand our existing Park & Ride sites, where possible, to reduce the amount of parking spaces in the city
- Find a better way of managing Heavy Goods Vehicles travelling in the city
- Source a new location for coaches to park once they have dropped off visitors in the centre of the city

Find out more

For more about transport in Bath visit www.bathnes.gov.uk/gettingaroundbath

New Equipment for Parks and Play Areas

A number of new play area developments across our area will help to keep the our younger residents fit and active outdoors



Children and parents in Writhlington, Camerton, Clandown, Midsomer Norton, Keynsham and Bath are now enjoying new play equipment following significant investment by the Council into park facilities.

The facilities

The new facilities are designed to stimulate new visitors, provide modern and accessible equipment for the young residents of Bath and encourage them to participate in regular outdoor activities. The play areas will also cater for the increasing number of families with young children. All the refurbishments prioritise replacing end-of-life equipment, but the sites all enjoy significant benefits from the installation of the very latest play equipment.

Over 250 local children, young people and adults were consulted for all the

sites with the kind assistance of local primary schools, ward councillors, play organisations, youth services, and church and community groups. Based on the consultations, the new equipment is intended to broaden the appeal of our playful spaces to the widest age range.

This has taken place at the same time as a programme of improvements throughout various of the region's parks and play areas, including new CCTV equipment at the Royal Victoria Park and a range of new and improved fencing, bollards, planting, access routes and security measures.

Further plans

The park and play area developments will continue to be updated, with £540,000 to be spent this year on better play area facilities across the region, including new skate ramps at Royal Victoria Park and a new skate-park facility built to the east of the City.

New play park facilities to come

Further investment in outdoor activities in 2014 will continue to extend the play park facilities in our region. This map highlights just some of the improvements taking place.

- £250,000 will replace the existing skate ramps at Royal Victoria Park – this is likely to include a modern concrete bowl and street skating features
- £100,000 to continue the replacement of old play equipment across the area with new stimulating, modern equipment
- £100,000 for extra local skate park in the east of Bath
- £40,000 on improvements at the Sandpits play area, including site fencing and improving the landscaping around the embankment slide



Clapton Road, Hillside Crescent & Greenacres, Midsomer Norton

New equipment budget: £41K

Improvements: Refurbishment of two Midsomer Norton sites and new toddler pieces in Hillside Crescent. The Greenacres refurbishment is designed to appeal to children of all ages, especially those living in the nearby flats. The Clapton Road refurbishment focuses on young children.

KEYNSHAM



Vandyck Avenue, Keynsham

New equipment budget: £22K

Improvements: Major refit of small play area, and the multi-unit has been replaced with a new unit suitable for older children. A little springer has also been replaced with a buddy board and an elegant meeting point shelter added.



Corston View, Bath

New equipment budget: £18K

Improvements: A major refurbishment with several new pieces of play equipment chosen to broaden the activity and age range appeal of the site.



The Daglands, Camerton

New equipment budget: £20K

Improvements: Removal of a multi-unit and a wooden trim trail, to be replaced with a state-of-the-art multi-unit for young people, a toddler slide to broaden the appeal for younger children and a basket swing, a popular piece of equipment with all ages. New junior goal posts will follow in the adjacent green space.

MIDSOMER NORTON



Larkhall Rec, Bath

New equipment budget: £32K

Improvements: Half of the play equipment on site has been replaced. Pieces such as the climbing cube and the fun-time stagecoach have been replaced with pieces of multi-play equipment for toddlers and teens, alongside a basket swing, which is popular with all ages from babies to adults.

BATHEASTON



Manor Copse and Old Road, Writhlington

New equipment budget: £30K

Improvements: New equipment installed at Manor Copse for children of all ages, with a toddler multi-play, a pole spinner, a buddy board and a new goal mouth/basketball hoop. Old Road has a new multi-play suitable for 6-12 year olds (but not limited to these ages).

Duchy Road, Clandown

New equipment budget: £16K

Improvements: Replacement of an old multi-unit and tyre springer with a centrepiece state-of-the-art multi-unit for young people, plus a buddy board (which resembles a giant skateboard on springs).

Find out more



For more information about play areas in Bath and North East Somerset take a look at www.bathnes.gov.uk/playgrounds

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Active Aging team

This new initiative supports independent living

A specialist health visitor team has been set up by Sirona to help the elderly stay out of hospital in a ground-breaking initiative.

Called Active Aging, the eight-strong team will offer an MOT to people aged 80-85 who are not currently having health or social care and are living in Bath and North East Somerset.

The move is the first of its kind in Britain involving a health visiting team and will be rolled out in South Gloucestershire when Sirona Care & Health, an NHS-funded not-for-profit social enterprise, provides adult community health care from 1st April.

Active Aging involves working closely with GPs and practice nurses, explains Helen Mee, head of adult services for Sirona.

"The team has a public health role and they will be working with individuals to support the self-management of conditions, ensure empowerment and to advise them on

resources in the community which meet their needs.

"All those aged between 80 and 85 who are registered with a GP and are not currently receiving services from Sirona community teams will be offered an appointment in their own homes or at a location of their choice. Of the 7,000 in this age group within B&NES, not all are currently in need of health and social care.

"If the individual is well and managing then we will return to see them after a year. If someone needs help we will work with them to find the help they need, whether it is assistance with daily tasks, finding local support groups or managing symptoms of a new condition.

"This isn't a trial or a pilot, it is a permanent initiative because we know as people get older they are more likely to become unwell.



Some of the Active Aging team

"We also know if we work with people at an earlier time in their lives then they can learn to manage a condition themselves, get better and stay at home longer. We can stop people needing to be admitted to hospital and enable individuals to be as independent as possible while they are living at home."

The team, made up of Health Visitors and Health Visitor Support Workers, will also liaise with other Sirona services in the community. Helen says, "This service enhances the wraparound care that Sirona is able to offer."

At the moment there is no other team working in this way in the UK although Bristol and Croydon offer a service with a single health visitor.

Children's Audiology Clinic

Bath Rugby star opens Sirona's state-of-the-art Children's Audiology Clinic at St Martin's Hospital

Bath Rugby player Mat Gilbert recently opened Sirona's state-of-the-art Children's Audiology Clinic at St Martin's Hospital, Bath, attended by Sirona board members, councillors and families who use the service.

The 28-year-old flanker understands the importance of having great audiology facilities as he gradually lost his hearing as a child. He said, "I know as I grew up how important it was to have a great audiology service and hopefully this facility will allow you to do your job to the best of your ability."

The opening was a dream come true for Dr Adrian Dighe, consultant paediatrician and team leader for the newborn hearing screening programme. He said, "It represents a state-of-the-art centre for children and their families where hearing assessment can take place in a sound-proofed environment and to



Mat Gilbert and Dr Adrian Dighe

exacting modern standards. The clinic will see our young ones through to the next generation and beyond."

Dr Dighe praised those who helped to translate the dream into reality, including the directors of Sirona, who offer community health care and adult social services in Bath and North East Somerset, and the commissioners who approved the funding.

He added, "Sirona listened to a clinician who presented the need to improve quality of personal care where the individual comes first and so I'd like to personally thank Janet Rowse, our chief executive, for leading an organisation that really does try, despite the austerities of today's finances, to put quality first and for developing an organisation that follows through on its vision to listen and act.

"Last but by no means least I want to mention our little ones, the children we serve. They love it here and so do their parents. They have told us so."

The official opening saw the unveiling of Sirona Ted, the unit's new mascot created by Janet's mother, retired GP Dr Elizabeth Rowse, who began making decorative teddy bears after her retirement. ■

Find out more

Sirona Care & Health,
St Martin's Hospital, Clara
Cross Lane, Bath BA2 5RP
01225 831403;
Twitter @sironac;
www.sirona-cic.org.uk



Students in the community

Students are a real asset within the local community – the Student Community Partnership works with the Students' Unions to organise volunteers to make a difference to the area where they live

Students at an SCP pop-up event advertising their services

Student Community Partnership

The Student Community Partnership (SCP) works with local residents and groups to help identify opportunities for students to volunteer in their community. They also arrange community events for students and long-term community members. This allows people to get to know each other and for students to give back to the local community.

The SCP is a Partnership between University of Bath, Bath Spa University, their Students' Unions and B&NES Council. They arrange events where students and community members can socialise together. They also plan campaigns to ensure students have the information they need when moving into private accommodation. The 'Good Neighbour' Campaign in October, for example, encourages students and non-students to introduce themselves

to their new neighbours. They held an art competition in 2013, and designs by children at Oldfield Park Infants School and the 21st Ascension Brownies were used on postcards delivered in Oldfield Park.

There is also a 'Moving Out Campaign' to encourage students to plan ahead before they leave for the summer and recycle or donate to charity. Last year more than a tonne of food was donated to Bath Foodbank.

The SCP funds Community Liaison Co-ordinator Jenny Dean to organise the campaigns, help identify opportunities for students to participate in community activities and advise on issues to do with students in the community.



Emma Weskin knocked on doors introducing herself to her neighbours



Find out more



University of Bath V Team: vteam@bath.ac.uk; [facebook.com/vteambath](https://www.facebook.com/vteambath); Bath Spa University JustV: justv@bathspa.ac.uk; 01225 876296; Student Community Partnership: www.townandgown.org.uk; [Twitter@townandgownbath](https://twitter.com/townandgownbath); Jenny Dean, Community Liaison Co-ordinator: community-liaison@bath.ac.uk; 01225 383419

V Team Community



The ceilidh at St Mark's Community Centre

V Team is a student-led volunteering group from University of Bath Students' Union. Involved in a broad range of events in the local community, they work with more than 20 local organisations – recent events include the Age UK Sunday Lunch, gardening and painting projects at schools and a children's Christmas party.

This year V Team worked with the SCP to hold a Community Ceilidh at St Mark's Community Centre in Widcombe, and successfully applied for funding from the SCP Community Fund. The event, which is open to everybody, for the first time involved students from the two Universities volunteering together. Jenny Dean, Community Liaison Co-ordinator, tells us, "The Ceilidh Band, Nasrudin, were fantastic and kept everyone stripping the willow and dosy-dohing all evening!" Support was also received from the St Mark's Group, ARCH and the Widcombe Residents Association.

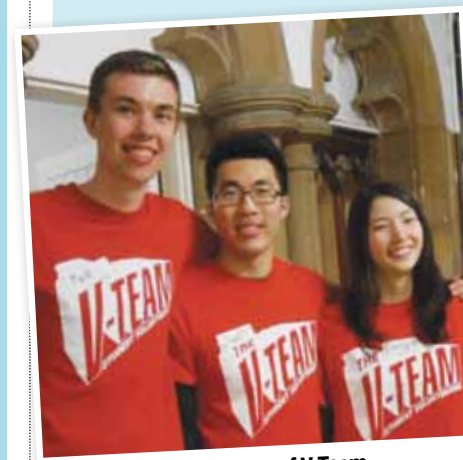
Commenting on the event, local resident and Widcombe Residents Association member Chris Rogers said, "It was a great lesson in how what we have in common with our neighbours belies the perceived differences between us. When's the next one?!"

Matt Humberstone V Team Chair

Matt Humberstone, from Billericay in Essex, is a second year Maths student at the University of Bath. His role as V Team Chair involves overseeing the volunteering group of the Students' Union, putting things in place so that V Team has an even stronger impact on local, national and international communities, as well as on the many volunteers. He comes up with new ideas and meets with charities, non-profit organisations and other groups that can benefit from help.

Matt explains, "I volunteer because it's something I really enjoy, getting involved in so many different things gives me a range of great experiences. Running a scout group, organising quizzes for Julian House, cooking a community meal from waste food with Foodcycle and stewarding at events are activities which have given me a large skill set and lots to talk about!"

"This year, the best part of my role has been seeing new volunteers discovering just how great volunteering can be, and meeting with charities to discuss ideas before seeing them through. I have learnt so much, whether obvious things like how to cook and public speaking to organisational and time management skills."



Max with other members of V Team

Jenna Rainy Student Volunteer



Jenna working on a park bench

Originally from Northern Ireland, Jenna Rainy is in her first year at Bath Spa University studying Creative Writing and Publishing. She regularly takes part in 'Quickies', one-day, practical volunteering team days in and around Bath. One of the things Jenna has done is to help with gardening and litter picking with a group of residents called 'Onboard' who look after the maintenance of Oldfield Park Train Station.

Jenna had always liked the idea of doing charity work or volunteering. She explains, "University has provided me with the perfect chance to help give something back to a community and generally my timetable allows it, which is great!"

"Primarily it just feels great knowing that you're helping out someone else, however volunteering also provides a chance to meet new people and make friends. It's a great environment and while it can prove hard work it can be fun and is very rewarding. More practically I've also picked up a few new useful skills, like how to use power tools!"

EVER THOUGHT OF HOSTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?



BATH
SPA
UNIVERSITY

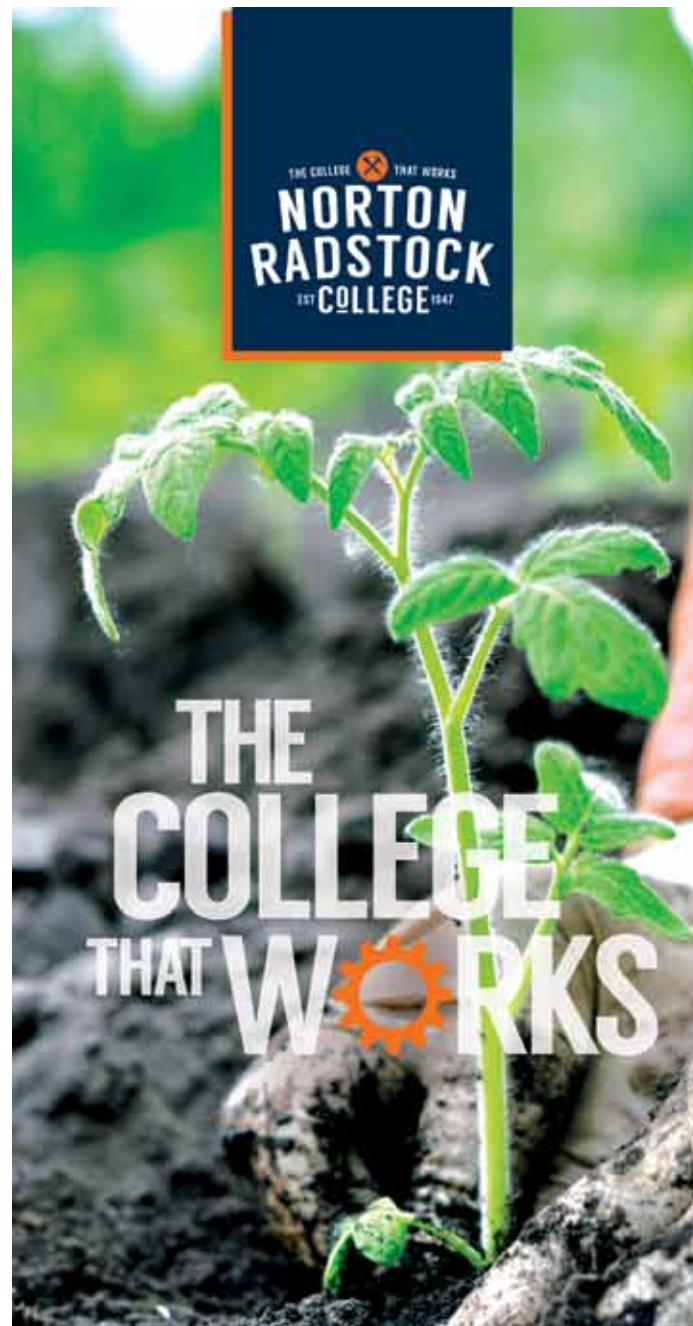
Bath Spa University is currently looking for people within the Bath area to become homestay hosts for international students.

There are numerous benefits to hosting international students. You will get the chance to rent out an unused room; welcome new international students to the UK; experience new cultures and traditions and discover more about the wider world; as well as supplementing your income in a way that's enjoyable and rewarding.

Key homestay requirements include:

- Making the student feel at home and treating them as a member of the family rather than a paying guest
- Providing a kind, caring English-speaking environment
- Providing a comfortable private study bedroom with internet access
- Being close to transport links to the University

For further information and application form please visit our website <http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/university-life/accommodation/becoming-a-homestay-host> or contact Student Housing Services on 01225 875843 or email accommodation@bathspa.ac.uk.



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Local childminder Rick and children in his garden

Childminders needed

Do you want to work with children?
Do you want to run your own business from home?
Have you considered childminding?

Childminding can be an incredibly rewarding career, and there is a need for more childminders in Bath and North East Somerset.

There are opportunities to look after just one child or more, depending on your own family commitments. Usually you can care for up to three pre-school children although this number must include your own children. It is often at this pre-school age that parents need childcare, but there is also a need for childminders before and after school when parents are working.

Registered childminders can offer childcare and education to three and four year olds who are eligible for free government funding and some childminders also offer spaces to two-year-olds who are eligible for funded places.

"We want to ensure parents have the opportunity to choose home-based childcare so we need to recruit more childminders within our authority", says Lucy Farmer from the Council's Childminding Team. "Some parents need childcare that is flexible as they work shifts or weekends and a childminder can provide this. Childminders set their own

hours and will often tailor their hours to meet a family's needs".

Advice and support

If you would like a career working with children, allowing you to work from home, childminding could be the job for you.

B&NES Council provide information, advice, training and support to anyone wishing to pursue a career in childminding. The Council offer Childminder Briefing Sessions throughout the year where you can find out about the training and other requirements to become a childminder.

The next sessions will take place on the following dates:

- 10th July 2014, 7-9 pm
- 9th September 2014, 7-9 pm

"If you would like a career working with children, childminding could be the job for you"



Find out more



If you would like to attend one of these courses or would like more information contact the Family Information Service on 01225 395343 or email fis@bathnes.gov.uk

Scavenging by gulls can be reduced by using your food waste collection.

Help keep our streets cleaner

By using your recycling and rubbish services to their full potential, you can help to keep our streets clean and tackle the gull menace

We all want to keep our streets as clean and tidy as we can. Whether you are dealing with your waste at home or work, the method you use to put out your rubbish and recycling, and the time that you do it, can greatly affect the look of our streets.

Recycle your food waste

For residents and visitors, recycling your food waste correctly is one of the most important ways of keeping our streets looking pleasant. By following the advice below you will reduce scavenging attacks by gulls and other animals such as foxes and rats.

- Put ALL food waste in your kitchen caddy, including bones and plate scrapings;
- Tie up caddy liners to stop food spilling;
- Remember to lock your outdoor food waste bin by pulling the handle forward.

Collection guidance

We ask you to put out your recycling and rubbish by 7am on your collection day or after 8pm the night before;

- The closer to 7am you put it out the better, leaving less time for scavenging, but don't leave it so late you miss the collection;
- Buying a dustbin helps keep your rubbish tidy and reduces animal attacks. We can't collect rubbish from wheelie bins as our collection vehicles are not fitted with bin lifts.
- Use a reusable rubbish bag if your street

has these – these are stronger than plastic bags and can help prevent seagulls attacking the rubbish inside;

- Tie up your rubbish bags securely;
- Bring your containers back in as soon as you can after emptying;
- Contact Council Connect to order any recycling containers or an extra green box – all recycling containers are free.

Put your food litter in the bin

■ When you are out, put your rubbish in the litter and recycling bins provided. There are 55 new bins in Bath city centre which are gulls and animal proof, and there are plans to put in many more new bins throughout the district this year. If you drop litter, you could be fined £75 by our Enforcement Officers;

- Contact Council Connect to report bins that need emptying and waste which has been attacked by animals and gulls;
- Don't feed animals and birds in parks, streets and open spaces. Find out more about how to reduce the problems caused by gulls at www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/environment/pests-and-infestation/gulls/dont-feed-animals.



Don't leave your food bin open; ensure you lock it to deter gulls and animals

Food waste recycling collections have now been extended to flats, schools and businesses

Since May, we have been introducing our weekly food waste recycling collection service to many more residents living in flats with communal recycling bins (mini recycling centres). Each site has been assessed to see if it is suitable for a communal food waste bin to be put outside. If so, residents are being visited by Council Campaigns Officers to give them kitchen caddies, an explanatory leaflet and a supply of compostable liners to start them off.

We have been encouraged by the positive response of these residents which will result in more of our food waste being recycled.

We are also offering this new service to schools and businesses for a charge – if you are interested in finding out more, please contact Council Connect on 01225 394041.

Recycling tips

Textiles

Clothes, shoes, towels, curtains and sheets must be CLEAN and DRY – once wet we cannot recycle them. This is why we ask you to put them in a plastic bag in the green box;

- Even if textiles are worn, damaged or stained we can collect them for recycling as they can be made into cleaning materials;
- Tie shoes together in pairs so that time is not wasted matching them.

Used engine oil

- Put used engine oil in a sealed engine oil container by your green box.

Cardboard

- Use your blue bag to recycle cardboard, brown paper and food and drinks cartons (Tetra Paks);
- Flatten, fold or cut cardboard to fit your blue bag so it fits our container on our vehicle;
- If your blue bag is falling apart you can order a replacement;
- Take plastic tops off cartons if you can.

Green box

Sort the different materials into groups in your box for better quality recycling. Using plastic bags to sort

your materials in your green box can be useful, but if you have space at home you could reduce the number you use by having two green boxes, and sorting your materials as shown in the illustration below. Using a lid means you can stack boxes tidily and save space.

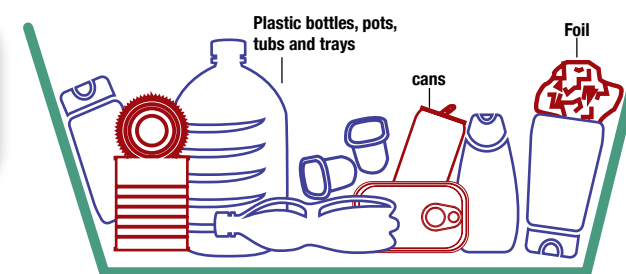
1. Cans, foil and plastic packaging

- You can mix all these together as they will be sorted out by magnets at the Keynsham Recycling Depot;
- Rinse plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays, put tops back on plastic bottles and squash bottles and cans with your foot. This saves space;
- Put all the metal can lids in one can and squeeze the can top together to stop them falling out of your box onto the street;
- We can't collect black plastic, film such as cling film, plastic bags, bubble wrap, cellophane, polystyrene and hard non-packaging plastic, such as plant pots and toys.

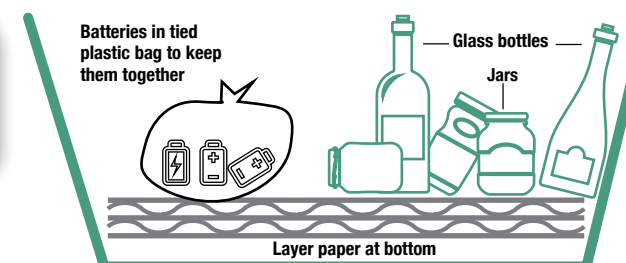
2. Paper, glass bottles and jars and other materials

- Paper – you don't need to remove staples or windows in envelopes;
- Rinse glass bottles and jars to keep the box hygienic and less attractive to animals. No need to remove labels.
- Shredded paper - please put in a tied carrier bag (no more than two carrier bags at a time).

GREEN BOX 1
Mixed cans and plastic



GREEN BOX 2
Paper, glass bottles and jars and any other materials



News round-up

Give and Take Day

Saturday 26th July, 10am-1pm (last donations accepted at 12 noon)
Saltford Hall, Wedmore Road, Saltford, Bristol BS31 3BY
Bring items you don't want any more and find something you need for FREE. All donated items must be in re-usable condition and should fit into a car. Check our website to see what we can and cannot accept.

Furniture Sale

Saturday 28th June, 10am-12 noon
Next to Keynsham Recycling Centre, Pixash Lane BS31 1TP
Good-quality second-hand furniture for sale at bargain prices. All items have been brought to our Recycling Centres by our residents and saved for re-use. Cash only please.



Open day at Kier Recycling Depot

Kier Recycling Depot Open Day, Keynsham

Saturday 13th September
Free guided tours 10am-2pm – see what happens to your recycling after we collect it from your homes. Places are limited and must be booked in advance through Council Connect. Find out more on our website.

Find out more

If you want to find out anything more after reading this article, then our website has loads of information about recycling:
www.bathnes.gov.uk/wasteservices

Do you want to receive tips to reduce your rubbish and recycle more?
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Keep your family safe with a smoke alarm



By Avon Fire & Rescue Service

Working smoke alarms are one of the best ways of keeping your little ones safe if a fire breaks out in the home.

And although more households than ever own smoke alarms, most of us aren't brilliant at checking they are working. That's why Avon Fire & Rescue Service is encouraging parents in particular to take a couple of seconds to test their alarms.

James Bladon from Avon Fire & Rescue Service said: "We know that smoke alarms can be frustrating if they go off when you burn the toast and it may be tempting to remove the batteries.

"If that's a familiar story please make today the day you replace them or fit a new alarm. A little inconvenience is a price worth paying if it means your family escapes from a fire. The risk of dying in a house fire increases by four times if smoke alarms aren't working, so a 10 second chore is a tiny price to pay.

"If you would like more advice we will be happy to come to your home to provide information and fit free smoke alarms."

For more information visit www.avonfire.gov.uk where you will also find details of the Home Fire Safety Visit service. Firefighters will visit your home to provide advice specific to your family's needs and circumstances. Smoke alarms will also be fitted free of charge if required.

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"Stunning picture quality" KDL50W829 What Hi-Fi Sound & Vision, March 2014

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01225 460 000
bath@sonycentres.co.uk

Bristol Sony Centre
SU65 Glass Walk, Cabot Circus, BS1 3BQ
0117 922 5850
bristol@sonycentres.co.uk

Salisbury Sony Centre
10 High Street, Salisbury, SP1 2NW
01722 349 490
salisbury@sonycentres.co.uk



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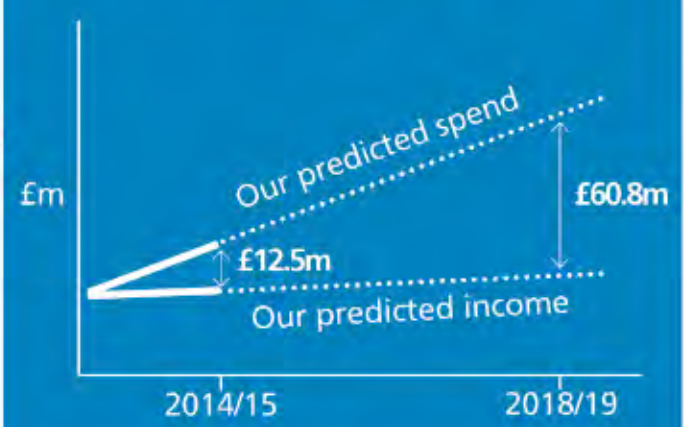
PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING

About Your Local Healthcare



Our population is mostly made up of happy and healthy people and so far our healthcare services have never been significantly overstretched. However, there are some big financial challenges on the way in 2015/16. So with your help we need to work out the best ways to overcome them.

If we don't do something, this will mean...

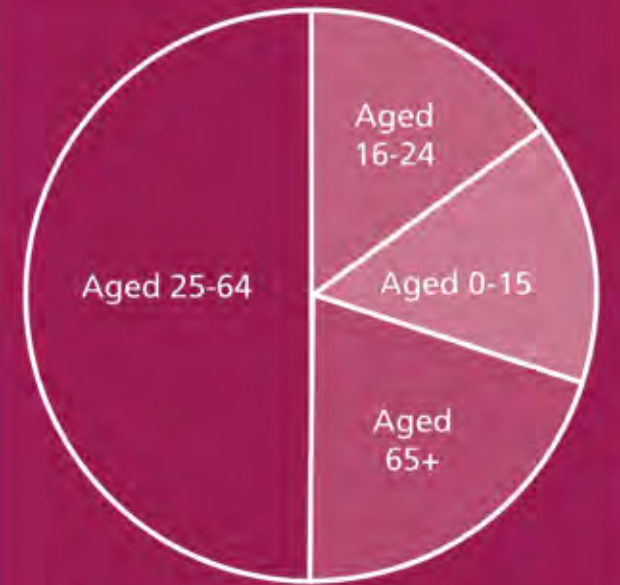


If we don't make any changes to the way we provide health and social care now, we estimate that we'll have a £60.8m gap between our funding and our spending by 2018/19. That's a really scary prognosis!



In order to focus on these priorities we need to shift investment across the system. Staying in hospital is incredibly expensive and often unnecessary. Improving these six service areas will allow us to provide high quality services closer to people's homes, making things much more convenient and comfortable for patients while reducing the financial pressure. The simple truth is we can't carry on providing services in the same way that we always have.

What we know about our population...



Life expectancy ↑
Deaths ↓
People are living longer. The number of people over the age of 75 is expected to increase **20%** ... by 2021

We are made up of 27 GP practices with a shared vision:
"To lead our health and care system collaboratively through the commissioning of high quality, affordable, person centred care which harnesses the strength of clinician led commissioning and empowers and encourages individuals to improve their health and well being status."

We're NHS Bath and North East Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, the organisation responsible for planning and buying local healthcare services on your behalf. In order to make the best decisions, we listen to what local GPs, other healthcare professionals, and you tell us about the health needs of people in your area.

Our six priorities over the next five years...

<p>Care for frail older people</p> <p>We want to reduce needless hospital admissions, loneliness and isolation amongst frail older people by prioritising safety and compassion in all health and social care services.</p>	<p>Prevention and self care</p> <p>We need to do more to stop people from getting ill in the first place so we can spend less time treating avoidable and unnecessary illness and disease.</p>	<p>Diabetes care</p> <p>We want to redesign the way we support the growing number of people with diabetes so that they receive high quality and timely care closer to home.</p>
<p>Musculoskeletal services</p> <p>We know some places have really good services to treat disorders affecting the body's muscles, joints, tendons, ligaments and nerves. We want to make ours even better.</p>	<p>Patient record systems</p> <p>We think we can make your patient experience much better if we improve the way we share information between all the health and care services that support you.</p>	<p>Urgent care</p> <p>We need to streamline, and educate people about, the way our urgent care services work to ensure you are always assessed and treated by the right clinician the first time.</p>

Looking ahead...

- ...in five year's time some of the things we should have achieved will include:
- Empowered people
 - A reputation for looking after the vulnerable
 - Joined up, 24/7 care
 - Local people and clinicians working together
 - Better information sharing
 - Success measured by experiences

Join in the conversation... →

We can't do any of this without you and your support, challenge and questions. Please get involved and help us to get our plans right.

Sign up today for details of our next meeting to join in the conversation:
www.banescg.nhs.uk | @NHSBaNES

Public Protection Team

Looking for a business you can trust?



Look for our directory at any council office or library

To find a local business approved by trading standards visit:

buywithconfidence.gov.uk

Or call: 01225 396753

How can you be sure you won't be ripped off?

Trading Standards undertake thorough vetting and background checks of all the businesses and visit every business as part of their application. Only if businesses pass the stringent checks can they display the Buy With Confidence logo.

So if you are looking to employ a trade or service, an approved 'Buy With Confidence' member is a good place to start, visit buywithconfidence.gov.uk

Is your business good enough to be approved by your local Trading Standards Service?



We're looking for businesses that can show customer care is their priority. For information about the scheme visit:

buywithconfidence.gov.uk

Support and aspiration for our children and young people with SEND

SEND Reform update... countdown to 1st Sept 2014



The Children and Families Act 2014 is now law. Preparation continues for implementation of SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) reform from 1st Sept 2014

The Government published a revised draft code of practice for SEN & disability 0-25 on 16th April. More information can be read here www.gov.uk/government/consultations/revision-of-the-sen-code-of-practice-0-to-25-years. The final code is expected in June.

The Council has published a consultation paper on the model and arrangements for implementing SEND reform in Bath and North East Somerset and we are now analysing feedback received to finalise our model and approach ready for September. We are proposing a single SEND support plan for disabled young people and those with SEN who need support but are not eligible for an EHC plan. Our local offer will be based on the existing Rainbow Resource database of services for disabled children and young people; see www.rainbowresource.org.uk/rainbow_resource/organisations.

We are also working on our area-wide local offer which will set out how we support disabled children and young people and those with SEN in B&NES. The proposed model and arrangements set out in the consultation paper will form the basis of our area wide local offer.

We have piloted the new way of working and our draft Education Health and Care (EHC) plan as part of six statutory assessments of children/young people. This has been a worthwhile process and the new personalised, face to face process has generated positive feedback from both parents and professionals. We are now trying this new way of working with a small number of reviews of existing statements.

What else is happening?

■ A SEND Reform briefing for parents, young people and others has been prepared and will be delivered in schools and other venues around the Council over the next few months. Dates, times and venues will be publicised as they are arranged; look out for these if you are interested. If you would like to host a briefing in your school or setting please let us know.

■ A training programme is being developed and will start shortly, running until December 2014, which will introduce the SEND reform and EHC planning. We are also planning training on Person Centred Thinking, which is key to the new way of working. Training will be open to parents and practitioners.

■ Our local parent carer forum, Parent Carers Aiming High www.facebook.com/SENDreform

[com/pages/Parent-Carers-Aiming-High-155161281309959](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/pages/Parent-Carers-Aiming-High-155161281309959)) has been involved in all the work to develop our proposals for SEND reform in B&NES. We are working to engage young people as partners in the SEND reform. The consultation paper sets out proposals for partnership with parents and young people to take forward a SEND strategy over the next 3-5 years and oversee the review and development of the local offer.

■ The Parent Partnership Service (our local, independent support for parents) in partnership with Off The Record who provide advocacy to young people have won a bid to be involved in developing the national model for independent support for parents and young people. Read more here www.bathnes.gov.uk/pps

Find out more

For more on SEND reform and links to national information and organisations please see www.bathnes.gov.uk/SENDreform and www.facebook.com/SENDreform

SENDreform and www.facebook.com/SENDreform

The Sports Injury Clinic and Human Performance Centre



Fully open to the public, we have a team of highly-qualified therapists and practitioners that offer cutting edge services whether you are an elite athlete, a fun-runner or simply recovering from a recent injury or accident.

We offer:

- Physiotherapy (including Hydrotherapy)
- Nutrition
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- Strength and Conditioning
- Sports Psychology
- Health and Fitness testing
- Physiological testing (including V02 max testing)

Receive **15% off** your first Sports Massage appointment. Quote **003** on booking*

To book an appointment please call: **01225 383636**
or email: physio@teambath.com
For further information please visit www.teambath.com

* Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount.

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www.teambath.com



Bike sharing in Bath



Bath, which are available to hire 24 hours a day on a self-service basis.

To start using the bikes you need to sign up online, by phone, app, or at the station terminal. It only takes a minute. It is free to register and then £1 for half an hour rental at the standard rate. There is also a subscription option which makes your first half hour free for every rental.

Renting a bike is easy too. You can start your rental by phone, app or at the station terminal. Just follow the instructions at the station. When you've finished with the bike you just return it to any station and end the rental in the same way.

A separate lock is provided in case you need to lock the bike up during your hire and you are not near a station to end the hire and rent a new bike.

The launch parade

The 'nextbike in Bath Launch Parade' will take place on Tuesday 17th June to mark the official opening of the scheme. There will be a bike parade through the centre of Bath with lots of bikes, music, and ringing of bike bells, before the ribbon is cut by a celebrity. You must register to attend the official launch event. ■

Try it out



Take a minute to think about how you get around and whether your current travel habits could do with some changes. If you don't already, why not see if you can include cycling for part or full journeys and reap the rewards.

For more information including rental station locations and to register, visit www.nextbike.co.uk.

To enquire about group or corporate memberships and advertising with nextbike please phone Rob Grisdale on 020 7091 7883 or email grisdale@nextbike.co.uk.

**SPECIAL LAUNCH OFFER:
50% OFF FULL SUBSCRIPTION
(SAVE £30)**

Visit the Better by Bike website for all things cycling in Bath & The West www.betterbybike.info



A new, easy to use cycle hire scheme, nextbike in Bath, launches in June. Here we explain how it works and give you some good reasons to use it

Bath is much better by bike! It's a bold statement but speak to any cyclist and this is what they're likely to say about cycling in the city of Bath.

It's usually quicker

Travelling by bike is usually quicker than any other mode of transport. There's no sitting in traffic jams and you can ride from door to door, plus you can ride straight through Bath's bus gates where private cars must go the long way round.

It costs less

Cycling is the cheapest way to get around, except for walking of course, and giving your feet a break doesn't have to mean jumping in the fuel hungry car! Over time these savings will add up to surprising amounts.

You see more along the way

It's easy to miss things when you are in a car or on public transport. Looking at everything through a window is not quite the same. On a bike you see things you never knew were there and you feel a part of what's happening around you.

What's more...

Cycling is kinder on the environment, keeps you fit and healthy and, as more people do it, there will be fewer cars on the road and Bath will become a cleaner, nicer place to live, work and play.

So then, why isn't everyone cycling?

The old saying 'old habits die hard' springs to mind but what also puts people off is the commitment to maintenance and storage that comes with owning a bike. As with lots of things these days, from cars to music, sharing is the way forward. After all, would you buy a cow if all you wanted was a glass of milk?

Cycle hire schemes, or 'bike sharing' allows you to cycle from any rental station to another without having to return the bike to your starting point. It's perfect for short frequent journeys around the city or for exploring those areas you wouldn't otherwise find. You only cycle when it's convenient and you don't have to look after your own bike.

About 'nextbike in Bath'

In June, Bath unveils a brand new easy-to-use cycle hire scheme, 'nextbike in Bath', offering 100 bikes across nine locations in



How can we help you?

We have a vast experience in supporting individuals with little or no mobility, and specialise in designing services for those living with Dementia and Alzheimer's

Call us now for more details and a **FREE** consultation

01225 789161

Or visit our website to learn more about how we can help

www.wayaheadcare.co.uk

Homecare Services by your local family run care provider

Way Ahead Care. Chameleon Court, Lower Bristol Road, Bath, BA2 9ES
Way Ahead Community Services Ltd is registered with the Care Quality Commission. Way Ahead Community Services Ltd. Registered in England - 3116636



If marketing your business is a conversation, then you need to make it interesting.

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£6000 cashback for solid wall insulation

Want to be warmer at home and save money your heating bills? Now you can claim up to **£6000 cashback** if you install solid wall insulation to your home.

To register your interest simply contact the **Home Energy Team**. We provide free and impartial advice to people in Bristol and Somerset to help them make their houses more energy efficient so that they enjoy lower fuel bills and warmer homes.

0800 082 2234
cse.org.uk/register



Centre for Sustainable Energy

3 St Peter's Court,
Bedminster Parade
Bristol BS3 4AQ

Charity 298740



[/energysavingadvice](https://www.facebook.com/energysavingadvice)



[@cse_homeenergy](https://twitter.com/cse_homeenergy)

Summer - A brilliant time to deal with heating problems!



Amazingly efficient, fully controllable, slim & attractive.

British made electric heating from Sunflow

It is our nature to yearn for the Summer and put things off for the Autumn. However, while the cool nights are still with us we won't forget the cold spots in the house or how cranky and expensive the current heating system is. The worst thing is getting to October and finding that everything has ground to a halt.

Waiting too long may mean a hurried decision and worse, a wrong decision. A quick fix is often an expensive fix and could well lead to more costly changes in a year or two.

Whether it is just one or two rooms or the whole home Sunflow want you to think differently.

Invincible Heaters™ are the only refractory clay heaters to carry the British Standards Institute KiteMark.

No need to buy 'off-the-shelf' refractory heaters when Sunflow's made-to-order, bespoke heaters make much more sense both financially and by design.

Sunflow's superb Invincible range is Made in Britain! We invite you to compare the quality.

Invincible Heaters are built to last with a life expectancy of 40 years. Invincible heaters are built with care, precision and pride at our Royal Wootton Bassett factory, carrying on a north Wiltshire tradition of British engineering excellence.

Each made-to-order heater has a 10 year guarantee and, unlike other electric heaters, this includes 10 years on the controls.

The Sunflow 'manufacturer's guarantee' means that in the unlikely event something does go wrong we come to you. A foreign manufacturers guarantee may mean their heater would have to go back to the factory. How do you send a heating system back to Germany? Who pays the transport?

INTELLIGENT POWER MANAGEMENT.

Red - Amber - Green Invincible heaters let you know when they are drawing full power, such as when the room is cold, reduced power as it approaches the temperature you set and no power draw whilst maintaining the comfort setting you require.

Lots of our customers have replaced night storage, gas, oil and LPG systems with Sunflow heaters. Sunflow has fully qualified Gas Safe engineers and electricians with a great deal of experience in replacing old systems.

All our heaters are also available in a huge range of colours and finishes.



British Standards Institute Tested
Also available as IPX4 for use in bathrooms



Association Of Plumbers & Heating Contractors



Reg. No.528940

For your FREE brochure call our 24hr Brochure Line on: 0800 158 8270
Questions? Call Suzanne on 0800 158 8272

Services Directory

Do you need some information about a Council-run service? Help is at hand with this useful guide...

To be put through to someone who can help, call the Council switchboard on 01225 477000 or visit www.bathnes.gov.uk for further information

Council Connect

- Bus Passes
- Dog Warden Service
- Fly Tipping
- Garden Waste
- Grass Cutting
- Graffiti Removal
- Gritting of Roads (except motorways)
- Libraries
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Pavements and Road Maintenance
- Planning Enquiries
- Public Toilets
- Public Transport
- Recycling and Waste
- Road Faults and Potholes
- Road Safety
- Street Lighting

For all of the above services, contact Council Connect:

Twitter: @ccbathnes
 Telephone: 01225 394041
 Email: councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk
 Text: 07797 806545

Monday to Friday 08.00 to 18.00 (except Wednesdays 09.30 to 18.00). Closed Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. At other times, for emergencies or dangerous incidents only, please phone 01225 477477.

Aa

■ **Adoption and Fostering**
 Placements, recruitment of adopters and support services. The team also provides counselling for adopted adults and support in accessing birth records.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/adoption
T: 01225 394949
Google Search: Bathnes Fostering

Bb

■ **Benefits: Housing and Council Tax Support**
 Visit Council Connect in Bath, Keynsham or Midsomer Norton, or alternatively, contact a Benefits Officer by phone or email.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/benefits
T: 01225 477777
Google Search: Bathnes Benefits

■ **Birth Registration**
 Register a birth, which occurred in the district, at the Guildhall, High Street, Bath BA1 5AW or The Hollies, High Street, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2DT.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/births
T: 01225 477234
Google Search: Bathnes Births

■ **Building Control**
 Contact Building Control for help and advice about the building regulation process and any proposed building projects you have.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/buildingcontrol
T: 01225 477517
Google Search: Bathnes Building Control

Cc

■ **Cemeteries and Crematoriums**
 Find out about Council-administered cemeteries when organising a funeral.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/cemeteries
T: 01225 396020
Google Search: Bathnes Cemeteries

■ **Children's Centre Information Service**
 The Service holds up-to-date information about all Ofsted-registered childcare, as well as information about working with children and family support.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/fis
T: 01225 395343
Google Search: Bathnes Fis

■ **Community Meals Service**
 This service provides hot meals to those who have difficulty cooking for themselves.

W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/mealsonwheels
T: 01225 394350
Google Search: Bathnes Community Meals

■ **Council Tax Enquiries**
 For account queries about your Council Tax bill, ranging from online payments to exemptions.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/counciltax
T: 01225 477777
Google Search: Bathnes Council Tax

■ **Curo**
 Curo is the largest provider of affordable housing in the area and offers a range of high-quality care and support services. Contact us using the details below.
W: www.curo-group.co.uk
T: 01225 366000
T: 01225 366111 (repairs)
T: 0300 123 2468 (anti-social behaviour)
E: hello@curo-group.co.uk (enquiries)
E: repairs@curo-group.co.uk (repairs)

Dd

■ **Death Registration**
 Register a death, which has occurred in our district, at the Guildhall, High Street, Bath BA1 5AW or at The Hollies High Street, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2DP.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/deaths
T: 01225 477234
Google Search: Bathnes Deaths

■ **Disabled Car Users (Blue Badges)**
 The UK-wide Blue Badge scheme provides parking concessions for people with severe mobility problems.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/bluebadges
T: 01225 477133 or 01225 477134
Google Search: Bathnes Blue Badges

■ **Discovery Card**
 Discovery Card holders receive discounts or free entry for numerous attractions in the area.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/discoverycard
T: 01225 477737
Google Search: Bathnes Discovery Card

Ee

■ **Electoral Registration and Elections**
 For queries on voting rights or other election matters.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/elections
T: 01225 477333
Google Search: Bathnes Electoral Registration

Ff

■ **Family Information Service**
 The Service holds up-to-date information about all Ofsted-registered childcare, as well as information about working with children and family support.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/fis
T: 01225 395343
Google Search: Bathnes Fis

■ **Fire Service, Avon**
 Get updates on the latest news and incidents in your area and view the work we do within the community.
W: www.avonfire.gov.uk
T: 0117 9262061 (non-emergency)

Hh

■ **Housing Services**
 Support and advice for all of your housing issues.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/housing
T: 01225 396296
Google Search: Bathnes Housing

Jj

■ **Jobs with the Council**
 Up-to-date information about job vacancies, equal opportunities, employment and training initiatives.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/jobs
T: 01225 396409 (24 hours)
Google Search: Bathnes Jobs

Ll

■ **Leisure Centres**
Bath Leisure Centre, North Parade Rd, Bath BA2 4ET
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/leisure
T: 01225 486905
Google Search: Bathnes Leisure and Sport

Culverhay Sports Centre, Rush Hill, Bath BA2 2QL
T: 01225 486902 (office hours)
T: 01225 480882 (after 5pm)

Keynsham Leisure Centre, Temple Street, Keynsham BS31 1HE
T: 01225 395164

South Wansdyke Sports Centre, Rackvernal Rd, Midsomer Norton BA3 2UG
T: 01761 415522

■ **Licensing**
 Offers a range of information regarding licensing, including alcohol, cinemas and taxis.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/licensing
T: 01225 477531
Google Search: Bathnes Licensing

Mm

■ **MOT Testing**
 We offer vehicle MOTs to members of the public and trade for cars, taxis and some coaches. Book today!
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/bath_mot
T: 01225 477314
Google Search: Bathnes MOT Testing

■ **Museums and Art Galleries**
 Assembly Rooms and Fashion Museum
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/museums
T: 01225 477789
Google Search: Bathnes Museums
Roman Baths and Pump Room
T: 01225 477785
Victoria Art Gallery (closed Mondays)
T: 01225 477233
Bath's Historic Buildings (venue hire)
T: 01225 477786 or 01225 477782

Nn

■ **NHS Service, BANES**
 Find out how to register with your local GP or NHS dentist, plus information on other key services.
W: www.banes-pct.nhs.uk
T: 01225 831800

Pp

■ **Parking Services**
 For parking queries, Park & Ride, clamping, fines, permits, Blue Badges, Pay & Display, enforcement of restrictions. Visit the website to download maps.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/parking
T: 01225 477133
Google Search: Bathnes Parking

■ **Pest Control**
 The Council offers a comprehensive pest-control service for residents and businesses.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/pests
T: 01225 396007
Google Search: Bathnes Pests

■ **Police Service, Avon and Somerset**
 Stay informed about what is happening in your area, with regular news updates, as well as useful information about crime reduction.
W: www.avonandsomerset.police.uk
T: 101 (non-emergencies)

Rr

■ **Record Office**
 The office holds a wealth of information and archives.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/records
T: 01225 477421 (closed Mondays)
Google Search: Bathnes Records

Ss

■ **School Admissions**
 We deal with applications and can advise about your right of appeal, as well as home-to-school transport.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/admissions
T: 01225 394312
Google Search: Bathnes Schools

■ **Sirona Care & Health**
 Providing community health and adult social services in Bath and North East Somerset. For detailed information on the services we offer, as well as online contact forms, visit our website.
W: www.sirona-cic.org.uk
T: 01225 831400

■ **Social Services**
 Visit the Health and Social Care pages on the website for information and advice.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/adultcare
T: 01225 477000
T: 01454 615165 (out of hours emergencies about adults or children)
T: 0808 800 4444 (emergency housing advice, contact the Shelter England 24-hour freephone advice line)
Google Search: Bathnes Social Services

Tt

■ **Taxi and Private Hire Cars - Complaints**
 If you have a complaint regarding any licensed vehicle, contact the Council Licensing Enforcement Officer.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/taxis
T: 01225 477689
Google Search: Bathnes Taxi Complaints

■ **Trading Standards**
 The Council is responsible for enforcing a range of consumer legislation including misleading advertisements and counterfeit trademarks.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/trading
T: 01225 396753
Google Search: Bathnes Trading

■ **Travel Information (Traveline)**
 Traveline provides timetables and journey planners for bus, coach and rail services in the South West.
W: www.travelinesw.com
T: 0871 200 2233 (7am to 10pm - Calls cost 10p per minute from landlines)
Google Search: Southwest Traveline

Yy

■ **Youth Services**
 Working with young people aged 11-25 years.
W: www.bathnes.gov.uk/youthservice
T: 01225 396980
Google Search: Bathnes Youth Services

How to...

Make the most of your libraries...

@ For children aged 4+ the Summer Reading Challenge, with a Mythical Maze theme, starts in July. Children reading six books on any subject will win themed rewards on the world's myths and legends. Join in and watch out for events on 12th July as the challenge starts.

For under 5s there are Storytime Sessions, and for under 3s Baby Bounce and Rhyme Times. Younger readers can join the Bookstart Bear Club, discover the fun of reading and receive Bookstart Bear certificates.

For adults there's a lively range of events, from appearances by established authors to musical performances.

Contact us:
Facebook: Bathnes Libraries
Twitter: @bathnes #bathneslibraries

Email: Councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk
Tel: 01225 394041
www.bathnes.gov.uk/libraries

Two Services from your Council's
Public Protection Team
to help your festive season run smoothly

Looking for a business you can trust?
and their caring about its customers?
Look for our directory at any council office or library
To find a local business approved by trading standards visit:
www.buywithconfidence.co.uk

How can you be sure you won't be ripped off?
For years Trading Standards Services across the country have been unable to tell the public who to avoid, and where they should go when buying goods or services. For the reason, Bath and North East Somerset Trading Standards are running 'Buy With Confidence' - Trading Standards Approved' at their good trader scheme.
Trading Standards undertake thorough vetting and background checks of all the businesses and staff every business as part of their application. Only if businesses pass the stringent checks can they display the Buy With Confidence logo.
Do if you are looking to employ a trade of services, an approved 'Buy With Confidence' member is a good place to start, visit www.buywithconfidence.co.uk or call 08454 04000.

The Bath and North East Somerset Council 'Buy With Confidence' scheme was launched in 2007 to protect and support the good, reliable traders and retailers of the area. If you are a trader who would like to become a 'Buy With Confidence' member please contact Trading Standards on 01225 336750, or email trading_standards@bathnes.gov.uk

Each business is given a 'hygiene rating' when it is inspected by a food safety officer from the Public Protection Team. The hygiene rating shows how closely the business meets the requirements of food hygiene law.
When you eat out or shop for food, you might see a sticker in the window or on the door, or a certificate or display, showing you the hygiene rating for that business. Alternatively you can search the website food.gov.uk ratings to check the rating of the business. You can download an 'app' for your mobile phone from here.
The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme has been designed to make sure that the ratings given to businesses are fair. For more information, see food.gov.uk/ratings.

Good food hygiene is getting easier to spot
Food Standards Agency
Find out about the hygiene standards in your favourite restaurants, takeaways and food shops food.gov.uk/ratings

Bath & North East Somerset Council

BATH FARMERS MARKET LTD
at Green Park Station, Bath
Every Saturday morning between 9 am – 1.30 pm

At Bath Farmers Market you will find a range of stalls selling, fresh, local, seasonal produce at a fair price including:

- Meat – organic and non-organic
- Charcuterie
- Game and Venison
- Fresh and smoked fish, including an Oyster Bar
- Seasonal organic and non-organic vegetables/fruit including tomatoes, mushrooms, strawberries and organic asparagus
- Various Award winning cheeses – local soft, Cheddar, Goats, Ewes, Guernsey
- Milk, Yogurt, Cream, Butter and fresh farm eggs
- Award winning Jams/Marmalades/Chutneys
- Various Meat Pie stalls including Quiches, Scotch Eggs
- Breads including speciality breads, cakes, pastries, fruit pies including Gluten Free cakes
- Speciality Cakes and Desserts
- Apple Juice/Cider/Honey
- Specialist Coffees
- Rapeseed Oil & Mayonnaise
- Homemade Pasta
- Vegetarian Stalls
- Organic Soups
- Sushi
- Local Ice Cream
- Local Herbalist
- Herbs & Plants
- Various Speciality stalls including Handmade Chocolates, Falafels, Fudge and Lavender

Most importantly it is the pleasurable experience of shopping at Bath Farmers Market:

- It is leisurely
- You can interact with the producer of the product and ask questions
- Plenty of free tasters
- GM free
- No unnecessary packaging

Bath Farmers Market Ltd was the first Farmers' Market in the UK and was established in September 1997. The company was established in response to Local Agenda 21 and one of its aims was to provide a producer-managed marketplace for local producers to sell their own produce to local people.

For more information contact Laura Loxton 0777 969 7278

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E: wecareandrepair.org.uk

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Email: somerset@rv-care.co.uk | www.rv-care.co.uk
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Bath based and over 65?
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- Communal facilities

TO FIND OUT MORE PLEASE CONTACT
Carolyn Burgess on: 01225 486408 or email: carolyn.burgess@stjohnsbath.org.uk

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The Maltings Industrial Estate,
Brassmill Lane,
Bath BA1 3JL
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for all makes of ride on or walk behind mowers.
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Meet the...

Intern

We talk to Nyika Suttie, who is halfway through a year-long internship in B&NES' environmental planning team in Planning Services at Lewis House



Top fact...

Nyika produced Parish Green Infrastructure maps for all 47 Parish Councils in her first three weeks with the environmental planning team

What is your background?

I graduated from Brighton University with a degree in geography in 2012. I have previously worked as an outdoor learning tutor at an outdoor centre and as an office temp. This is my first long-term, full-time role.

What is your role at B&NES?

I work with the environmental planning team in Planning Services – the internship lasts for a year. My role is really varied. I work on implementing the green infrastructure strategy, but I am also helping with a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid, working on ecological networks, the placemaking plan and the core strategy.

How did you find out about the internship?

I came across it by chance on the B&NES website – I decided to apply as it felt like a good way to get my foot in the door with a council, and because it would give me experience in a field I want to go into.

What are the typical tasks that form part of your working day?

One day I might be making maps in MapInfo and on other days I could be helping to set up meetings, emailing partners about the HLF bid or attending a workshop with Parish Councils.

How much are you gaining from your internship?

I have gained a wealth of experience, particularly in local government, but also in planning and the environment. I'm hoping this will stand me in good stead when I apply for other jobs. It's also a steady job with regular hours, which seems to be a rarity amongst people my age.

What sort of support and advice do you get?

My department is highly helpful and knowledgeable and supports me in all the work I do, although I work independently on a regular basis. I am fully briefed on all projects and have the option to get involved with things which may further my interest.

What are your plans when the internship comes to an end?

I am hoping to continue working in the environmental field. My ambition when I graduated was to be an environmental health officer but I found it impossible to save up enough money to do the required masters degree. I still have a strong interest in environmental health, but my internship has shown me that I would also enjoy a countryside management role or working in the community on environmental initiatives. Ultimately I would like to work either for a council or an organisation like the National Trust.

How much do you think the internship will help your career prospects?

I am hoping that a year's experience working in an environmental job will put me ahead of other candidates and put me on par with those who have the means to work in an unpaid internship. However, competition is strong and I won't know if my experience has helped until I begin applying for jobs.

Nyika works with Sue Murtagh, Green Infrastructure and Partnerships Coordinator, and we asked her a few questions about Nyika's role:

Why is it important for the Council to offer internships?

At the moment jobs in the natural environment sector are limited and new graduates are inevitably at the bottom of the pile. The Council want to nurture new talent and benefit from the new skills and enthusiasm that young people bring. This is a paid internship, albeit on minimum wage, which opened up the opportunity to all graduates, not just those who have the advantage of parental support.

What was the strategy behind the internship?

Existing commitments within the team mean that new and exciting opportunities to deliver the recently approved Green Infrastructure are often lost. With some funding from Natural England we are now able, with Nyika on board, to progress priorities in the GI Strategy.

What training has Nyika received?

In her first month Nyika attended the Council induction day, and had training in the District Online, Parish Online and MapInfo systems, in which she is now team expert.

It sounds as if her role has been varied – is this intentional?

Variety is the nature of environmental work. The environment team delivers across a very broad agenda within Planning and across the council. We also do a lot of Partnership working. Nyika's initial focus was on delivering work funded by Natural England but she is also working on many other priorities. She is also a supporting officer to the newly formed Strategic River Group. We hope this breadth of experience will help Nyika to make informed choices, open up opportunities and enhance her career progression within the sector. ■

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