

NORTH SOMERSET

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LIFE



Circus thrills
and spills
this autumn

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Dear reader,



Despite the wet weather in August, this summer has been an exciting time for North Somerset residents and for our visitors. I had the pleasure of witnessing the Pirate Family Fun cycle ride, celebrating the opening of the Brean Down Way, the latest piece in the jigsaw of creating a cycleway and coastal path link through our area and into Somerset. This new section, from Uphill across the River Axe to Brean and Berrow, is especially spectacular and all thanks have to go to the volunteers and other agencies that helped in its construction. It's already proving popular with families as a safe route for those who want to visit Brean and those tourists in Brean who want to visit Weston. With its completion, we are now turning our attention back to the proposed link between Weston and Clevedon, crossing the River Yeo, which again will open up a safe off-road route for cyclists and walkers to connect between the two towns.

But that's not all that's been happening. In Weston the regeneration of the town centre took another step forward last month with a spectacular event to celebrate the first phase being completed of the new extended Italian Gardens. With live music, street theatre and circus acts, it demonstrated how well the redesign of the old and tired Town Square has revitalised the open space and how it can now be fully utilised for large-scale public events. Indeed, some are already in the calendar for this autumn, including more circus talent from Theatre Orchard and the Invisible Circus, and the internationally-renowned Oktoberfest. I do hope you get down to the Italian Gardens to see for yourself.

That we are "on the up" was also recognised recently by ITV West, which gave Weston regional exposure with a week-long series of special reports highlighting the town's expansion, tourism industry and our drive for more economic growth. You can read about the latest developments at Junction 21 Enterprise Area on pages 20-21.

It's not all about Weston of course, Clevedon too is up and coming as a tourist centre, recently hosting the Thundercats powerboat racing in the bay, which drew a large number of spectators to the seafront. Portishead too got into the summertime spirit with the annual Raft Race in the Lake Grounds and the first soapbox race in the town for over 60 years.

But, while the towns have been buzzing, we have also suffered from traffic accidents and congestion on the M5 holiday route during the peak season. Efforts by drivers to try and avoid huge delays on the motorway through Somerset inevitably failed and jammed our local road network, causing huge inconvenience to local residents. It highlighted the need for us to continue to put pressure on government to improve the transport infrastructure in North Somerset, the need to prioritise the Portishead rail link and provide alternative routes or bypasses for bottlenecks like Banwell, Congresbury and Yatton. There's plenty to do and we aim to do it.

Councillor Elfan Ap Rees

Deputy Leader of North Somerset Council

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This publication is available in large print, Braille or audio formats on request. Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English. Life editor: 01275 884 139

Adventurous young people invited to sample German life

Adventurous young people from Weston-super-Mare are being invited to join a popular exchange programme.

The Hildesheim youth exchange takes place twice a year when young people from the German town of Hildesheim visit Weston during the Easter break, and then Weston students do a return trip in October.

It began in 1968 after a chance meeting between a youth worker from Weston and a youth officer from Hildesheim at a motorway service station.

Since the first visit in 1970, more than 1,600 young people have taken part.

Organiser Debbie Stone said: "The idea and mutual goal behind the exchange was to stop any negativity between the countries after the war, and has helped develop strong friendships between families that could last a lifetime."

The next exchange is in October and is open to young people aged between 12 and 17 who live in Weston who would like to meet people of a similar age from another country, learn a different language and experience a different culture.

To take part contact
Debbie Stone: **01934 429 036** or
debbiestone67@btinternet.com



This year's German visitors in London before heading home.

Clamping down on metal theft



Thieves stealing metal can cause misery and disruption for local communities and businesses.

Metal theft is a serious crime which can destroy property, cause serious environmental damage and put lives at risk.

It can also cause power cuts and so have a real impact on communities.

Avon and Somerset Police has some good advice to follow to avoid becoming victims...

- don't leave metal, such as materials for DIY projects, on display. Lock them away out of sight
- make it difficult for thieves to get into your property
- cut back any vegetation which might shield a thief from view

- fit photoelectric (dusk to dawn) security lights around your property
- mark your property using ultra-violet pens
- ask neighbours to report anyone suspicious near your house and join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme
- if you have a trailer, lock it away at night as opportunist thieves might use it to transport stolen metal
- if you see anything suspicious call the police on 101, or 999 if a crime is taking place.

People visiting a scrap dealer to sell metal are now required to take photo ID and proof of address.

Payments must now be made by cheque or electronic bank transfer, so tell the police if you're not asked for ID or offered cash.

Call the police on **101**, visit **www.avonandsomerset.police.uk** or call Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**

Autumn theatre season gets under way

Theatre fans of all ages can enjoy a host of jaw-dropping productions in Weston-super-Mare this autumn.

The new season has begun at the Tropicana, on Weston's seafront, and upcoming shows include...

- **The Six Wives of Henry VIII by Living Spit** – 7.30pm, Monday 18 to Wednesday 20 September. A comic retelling of history. £12, ages 11+
- **The Toll by Luke Wright** – 8pm, Friday 22 September. A selection of poems about touring the flat-roofed pubs of Brexit Britain. £10, ages 14+

- **In Our Hands by Smoking Apples** – 2pm, Sunday 8 October. Puppetry and innovative music about a trawler fisherman and a fish's journey from sea to plate. £8, ages 11+
- **An Evening with an Immigrant by Inua Ellams** – 7.30pm, Thursday 19 October. Award-winning poet and playwright Inua Ellams tells the story of how he left Nigeria for England in 1996, aged 12. £10, ages 15+
- **Jason and the Argonauts by Four of Swords** – 2pm daily, Wednesday 25 to Saturday 28 October. Puppetry and film projections tell this classic tale. £14/£10 per show, ages 8+

- **Medea by Four of Swords** – 7.30pm daily, Wednesday 25 to Saturday 28 October. The ultimate tale of revenge. £14/£10 per show or book Jason and Medea on the same day for £20/£16. Ages 12+
- **Greek and Roman Games by games company Shove Halfpenny** – 1-4pm, Thursday 26 October. Free, drop-in event for all ages

To book tickets call the Tobacco Factory on **0117 902 0344** (11am-6.30pm, Monday to Saturday), or visit www.tropicanaweston.co.uk
Advance tickets can also be bought in person from the Tropicana's Bay Café, with a 10 per cent discount.

Retire and relax

In the heart of North Somerset is **Sandford Station**, a lively retirement village with a great community spirit. The excellent facilities and staff provide the perfect retirement lifestyle.

To book a personal tour or to simply find out more call **0117 919 4262**. See our latest video of life at Sandford Station just type **ow.ly/XSYGw** into your browser.

Registered Charity 202151



St Monica Trust

Diversion to Strawberry Line extended

A diversion route on the popular Strawberry Line cycle path at Winscombe is being extended until the end of October because of bats roosting in Shute Shelve Tunnel.

Bristol Water is carrying out its Southern Resilience Scheme to secure the water supply to 280,000 homes.

As a result, the Strawberry Line is currently diverted at Winscombe around the Shute Shelve tunnel.

It was hoped that the tunnel would re-open in the summer but it is now scheduled to re-open in late October because of the delayed works.

The Strawberry Line and tunnel habitats are important sites for bats and many other species of flora and fauna, so Bristol Water is working hard to minimise its impact on the natural environment.

Lighting in the tunnel will also be improved, which will remain bat-friendly but make it easier to travel through the dark during the day.

A new path will also be laid which will improve the surface and drainage.



www.bristolwater.co.uk/southernresiliencescheme



International performers set to amaze audiences

International circus stars will be wowing audiences with thrills and spills in Weston-super-Mare this month.

Amazing acts will be showcasing their skills during the Weekend of Wonders Goes Italian spectacular, which can be seen from noon to 6pm on Saturday 30 September in the newly-revamped Italian Gardens.

The free entertainment begins and ends with a performance by one of Europe's favourite circus troupes, Le Cirque du Platzak.

During the afternoon visitors can also see Australia's strongest woman, Dizzy O Dare's giant balloon show, the Strollercoaster experience from the egg theatre and Bureau of Silly Ideas, Miss Inform (the alternative tourist guide), Salon of Wonders, the Colour-in Caravan and more.

The event is co-produced by Theatre Orchard and Invisible Circus, with the Coasters Touring Network.

Free Yeo Valley ice cream is also on offer for the first 200 visitors.

Seating is on the floor for Cirque du Platzak's show, but visitors are welcome to bring camping chairs.

Free shows will then take place at the Tropicana, on the seafront, on Sunday 1 October.

Miss Inform presents her Miss Information Stall, where she will be handing out priceless information from noon to 4pm.

Two pre-bookable circus workshops can also be enjoyed. Try walking a tight wire or being strong. Both £10, payable on the day. Age restrictions apply.

Reserve a place by emailing info@thetheatreorchard.org.uk

Sunday evening will be a circus double bill by Strong Lady Productions and Dizzy O Dare, from 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10.

This show has been brought to Weston by Theatre Orchard, supported by Arts Council England's Strategic Touring Fund COASTERS.

For more information visit www.tropicana-weston.co.uk

Prepare for flu season and get your jab

Now is the time to plan ahead for the winter season and book in for your flu jab.

Flu is highly contagious and can be dangerous for more vulnerable people.

The flu vaccine is the best protection for you and your loved ones against flu.

People most at risk of developing complications are offered a free jab, available at their GP practice or pharmacies (those over 18).



Anyone else can get it for about £10 from their local pharmacy.

Text 'pharmacy flu' with your postcode to 80011 to find your three closest participating pharmacies.

This year, all reception year and Year 4 children will also receive the flu vaccine as a nasal spray at school as part of the school immunisation programme.

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/flujab

Midnight beach walk returns

Join hundreds of women and girls for a special charity walk in aid of Weston Hospicare.

The popular Midnight Beach Walk returns on Saturday 30 September along Weston's beach.

This women-only 5km sponsored walk is a chance to celebrate loved ones or people who have touched our lives.

To take part register at
www.midnightbeachwalk.org.uk
or call 01934 423 960



Sit back and enjoy a new bus network

Get on-board the new Excel bus network and enjoy a stress-free way of getting around North Somerset.

Excel is the new inter-urban bus network from First West of England, supported by North Somerset Council, and is a great way of getting around whether you're heading to work or just fancy a bit of retail therapy.

The Excel network incorporates ten of First's most popular routes in the area.

From this month, the timetables for services X1, X2, X3, X4 and X7 will offer greater punctuality and reliability.

Feedback about the X3A route from Portishead to Bristol has also been listened to. Additional journeys have been added to the timetable to give passengers more opportunities to travel into the city centre in the early evenings.



For more information and to plan your journey visit www.firstgroup.com/excel

See the new £2m leisure centre improvements

Take a look at the new £2m fitness facilities at Hutton Moor leisure centre in Weston-super-Mare this month.

An open weekend will be held from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 September so people can see the new equipment, studios and two-storey extension.

Special membership offers will be available that weekend.



Remember to register to vote



Households in North Somerset should now have received their annual electoral registration form so don't forget to check and return it as soon as possible.

Residents need to inform North Somerset Council of any changes, or confirm if nothing has changed.

This can be done by text, internet, telephone or post – details are on the form.

Reminders will be sent to all non-responding properties.

If you're not currently registered to vote, your name will not appear on the form. The easiest way to register is online at www.gov.uk/yourvotematters

It is important that residents respond as soon as possible so the council can make sure it has the right details on the electoral register for every address.

electoral.services@n-somerset.gov.uk

Help improve the council's website



Testers are needed to give feedback on North Somerset Council's website to help make it better in the future.

North Somerset residents who are able to visit the Town Hall in Weston-super-Mare or Castlewood office in Clevedon are needed to use the website to demonstrate how easy

they find it to do things and find information.

The one-to-one sessions will be informal and won't last more than 90 minutes.

Testers can't be paid but refreshments will be available.

For more information visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/websitetesting

Parks retain their Green Flags



Seven parks and open spaces in North Somerset have retained their prestigious Green Flags.

Weston's Prince Consort Gardens, Jubilee Park and Uphill Hill; Nailsea's Trendlewood Park; Pill's Watchhouse Hill; Portishead Lake Grounds and Abbot's Pool in Abbots Leigh were all awarded the Green Flag mark of quality.

The international award, run by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities.

Many groups help maintain these spaces, including individual friends groups and North Somerset Council contractors Glendale and Somerset Wood Recycling.

Royal Air Force band returns to Weston



Royal Air Force music will return to Weston-super-Mare this month during a special charity concert.

The Central Band of the Royal Air Force, described as the finest military band in the country, will appear at the Playhouse Theatre, in the High Street, on Sunday 10 September.

The band will be joined by vocalist Joanne Pullen, who is also from Weston-super-Mare.

The former Royal Air Force base at Locking was home to the Western Band of the Royal Air Force.

Malcolm Goodman, founder of the Royal Air Force Music Charitable Trust and former horn player with

the RAF Western Band, said: "Weston-super-Mare has always had a special place in my heart so with the recent 25th anniversary of the Gulf War, I decided it was time to use this occasion to bring RAF music back to Weston as a thank you to the community for all their support."

See the Central Band of the Royal Air Force at The Playhouse from 7.30pm on Sunday 10 September.

Tickets cost £15 from **01934 645 544** or www.theplayhouse.co.uk, or visit www.rafmct.org.uk for more information.

Take a tour of the Playhouse

Theatre fans can go behind-the-scenes of the Playhouse in Weston-super-Mare during an open day this month.

The Friends of the Playhouse will be hosting free guided tours of the popular High Street venue from 11am to 3.15pm on Saturday 9 September.



Visitors can go on stage, see the dressing rooms, and the lighting and sound areas.

There will also be opportunity to become a Friend of the Playhouse on that day, and get 15 months membership instead of 12 months for £10.

New anti-social behaviour



New orders to tackle anti-social behaviour and make public spaces in North Somerset more welcoming will come into force in October.

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) will be introduced across the area to deter individuals or groups committing anti-social behaviour in public places.

They support North Somerset Council's ambition to 'build and sustain great places to live and visit that are vibrant, accessible and safe'.

Dee Mawn, environmental health service manager, said: "We have worked with the police and other organisations to identify the types of anti-social behaviour that frequently take place in our towns and villages.

"Introducing PSPOs enables us to deal with it effectively and will benefit residents, businesses and their customers by making North Somerset a desirable place to live, visit and work."

The new orders will also replace existing dog control orders, designated public place orders that help the police tackle alcohol-related anti-social behaviour and, where appropriate, local byelaws.

When introduced next month, they will give about 100 designated council and police officers the right to take enforcement action.

The powers are intended to be used proportionately and offenders will be reported, which may lead to prosecution in some cases.

The council carried out an eight-week public consultation earlier in the year on the proposed orders and more than 350 responses were received.

Dee added: "We have listened to people and further consideration will be given to introducing PSPOs which tackle other issues, such as the use of drones and inconsiderate parking around school sites.

"More consultation will also take place where communities have not supported the introduction of an order, such as the newly-proposed dogs on leads provisions at Worle recreation ground, Clevedon cricket ground and Wrington's Silver Street recreation ground."

The orders coming into

- nine North Somerset-wide orders allowing officers to deal with those in a public place who, without reasonable excuse...
- fail to remove dog mess
- fail to produce a receptacle for picking up dog mess when asked
- fail to put a dog on a lead when required to do so
- drop litter
- urinate or defecate in any place other than a public convenience
- trade on public property without permission
- fail to remove a notice or sign on public property
- fail to stop consuming intoxicating substances when asked to do so
- fail to surrender intoxicating substances when asked to do so

powers coming soon



force next month

- three restrictions relating to parks, beaches and other recreational spaces, allowing officers to deal with people who continue to...
 - ride horses
 - park or drive vehicles
 - light firesin places where it is not permitted
- orders covering all enclosed children's play areas to prohibit...
 - dogs
 - smoking



- orders dealing with anti-social behaviour in public libraries, the museum, council buildings, car parks and public conveniences
- orders stipulating new/amended requirements in the following locations...
 - Clevedon Marine Lake – no dogs allowed
 - Portishead Marina (east and west) – all dogs on leads
 - Weston High Street – all dogs on leads
 - Weston Princess Royal Square – no skateboarding, scooting, roller blading or inline skating
 - Weston town centre – no charitable collections without permission
- all existing dog control orders are to be converted into PSPOs.

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/pspo



Consultation responses

- 95 per cent of respondents want to see the requirement to pick up dog mess rigorously enforced.
- 65 per cent felt the requirement to produce a 'doggy bag' is a good idea.
- The Dogs Trust considers the order requiring owners to put a dog on a lead when required is useful because it targets owners who are causing a nuisance without restricting responsible ones.
- 87 per cent supported a zero tolerance approach to littering.
- 88 per cent wanted action to be taken against those who deliberately and without reasonable excuse urinate or defecate in public places.
- 80 per cent wanted more action taken about consumption of intoxicating substances but would like to see vulnerable people directed towards support services.
- More than 90 per cent agreed that children's play areas should be smoke-free. Intervention is an opportunity to promote Smokefree North Somerset, a council-run service to help people stop smoking.

Libraries and children's centres

improving literacy skills

Libraries and children's centres across North Somerset are working hard to help increase literacy levels in both children and adults.



Children need to be good communicators so they can do well in school, make friends and become happy and confident young people.

Support for children

Within North Somerset's children's centres and libraries, staff aim to give parents the skills and information they need to help their children reach their full potential.

Children's centres have handouts, information and advice sheets for parents about promoting speech and language, including advice about dummy use and the amount of television watched.

Hour-long Chatter Time sessions take place regularly at South Weston children's centre for children aged 18 months and over to take part in singing, signing, one-to-one and group games.

Parents and carers can also take home Chatterbags which contain an activity, instructions and basic Makaton signs.

A small, dedicated speech and language service is based in south Weston and children's centre staff are trained to work with parents and families across North Somerset.

Jenie Eastman, community family team leader at North Somerset Council, said: "We are committed to supporting all parents to understand and develop their children's communication skills."

Learn to love the library

Libraries provide the perfect place to develop a love of reading from an early age.

Pre-school children can join in with songs, rhymes and music at regular Bookstart Rhymetime sessions held at all North Somerset libraries.

Babies and toddlers can progress from touchy-feely board books, to bedtime reading picture books, while older children can choose from different levels of story books as they continue through their reading adventure.

As they get older, a wide range of authors can capture their imagination,

whether classic stories their parents remember or more modern classics from David Walliams and Jacqueline Wilson.

Teenagers can also be inspired from a large selection of books from popular authors aimed specifically at this age group.

The summer reading challenge is also a popular annual event for four to 11-year-olds to help improve children's literacy by encouraging them to read over the summer holidays.

Adults who never got the reading bug or have lost the habit can get back into the swing of it with some short and easy quick reads.

Recommended 'quick reads' are by well-known authors such as James Patterson, Andy McNabb and Jenny Colgan and are aimed at adults who may need a little extra help reading or do not regularly pick up a book.

Other books are widely available in a range of formats, including eBooks as well as more traditional print and large print.

Talking books are also available to borrow and download, as well as free eMagazines and books in more than 50 languages, from Arabic to Vietnamese.

Support is given to book clubs and reading groups, and authors regularly visit to discuss their latest work.

Libraries are free to join. Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/libraries or www.librarieswest.org.uk for more information.



North Somerset children's centres

Did you know...

- 43 per cent of England's working age population has a literacy level lower than a GCSE Grade C or equivalent. North Somerset's rate reflects this national average. This low level of literacy can reduce employment opportunities and mean parents can struggle supporting their children with reading and homework.
- In the UK, more than one million children and young people have some form of long-term and persistent speech, language and communication difficulty. This can affect them early, severely and for life.
- Research from The Reading Agency shows that reading for pleasure can help to improve people's skills as well as increasing their motivation to read and learn more.

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/childrenscentres

Chatter Time sessions run throughout North Somerset, while Chatterbox stay and play sessions take place weekly during term time at Oldmixon Family Centre in Weston-super-Mare. As well as the usual stay and play activities, a speech and language therapist is on-hand to offer information and advice.

Parent advice clinics provide an opportunity to ask questions and get information and advice. For dates and times visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/fis. Appointments can be booked by ringing the children's centre directly.

For more information about children's speech and language visit www.ican.org.uk or www.talkingpoint.org.uk

Are you worried about someone living with domestic abuse?

Thousands of people are living with domestic abuse in North Somerset so anyone worried about a loved one is being urged to lend them a supportive ear.

Domestic abuse can include controlling behaviour, financial abuse and intimidation as well as physical violence.

In North Somerset it is estimated that more than 6,700 people – both men and women – currently live with domestic abuse, based on crime surveys of England and Wales.

To tackle this North Somerset Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and partner agencies have worked together in recent years to raise awareness.

The police receive about 3,000 calls about domestic abuse each year.

This still leaves lots of families living with domestic abuse who are not known to the police or other supportive agencies, meaning any help offered by family, friends, neighbours or workmates is very important.

People who have fled abuse often find it difficult to talk about their experiences and their family and friends frequently do not understand what they are going through.

One North Somerset resident, Christine, turned to her family after fleeing her violent husband but said: "Their lives are so normal, they just couldn't comprehend it."

Louise Branch, North Somerset Council's domestic abuse co-ordinator, said: "If you are worried about a friend or family member, listen to what they have to say but do not judge.



"Try to understand how difficult it is to leave a partner, and that someone may love, fear and be financially dependent upon another person at the same time.

"Encourage them to get support through the helpline and help them report the abuse to the police, the council, a doctor, health visitor or other potential supporter."



North Somerset's domestic abuse helpline: **0800 694 9999** (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday). At other times call the national 24-hour helpline: **0808 2000 247**

For local information visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/domesticabuse and for general advice visit www.womensaid.org.uk

For a copy of the Survivors' Handbook, written by local survivors, email community@n-somerset.gov.uk

New Beginnings drop-in sessions regularly take place for women to meet other women who have lived with domestic abuse. Call **0800 694 9999**

If you know someone who is vulnerable or are worried about any children, call Care Connect: **01275 888 801**

Challenging the stigma of mental health problems



One in four people in the UK will experience a mental health problem each year so an international awareness day aims to challenge the stigma surrounding it.

World Mental Health Day takes place on Tuesday 10 October and local organisations and mental health charities in North Somerset will be marking the day with a special screening at the Curzon Cinema in Clevedon.

Becci McCready is the senior centre worker who manages the Clevedon branch of mental health charity 1in4 People.

She said: "Through local events like this, we raise awareness of the number of people struggling with mental health issues and help connect people."

1in4 People works to empower people with mental health issues to tackle the challenges they face and move forward with their lives.

Becci added: "We provide a safe and supportive environment where people can relax and feel heard."

"I can't emphasise enough, the power of listening to others and taking an interest in them is vital in an ever-changing, challenging and difficult world."

Susannah Shaw, chief executive of the Curzon, said: "We are delighted to be able to join local groups to create a real buzz around issues of mental health."



"It is vital that people feel enabled to talk openly and increase awareness."

The evening starts with a mindfulness moment on Clevedon seafront at 6pm.

A 'warriors walk' will then head to the Curzon ready for a screening of romantic comedy Silver Lining Playbook at 7.30pm.

The 2012 film stars Jennifer Lawrence, who won an Oscar for her

performance, and Bradley Cooper who portrays a man with bipolar disorder.

Following the film, there will be a question and answer session with consultant psychiatrist Tiff Earle and Stephen Budd, who works for Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership and brings his own experiences of using and delivering a mental health service.

Dr Earle said: "Mental health care and understanding has come a long way but there is still work to be done to raise awareness and reduce the considerable stigma still associated with having a mental health diagnosis."

All money raised from the event will be shared between 1in4 People in Clevedon and the Curzon.



For up-to-date information about events planned for World Mental Health Day visit www.facebook.com/warriorsofwellbeing
www.1in4people.org.uk

A Walking Out Of Darkness 10km fundraising walk takes place on Saturday 16 September in Weston-super-Mare. Register at www.walkingoutofdarkness.com

Could this be the year you become a foster carer?

Time is still on your side if you want to make this the year you begin a fostering journey.

More than 100 children currently need a foster care placement in North Somerset so a recruitment drive is under way to find more people who would like to #makeadifferencein2017.

Life spoke to someone currently going through the application process and a recently approved foster carer to find out what it's really like...

In-depth assessments

Sarah, who is currently applying to North Somerset Council, has wanted to foster for a long time.

She said: "This is the year I had a spare room as my daughter left home to go to university, so it felt like the right time."

Sarah works with vulnerable children in an educational setting and said: "I feel that I have lots of skills to offer and wanted to put these to good use and support children and young people in care.

"My friends and family weren't surprised by my decision as I'd talked about it for years.

"I think they have been surprised at how in-depth the assessment has been, though, and how involved they have had to be. Fostering is a big thing for a family and everyone needs to be on-board.

"The process has generally been straightforward but the assessment has been more intense than I imagined."

Does Sarah have any advice for those thinking about fostering?





"Do a bit of research before picking up the phone," Sarah said.

"If you have any doubts or worries, these will need to be addressed straight away.

"Don't be afraid to ask questions to find out whether or not fostering is right for you and your family."

No regrets from recently approved foster carer

Andy was approved as a foster carer in North Somerset earlier this year after considering it for several years.

He said: "Talking and thinking is one thing, picking up the phone is another, but we decided now was the time and we've got no regrets."

Andy began the application process just over a year ago, after being prompted to think about fostering by a social worker friend.

He said: "We weren't sure what criteria needed to be met in order to be a foster carer and wondered what kind of things would stop someone from being one, but our social worker was fabulous.

"She took us through each step of the process, which was really a journey of self-discovery.

"We found that whatever background someone is from, and whatever experiences they may have had, the most important thing is how they have dealt with them and what they have learned.

"It's not so much what has happened in the past but more how it has made them the person they are now."

The support continues once you've become a registered foster carer.

Your own social worker is only an email or call away and there are lots of opportunities to meet other foster carers and undertake further training.

Life is now much busier for Andy and his family.

Andy said: "Going back to school runs and homework is strange but lovely.

"Having a young child around brings a fresh perspective and a lot of fun to our home.



"We find we are having to plan in time together and think more about what we actually do with each moment we have. We feel younger.

"Our other children were kept in the loop all along our training and have been a part of the process so they knew what to expect. Keeping in touch and making time to talk with them is key."

What are the highlights of fostering?

"Sharing experiences with a child, watching them change and grow and being there to help them develop as young people and overcome difficulties in their lives," Andy said.

"For someone who has had to overcome a lot of problems outside of school and who might have fallen behind as a result, hitting personal school milestones is such an exciting achievement."

"It is brilliant being there to share those things and be a part of it."

To find out more visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/fostering or call 01275 888 999

fosteringnorthsomerset • @FosteringNS • #makeadifferencein2017



Work on transforming town centre continues



Photo credit: Hammonds Photography

Celebrations were in full swing last month to mark the completion of the first phase of the Italian Gardens' transformation.

Hundreds of people packed into the new attractive, open space at the northern end of Weston-super-Mare's High Street to enjoy live music, street theatre, a fire-breathing mechanical dragon and spectacular fire show finale.



The event marked the completion of the first phase of work, which is being carried out by North Somerset Council after receiving funding from the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership.

However, small parts of the development still look unfinished as work progresses.

In some areas there is still temporary surfacing and some original paving, which will be replaced as the project progresses.

So what next?

The next phase will include:

- improvement works to South Parade, including widening the road to improve access for larger vehicles and making the route more pedestrian-friendly
- improving Spider Lane, alongside the Winter Gardens, to create a pedestrian-friendly space and easy and attractive link to the seafront
- planting and decorative features including urns provided by Weston-super-Mare Civic Society.

Additional pine trees and Mediterranean-style planting will be added in the autumn to complement the ground-level lighting already installed.

The Italian Gardens project forms part of the Weston town centre regeneration programme.

Rachel Lewis, regeneration manager at North Somerset Council, said: "Along with other major projects such as the redevelopment of Dolphin Square and Weston College's Law and Professional Services Academy at the Winter Gardens, the transformation of the Italian Gardens adds further momentum to the regeneration of the town as a vibrant place to live, with a thriving and diverse leisure offer."



A street performer at the Gardens Party
Photo credit: Hammonds Photography

Take a tour of the creative co-working hub

Development of Weston-super-Mare's new creative co-working hub is well under way and people are welcome to take a tour to see how the space could work for them.

The Stable is being developed in the former Badger Centre, in Wadham Street, to provide a hub for freelancers and small businesses in technology, digital and creative fields.

Anyone interested in signing up can take a tour to see how they could make use of the space.

The tour will give potential users the chance to see what goes on in the building, how the room booking system works, and what spaces are available to hot desk in.

Once the building opens, professionals will also be able to take advantage of a free one-day trial.

Manager Kerry O'Neill said: "The Stable will bring a new cultural dimension to the town centre, nurturing the creative talent already in the town and encouraging people and businesses to relocate here."

Space will be let on a daily or monthly basis with flexible and low-risk terms.

This includes 100mbps fibre wifi access, free tea and freshly-ground coffee, printing and scanning facilities.

Networking events and support will also be available to members to help cultivate their business success.



www.thestableweston.com  /thestableweston  @thestableweston  @the_stable_weston

Schoolchildren discover how to be a builder

School children from Weston-super-Mare donned hard hats and were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the new Dolphin Square development.

Year one children from Walliscote Primary School visited the new leisure complex in the summer to discover how to be a builder and to see the inside of the impressive and nearly-completed building.

The pupils were invited by Dawnus Construction, the principal contractor for McLaren Life who are developing Dolphin Square.

Teacher Emma Tucker said: "This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn about working in the construction industry, get involved in their local community and experience the noise and excitement of a real building site."



"They especially loved the laser level tool and seeing the inside of the building; it was very exciting for them."

Bob Cooper, project manager for Dawnus Construction, said: "It's always been a focus for us to engage the local community in this build."



"Involving local school children in our work is a valuable way of educating them on how to stay safe near a building site, as well as giving them a 'behind the scenes' insight into the construction."

Innovation, investment and growth



Businesses are innovating, investing and expanding in a well-connected development area on the outskirts of Weston-super-Mare.

Junction 21 Enterprise Area was established by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership and North Somerset Council in 2013.

It covers 70 hectares of land from Weston town centre and Winterstoke Road in the west to Worle train

station and the M5 in the east and is home to a diverse and ever-growing range of local start-ups, national and international businesses.

As a whole, Junction 21 Enterprise Area will create about 9,000 jobs in the next couple of decades and

provide employment opportunities for the new communities at Haywood Village and Locking Parklands.

Life takes a look at the latest developments....

at Junction 21 Enterprise Area

Focal point for food and drink producers

FoodWorks^{SW} will be a centre of excellence and focal point for food and drink manufacturers to help new businesses get started and established ones to innovate and grow.

Planning permission for phase one of the site, in Weston Business Quarter, was granted in July following North Somerset Council's successful bid for £9.36m Local Growth Deal funding from the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership.

The facility will offer a 'one stop shop' of food-grade manufacturing units, product development facilities



and specialist food and drink support under one roof.

Within the first phase, one building will include commercial-grade equipment for food and drink product research and development; exhibition, training and workshop space; meeting rooms and a café.

The second building will include 12 units of between 60 and 100 square metres, suitable for start-up and growing businesses.

Stephen Bashford, head of economic development at North Somerset Council, said: "These units are designed for short or medium term use, to encourage users to

move onto larger, more permanent accommodation once their product becomes established.

"It will also be the first phase of the new Food and Drink Enterprise Zone, to encourage the innovation and research of new food technologies and businesses, and create jobs and wealth in the food and drink sector."

A specialist pilot business support programme has already supported 30 businesses with technical help around packaging, equipment, shelf life, export, labelling and more.

Building work is expected to start this autumn with an opening in January 2019.



Further growth and investment

Elsewhere across Junction 21 Enterprise Area, there is healthy commercial activity and investment.

In July planning permission was granted for a 120-bed Holiday Inn Express hotel at Weston Gateway Business Park, next to the Knightstone Housing headquarters.

This £12m project is due to open in summer 2019 and will create about 50 jobs.

Between the hotel and Worle train station, planning permission has also been granted for a number of light industrial business units.

These 14 speculative units will provide sought-after accommodation for workshops, light manufacturing and service industry businesses looking to be close to Worle and the M5.

Stephen added: "While modest in scope, it's the speculative nature of this development which further demonstrates an underlying strength in North Somerset's economy.

"We expect interest to be healthy from local businesses."

More commercial schemes are also in the pipeline, with seven light industrial

units of about 270 square metres each proposed next to FoodWorksSW at Weston Business Quarter.

The commercial rental sector is also strong. All available office space at Locking Parklands is now fully let.

At Weston Business Park, close to Haywood Village, North Somerset Enterprise Agency's Hive building is now more than 90 per cent occupied – well ahead of its own projections.

Light industrial units at Warley's Lane, close to the Lidl distribution centre, are also fully let too.



For more information about the sites, news and progress visit www.j21.co.uk • @J21EA

For any business enquiries, contact the economic development team on 01934 426 266 or business@n-somerset.gov.uk

Linked in



Work is starting on a £10m scheme to improve access to a major development site in Weston-super-Mare.

The new North South Link road will run from the A371 in Locking, through the Parklands village area towards Churchland Way in West Wick, and will include high-quality cycle and pedestrian routes.

North Somerset Council is responsible for constructing the southern part of the road, across land that it and the Homes and Communities Agency own.

The final section of the road, linking it to West Wick, will be built by the developer of that area.

Crews have already been on site to clear vegetation, remove some trees and move utilities.

As part of the works, a new junction on the A371 will be created and the speed limit on that stretch lowered to 40mph.

The footbridge over the road will be removed and a temporary pedestrian crossing installed in its place while work is carried out.

This will be replaced by a fully signalised crossing at the new junction once work on the southern section of the road is complete.

The road is part of the council's Weston Villages and Junction 21 Enterprise Area projects which will see about 6,500 new homes and 10,000 jobs across the Parklands and Haywood Village (Weston Airfield) sites. Of these, about 1,000 homes have already been built and 1,000 jobs created.

As well as residential and business premises, the development will include up to five primary schools, a health practice and community halls.

The North South Link road will play a vital role in helping residents to access these services and will open up additional land for development.

Jenny Ford, North Somerset Council's regeneration manager, said: "Building the road now will give access for future development in the Parklands Village area, including on public sector land.

"It will also provide access to the future primary school at Locking Parklands and, in the longer-term, will reduce the impact of the new developments on the existing road network."

Work is expected to take up to 18 months, with the road opening in stages as development progresses.

The £10m scheme is being funded by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership using a combination of Local Growth Fund grant and the City-Deal Economic Development Fund.

Fine flavours at food festival



Foodie fans will be in for a treat when a food festival returns to Weston-super-Mare this month.

A bigger and better Eat:Weston returns on Saturday 16 September following its successful debut in April.

This time more than 80 local food and drink producers will set up stalls in the High Street and refurbished Italian Gardens.

Co-organiser Sarah Milner Simonds said: "Expect farmers' market favourites like cheese, ale and fresh produce, alongside more unusual items such as speciality gins and wines, charcuterie and patisserie."

Belarus Tractors will return to the High Street and there will be a cookery demonstration stage in the Sovereign Centre featuring Steve Fowell, award winning head chef at Mendip Green primary school in Worle.

Buskers will provide entertainment in the High Street, with other music in the Italian Gardens.

Fellow organiser Bev Milner Simonds said: "It is the warm welcome and positive feedback we got in April that has given us the determination to create this festival in record time."

The festival runs from 9am to 5pm.



Other dates for the diary

Friday 6 – Saturday 7 October

Enjoy traditional Bavarian frivolity in one of Europe's largest touring beer tents when Oktoberfest comes to Weston-super-Mare.

The festival features authentic Oompah music, traditional German foods and those all-important two-pint beer steins.



The event runs for three sessions over the two days. It is an 18+ event, and a challenge 25 age policy applies.

www.oktoberfestofficial.com/weston-super-mare

Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October

The roar of off-road motorbikes will be heard across Weston's seafront when the popular beach race returns.

The HydroGarden Weston Beach Race, now in its 35th year, is described as the maddest, baddest and biggest off-road motorcycle event in the UK.

Nearly 1,000 riders will be competing in Sunday's main solo race, as well as quads, sidecars, juniors and adults.

Spectators can also enjoy trials displays and stalls during the event, run by RHL Activities.

For more information and tickets visit www.westonbeachrace.com





A country stroll just minutes from town

Walk information

Distance:

just under two miles

Difficulty:

easy – a level walk with easy-access kissing gates. The newly-laid wide, gravel paths are wheelchair and pushchair friendly. This walk does continue into fields though, and wellies are recommended here as it can get muddy in places.

People in wheelchairs will need a RADAR key for access over River Banwell.

Duration:

the circuit can be completed in about 45 mins. To extend the route, exit onto Ebdon Lane and a kissing gate is in the hedge in front of you. Follow the public footpath signs to head towards Wick St Lawrence (use OS map 153)

How to get there

By car: The walk starts in Spinners End, off Gimblett Road, off Walford Avenue, Worle. Please park considerately in this quiet residential area.

By bus: First service 7 goes along Wansbrough Road

Country code

The fields you are walking across are farmland, not open access land. Beware of cattle grazing and follow the country code:

- keep to the line of the public path
- close gates
- keep dogs under close control
- leave no litter.

Taste the country air and stretch your legs during this short stroll which begins just a five minute drive from busy Worle High Street.



New paths have been created on land next to St Georges, on the outskirts of Weston-super-Mare, as part of a flood relief project the size of 80 Olympic swimming pools.

The scheme was completed last year as part of a Strategic Flood Solution, which aims to prevent flooding around the new developments at Weston Airfield and Parklands Village which, between them, will provide up to 6,500 homes and 10,000 jobs.

As part of this project a number of fields directly alongside the River Banwell, between St Georges and Wick St Lawrence, have been lowered.

This means that when water levels rise in the river, the excess water will be held in the storage area until levels fall back down.

The area has excellent views of the river and is now a popular place to

relax and enjoy the scenery, with runners, dog walkers and other local residents.

Hedges, ditches and wetlands that form part of the scheme attract different types of wildlife, from birds to butterflies, hedgehogs to frogs.

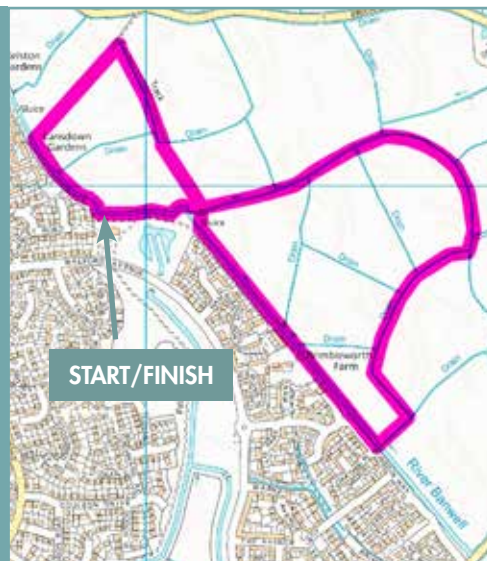
This walk starts from Spinners End. The public footpath starts between the two hedges on the right-hand side of the road.





The Strategic Flood Solution project is a joint venture between North Somerset Council, the Environment Agency, the Internal Drainage Board and prospective developers. It has been funded through the West of England Revolving Infrastructure Fund, with the costs to be paid back by developers in the future.

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Turn right onto the main path, and then go over the newly-improved bridge which crosses the River Banwell.

Take the path to the right, running alongside the river. You can cross the stream via a little wooden bridge with stiles, or use the wider bridge with a swinging gate.

Follow the path until the end of the field. Don't go through the gate in front of you, though, instead take the left-hand path and then follow it around the trees.

Follow it as it bends round to the right, with the hedge now on your right.

At the next corner is another gate. Go through here, following the yellow waymarker across the field towards another gate on the far side.

Go through this gate and continue straight ahead, along the right edge of the field.

Continue around the edge of this field. The public footpath then continues over a little footbridge on your right.

Turn left after the footbridge, keeping the hedge on your left.

Go over the next footbridge and keep to the edge of the river.

Go through the next gate and you are now on the same gravel path you were on earlier. Take the next turning on your right.

Continue ahead and at the t-junction in the path, take the left-hand path. Follow this gravel path around the edge, and it will lead you back to the bridge over the River Banwell and Spinners End.

Walk correction

The walk featured in the last issue of *Life*, near Congresbury, contained an error in one section.

When going up the hillside, past Grove Lodge, and into the woods, please follow these directions instead:

Continue straight ahead, following the yellow waymarkers, with the old stone boundary wall on your left.

After a steady incline you will come to a t-junction in the path. Proceed to the right (signposted) for a distance of 25 metres where you will meet a fork in the track.

Continue on the left hand track for a distance of approximately 75 metres (signposted) where the footpath then proceeds through the woods on a downward incline till you meet the track.

The route then continues to the left. Continue on this route which can be rocky in parts.

Keep heading downhill and eventually you will walk behind a wall with houses on your left.

Follow the rest of the route as directed. Apologies for any confusion caused.





SEPTEMBER

Sunday 10

Serenade Big Band free concert 2.30-4.30pm, Grove Park, Weston-super-Mare. Sponsored by Grove Park café. 07952 943 855

The Central Band of the Royal Air Force Charity Concert 7.30pm, The Playhouse, Weston-super-Mare.

Saturday 16

Mendip Society walk around Congresbury Meet 2pm, free car park off Gooseham Mead by Congresbury bridge. A moderate 5-6 mile walk with meadows and some hills. 01934 842 868

Sunday 17

King Alfred Concert Band free concert 2.30-4.30pm, Grove Park, Weston-super-Mare. Sponsored by Grove Park café. 07952 943 855



Tuesday 19

Clevedon Music Club 7.30pm, Clevedon Community Centre. Violinist Dennis Simons and pianist Penelope Simons. Season ticket (until April) £52; four concerts for £28; or £9 on the door. 01275 879 099 or 01275 875 262.

Saturday 23

Cinderella ballet workshop Footlights Studio Nailsea. A free session. Further rehearsals will run on Saturdays – ages 4-6 12.15-1.15pm; ages 7+ 1.30-3.30pm. 07818 065 015 www.footlightsperformanceacademy.co.uk

Weston Light Orchestra perform Last Night of the Proms noon-1pm, All Saints' Church, Weston-super-Mare. Tickets £8 on the door, inc free light lunch and glass of wine.

Mendip Society coastal walk from Clevedon Meet 2pm, in Salthouse Fields (£4 for 4 hours), or on-street for free. A moderate 5.5 mile walk. 01749 672 196 or 01934 820 745

Sunday 24

Classic car show 10am-4.30pm, Grove Park, Weston-super-Mare

Saturday 30

Midnight Beach Walk Weston beach. Women-only 5km sponsored walk along the beach in aid of Weston Hospicare. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult (18 and over). £15 per adult, £10 child (11-16). www.westonhospicare.org.uk/midnight

OCTOBER

Saturday 7

West Mendip Orchestra Orchestral Play Day 10am-5pm, Churchill Academy, Churchill. All instrumentalists from Weston and surrounding area invited to join in playing Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique by Nicki Sisman and Piazzola Tangos by Gerry Browne. £10 charge, payable in advance, to cover expenses. Email chair@west-mendip-orchestra.org.uk to register interest, or call 07540 580 824

Weston Youth Orchestra 7.30pm, All Saints' Church, Weston-super-Mare. Tickets on the door.



Sunday 8

Classic car show 10am-4.30pm, Grove Park, Weston-super-Mare

Friday 13

Richard Lennox playing the music of Ivor Novello and Sigmund Romberg 3.30pm and 7pm, Clarence Park Baptist Church, Walliscote Road, Weston-super-Mare. Tickets £10/£9 from 01934 623 694

Egyptian Bellydance (E) (term time only) 7-8pm, Backwell WI Hall, Station Road. 01275 855 016

Easy Strollers line dancing (E) 7-8pm (intermediate), 8-9pm (improvers), Clevedon Triangle Club, Old Church Road. 01275 875 235

Nailsea Scottish Dancers (E) 8pm, Christchurch Hall, Christchurch Close, Nailsea. £2.50. 01275 790 937

Portishead Square Dancers (E) 8-10pm, Folk Hall, Portishead. 01275 817 964 £2.50 each class

Tuesdays

Social Morning with Historic and Country Dancing to Live Music (E) 9.30-11.30am, Folk Hall, Portishead. £3 per person. 01275 847 909

Movement to Music (E) 10-11am, Methodist Church, Portishead. 07899 754 937

DANCE

Mondays

DB's Dance Club (E) 10-11am, Clevedon Community Centre. Line dancing. 01275 854 375

Ballroom and sequence beginners dance lessons (E) 10am-noon, Corpus Cristi church hall, Weston. 01934 510 749

Latin and jive – next step/improvers (E) 1.30-3.15pm, St Peter's Hall, Clevedon. £5. 01275 876 314



KEY: (E) Every • (A) Alternate • (1) First



DB's Dance Club social tea dance (E) 2.30-5pm, Clevedon Community Centre. 01275 854 375

Ballroom and sequence (E) 7.30-10.30pm, Town and Country Lodge, Bridgwater Road. With or without a partner. £2. 0117 9778 200

Avon Dance Club (E) 8-10pm, Somerset Hall, Portishead. Ballroom and Latin practice night. 01934 823 128

Backwell Sequence Dance Club (E) 8-10.15pm, WI Hall, Backwell. £3 per person. 07710 460 550

Weston Folk Dance Club (E) 8-10pm, Corpus Christi Church Hall, Weston-super-Mare. 01934 514 226

Brazilian carnival style dance with live drummers (E) 8-10pm, All Saint's Hall Clevedon. Call 07780 641 427

Portishead LeRoc (E) 8-10.30pm, Portishead Primary School, Station Road. Modern jive. 07909 063 624
heather@portisheadleroc.com

In Motion Dance (E) 8-11pm, Banwell Village Hall. 07903 655 924.
www.in-motion-dance.co.uk

Wednesdays

Easy Strollers line dancing (E) improvers 9.15-10.15am, 1st Clevedon Scout Hall, Great Western Road. 01275 875 235

DB's Dance Club line dancing (E) 10.45-11.45am, Clevedon Community Centre. 01275 854 375

Sequence tea dance (E) 2-4pm, Avonway Hall, Portishead. 01934 644 745

Latin and jive - absolute beginners (E) 7-8.15pm and 'next steps' from 8.30pm. (Also Thurs 2-3.45pm) St Peter's Church Hall, Clevedon. £5. 01275 876 314

Easy Strollers line dancing (E) beginners 7-8pm, 2nd Clevedon Scout Hall, Coleridge Vale Road North

Abanico Salsa Classes (E) 7.30-10.30pm (3 classes, beginners to improvers), Clevedon Triangle Club. Call in advance: 07971 565 406

50s and 60s rock 'n' roll (E) 8pm-late, Tavern Inn the Town, Regent Street, Weston-super-Mare. 01934 412 826

Thursdays

Easy Strollers line dancing (E) 9.15-10.15am (improvers) 10.20-11.20am (intermediate) 1st Clevedon Scout Hall. 01275 875 235

New and Old Sequence dance class (E) 10.30am-12.30pm, Kewstoke Village Hall. 07437 203 642

DB's Dance Club line dancing (E) 11am-1pm, Folk Hall, Portishead. 01275 854 375

Weekly Sequence Dance Club (E) 2-4.30pm, Claverham Village Hall. 01275 851 221

Egyptian Bellydance (E) (term time only) 7.30-8.30pm, Castle Batch Community Centre, Bishops Avenue. 01275 855 016

Nailsea Le Roc (E) 8-10.30pm, Scotch Horn Leisure Centre, Nailsea. Beginners/intermediates. £6. 07816 649 077

Fridays

Ballroom, Latin and sequence dancing (E) 2-4.30pm, Kewstoke Village Hall. 07437 203 642

North Somerset Intercultural Dancing Association (E) 7.45-9.30pm, Nailsea Methodist Church, Silver Street. Admission £2. www.nida.site40.net

Clevedon Sequence Dance Club (E) 7.45-10.30pm, Walton St Mary's Church Hall. 01275 847 293

Social dance (1) 8-11.30pm, Somerset Hall, Portishead. £5. 01275 831 884

Streetdance (2)(4) 7-8.30pm, Claverham Village Hall. For 8-15-year-olds. 01934 838 017

Social dance (4) 8-10.30pm, St. James Hall, Winscombe. £4. 01934 516 852

Saturdays

Chelis Theatre Company (E) 2-5pm St. Saviours Church Hall, Weston-super-Mare. Drama, dance and singing for 6-18-year-olds. 01934 625 301

Sundays

Avon Dance Club Tea Dance (Monthly) 3-6pm, Somerset Hall Portishead. 01934 823 128

Ballroom and sequence (E) 7.30-10pm, Kewstoke Village Hall. 07437 203 642

Social dancing (E) 7.30-10.30pm, Hutton Moor Leisure Centre, Weston-super-Mare. £5. 01934 518 529 www.westonsocialdancing.co.uk



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Focus on fire safety

Fire safety became the focus for many residents earlier this year following the tragic events at Grenfell Tower where an estimated 80 people lost their lives and many more lost their homes.

North Somerset Council does not own or manage any high rise tower blocks but works with partner agencies and takes the responsibilities for the safety of residents very seriously.

In North Somerset there are no residential buildings above 18m or six storeys high with cladding materials similar to those used at Grenfell Tower, but there are a number of high-rise apartment buildings.

As a precaution, all residential flat buildings with communal areas are required to review fire safety measures and have a fire risk assessment in place.

Anyone concerned about fire safety in their building should contact the building owner.

Both Alliance Homes and Knightstone Housing issue fire safety procedures to all new tenants and provide advice on their websites.

If you live in social rented accommodation, you could also look on your landlord's website.



Keeping you and your neighbours safe

Whether you live in a building divided into flats or in your own home, you should take responsibility for knowing what to do if there is a fire.

Make sure any access areas inside or outside, which you or your neighbours would need to escape through, are clear from obstacles.

It might look easy in daylight but escape can become much harder when disoriented by smoke.

Fire safety checklist

In the event of a fire...

- ✓ Get out
- ✓ Phone 999 or shout for help so someone can call them for you.
- ✓ Keep doors closed to stop the spread of smoke and fire. Don't open any that feel warm – fire is on the other side.
- ✓ If you can't get out, get everyone together, close the door and seal the bottom of it with towels or bedding. Open the window and stay near it.
- ✓ Once outside, don't go back inside.

Prevention...

- ✓ Install and regularly check smoke alarms. Smoke detectors give a vital warning and important extra minutes to escape from your property.
- ✓ Will you hear the smoke alarm if it goes off? Will you know what to do?
- ✓ Make sure escape routes are clear and free from obstacles. Can you get out if the smoke alarm goes off?

For information about fire safety visit
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/firesafety
www.avonfire.gov.uk
www.alliancehomesgroup.org.uk
www.knightstone.co.uk

Join in the fun at Your North Somerset

A fun day for all the family will take place this month to help celebrate the wide range of voluntary, charitable and public services in North Somerset.

The popular Your North Somerset takes place at the Tropicana, on Weston-super-Mare's seafront, from 11am to 5pm on Sunday 24 September.

This year's free event is being organised by Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS) and will include a packed programme of local entertainment with plenty to keep the whole family occupied.

Music, dancing and family-friendly entertainment can be enjoyed on the stage, while there will also be a host of stalls and stands.

Local groups and organisations will have information about their services so people can get advice and support, or find out more about how they could get involved in their local community.

VANS operations manager Lorna Muffett said: "There will be plenty of activities to try, some things for children to make and take home, delicious food to taste, some unusual vehicles to explore, quizzes and games."

The event is supported by North Somerset Council and the Big Lottery Celebrate Fund.

Louise Roberts, equality and diversity manager at North Somerset Council, said: "We are delighted to be working with VANS to celebrate the rich variety of groups and organisations in North Somerset."

"I'd like to say a huge thank you to all the organisations who are coming along to share what they do."

"Everyone is welcome, bring the family and join us for a fun day out at the Tropicana."

www.vansweb.org.uk



Communities urged to act against extremism

Communities can act as the 'eyes and ears' of the police so people are being urged to share any information which might help prevent a terrorist attack.

ACT ACTION COUNTERS TERRORISM

ACT – action counters terrorism – is a new Government campaign to encourage anyone who sees something unusual or suspicious to go with their instincts and act.

The current threat level in the UK remains severe so anyone with information about suspicious activity or behaviour can report it to the police in confidence.

Detective Inspector Dickon Turner, from Avon and Somerset Police, said: "Communities defeat terrorism, which is why we must maintain the strong relationship between the public and police, so people raise any concerns with us at an early stage.

"We depend on the public, our eyes and ears, in our efforts to keep us all safe."

Organisations in North Somerset are also working together to safeguard vulnerable people who might be drawn into extremism of any kind.

North Somerset's Prevent group is a multi-agency body which includes the council, police, social services, health, probation and other partners who identify and share information and challenge extremist views, such as extreme right or left wing ideologies and Islamist extremism.

It is part of the national Prevent movement, the Government's counter-terrorism strategy.

Jo Mercer, North Somerset Council's safer and stronger manager and chair of North Somerset's Prevent group, said: "Anyone who has concerns is encouraged to get in contact with the police Prevent team.

"Stopping vulnerable people being attracted to violent extremism could safeguard them and stop another terrorist attack from taking place."



Radicalism app launched

A new app has launched to help young people who might be at risk from radicalisation by recognising when they are being influenced or controlled by others.

Cross the Line puts users at the centre of a hypothetical journey to potential radicalism, highlighting how easy it can be in modern society.

www.crosstheline.co.uk

Call 999 in an emergency • If you're concerned about someone becoming radicalised, contact Avon and Somerset Police Prevent team: 01179 455 539, 101, or channelsw@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Anonymous calls can be made through Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111 • @PreventUK

Be prepared for

Cooler evenings, shorter days and leaves beginning to turn brown mean autumn is now here.

Along with other seasonal changes, this time of year usually means wetter weather.

Last year saw flooding in some parts of North Somerset so the council's highways and flood teams have teamed up to provide advice to local residents.

The message is clear – while North Somerset Council has emergency plans in place, heavy rainfall can't be avoided so be prepared for disruption.



Are you weather ready?

W **Watch and be aware** – keep reading local weather forecasts, the council's Facebook and Twitter feeds, and www.n-somerset.gov.uk/disruption for updates on affected council services

E **Expect the council to be busy** – officers will be working round the clock but can't be everywhere. Flooding on high speed roads, residential areas and in the living areas of homes will be prioritised

A **Allow extra time to travel** – roads may be busier than usual. If the weather's really bad ask yourself whether your journey is necessary. Check www.n-somerset.gov.uk/roadworks for live traffic flows

T **Take action before bad weather hits** – prepare your property, clear gutters regularly, secure any items that might get blown around and trim any trees that could fall on your property or block gullies or drains (check with the council first for any consent you might need)

H **Have the right cover** – consider the type and level of insurance cover you need. Keep the details somewhere safe and handy

E **Emergency plan** – know where you'd go if you had to leave your home and how you'd get there. Prepare a grab bag of essential items you can pick up in a hurry. Download a home emergency checklist card at communityresilience-ns.org.uk/prepare or pick one up at the Town Hall, the council's Castlewood offices or your local library.

R **Remove leaves from gullies if it's safe to do so** – often the road gully itself is clear but water can't drain because there's a pile of leaves on top. Clear the leaves away. If the gully still doesn't clear, report it at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect

bad weather



Community Resilience North Somerset

Volunteers get flood ready

Village volunteers in Wrington and Congresbury are taking part in a pilot scheme this autumn to help warn drivers about flood water on roads.

Volunteers with the Community Resilience scheme will be working with council highways officers to deploy 'flood' signs in their local communities.

The volunteers, who have undertaken training, will put out the signs at pre-agreed flood sites so drivers get appropriate warnings as quickly as possible.

They'll also make sure the signs are removed promptly once the water has receded.

Anyone who sees these signs is advised to adjust their driving accordingly and follow any additional road signs or diversions.

If you would like to find out more about Community Resilience and help prepare your community for an emergency, visit **communityresilience-ns.org.uk**

Look out for more #weatherready messages across the council's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Sign up for free flood warnings from the Environment Agency at **www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings** or call **03459 881 188**

A Met Office weather warning app is also available on the Google Play or Apple app stores.



Keeping roads clear of flood water



Surface water is one of the most common types of flooding in the UK so North Somerset's highways officers will be ready for action as the leaves start falling.

North Somerset Council is responsible for emptying and cleaning the area's 37,000 road gullies, and their connections to the drainage system along roads, to make sure water is taken away from the road surface.

Surface water flooding happens when rainwater doesn't drain away through existing drainage systems or by soaking into the ground but instead it sits on or flows across the ground.

It's usually associated with extremely heavy rainfall where the ground is already saturated or where there's too much water for drainage systems to cope with.

As well as the risk of flooding, surface water poses a danger to road users and can damage roads and pavements by penetrating the road structure. Over time this can lead to potholes and other defects developing.

Maintenance is prioritised by taking road safety into account, as well as areas where there has previously been flooding in residential properties.

Road gullies are designed to cope with normal amounts of rainfall but flooding can still occur if there is very heavy rainfall in a short amount of time.

If the water doesn't drain away after a reasonable amount of time it needs to be reported to the council.

And not all drainage is the responsibility of the council.

Most public sewers, and occasionally some on private land, are owned and maintained by Wessex Water.

Blocked or faulty sewers should be reported to them so they can check whether it's a public or private sewer.

If you have a ditch or watercourse on your land, it is normally your responsibility to keep this clear.

North Somerset Council can carry out flood prevention work but you are responsible for maintaining these watercourses and can be charged for the cost of any flood prevention work the council carries out.



What to do if you see flooding on the road or a blocked gully



Report issues online

Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect to report it. Reporting online allows information to go straight to the relevant team and makes sure they have exactly the information they need to try and resolve the issue. The council also uses this information to plan future maintenance and works. If you can't report it online then phone 01934 888 802.



Stay safe

Never enter flood water. Just six inches of fast flowing water can knock you over and there may be hazards in the water you can't see, such as manhole covers that might have lifted up.



Drive responsibly

Never drive through flood water. You risk damaging your vehicle and may also invalidate your insurance and cause problems for local communities. Driving through flood water can create bow waves which can flood adjacent properties and cause damage to roads and infrastructure.

Does a watercourse run through your land?

Anyone with a watercourse running through their land, either on the surface or underground, is likely to have responsibility for it.

A watercourse might be a river, stream, ditch, culvert or passage where water flows, but not part of a main river.

If it runs through your land, or along the boundary of your property, you are a 'riparian owner' or 'joint riparian owner' unless the watercourse is known to be owned by someone else, such as a sewer owned by a utility company.

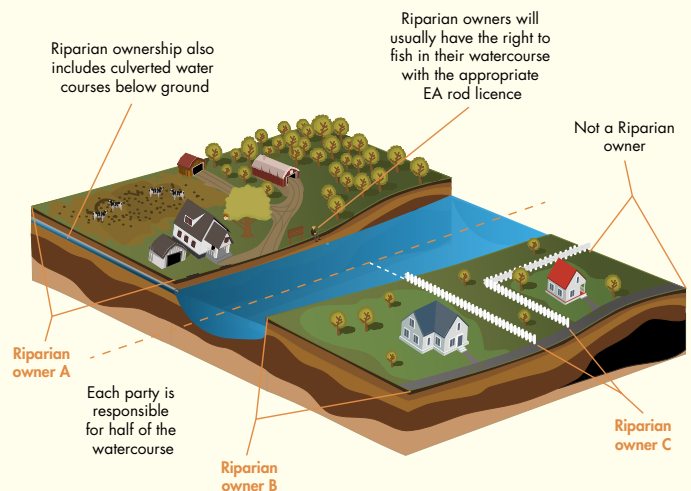
If the land on the other side of the watercourse is not yours, you are presumed to be the joint riparian owner together with the landowner on the other side.

In this case, each party is presumed to own and have responsibility for the watercourse up to its centre line.

Find out more at

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/riparianownership

Riparian ownership example





BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY
ONE YOU

GO SMOKE FREE THIS STOPTOBER

Thousands of people will be stubbing out their cigarettes soon to go smoke free for Stoptober.

Smokers who complete the 28-day challenge during October are five times more likely to kick the habit for good.

North Somerset resident Ray successfully quit after smoking for 50 years.

He used the Smokefree North Somerset service for help, by visiting advisers at the drop-in service at Tesco's café in Weston-super-Mare.

Ray said: "Don't hesitate, do it now. If you fall off the wagon just get back on."

Smokefree North Somerset is also an e-cigarette friendly service.

If you would like to use your own e-cigarette to stop smoking tobacco, advisers can offer additional support to help you succeed.



"Smokefree North Somerset is a very professional and friendly service, not at all judgemental."

RAY

Smokefree North Somerset: 01275 546 744

Text STOPTOBER to 07800 001 316

smokefree@n-somerset.gov.uk

www.smokefreenorthsomerset.co.uk

Helping to make green commuting choices

travelwest



Companies in North Somerset are going green and making sustainable travel easier for their employees.

Oxford Instruments Plasma Technology, based in Yatton, is one of the latest firms to take up two sustainable travel initiatives through North Somerset Council.

It received funding to install electric car charging points and has also borrowed an electric bike.

More than 100,000 plug-in electric vehicles have now been registered within the UK and there is a greater choice of vehicles and more charging points nationally.

Senior product manager Chris Hodson said: "Several Plasma Technology staff have got electric cars so it made sense to have charging points installed.

"Our business has been at the forefront of providing equipment which will enable more efficient electric vehicles, it's really great to be a part of its evolution."

The company had already started to build its green credentials, by planting bee-friendly flowers, installing a beehive and bird feeders, and more.

It has also borrowed an electric bike from North Somerset Council for employees to try out.

Marketing and communications manager at the firm, Susie Williams, was the first to try it.

She said: "I already cycle to work occasionally but the electric bike made the fairly long commute much more manageable.

"It was great to be able to have some fresh air and exercise without quite the amount of effort needed on a 'normal' bike.

"We are extremely pleased that North Somerset Council gave us the opportunity to make these steps towards becoming more sustainable, and hope that this will encourage more users within our business."



Discover alternative commutes

Discover alternative ways to commute during two days designed to help you leave your car at home.

Cycle to Work day takes place on Wednesday 13 September.

Visit www.cycletoworkday.org or borrow a bike for two weeks through www.betterbybike.info/loanbikes

World Car Free Day also takes place on Friday 22 September.

Try cycling, walking or using public transport for your journeys to work, school or the shops.

Visit www.travelwest.info to plan your journey.

For more information about how North Somerset Council can support businesses with a range of sustainable travel initiatives, email sustainable.travel@n-somerset.gov.uk

Could you make a real difference in someone's life?

Caring residents who could offer support and accommodation in their own home can make a real difference to someone else's life.

North Somerset Council is looking for people to join its Shared Lives scheme, where residents provide care to an adult with a learning disability, people living with dementia, older people, those with mental health difficulty or physical or sensory impairments.

Carers support the adult to live a full and meaningful life within their own family, and it could be on a full-time, short break or daily basis.

Carers are paid, trained and receive ongoing training and support.

For more information contact Shared Lives on **01934 427 600 • www.LD4U.org.uk**

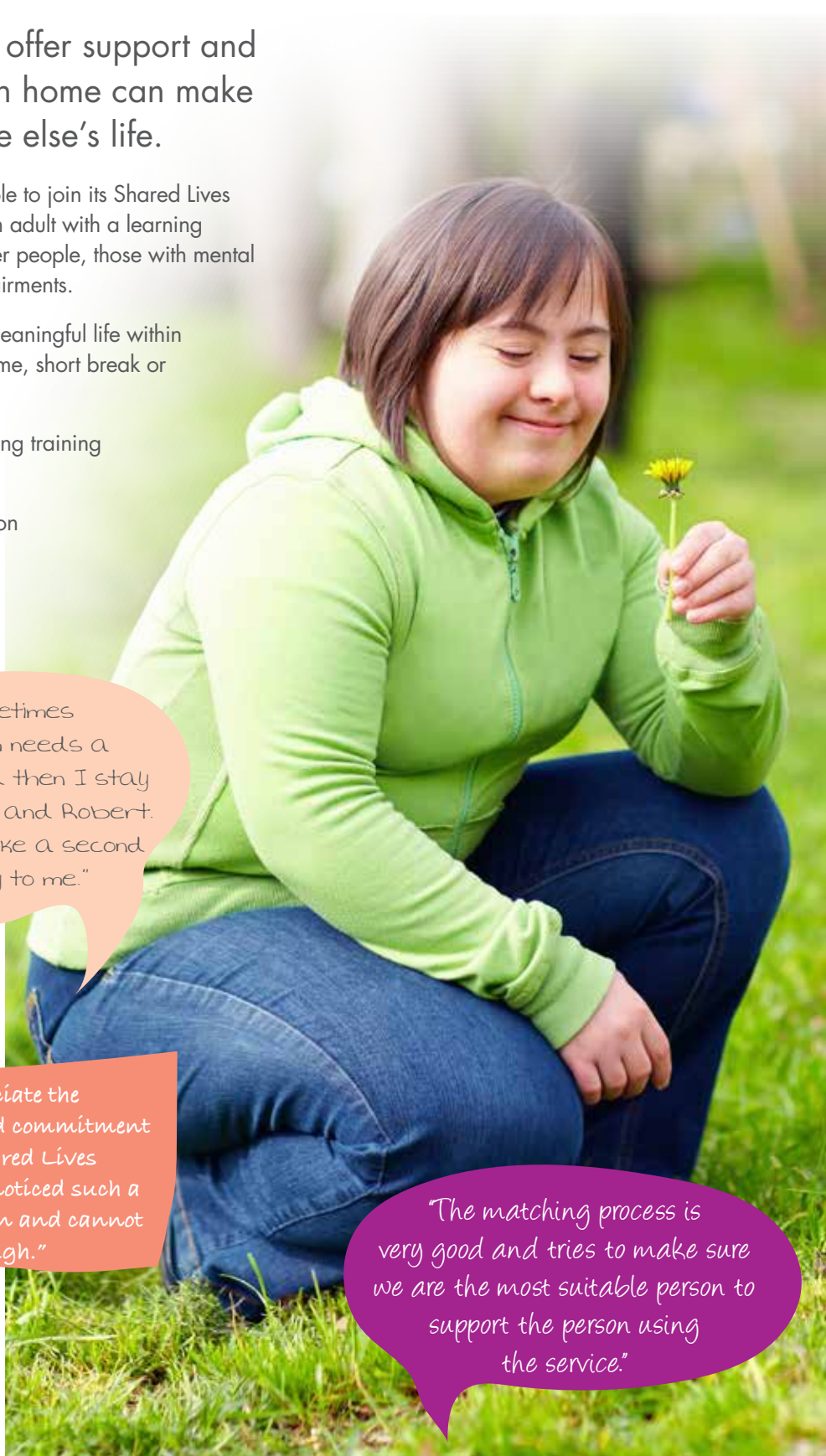
The team will also be at the Your North Somerset event on Sunday 24 September, at the Tropicana in Weston-super-Mare.

"Sometimes my mum needs a break and then I stay with Wendy and Robert. They are like a second family to me."

"It felt perfectly natural to have someone come into our home."

"We really appreciate the personal care and commitment given by the Shared Lives carers. We have noticed such a change in our son and cannot thank them enough."

"The matching process is very good and tries to make sure we are the most suitable person to support the person using the service."



Volunteering can make a big difference

Volunteering can make a huge difference to people's lives – both to the organisation receiving help and the person giving up their free time.

It is estimated that more than 14 million people volunteer once a month, which contributes billions to the UK economy.

Opportunities might include improving the environment, spending time with people who would otherwise be lonely, or delivering essential services.

Becoming a volunteer can improve your mental and physical health and recent research from the Harvard School of Public Health suggested that people who volunteer spent 38 per cent less time in hospital.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering can find local opportunities through Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS).

Visit www.vansweb.org.uk to search the database, or call **01934 416 486**.

Other current opportunities include....



Are you a good listener?

Anyone feeling overwhelmed for whatever reason can receive emotional support and a listening ear from volunteers at North Somerset Samaritans.

The branch, based in the High Street in Weston-super-Mare, has about 60 volunteers who respond to about 10,000 telephone calls a year.

About 90 per cent of these are from distressed or suicidal callers.

The organisation also gives talks in schools, colleges and workplaces, as well as taking part in fundraising activities.



Volunteer Jamie making a difference with Weston-super-Mare Samaritans

A recruitment drive is now under way and information mornings will soon take place for people to find out more.

Visit the Samaritans Centre, in High Street, Weston-super-Mare (opposite the entrance to Grove Park), from 10am to noon on Saturday 9 September or Saturday 14 October.

For more information email samaritansrecruitmentwsm@yahoo.com or call **01934 632 555**

Call the Samaritans for free any time on **116 123**



Help restore the hill fort

Green-fingered volunteers are needed to help restore Worlebury hill fort in Weston-super-Mare.

The group meets weekly to tidy the 25-acre archaeological site and cut back vegetation.

Volunteers meet from 10am to noon every Monday and Friday. No special skills are required. For more information call Bill Fraher: **01934 412 038**

Recycling is worth it

Myths surrounding recycling are set to be busted this month during a national campaign aimed at showing the real benefits of reducing, reusing and recycling.

Recycle Week 2017 runs from Monday 25 September to Sunday 1 October with a range of activities to encourage householders to recycle.

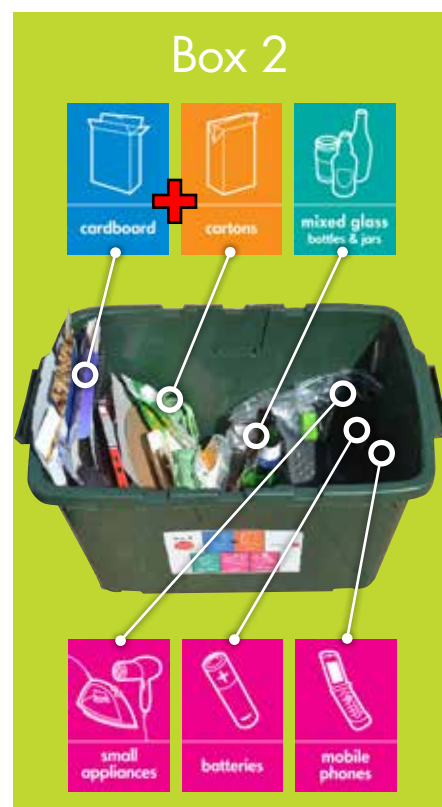
The week will show the overall benefits of recycling and how things come back as different products.

Find out what's happening in North Somerset at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/recycle

Help sort your boxes

Sorting your boxes is really easy. It allows crews to collect your recycling quickly, which helps reduce traffic congestion. Remember to wash and squash all containers and flatten any cardboard, which will give you more space in your boxes to recycle even more.

Batteries and textiles must be bagged up within their boxes.



Top recycling tips

Residents have been writing in with their top tips on how to recycle more.

The three top tips received are:

- Reduce your packaging waste by taking your own containers to the shops, such as butchers or deli counters at the supermarket, and only buy products with recyclable packaging.
Rebecca Wood, Worle
- Have a second bin in the kitchen for recyclable material to make it easy for everyone. The bin can

then be sorted into the right box before collection.

Tara Miles, Long Ashton

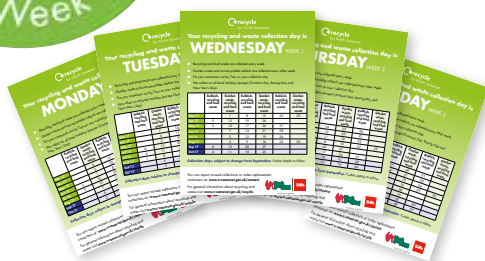
- Wash all glass and plastic packaging in the dishwasher or while doing the washing up. This will reduce the amount of water you use and make the recyclable material cleaner for crews.

Louise McKee, Hutton

Best of the rest...

- use an envelope to collect receipts and scrap paper
- store meat and dairy waste in the freezer prior to collection in hot weather
- make stock from vegetable peelings and scraps
- reuse leftovers for another meal.

Thank you to everyone who submitted ideas.



Garden waste update

About 45,250 households have now registered for the garden waste service.

Those who haven't yet can still register at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/gardenwaste

As autumn approaches, residents are reminded not to overload their bin with fallen fruit, such as apples, because it will make the bin too heavy and may not be collected.



Collection day update

Current collection calendars run out in October but residents will stay on their existing day until next year.

Revised Christmas collections will be advertised in the next edition of *Life*.

Any subsequent changes next year will be published in *Life* and on the council website.

Charges for businesses

Businesses have a legal responsibility to dispose of their waste and recycling.

A commercial waste agreement by a certified waste carrier must be in place and businesses can be fined if the documents can't be produced.

To help small businesses, North Somerset Council has a flexible cost effective commercial waste service.

This kerbside commercial collection can be tailored to suit individual needs.

For more information visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/commercialwaste or email commercialwaste@n-somerset.gov.uk

Electronic resident permits withdrawn

Electronic resident permits will no longer be introduced at North Somerset recycling centres.

However residents are asked to bring proof of North Somerset residency such as a drivers licence or council tax bill. Spot checks will be carried out.

Any visitor who does not have proof will be refused entry.

North Somerset residents can use any of the three recycling centres in the area.

When visiting, please sort your waste and recycling beforehand to speed up traffic flow.

Nailsea gets the gold standard

Residents in Nailsea have achieved the gold standard and unlocked £2,500 in prize money that can be spent on local projects.

Nailsea scooped the top spot in the Parish Recycling Scheme, an incentive run by the department for Communities and Local Government.

All parishes in North Somerset were invited to take part in the scheme.

In Nailsea, the scheme was run by community group Better Nailsea and Nailsea and Backwell Rotary Club, with help from the town council.



Activities included...

- recycling roadshows
- 12 litter picks
- surveys
- getting more than 500 resident pledges to recycle more
- promotion of North Somerset Council's waste and recycling service
- organising stalls at Nailsea farmers' markets.

Anyone interested in getting involved with Better Nailsea can contact Lisa Davidson on communitymattersnailsea@waitrose.co.uk; or contact the rotary club at goo.gl/y8dw29



Simplify council tax payments by using direct debit

Getting through your to-do list is a great feeling and one way of making life a little easier is to pay your council tax by direct debit.

North Somerset Council is constantly looking for ways to make it easier for residents to transact with the council.

By registering for MyAccount at www.n-somerset.gov.uk, you can set up your direct debit online.

Benefits of paying by direct debit include...

- Never missing a payment when you are away or on holiday
- No travelling to council offices or queuing to make a payment
- Never receiving embarrassing reminders or final notices
- Never falling into arrears or incurring additional charges for summonses or liability orders
- Being covered by the direct debit guarantee, so your money is safe



Did you know?

More than 70 per cent of North Somerset residents now pay their council tax by direct debit.

To do list

- ☒ Buy birthday card
- ☒ Set up direct debit to pay council tax
- ☐ Arrange lunch with mum
- ☐ Arrange flu jab
- ☐ Book car in for service
- ☐ Drop present off for Helen

Sign up to MyAccount online at www.n-somerset.gov.uk. Registration is quick, easy and secure.



Discover what's on at a popular Portishead hall

SOMERSET HALL

Parties, comedy nights, dances and sports clubs are just some of the events that can be enjoyed at a popular venue in Portishead.

Somerset Hall, in The Precinct, has undergone refurbishment in the last couple of years and is now a valuable asset to the community.

In the last year new toilets have been installed, the floor in the hall has been completely resurfaced and the balcony has been upgraded, creating a pleasant outdoor space.

Now more people are using it for their regular events, from Clubbercise classes to a table tennis club, joining long-standing regulars such as the WI, Floral Art Society, social dances and many more.

Other recent events include Northern Soul nights, a sell-out Evening with Eddie Large, wrestling, and regular productions by Portishead Players.

Other bookings have included training sessions for Avon and Somerset Police, and regular NHS blood donor drop-ins.

The venue includes a large hall, conferencing facilities, comfortable lounge area and fully licensed bar.

It can accommodate a range of celebrations, with space for functions of 50 to 250 people.

To arrange a viewing or to speak to someone call
01275 884 100 or email
somerset.hall@n-somerset.gov.uk

 SomersetHallPortishead

Free parking is available in the precinct car park.

Helping businesses get food safety up to scratch



Food outlets and businesses which need to boost their hygiene rating can now get reassessed more quickly thanks to a new service in North Somerset.

North Somerset Council has launched the bespoke paid-for support package so food businesses can have their hygiene rating reassessed as soon as they feel ready, rather than waiting the required three to six months.

For businesses with a seasonal trade, this shorter time frame could make a big difference.

Sophia Michael runs the Seaward Hotel on Weston-super-Mare's seafront and took advantage of the service.

She said: "At the hygiene inspection we were advised to make some improvements and, as a result of changes, we were then rated five.

"Paying for this service gave us the opportunity to make the improvements without having to wait three months to get the food hygiene rating upgraded, so it really helped us maintain our business."

Public safety is still the main priority so if standards are inadequate, enforcement visits will continue until satisfactory compliance is achieved.

Jane Day, North Somerset Council's food team manager, said "Our aim is to support business, not reward poor performance.

"This is not a get out of jail card. Public safety and confidence are vital to the hygiene rating scheme."

Rating reassessments cost £135 per visit and businesses still have to do the work to improve.

If they fail to improve their standards, their rating might even go down.

For more information and a copy of the food safety guide, visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/foodsafety

Search for food hygiene ratings at www.food.gov.uk/ratings

An app is also available for iPhone, Android and Windows phones.

Get vocal, be heard



Residents who are on the receiving end of council services often have good ideas about how to make them better.

North Somerset Council strives to provide the best standards of customer care and it listens to residents' views and takes them into account, where possible, when making future decisions.

You said:

How can I find out more about the council's approach to road repairs and maintenance in Portishead?

We did:

Earlier this summer a highways roadshow was held in Portishead so residents and visitors had the opportunity to quiz council officers face-to-face.

Highways officers were on-hand throughout the day to listen to concerns, answer any road-related queries, show people how to report road issues online and how to

make the most of the council's free, interactive roadworks map.

The event was well attended and very well received by the people who came along.

Topics raised included the condition of specific roads, speed limits in areas of the town and the works at Cabstand.

Officers were able to answer questions there and then, and soon looked into matters which required more research so that they could provide a prompt response.

The event highlighted the council's commitment to improving roads across North Somerset and the work that gets carried out to maintain and repair them.

To report a road issue online visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect


To find out about road closures, winter maintenance, road improvement



schemes and more visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/roads

You can see current and planned roadworks across North Somerset at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/roadworks-map

Your views

 Send your items to
Editor, North Somerset Life
North Somerset Council
Floor 1, Town Hall
Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1UJ
or email editor@n-somerset.gov.uk

 @NorthSomersetC

 NorthSomersetCouncil

 NorthSomersetLife

Items submitted without a valid name and address will not be considered for publication. Please tell us if you do not want your details published. Due to space restrictions letters may be edited.

Dear Editor,

Thank you – we were the incredibly lucky winners of one of your prize giveaways, the ‘learn to snowboard’ voucher (Summer Special issue).

In our early to mid-20s we were keen skiers and our greatest adventure was to Canada.

Thanks to this generous gift it has reignited our passion. Now a young family of five, we hope to encourage our three girls and plan to take them to Canada to enjoy the beauty of the mountains.

Name supplied

Editor's reply:

Thank you so much for your lovely message and I am so pleased the voucher has gone to such a good home. Enjoy your sessions!

Congratulations also to all the other winners from our great summer giveaway prize draw, which appeared in the Summer Special edition.

About 350 entries were received and a variety of prizes were up for grabs from attractions around the area. I hope you all enjoy your days out.


Dear Editor,

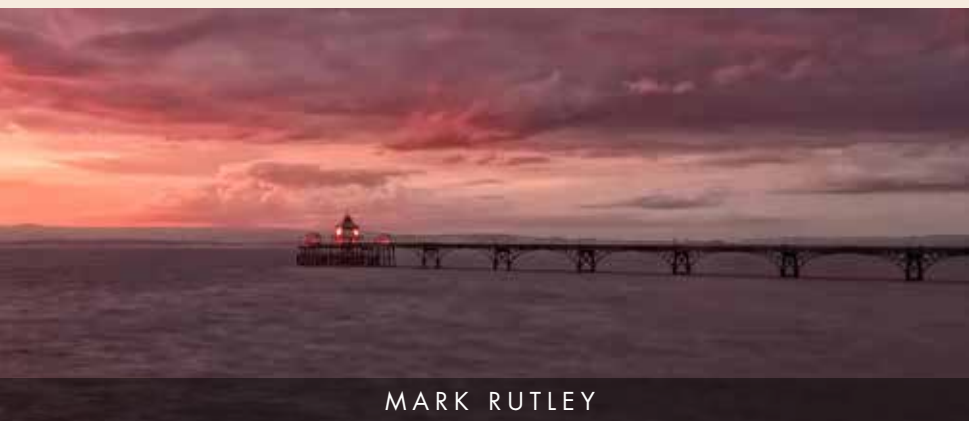
On Saturday September 16, some of NSCP's health visitors will be donning their walking gear and setting off along the West Mendip Way footpath in memory of their friend and colleague Jane Falkinder, who passed away earlier this year.

The team are raising money for Winston's Wish, a childhood bereavement charity which provides specialist support to children and their families.

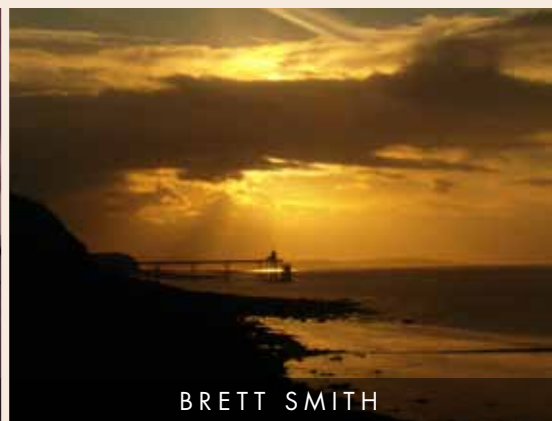
The 10-mile route will take the walkers from Crook Peak in the Mendip Hills to Uphill Beach in Weston-super-Mare. If you would like to support NSCP's health visitors please visit www.justgiving.com/walk4jane

Edward Keating, North Somerset Community Partnership

 North Somerset Life is on Instagram. Tag [#northsomersetlife](https://www.instagram.com/northsomersetlife) to share your photos




MARK RUTLEY




BRETT SMITH



Many topics are covered on Twitter and Facebook and last month the issue about traffic problems in Weston-super-Mare following an accident on the M5 was raised...

 I think town planners need to sit down and have a serious think about the traffic chaos that has been caused by today's problems on the M5, and why the closure of one arterial route had such a catastrophic effect on the traffic flow in our town!

North Somerset Council: Part of our problem is that we are on the coast, so fewer routes in and out than if we were inland. This was a very rare incident but no doubt we will learn any lessons we can from it.

 Please take note of why everyone in Weston says we need better motorway access.
North Somerset Council: Highways England have to give permission for a new motorway junction and they say that Weston already has two junctions – they count J22 as our second junction, so currently won't authorise another one.

North Somerset Life is the award winning magazine for the people of North Somerset. Your copy should be delivered with your post unless you use Royal Mail's opt out service to block unaddressed mail.

You can download this issue and back issues from
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/nsl or pick copies up from council buildings.

Coming next issue:

- Winter Focus – keep warm and well, recycling in winter weather, salting routes and more.

Sign up to *Life's* online edition and receive news straight into your inbox. Visit
www.northsomersetlife.co.uk

Tide timetables for Weston-super-Mare

Tide facts

Approximate high water times at:

Clevedon: 10 min

Portishead: 18 min

later than

Weston-super-Mare.

Weather conditions which differ from the average will have an effect on the differences between predicted and actual tide times.

Strong winds can hold the tide in or push the tide out. Air pressure can also cause fluctuations in predicted levels.

Tidal predictions for Weston-super-Mare have been computed by the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory.

Copyright reserved.

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/tidetimes

SEPTEMBER 2017

Date	High water		Low water		High water		Low water	
	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)
	AM				PM			
1 Fri	w	8.31	09:09	3.51	15:56	8.66	22:12	3.13
2 Sat	04:30	8.87	10:37	2.84	17:06	9.54	23:03	2.34
3 Sun	05:33	9.77	11:24	2.12	17:58	10.47	23:47	1.71
4 Mon	06:21	10.61	-	-	18:41	11.21	12:07	1.60
5 Tue	07:01	11.24	00:30	1.32	19:20	11.71	12:50	1.29
6 Wed	07:40	11.68	01:13	1.07	19:58	12.06	13:32	1.09
7 Thu	08:16	12.02	01:54	0.90	20:35	12.33	14:13	0.95
8 Fri	08:54	12.26	02:35	0.78	21:13	12.45	14:53	0.88
9 Sat	09:32	12.30	03:16	0.77	21:51	12.34	15:33	0.96
10 Sun	10:09	12.05	03:55	0.94	22:30	11.90	16:10	1.22
11 Mon	10:48	11.50	04:32	1.28	23:12	11.21	16:44	1.58
12 Tue	11:30	10.78	05:06	1.68	23:58	10.41	17:23	1.97
13 Wed	-	-	05:51	2.10	12:20	10.03	18:15	2.40
14 Thu	00:57	9.67	06:52	2.56	13:28	9.44	19:32	2.82
15 Fri	02:18	9.27	08:25	2.88	14:56	9.37	21:20	2.84
16 Sat	03:46	9.52	10:00	2.58	16:24	9.96	22:39	2.25
17 Sun	05:07	10.34	11:11	1.91	17:36	10.92	23:47	1.50
18 Mon	06:09	11.28	-	-	18:33	11.77	12:09	1.20
19 Tue	07:00	11.96	00:36	0.89	19:19	12.28	12:55	0.72
20 Wed	07:42	12.32	01:18	0.58	19:59	12.49	13:35	0.54
21 Thu	08:21	12.44	01:57	0.55	20:36	12.53	14:12	0.58
22 Fri	08:57	12.41	02:32	0.67	21:11	12.41	14:46	0.74
23 Sat	09:32	12.19	03:04	0.89	21:45	12.07	15:16	0.98
24 Sun	10:03	11.72	03:32	1.18	22:16	11.48	15:44	1.31
25 Mon	10:34	11.03	03:56	1.52	22:45	10.71	16:08	1.68
26 Tue	10:59	10.24	04:21	1.89	23:12	9.91	16:36	2.08
27 Wed	11:28	9.46	04:50	2.29	23:44	9.14	17:10	2.53
28 Thu	-	-	05:28	2.73	12:04	8.75	17:57	3.02
29 Fri	00:32	8.45	06:22	3.23	13:11	8.18	19:06	3.49
30 Sat	01:58	8.03	07:43	3.64	15:08	8.26	21:18	3.57

www.n-somerset.gov.uk

Report it. Request it. Pay for it.
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect

9am – 5pm Mon – Fri

Council Connect: for all streets and open spaces enquiries:
01934 888 802

Care Connect: for all social services enquiries:
01275 888 801

care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk

Main switchboard:
01934 888 888

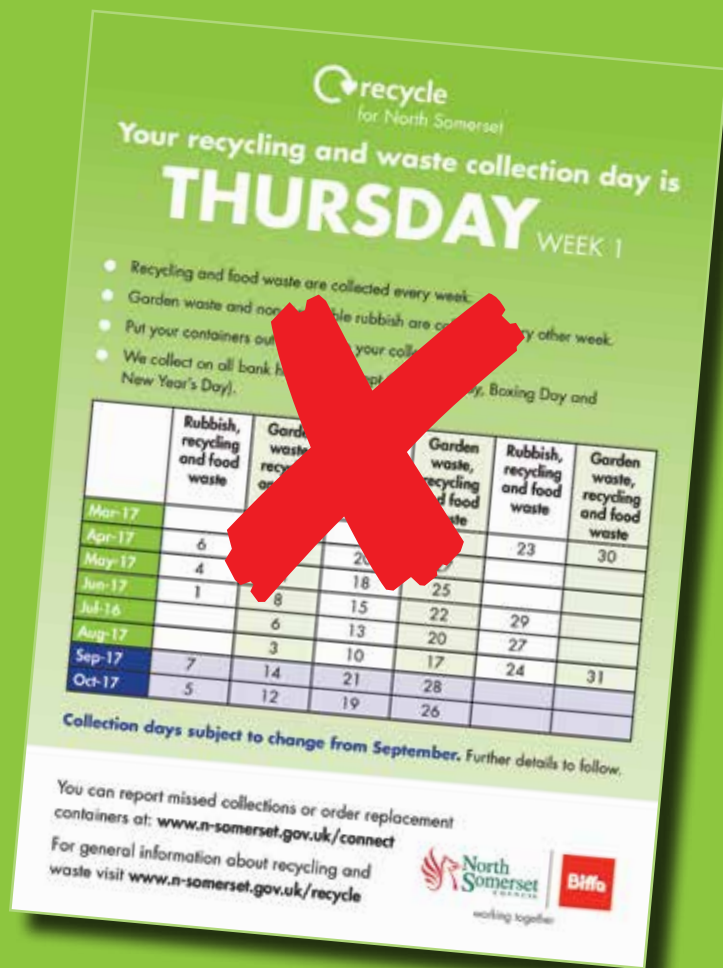
Emergency (out of hours):
01934 622 669

North Somerset Council
Town Hall
Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ

OCTOBER 2017

Date	High water		Low water		High water		Low water	
	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)
	AM				PM			
1 Sun	03:47	8.48	10:02	3.33	16:28	9.17	22:35	2.71
2 Mon	04:56	9.49	10:56	2.46	17:24	10.27	23:21	1.92
3 Tue	05:47	10.53	11:42	1.78	18:09	11.21	-	-
4 Wed	06:31	11.37	00:06	1.38	18:51	11.89	12:28	1.33
5 Thu	07:12	11.96	00:51	1.03	19:32	12.35	13:10	1.04
6 Fri	07:51	12.36	01:33	0.80	20:11	12.64	13:52	0.84
7 Sat	08:31	12.61	02:14	0.65	20:51	12.76	14:32	0.74
8 Sun	09:09	12.64	02:54	0.64	21:32	12.62	15:12	0.81
9 Mon	09:49	12.37	03:33	0.83	22:13	12.15	15:51	1.07
10 Tue	10:30	11.79	04:11	1.20	22:56	11.39	16:26	1.47
11 Wed	11:14	11.00	04:48	1.65	23:46	10.50	17:07	1.91
12 Thu	-	-	05:32	2.13	12:07	10.17	18:02	2.39
13 Fri	00:48	9.70	06:37	2.61	13:17	9.55	19:22	2.81
14 Sat	02:05	9.29	08:09	2.91	14:41	9.45	21:06	2.79
15 Sun	03:32	9.54	09:44	2.59	16:09	10.02	22:24	2.20
16 Mon	04:51	10.35	10:54	1.91	17:19	10.93	23:28	1.50
17 Tue	05:50	11.25	11:50	1.26	18:13	11.69	-	-
18 Wed	06:39	11.86	00:16	0.99	18:58	12.09	12:33	0.87
19 Thu	07:20	12.14	00:55	0.79	19:37	12.23	13:11	0.78
20 Fri	07:56	12.22	01:31	0.82	20:11	12.24	13:45	0.85
21 Sat	08:30	12.22	02:04	0.95	20:44	12.16	14:16	0.97
22 Sun	09:02	12.08	02:32	1.08	21:16	11.91	14:43	1.11
23 Mon	09:33	11.74	02:58	1.26	21:45	11.45	15:09	1.31
24 Tue	10:00	11.17	03:22	1.50	22:13	10.81	15:34	1.60
25 Wed	10:27	10.48	03:46	1.81	22:41	10.10	16:02	1.97
26 Thu	10:55	9.76	04:13	2.18	23:13	9.40	16:36	2.39
27 Fri	11:30	9.10	04:50	2.59	23:56	8.77	17:19	2.83
28 Sat	-	-	05:39	3.03	12:25	8.54	18:22	3.24
29 Sun	01:02	8.32	05:52	3.42	12:56	8.34	18:56	3.46
30 Mon	01:44	8.42	07:41	3.48	14:37	8.97	20:48	3.00
31 Tue	03:09	9.27	09:15	2.80	15:40	10:02	21:45	2.20

Your current
collection
calendar runs
out at the end
of October.



There are no changes planned to collection days until early 2018.

To check when your next collections are due over the winter, visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/calendar for your up-to-date collection calendar.