

NORTH SOMERSET

SUMMER 2022

LIFE



Explore North Somerset this summer



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SEE MONSTER

WESTON-SUPER-MARE



SEE MONSTER is a retired rig from the North Sea, reimaged to celebrate the great British weather in this iconic seaside town.



[SEEMONSTER.CO.UK](https://seemonster.co.uk)

[@SEEMONSTERUK](https://twitter.com/seemonsteruk)

Dear reader...

Summer is here and while the pull of the Mediterranean will be strong for some, particularly after the past two difficult years, I know that many of us will stay closer to home and make the most of what's happening in North Somerset.

I think the sheer range of community events, outdoor markets and food festivals is richer than ever and there is such diversity there's sure to be something for everyone - young and old - and so many are free.

I'm very pleased that in partnership with communities and volunteers our investment in our Marine Lakes will make these important amenities better and more inclusive than ever, and we will continue to support further improvements.

We also have SEE Monster to look forward to later in the summer at Weston and I hope that you get the opportunity to visit this free event – part of the UK's Unboxed festival celebrating the nation's creativity.

Do travel by public transport if you can. Our continued investment in active travel and liveable neighbourhoods will also boost green travel opportunities as we make our streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists and work towards our net zero goals.

I'm very pleased we're trialling a scheme where council officers are more visible and accessible to those residents who are less comfortable getting in touch with the council online, or even by phone. See page 9 for more information.

Rising fuel, energy and food bills are causing concern for many people, and while winter may be a while off yet, heating bills will soon be on our minds. Support is available so please make sure you are aware of the help out there - more on page 26.

As I write this column, I've been in this role for just over a month. During that time I have met mayors and members of parliament, councillor colleagues, business leaders and the Police and Crime Commissioner, and also dozens of residents across North Somerset.

I look forward to meeting more of you over the months ahead.

Reflecting on how we all came together as a North Somerset community last month to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, I'd like to wish you all the very best of summers with your friends and loved ones.

Cllr Steve Bridger

The Executive

Cllr Steve Bridger (Independent)
Leader of North Somerset Council

Cllr Mike Bell (Liberal Democrat)
Deputy Leader

Cllr Mark Canniford (Liberal Democrat)

Cllr Ashley Cartman
(Liberal Democrat)

Cllr Catherine Gibbons (Labour)

Cllr Steve Hogg (Independent)

Cllr Bridget Petty (Green)

Cllr Mike Solomon (Independent)

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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.

£310,000 for new active travel schemes

Three new walking and cycling schemes are set to be introduced across the area after North Somerset Council successfully bid for £310,000 from the Department for Transport.

The new schemes include a liveable neighbourhood in Weston-super-Mare, and designated school streets at Windwhistle Primary School in Weston and Crockerne Primary School in Pill.

The liveable neighbourhood project in central Weston will be the first of its kind in North Somerset.

It will reduce through-traffic and so create more pleasant journeys to school, work and the shops.

The school streets project at Windwhistle and Crockerne primary schools will provide a calmer and healthier school run by reducing traffic at school drop off and collection times.

The schemes will help encourage more active travel by providing a better and cheaper alternative to petrol or diesel car journeys, an important consideration during this cost-of-living crisis.

The reduction in traffic will not only reduce air pollution but help people lead healthier lifestyles and get to school safely.

In addition to the DfT funding, North Somerset Council has identified funding for active travel improvements in Yatton, which include additional 20mph zones and improvements to the Strawberry Line at North End.

All schemes remain subject to detailed design and will be delivered in the next year.

More than 440 responses to Banwell bypass consultation



Thank you to everyone who had their say in the second consultation about the Banwell bypass.

More than 440 responses were received.

North Somerset Council is now analysing what you said and making further improvements to the design.

Keep an eye on the council's website for the consultation report and more updates on the bypass over the summer.

Visit

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/banwellbypass



Have your say on hospital services

Have your say on proposed changes to the way some services are run at Weston General Hospital.



A public engagement exercise is now open on proposed changes to some services to secure a bright and sustainable future for the hospital.

Thousands more planned procedures – such as cataract, hip and knee operations – would take place in Weston General Hospital each year under the proposal for change, which has been designed by senior doctors, nurses and other health and care professionals.

As well as preserving the current 14 hours a day, seven days a week A&E service, two on-site 'centres of excellence' would be created for surgery and older people's care. Additionally, an expanded range of 'same day' emergency care services

would allow more people to be assessed and treated at the hospital without the need to be admitted to a ward.

Under the proposal, people arriving at the hospital by ambulance (other than older people) would receive their initial treatment at Weston General Hospital, as is currently the case.

However, if they required an inpatient stay of longer than 24 hours, they would be transferred to a larger neighbouring hospital, resulting in shorter stays and better outcomes.

Overall, the proposal would mean more local people could be treated

closer to home, while also helping the hospital to attract and retain the staff it needs in the future.

The public engagement exercise, run by the NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (BNSSG), will run until Sunday 14 August.

The engagement exercise will ensure the potential impacts of the proposals have been considered from the perspective of local people, and health and care staff. It will also consider the ongoing approach to engagement as changes become part of regular service improvement. Find out more at www.bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/healthy-weston-phase-2

Community lottery now live

Good causes in North Somerset are now benefitting from ticket sales from a new community lottery.

The first draw for the North Somerset Community Lottery took place in June with voluntary groups, faith groups, community organisations and social enterprises benefitting from the money raised.

The online lottery was launched by Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS), with support from North Somerset Council.

The lottery provides another income stream to the organisations registered with it.

Tickets cost £1 with 60p going back to local good causes.

Players have a 50:1 chance of winning a prize, which range from three extra tickets to the £25,000 jackpot.

Lottery management company Gatherwell is running the scheme for VANS and have launched similar successful lotteries across the country.

Lottery tickets can be bought from www.northsomersetcommunitylottery.co.uk

If you want to register as a good cause organisation, visit www.northsomersetcommunitylottery.co.uk/good-causes



£3.3m funding to improve opportunity

Adult numeracy classes to help people back into work are some of the new opportunities coming to help tackle economic decline in North Somerset.

North Somerset Council has received £3.3m in funding to spend over three years until March 2025 to help spread opportunity.

The money is coming from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund through the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

It is part of the government's levelling-up plans, which means helping to revive communities, tackle economic decline and reverse geographical disparities across the UK.

The fund also includes money for a new adult numeracy programme, to support people with no or low-level maths skills get back into work.

This Multiply scheme will offer free personal tutoring, digital training, and flexible courses to improve adults' confidence and numeracy skills.

North Somerset Council has received £800,000 to run Multiply.

Plans are being developed in partnership with local partners including businesses, training providers and community organisations and will reflect local priorities for the funds.

Subject to Investment Plans approval, funding will be available in the autumn.



Keep active and love later life

Exercise classes for older people are expanding across North Somerset.

Local charity Age UK Somerset is now running more classes for people over 60, from Zumba in Weston-super-Mare to new Tai Chi QiGong class in Portishead.

A free exercise and rehabilitation course for people over 45 is also available if arthritic hip or knee pain is limiting your participation.

Find out what's on www.ageuk.org.uk/somerset/activities-and-events or call **01823 345 626**.

There is also a Strong and Steady falls prevention programme to help improve balance and rebuild muscle strength.

These sessions are now running in Clevedon, Weston, Yatton and Shipham.

Call **01823 345 614** to find out more.



Historic stone walls set to be protected

Stone walls are an important part of the character and heritage of an area but many in Weston-super-Mare have been lost in recent years.

Last November a consultation took place on the proposal to establish an Article 4 Direction.

This means property owners in Weston's conservation area will

need to have planning permission to remove any external stone walls.

Respondents to the consultation were overwhelmingly supportive, with 80 per cent in favour.

Councillors agreed to proceed and the Article 4 Direction is expected to come into force from August.

It will be confirmed following a further consultation period this month.

Read the direction and make further comments before 5pm on Friday 22 July. Your comments will be taken into consideration before the direction is confirmed.

Hard copies of these documents are also available at Weston Library.

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/heritageactionzone



Grants for home energy measures

Are you worried about the rising cost of energy bills or know someone who is struggling to pay for their energy?

North Somerset Council is working with Bath and North East Somerset Council and Bristol City Council to fund and install a wide range of energy saving measures to eligible households.

It's part of the Bright Green Homes project, to lower energy use and contribute towards decarbonisation targets.

To qualify you must meet the following criteria:

- your property must not use gas central heating – the scheme is only open to people who use solid fuel or electric heating systems
- have a combined annual household income of under £30,000 per year
- have a valid Energy Performance Certificate with a rating of D, E, F or G
- live in North Somerset.



Measures that can be funded under this scheme include:

- solar panels
- improved insulation, including loft, cavity, external wall and underfloor
- energy efficient doors and glazing
- heat pumps
- LED lighting.

If you meet the eligibility criteria, complete an online questionnaire at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/J2EF33 and the project team will contact you to discuss the next steps.



If you have any questions, call **0117 352 1180** or email domestic@energyservicebristol.co.uk

Get the latest news straight to your inbox

Stay up-to-date with council news, events and services by signing up to the monthly North Somerset Life email newsletter.

Subscribe online and stay informed in-between printed issues of the magazine by visiting www.northsomersetlife.co.uk and clicking on the 'sign up to our email newsletter' tab.



New **face-to-face** council appointments across the area

Would you like to speak to a council officer face-to-face?



Since the Covid pandemic started, North Somerset Council's Town Hall reception has been open on an appointment-only basis.

During this time, most people have been helped over the phone without the need to travel into Weston.

Now a scheme is being trialled where council officers visit libraries and join the mobile library at locations across North Somerset.

This means that if you aren't able to access council services online or over the phone, you can see someone in-person instead.

No appointments will be necessary.

If officers don't have an immediate answer to your enquiry, you could make an appointment for a later date or arrange a call back.

Officers will be at various locations across North Somerset on a set schedule and will see people on a first-come first-served basis.

The service is due to launch by the end of July. Keep an eye out for posters in your local library or call 01934 888 802.

Other ways to have you say

Speak at council meetings

Any resident, business ratepayer or someone entitled to vote in North Somerset can request a slot to speak at council meetings.

This might be Full Council, the Executive, the planning and regulatory committee or policy and scrutiny panels.

Find out more at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/how-speak-council-meetings, email committee.administration@n-somerset.gov.uk or call 01934 634 900.

Question councillors on social media

Facebook Live chats take place every month so you can ask questions to executive members of the council.

Visit [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/NorthSomersetCouncil)

[facebook.com/NorthSomersetCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/NorthSomersetCouncil). The chats are saved on the page for you to watch later if you can't make the live event.

Comment on consultations

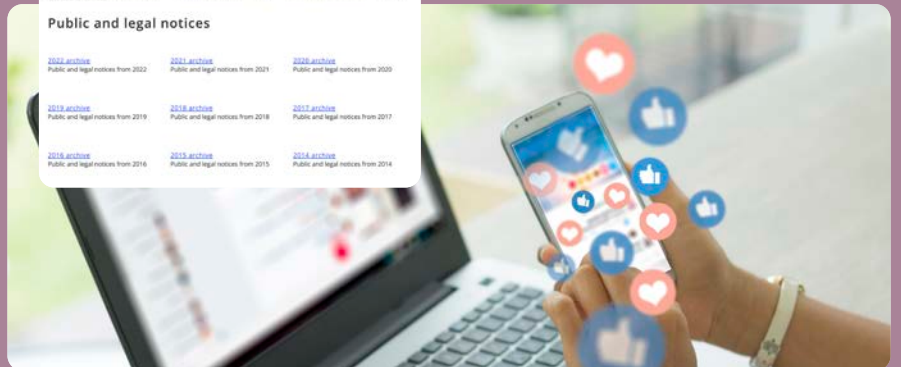
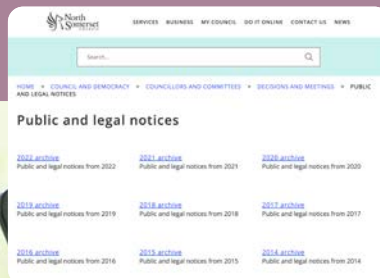
All consultations run by North Somerset Council are listed at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/consult

Sign up to receive email alerts when new ones are opened.

If you haven't got internet access at home, posters are put up in libraries every month listing current consultations and contact details, including a phone number.

Public notices

Public and legal notices covering a range of council matters can be viewed online at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/notices





Summer of fun starts

Get ready for some big events happening in North Somerset this summer – some for the first time since the pandemic began.

Before Covid, North Somerset would welcome nearly eight million day-trippers a year.

This year, SEE MONSTER alone is expected to draw in hundreds of thousands of visitors.

This summer, a full programme of outdoor theatre performances, food festivals, music and comedy will provide fun for all the family.

Throughout North Somerset, towns and villages are also hosting their own community events, flower shows and more.

Events such as these provide a great opportunity for people to get out and about with their family and friends.

The summer season is also hugely important to North Somerset's economy.

The area has always had a lively and diverse events calendar with many long-standing and much-loved annual events, largely supported by freelancers and very often volunteers.

So while many of these events are free to attend, whatever money you do spend will be supporting local businesses and organisations.

Take a look at what's coming up over the next few months, to see North Somerset through the eyes of a tourist, and enjoy everything it has to offer.



We also have details of Weston's Marine Lake re-opening after its revamp, and carbon-free ways to travel this summer and beyond.



here

Check with organisers nearer the time to confirm details of events.

For the most up-to-date listings, go online at:

www.discoverclevedon.co.uk

www.nailseatown.com/whats-on

www.visitportishead.net

www.visit-westonsupermare.com

Or catch up with latest events on social media:

@discovclevedon

@visitportishead

@westonseafont

@theatreorchard

@cultureweston



Disclaimer: All information correct at time of going to print (June 2022). While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, North Somerset Council cannot accept responsibility or liability for any errors which have occurred. North Somerset Council cannot recommend or endorse any of the providers listed. It is recommended that you always check with the relevant organisation first to ensure their service meets your requirements.





Get ready for summer of culture and creativity

What's Next? at the Tropicana

Cultural events with a focus on education, wellbeing and the creative arts are taking place on Weston's seafront.

The What's Next? festival will be held in the indoor spaces at the Tropicana.

The programme is set to include something for all, including a vegan/eco fair, a science and technology themed art exhibition, live music events and theatre, plus workshops and guest speakers to explore climate change.

There will be both free and ticketed events.

Find out more at www.whatsnextfest.com or follow on Facebook or Twitter [@whatsnextfestuk](https://twitter.com/whatsnextfestuk)



More dazzling street art to brighten Weston's buildings

Buildings in Weston-super-Mare will be decorated with stunning murals this summer when an urban paint festival returns.

Weston Wallz, a spin-off off of Bristol's popular Upfest festival, will return this month after a successful launch last year.

The festival, a partnership between Culture Weston and Weston-super-Mare Town Council, runs from Friday 22 to Sunday 31 July.

A diverse mix of artists, including Jody, Irony, Hazard One, Dan Kitchener, Farrah Fortnam, Tozer, John Curtis, Damian Nicholson, Andy Council and Shruti Ashish, will create 20 large-scale murals at locations around the town centre.

An interactive Google map will be created for trail hunters to easily identify the murals.

Updates will also be put on Twitter, Instagram and the Upfest website.

[westonwallz](https://twitter.com/westonwallz) [westonwallz](https://www.instagram.com/westonwallz)
www.upfest.co.uk



A mural by Dan Kitchener, created during last year's Weston Wallz festival

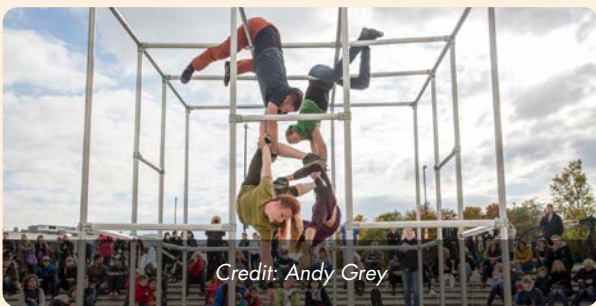
Award-winning outdoor arts festival returns



Credit: Marika Miniati



Credit: Jane Hobson



Credit: Andy Grey

Extraordinary and eclectic performers will wow the crowds when an award-winning free outdoor arts festival returns.

Theatre Orchard's Whirligig Festival is on Friday 9 and Saturday 10 September and this year there are some extra monster-sized surprises.

The celebrations start from 7pm on Friday evening with the act Saurus by acclaimed Dutch company Close-Act Theatre.

Giant prehistoric creatures will be stomping through the town.

Shows will then run from noon to 6pm on Saturday in the Italian Gardens, including Bonded by Alleyne Dance, Captive by Motionhouse, Urban Astronaut by Highly Sprung and the Actual Reality Arcade by Matthew Harrison.

Walk-about acts and street performers will include the ever-popular Dizzy O'Dare balloon show; old-school slapstick with Avanti Display's The Spurting Man; Spitz and Co in Elvis in Blue Hawaii; Circomedia circus workshops and more.

www.theatreorchard.org.uk

Explore our local heritage

Celebrate the heritage of North Somerset and try out new experiences for free this September.

Heritage Open Days, England's largest festival of history and culture, runs from Friday 9 to Sunday 18 September. This year's theme is 'outstanding innovations'.

Highlights this year include...

- learning about the history of the Pride flag, invented 44 years ago. Hear more at Proud Bar, Boulevard, Weston-super-Mare, from 6pm on Saturday 17 September.
- family-run department store Walker and Ling is celebrating 130 years of trading. Discover inventions such as the Lamson pneumatic cash tubes and the first passenger lift in Weston, which is still in use today. Visit during usual opening hours.
- discover more about the women's suffrage movement and invention of Lego. A life size suffragette made from 32,327 Lego bricks will be on display in Weston Library. The Lego sculpture, named Hope, was built in 2018 to mark 100 years since the first women won the right to vote in Britain. It's on a journey throughout the UK to encourage people to explore local stories of the local suffrage movement. Exhibition open during usual library opening times.

Find out more at www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting



Credit: Jessica Taylor



Summer fun through

Popular events which have been put on hold for the last couple of years are making a comeback in 2022.

Community events, markets and festivals provide a great opportunity to get out and about with friends and family.

Here is a selection of events over the coming months but check with organisers nearer the time to confirm details.



General interest

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 July
10am-5pm

Claverham Drove, Yatton

Woodspring Wings Model Aircraft Show

The biggest model aircraft show in the South West.

www.woodspringshow.co.uk

Sunday 10 July

Helicopter Museum, Locking,
Weston-super-Mare

North Somerset Model Show

More than 120 exhibitors, with model workshops, competitions and trade stalls.

www.helicoptermuseum.co.uk

Saturday 23 July

Yatton and District Horticultural Society Summer Show

Yatton Village Hall and outside on the Glebelands garden.

www.yattonhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

Saturday 30 (11.30am-6pm) and
Sunday 31 July (10.30am-5.30pm)

Portishead Summer Show

A combination of a traditional flower and produce show and country fair.

www.portisheadsummershow.com

Friday 5 – Sunday 7 August

Venues around Weston-super-Mare

Weston Sea Shanty and Folk Festival

Three-day folk festival.

www.wsmshantyfest.com

Saturday 6 August

Nailsea School, Mizzymead Road

Nailsea Horticultural Society Summer Show

www.nailseahorticulturalsociety.co.uk

Sunday 7 August and

Sunday 4 September, 10am-2pm

Around the seafront, Hill Road and Alexandra Road

Clevedon Sunday Market

www.theclevedonsundaymarket.co.uk

Thursday 11 – Sunday 14 August
Ashton Court

Bristol International Balloon Fiesta

Hot air balloons, trade stands, fairground rides and entertainment

www.bristolballoonfiesta.co.uk

Saturday 13 August

Weston-super-Mare Horticultural Society Flower Show

www.wsmhorticultural.org.uk

out North Somerset

Saturday 20 August
Tickenham Village Field and Hall
Tickenham Flower Show and photography.

Flowers, fruit and veg, art, wine making and more.

Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 August
Salthouse Fields
Clevedon Flower Show

In aid of Children's Hospice South West.

www.clevedonflowershow.com

Saturday 10 September, 10am-3pm
Weston Museum, Burlington Street

Weston Museum Autumn Market

www.westonmuseum.org

Food and drink

Friday 8 and Saturday 9 July

Lions Claverham Beer and Cider Festival

Evening sessions are ticketed so book in advance.

www.yeovalleylions.org.uk/cbf2.html

Friday 8 – Sunday 10 July
Nailsea and Backwell RFC, West End Lane, Nailsea

Nailsea and Backwell Beer and Cider Festival

Booking in advance recommended.

www.nailseabeerandciderfestival.co.uk

Saturday 9 July, 13 August and 10 September, 5-10pm
Queen's Square, Clevedon

Clevedon Twilight Market

Live music, craft drinks and street food

www.discoverclevedon.co.uk/events

Friday 29 – Sunday 31 July
Beach Lawns, Weston-super-Mare

Weston Lions Real Ale Festival

www.westonlionsrealalefestival.co.uk

Thursday 4 – Sunday 7 August
Beach Lawns, Weston-super-Mare

Dairy Festival

www.dairyfestival.co.uk

Saturday 13 Aug (Portishead) and Saturday 24 September (Weston-super-Mare)

eat:festivals

The popular food and drink festival.

www.eatfestivals.org

Children's events

Saturday 9 July
Coniston Green, Coniston Crescent, Weston-super-Mare

Party on the Green

Sunday 24 July
Helicopter Museum, Locking, Weston-super-Mare

Dino Day at the Museum

Live dino shows, interactive 3D displays, dinosaur petting and more.

www.helicoptermuseum.co.uk

Monday 25 July, 12.30pm performance, 2pm – free circus skills workshop
Queen's Square, Clevedon

Ernie's Journey by Clementines Live Arts

A magical circus theatre adventure for family audiences, for ages 4+. Free event. No need to book, just turn up.

www.theatreshop.org.uk

Tuesday 26 July, 6pm
Queen's Square, Clevedon

The Shodessey by Assembleth Theatre

A journey of the Trojan War. Suitable for ages 8+.

Free event. No need to book, just turn up.

www.theatreshop.org.uk

Saturday 28 July

Party in the Park

Ashcombe Park, Weston-super-Mare

Every Wednesday throughout August
Helicopter Museum, Locking, Weston-super-Mare

Magic at The Museum

A live magic show, balloon modelling and slight-of-hand illusions.

www.helicoptermuseum.co.uk





Revamped Sovereign opens this month



*Artist's impressions of
the new spaces within
The Sovereign*

A bike hire hub, new business workspace, exhibition and meeting space are set to open in Weston's revamped Sovereign precinct.

The Sovereign, on the High Street, is being transformed into a multi-use space for all the community to meet, work and shop.

North Somerset Council, which owns The Sovereign, was awarded £1.7m for the renovation by central government's Getting Building Fund.

The bike hub, located at the back of The Sovereign, is expected to be operated by local firm eBike UFO.

It will offer standard and electric bikes for hire, along with repairs and advice.

The revamp also includes:

- workspaces for business and entrepreneurs, supporting more local working
- a new dining area to enhance the quality and selection of food and drink available
- space to support active lifestyles and wellbeing, including the new bike hub.

The new interior areas open in July and there will also be work to the exterior of the building.

The centre's name evolved into The Sovereign following a public engagement exercise last year.





Get on your bike this summer

Summer is the perfect time to use pedal power to get to events, pop to the shops, commute to work or explore North Somerset's countryside.

Throughout the area there are many traffic-free and clearly signposted cycling routes to enjoy carbon-free travelling.

Routes include:

- **Brean Down Way** – a 20mph zone has recently been introduced in Uphill to make this otherwise traffic-free route from Weston to Brean seafront stress-free. From here you can continue on road (or beach, with a mountain bike) to Brean Down
- **Strawberry Line Path** – starts at Yatton train station, with bike hire available from Strawberry Cycles, to Cheddar. Visit www.strawberrycycles.com

- **Festival Way** – Nailsea to central Bristol
- **River Avon Trail** (also known as the Pill Path) – this stone path runs from Pill/Ham Green to the Cumberland Basin and is most comfortable on a mountain bike
- **Weston to Clevedon** – work continues on this route, which is expected to open later this year.

Cycle routes also run through towns to give easy access to work or shops, such as National Cycle Network route 33 through Weston-super-Mare and route 26 in Portishead.

At weekends, you could try mountain biking on the dedicated trails at Leigh Woods or Ashton Court.

Printed copies of the North Somerset cycle map can be picked up from libraries, sports centres and community centres, as well as cycle and independent shops near key cycle routes.

Free-to-use outdoor bicycle pumps are located at train stations and other key locations across North Somerset if your tyres need a top up.

For information on how to get started cycling, including free training opportunities as well as detailed maps and pump locations, visit www.betterbybike.info

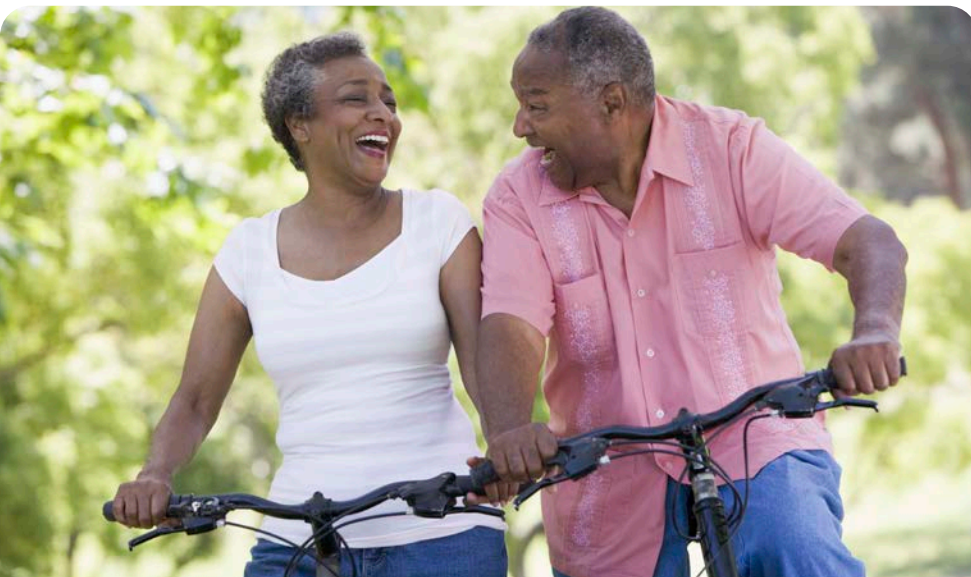
Cycle training is about improving your skills and awareness and will help you feel more confident and be safe on the roads. It is recommended for all cyclists.

Holiday courses are also organised by the charity Life Cycle UK, as well as family cycle lessons and one-to-one adult lessons.

Visit www.lifecycleuk.org.uk/learn

Both Life Cycle UK and Strawberry Cycles also offer one-to-one adult lessons for traditional and e-bikes.

Find out more about reducing your carbon footprint by re-thinking your travel habits on page 20.



Making a splash in our Great Lakes



Swimmers are back in Weston-super-Mare's Marine Lake after a £300,000 upgrade to turn it into a destination for water sports and outdoor swimming.

The popular lake re-opened last month so residents and visitors can enjoy it for this summer season and then all year round.

The lake had been closed to the public since April last year so work could get under way to remove about 30,000 tonnes of compacted silt and create a suitable depth of water for swimming.

Last year's high spring tides started flushing out as much silt as possible naturally, while North Somerset Council applied to the government's Marine Management Organisation for a licence to remove the rest of it mechanically.

This was done earlier this year by specialist contractors Smals Dredging.

Once dredging was complete, the council's grounds contractor Glendale worked to get the beach and surrounding area ready for users.

North Somerset Council is also working with volunteers from Weston Marine Lake Mudlarks to bring it back into use and make the lake a community hub for everyone to enjoy.

The council will continue to work closely with consultants and the Mudlarks on future arrangements for the restored lake, including the management of silt.

Investment in Weston's Marine Lake is part of North Somerset Council's £700,000 Great Lakes project, which also involves work to revitalise Portishead Lake Grounds and Clevedon Marine Lake.

www.westonmarinelake.co.uk



Clevedon Marine Lake

Improvements to Clevedon's Marine Lake have turned it into the first fully wheelchair accessible tidal pool in the UK.

An accessible changing room and toilet has been installed and hoists bought for the lake and changing room.

This was funded through a £60,000 grant from North Somerset Council to MARLENS, the charity that runs Marine Lake.

This money is a slice of the £149,000 funding pot from the council to improve the lake, seafront and Salhouse Fields. Organisations are also contributing an additional £64,000 towards their projects.



The other projects are:

- Clevedon Pilot Gig Club received £20,000 to construct a storage building to house their two wooden heritage gigs and equipment, and give the club a long-term base. Planning permission has been granted and the project is due to finish by the end of this year.
- Friends of Clevedon Slipway Group are being supported to deliver civil construction works to restore and protect Clevedon slipway. Initial surveys have taken place and a project plan is being drawn up to a value of £20,000.
- Clevedon Pier and Heritage Trust received £14,000 to create an all-weather community space. This is due to be completed by the end of summer.
- Clevedon Skate Project is working with Clevedon Town Council to install a shipping container on Salthouse Fields for storage, and to be a base for outreach projects. It was awarded £35,000 to do this. A feasibility survey of ground conditions took place last month.

www.clevedonmarinelake.co.uk



Portishead Lake Grounds

Plans to breathe new life into Portishead Lake Grounds have been agreed by North Somerset Council and Portishead Town Council.

The two councils are working together to create a regionally renowned park which is attractive, fun, safe and biodiverse for visitors of all ages to enjoy.

Last year a consultation took place on what people think of the parkland and what the priorities should be.

More than 1,000 responses were received and feedback has helped shape plans.

Funding has been allocated based on the highest priorities.

Work started in April and is due to finish at the end of autumn.

It includes:

- improving accessibility along The Esplanade by dropping kerbs, repainting parking bays, installing benches and some minor patching works on the road
- planting a community orchard of heritage trees, other trees and new areas of rewilding, improving access and installing new seating, picnic benches and waste bins at the former miniature golf course
- investigating silt in the lake to better understand the amount present, disposal options and costs associated with removal
- investigating options to improve existing facilities, including the café, boathouse and public toilets. This includes a new accessible Changing Places toilet being installed by March 2024, after North Somerset Council received £60,000 in government funding.

Portishead Town Council has agreed to take over the lease of the existing children's play area.

Plans are also being put forward by the town council to create a wheels and skate park next to the play area.

View the management and investment plan at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/portisheadlakegroundsplan





The road to net zero

Rethinking how we travel can have a big impact on our carbon footprint and help make North Somerset a greener, healthier and happier place for everyone.

Vehicles release dangerous greenhouse gas emissions, as well as creating air pollution which causes up to 36,000 deaths in the UK every year.

Here in North Somerset, our emissions due to road transport continue to increase. They now make up almost half (43 per cent) of our total annual greenhouse gas emissions.

Large scale action is urgently needed to drastically reduce these emissions, help limit further global temperature rises, and protect vulnerable communities and natural habitats from heatwaves, flooding and wildfires.

As well as reducing our carbon footprint, reduced transport emissions will also improve our lives in other ways, such as our physical and mental wellbeing and reducing costs.

According to latest research from the Department for Transport (DfT), nearly half (45 per cent) of all urban journeys in England are less than two miles and almost two-thirds (58 per cent) are under five miles.

Studies show that although electric vehicles create much lower lifetime emissions, relying on them to reduce our transport emissions is not enough because they won't deliver reductions quickly enough.

Electric vehicles also won't deliver other benefits for our communities. Active travel results in improved mental and physical health, and creates more space on our streets so they become more attractive and usable for all.

Here are some other things we can be doing...

Travel actively

The Government wants walking, wheeling and cycling to be the natural first choice for short journeys because they are the least carbon-intensive ways of travelling.

The NHS and World Health Organisation recommend adults have at least 150 minutes of exercise each week, so walking, wheeling or cycling short trips could contribute to your weekly total.

More active travel also means fewer cars on our streets, making them quieter and safer.

Top tips for increasing active travel

- set a mile rule – commit to walking or cycling within a certain distance of your home
- nominate one day a week as a car-free day
- if you can't safely walk or cycle the entire way, could you park further away and do the last part on foot?



On your bike

Many cycle routes across the area are maintained by North Somerset Council.

Routes are located on paths away from the road, shared paths alongside a road, or as designated cycle lanes on the road.

View all North Somerset's cycle routes, including roads graded by their suitability, on the interactive map at

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/cycling

If you need more confidence on two wheels, free adult cycle training is available to everyone in North Somerset.

Book a private training session with a qualified instructor at www.betterbybike.info

Many primary schools deliver cycle training to children in years five and six. Contact your child's school for information.

Daily trips all add up



Every day more than **16,000** children in North Somerset travel to primary schools, and more than **14,000** young people travel to secondary schools and sixth forms.

This means more than **60,000** school journeys every day and **300,000** journeys every week.

Within the 39-week school year, there are more than **11.7 million** journeys to and from school every year in North Somerset.



Public transport

Travelling by train or bus is easier than you might think and a great way to reclaim your time.

While on-board you could read a book, listen to a podcast, catch-up on social media or just enjoy the passing scenery.

For 'how to' guides, journey planning, timetables and live departures visit

www.travelwest.info for buses and www.nationalrail.co.uk for trains.

Drive right

Sometimes it's hard to avoid using the car - but could you share a ride with someone going in the same direction?

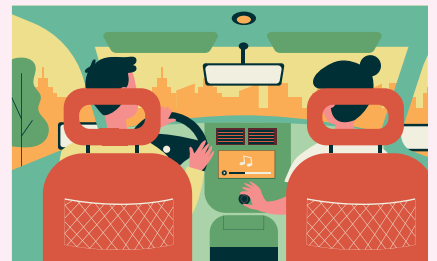
Visit www.travelwest.info for links to lift-sharing websites to help find a suitable match.

It's important to get your vehicle serviced regularly and keep tyres pumped up to help minimise emissions.

Avoid idling your car, when the engine is on but you're not going anywhere, as it creates emissions and air pollution.

Research proves that idling causes more damage to your engine than stopping and starting again.

Driving more efficiently also



means you'll use less fuel, create less emissions and you'll save money.

Do this by:

- using cruise control on long trips
- lowering your speed to 60mph on the motorway
- using air conditioning as little as possible
- removing roof racks and heavy items from the boot
- anticipating the road ahead and use the accelerator and brakes more smoothly.

For more ideas on how to reduce your emissions and help tackle the climate emergency, visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/climateaction



Celebrating the Platinum



It was the first time a British monarch had reached this historic milestone and it gave the perfect opportunity for communities and neighbourhoods to come together and reconnect after two years of pandemic disruption.



Across North Somerset, there were 45 road closures for street parties, beacons were lit, and lots of community events took place in towns and villages across the area.

Smaller celebrations included Platinum Jubilee-themed knits and creative displays, planters decked with flowers and ribbons, pictures created by local school children and all the shop window bunting and displays.

More than 500 flags were made by volunteers and library members in a project led by Create Together, a community-based arts for health practice.

Many of the flags record memories from the past 70 years and they decorated libraries throughout the Jubilee week and beyond.



Beacons were lit across North Somerset.

Top: Uphill, photo courtesy of Rebecca Saunders

Middle: Holy Trinity Church in Nailsea, photo courtesy of Nailsea Town Council

Bottom: Battery Point in Portishead, photo courtesy of Bob Cartwright



Blagdon's Coronation bus Jubilee makeover



Beautiful cakes at the Jubilee party in West End, Nailsea. Photo courtesy of Julia Miners



Bunting decorated North Somerset libraries.



Jubilee

Communities across North Somerset came together over the four-day weekend last month to mark 70 years since Her Majesty The Queen came to the throne.



A wool and crochet post box topper, a joint creation by Jane Green and her mum Shirley Phelps



shelter's



Creative displays across North Somerset

Live music from The Senna Weeks Band Trio provided entertainment at a street party in Furland Road, Weston-super-Mare



Rain didn't dampen spirits on the Sunday. Crowds turned out for entertainment in Grove Park, Weston-super-Mare. Photo courtesy of Friends of Grove Park

Take in the views from the highest point in The Mendips

Take in the views from the highest point of the Mendip Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Walk information

Distance: 5.5 miles

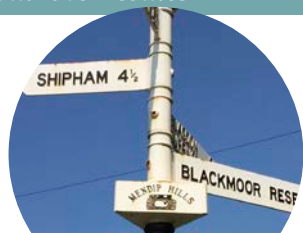
Difficulty: moderate/strenuous.
Can be muddy after wet weather.
Wear walking shoes/boots

Duration: about 2 hours 15 mins

How to get there

By car: Park at the top of Burrington Combe in the car park on the left (going uphill) of the B3134, where the road bends just below Ellick House.

For bus timetables visit
www.travelinesw.com



Find out about public rights of way in North Somerset at
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/publicrightsofway



Facing away from the road, take the left-hand bridleway up a rocky path. Enter a gate and go uphill past the display panel. Just before the top of the slope, go right at the small orange triangle orienteering marker.

Continue through the gate into a field. Keeping the hedge to the right, walk through a gap in the hedge and on past a wooded area. This land has a good depth of soil over limestone so is good for agriculture.

Continue straight on the path beside the hedge. Ignore the first path off to the right. Join a metalled track and continue until you reach an electricity pole, wooden barn and heavy metal gate on the left.

● Turn right through a pedestrian gate and across the field, aiming just to the left of the prominent houses. Cross the stile between the hedge and garden fence. Walk up this alley and turn left onto the

lane. Turn right at the road and cross the B3134 carefully.

Go along the lane opposite and, where the main lane bends left to the farm buildings, go straight on through the pedestrian gate.

Go through the five-barred Bristol gate then uphill along the track, passing a clay pigeon shooting area.

At the only significant junction, take the right-hand track. Emerge at the top at a short flagpole.

Go across the field at 11 o'clock, to the wooden stile in the hedge, about 50 metres to the left of the tall tree.

Cross the stile. After wet weather you may have to avoid an ankle-deep pond, typically found in this non-draining sandstone ground.

Turn right for 100 metres on a track between hedges and go through a gate onto the Black Down moor (named because the north side can look dark from the north).



- 2 Take the right-hand one of two straight-on paths, up a water eroded path. Ahead is the trig point top of Black Down, at 325 metres high.

You'll walk past three pre-Christian burial barrows, a mound of soil and stone where bodies were laid to rest. The trig point itself is also built on a barrow.

Continue on the well-made path along the ridge top. Bear right at the obvious main junction.

The mounds here are remains of WW2 project Starfish. Lights were lit in lines to simulate Bristol's railway marshalling yard at night, to confuse German pilots. However, the project failed.

- 3 Just before Rowberrow Warren woods, turn right downhill. Look out for North Devon cattle and Exmoor ponies, introduced to keep the bracken low and stop trees spreading. For public safety there are no 'full' male animals and the cattle are de-horned.

Cross a stream on a boardwalk. Streams on the Mendips indicate you are on impervious sandstone or shale.

At the wooden gate to your left, bear right at 1 o'clock.

- 4 Just before the fence in the trees, turn right and walk past Bos Swallet, hidden in a deep hole to the right of the path. Swallet is a local term for surface streams going underground.

Turn first right and walk across the heath away from the woods, crossing four ditches. One of these is man-made, to take water from the brook to 19th century lead and iron ore mines.

Carry on in this direction for over a mile, crossing two streams.

200 metres before the first brook, the path bends right out of the limestone and into shale which is less pervious, so can make the path muddier.

Eventually the fields on the left come into view as the path rises along the hillside.

On the right, bracken has been cut to allow flowers in spring.

At the highest point, look out for three hazel bushes on the right. To the left, before the fence, you'll see the only WW2 bomb crater on Black Down.

- 5 At the post follow the white arrow left through a wooden gate and down a stony track past Ellick House.

Cross the road carefully and follow the path through the woods opposite back to your starting point.

Tony Harden's two booklets each feature 10 walks. Each costs £5 and all profits go to Avon Wildlife Trust. Buy from Mother Hen Café, in Broad Street, Wrington, or by post from tonyhardenuk@gmail.com for £7 including postage.



What to do if you're worried about money

Rising costs are causing a worry for many households but help is available if you need it.

At the end of May, inflation reached a 40-year high and the energy regulator Ofgem warned the energy price cap – which limits how much providers can raise prices – was expected to increase to £2,800 a year in the autumn.

Money worries can have an awful effect on your mental and physical wellbeing but many organisations work across North Somerset to support households in time of crisis.

North Somerset Council has worked with the Independent Food Aid Network and food bank charity The Trussell Trust to produce a new leaflet, North Somerset: Worrying About Money?

It's aimed at helping people out of or preventing financial crisis, and is a step-by-step guide so people can quickly see what their options are and which local agencies are best placed to help.

It covers what to do if you suddenly have no money, your money doesn't stretch far enough, you have debt, or are waiting for benefit payments.

Pick up a Worrying About Money? leaflet from local libraries, order from the Independent Food Aid Network at www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/cash-first-leaflets or view online at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/worryingaboutmoneyleaflet

Quick links

If your circumstances have changed and you now have little or no income, council tax support can help. This is means-tested so find out if you're eligible and how to apply at

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/counciltaxsupport

You can also find out more about housing benefit and universal credit at

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/benefits

The Welfare Provision Scheme can give short-term financial help in a crisis. The amount will depend on individual circumstances. Visit

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/welfare-provision-scheme

Financial help may also be available if you're struggling to pay your energy or water bills. Visit the Centre for Sustainable Energy website for advice at www.cse.org.uk/advice

Citizens Advice North Somerset can give independent advice on employment, debt, benefits and more. Call 0808 278 7973, email advice@nscab.org.uk or visit www.nscab.org.uk



Putting health at the heart of communities

Community projects which help residents of all ages across North Somerset are benefiting from more than £75,000 in funding.

Earlier this year North Somerset Council announced it was making two lots of health funding available for community organisations and groups, as part of its ongoing commitment to tackling health inequalities.

These groups and organisations play a vital role in supporting people in our communities to improve their wellbeing.

The first grant funding was for existing and new community food projects which encourage healthy eating and improve knowledge of and access to nutritious, affordable food. The second was for social prescribing initiatives that help to improve mental health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation and loneliness by connecting people with non-medical and community services.



In total the council has awarded £53,980 to community health and wellbeing schemes.

In addition to this, social prescribing projects with a natural element were match funded by Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Green Social Prescribing, which contributed an additional £21,686.

Four community food projects have been awarded funding and nine projects which tackle social isolation and support wellbeing in North Somerset have received grants.

It is estimated that the projects will help improve the health and wellbeing of more than 1,000 North Somerset residents of all ages.



The successful projects are:

Community food projects – these were awarded just over £19,000 in total:

- Banwell Parish Council Youth Club – youth cookery
- Boomsatuma Creative CIC – Boombox cookery club
- Pill Youth Club – Eat Well, Live Well project
- Weston Foodbank: self-help cookery course

Social Prescribing community projects – these were awarded just over £56,000 in total:

- Banwell Parish Council – Banwell summer holidays youth club
- F.r.l.e.n.D.s Together – craft, tea, coffee and gardening
- Friends of Grove Park – wellbeing and community cohesion
- North Somerset Carers – wellbeing activities
- Osprey Outdoors – isolation recovery project
- OTR – NatureWell
- Portishead Youth Centre – older people's support and activity sessions
- Theatre Orchard – Grow Feral 2.0
- Uncle Paul's Chilli Farm – wellbeing days

Supporting businesses

A unique programme offering mix and match support has helped businesses of all sizes in North Somerset to grow and become more resilient.

Accelerate – Supporting Business in North Somerset is one of four projects funded through the UK Community Renewal Fund (CRF).

North Somerset Council received £2.8m from the CRF as part of a combined bid with local organisations to invest in skills, communities and businesses, and support local people into employment.

The Accelerate programme received £878,401 of this funding, which has enabled free, comprehensive, targeted business and skills support to be delivered across North Somerset.

North Somerset Council has worked with The Food and Drink Forum, North Somerset Enterprise Agency (NSEA) and Weston College for this project.

Free business support has included sector-specific advice, workshops, one-to-one sessions, and technical and practical help for businesses of all sizes, from sole traders to the more established.

The Accelerate programme was made up of four strands.

The first was a business voucher scheme run by North Somerset Council.

Vouchers worth up to £2,500 each were awarded to businesses. These businesses could then use the money to choose their own supplier to give them support in overcoming a particular barrier to growth, or attend a six-week business development course.

Up until the end of May, a total of £250,000 had been awarded to 112 businesses.

At Weston College, workshops and masterclasses have been held, led by industry experts and trainers.

More than 480 tickets were sold in the first four months of the programme.

Key themes included business planning, digital support, sustainability, the green agenda, mental health and wellbeing.

Dani Langson, head of UK sales and procurement for Probo Medical, took part.

She said: “As a national sales manager working remotely, I struggle to find time for my own development.

“I’m keen to be a good manager, leader and a positive influence to my team and wider business – something which I feel the Accelerate sessions have helped me achieve.”

Targeted support for rural businesses, women and young entrepreneurs has also been delivered by North Somerset Enterprise Agency.

More than 140 one-to-one sessions were held between January and April.

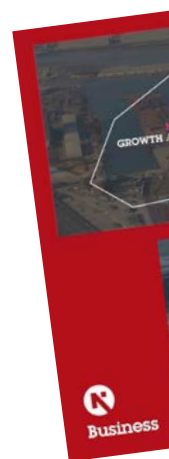
Ten local women-led businesses attended a four-week group training programme in April and May.

Sessions followed a ‘peer-to-peer’ structure based on real life challenges and opportunities, which provided safe environment to share issues and learn from others.

Specialist workshops and technical support for businesses in the food and drink industry are also being delivered by The Food and Drink Forum, at The Food WorksSW, in Weston-super-Mare. These continue until September.



Dani Langson



to survive and thrive



Read more about the Accelerate scheme in detail at www.innorthsomersex.co.uk/accelerate-new



The national £220m UK Community Renewal Fund is providing funding to help places across the UK prepare for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund next year, which is replacing EU Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).

Find out more about CRF projects in North Somerset at www.n-somersex.gov.uk/crf



For more information about investing in North Somerset email business@n-somersex.gov.uk

Independent businesses benefitting from free support

Nearly 60 local businesses in North Somerset took advantage of a free business support package to get back on their feet after the pandemic.

The Welcome Back North Somerset initiative ran from last October to March and gave 58 businesses a mix of one-to-one support from expert advisers, group support sessions with other local business leaders, and they were signposted to online resources and information hubs.

Realistic and achievable business plans were then created.

Lisa Clarke, of The Chocolate Tart, in Clevedon, said: "Since the session, I've focussed on creating my post-pandemic, re-start business plan.

"I've also researched web designers and branding. I'd love to continue having this invaluable business support. It's been so inspiring."

The project was supported by the Welcome Back Fund, financed by the European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020.



Lisa Clarke of
The Chocolate Tart

Open and ready for business

Two new brochures have been published to show that North Somerset is open and ready to do business.

The new brochures, published by North Somerset Council, are aimed at businesses to boost the area's economy and support its ambitions to develop trade and industry.

The North Somerset Growth and Investment Prospectus sets out a roadmap to support

economic renewal, with plans to create greater prosperity and quality of life.

The Weston-super-Mare Enterprise Area Prospectus outlines opportunities for investment and employment growth.

Find out more about business opportunities at www.innorthsomersex.co.uk



Community-led innovation supporting growth

Community-led organisations across North Somerset are working together to share knowledge, resources and ideas to support local people and reduce social isolation.

The pandemic highlighted the impact of inequality on health and wellbeing across the country but a new project is supporting recovery and growth in North Somerset.

North Somerset Community Hubs is one of four projects to receive funding through North Somerset's £2.8m UK Community Renewal Fund allocation. This project received £699,997 and is building opportunities for community-led growth.

Lorraine Bush, policy and partnerships manager at North Somerset Council, said: "Organisations delivering these projects are working together and supporting each other daily – sharing resources, developing ideas and providing extra space for each other's activities when needed.

"New collaborations are being developed across the town, encouraging knowledge sharing across all sectors of the community."

In Weston-super-Mare, five venues are providing space for people to try out their ideas.



These are:

- The Other Place, in Meadow Street – opened in March as a space for cultural and community-led innovation
- The Community Enterprise Hub at The Stable, in Wadham Street
- The LGBT+ Forum – providing space for drop-in sessions, social activities and booked sessions
- North Somerset Training Community Hub – opportunities for people to share their learning with others
- The CHAT Room – a former micro community hub which is now a workspace for building pallet furniture and upcycling old pieces.

Emerging ideas and projects include:

- A community café run by Refugee Welcome North Somerset, now open Thursdays, from 11am to 1pm, at The Other Place
- A new African and Caribbean group, Ago Ame, has been set up by Race Equality North Somerset. Email hello@agoame.org.uk to get involved in this year's Black History Month in October
- Talk About Supported Housing is a peer-led network for young people in supported housing. Find out more at kameron@wearetash.org.uk
- Bangla classes are being run by the Bangladeshi Association
- The Community Soup, a platform for local people and organisations to pitch ideas for community support. By the beginning of June, 15 projects had been supported.



Voluntary Action North Somerset is creating a map of local support, so people can discover where to find or give help or connect.

Visit www.vansweb.org.uk/directory





Breathing life into empty properties

Are you a landlord or owner of an empty property in North Somerset?

If so, you may be able to access grants, loans and incentives to bring the empty property back into use and provide a new home during a housing shortage.

House prices are at a record high, putting home ownership out of reach for many and resulting in a demand for rental housing which is far outstripping the accommodation available.

Average rents in North Somerset are way above the Local Housing Allowance, which is the amount set by central government for support with rent costs for those on a lower income.

Along with the cost of living crisis, this means hard-working families are being priced out of the market.

North Somerset Council's lettings team is currently looking for affordable homes in the private sector for about 200 households and is urging landlords and owners of empty homes to get in touch.

If you choose to rent out your property directly through the council's lettings team they can offer:

- a free lettings service, including all documents to ensure legal compliance at the start of the tenancy
- advice throughout the tenancy term, including updates on changes to housing legislation
- matching tenants according to your criteria
- your final choice of tenant

- access to loans of up to £25,000 for bringing an empty home back in to use (subject to eligibility)
- financial incentives for providing affordable accommodation.

If you'd like to find out more about the help available, an information event takes place at The Stable Games Room, High Street, Weston-super-Mare, on Tuesday 12 July between 8.30am and 1.30pm. No appointment is necessary.

If you can't make this date, contact the lettings team to arrange an informal chat.

Find out more or confirm your attendance at the event by calling **01934 426 483** or emailing **lettingsteam@n-somerset.gov.uk**



Removing waste from landfill

Sending household waste to landfill is being confined to the history books here in North Somerset.

Since September last year North Somerset Council has not sent any black bin waste to landfill.

Instead, it has been sent to the Avonmouth Energy Recovery Facility to be burnt.

The energy generated is then sent to the national grid to power homes.

This is better than landfill but it's even better for the environment to reduce, reuse and recycle as much as possible in the first place.



Before you buy something new, see if you can get it pre-loved instead. If you no longer need an item, check if it can be reused or recycled before you put it in your black bin.

On a tour of the Avonmouth facility, council officers saw first-hand the amount of recyclable items that are still being thrown away in black bins, including cardboard, plastic, paper and textiles.

The council's most recent audit of black bins showed that, on average, 45 per cent of black bin waste could have been recycled.

North Somerset Council's recycling and waste strategy launched earlier this year, setting out plans for the coming years and what we could all be doing.

As part of the 10-year strategy, the council wants to achieve a 15 per cent reduction in general black

bin waste on 2019 figures and increase the recycling rate to 70 per cent by 2030.

Progress has already been made since it was published, such as introducing weekly food waste recycling collections to more than 200 flats in Weston-super-Mare.



Recycling and
Waste Strategy
2021-2030



Read more about these aims at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/wastestrategy



Garden waste collections

You can now sign up for a garden waste subscription to get collections right from your property.

It costs £40 for each garden waste bin (a maximum of two per property), or three sacks if you're unable to have a bin.

Feedback has been listened to and as a result, you can now move the service with you if you move home within North Somerset.

Once signed up you'll receive the service until Friday 31 March next year.

The quickest and easiest way to sign up is online at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/gardenwaste

If you don't have internet access, ask a friend or relative to help or visit a library, which all have computers and free wi-fi.

You can also sign up by calling **01934 888 802** if you can't go online, but please be aware there could be a long wait during busy times.

Alternatively, you can take your garden waste to one of North Somerset's three recycling centres. Find opening times and locations online at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/recyclingcentres

Check all your recycling and waste calendars on the website at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/calendars



Master composters help spread the word

Home composting is the most sustainable way of disposing of garden waste and a group of volunteers are helping to spread the word.



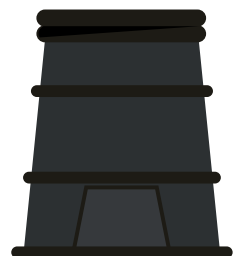
North Somerset Council is supporting residents to learn how to compost and earlier this year a volunteer training day took place at Yeo Valley Organic Garden and Tea Rooms near Blagdon.

These volunteers are now working in the community to attend events, give talks, write newsletters and more, to encourage more people to compost.

The council's recycling officers also regularly attend events across North Somerset to help spread the word about waste reduction, reusing and recycling.

If you're organising a fête, fair or similar community event and would like the recycling team or master composters to attend, email wasteman@n-somerset.gov.uk with the details.

Find out more at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/mastercomposters



Find out more at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/mastercomposters

 @ns_recycling

 NSrecyclingandwaste



**Extended
opening
hours**



Transformation of Clevedon library under way

Work has now started to improve popular Clevedon Library and enable it to stay in its current location for at least another decade.

The well-used library, in Old Church Road, is being transformed thanks to a £215,900 grant from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports, delivered by Arts Council England, along with match-funding of £18,342 and in-kind contributions from North Somerset Council.

The project is also supported by Clevedon Town Council.

The improvements will help the library develop as an active hub for the community.

It will become a more flexible space with facilities for businesses, partners and groups to meet.

The building is also being made greener with upgrades to the heating system, insulation being installed, and energy efficient lighting fitted.

It is also being made more accessible for all users.

Improvements include:

- a new multi-purpose community room for meetings, events and groups
- self-service technology to enable customers to use the library outside staffed opening hours
- the building's carbon footprint reduced with improvements to the heating, lighting and insulation
- the building being made more accessible for people with disabilities
- toilets upgraded.

The library closed in June and is set to reopen in October.

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



Extended access from October

Visit Clevedon Library at a time to suit you when it reopens in October.

The library will have the same staffed opening hours but if you want to use it for longer in the evenings or at weekends, seven days a week, you'll be able to sign up for Extended Access

This self-service system is already in place at Portishead, Winscombe, Worle and Yatton libraries.

Just scan your library card and use a pin code to enter the library after opening hours.

You can then use the computers, check out books using the self-service kiosks or more.

You'll need to attend a short briefing session before using Extended Access.

Find out more at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/extendedaccess



Accessing library services during closure

Clevedon Library is still open for call and collect during the improvement works.

Reserve items online at www.librarieswest.org.uk, request them by calling 01934 426 020 or email clevedon.library@n-somerset.gov.uk.

Items can then be collected from the annex to the left of the front door.

Books won't be due back until October but you can use the returns box if you need to.

Children's activities such as Storytime, Rhymetime and the Summer Reading Challenge, take place on Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons in St John's church hall, in Hillside Road next to the library.

You can also use your library card at any other library in North Somerset, as well as access free eBooks and eAudiobooks from the app Borrowbox.

Find other library locations at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/libraries

Summer Reading Challenge 2022



**Presented by The Reading Agency.
Delivered in partnership with libraries.**

Get set for Summer Reading Challenge

Ignite your child's imagination with science and innovation when the popular Summer Reading Challenge returns to North Somerset libraries.

This year's theme for the annual challenge is Gadgeteers, looking at the science and innovation behind everyday objects.

The free challenge, suitable for four to 11-year-olds, starts on Saturday 9 July.

Bring your child to the library to sign up. They will receive a reward for every book they read.

If they read six by Saturday 10 September, they'll receive a certificate and medal, while stocks last.



*Illustrations by Julian Beresford
and ©The Reading Agency 2022*

Help North Somerset get wilder



Would you like to help shape the future landscape of North Somerset and monitor wildlife in your local area?

North Somerset Council is looking for more volunteers to help monitor changes in biodiversity as part of a project with Avon Wildlife Trust, funded by the National Lottery.

Wildlife is already flourishing across North Somerset thanks to the council's rewilding programme.

Some areas of council-owned grassland are being left to grow longer, to provide valuable new habitats for wildlife.

Last year local residents became 'rewilding champions' to assess the impact that rewilding was having.

They found a marked difference in the abundance of plant and insect species between areas of longer grass and those regularly mown.

In some areas more than five times the number of species were recorded.

More volunteers are needed this summer to survey these areas again, and to continue surveying each year.

Avon Wildlife Trust is offering free training in species identification and survey techniques.



Survey sessions are taking place across Clevedon, Nailsea, Portishead and Weston-super-Mare throughout the summer.

Find out when survey sessions take place and how to get involved on the Avon Wildlife Trust website at www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/nsrewilding

Find out more about council's rewilding project at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/rewilding

Thousands more trees planted

Thousands of trees are being planted across North Somerset as part of the council's rewilding efforts.

Trees help clean the air we breathe, provide new habitats and food for wildlife to flourish, and can boost general wellbeing. In total, North Somerset Council will be planting 50,000 trees across the area.



During the latest tree planting season, from October last year to March this year, about 2,500 young trees were successfully planted.

Sites included Elm Farm in Wraxall, Blackdown Way in Portishead, Middle Lane in Clevedon and Portishead Lake Grounds.



These trees were donated by the Woodland Trust and new cardboard tree guards were funded by the Forest of Avon Trust.

Two different tree guards were trialled during this season, with cardboard being used for the first time along with 100 per cent recycled Tubex tubing.

Jubilee trees for The Queen

A total of 150 trees are being planted across North Somerset to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Queen's Green Canopy initiative, devised by HRH The Prince of Wales, wants as many people as possible to plant a tree to celebrate the long reign, create a lasting legacy for future generations, and have a positive impact on the environment.

As part of the initiative, North Somerset Council has donated 60 native trees to town and parish councils and voluntary groups.

A further 90 trees are being planted by the council itself.

The first to be planted was an oak tree in Ashcombe Park, Weston-super-Mare, in January.

More trees will be planted when the season starts again this autumn and winter until the end of the Jubilee year.

A further 1,500 trees will be planted to create new woodland across North Somerset.

North Somerset Council is working with Royal Portbury Docks on this project, and these trees will also be recorded as part of the Green Canopy initiative.

Trees have been funded through a grant from the Local Authority Treescape Fund.

Find out more and see locations at www.queensgreencanopy.org



Covid memorial trees to be planted across North Somerset

Five hundred trees are set to be planted across North Somerset in memory of local people who lost their lives during the Covid pandemic.

Native trees will be planted in towns and villages across the area this autumn to create spaces for reflection.

It's hoped that planting these trees will give people places to visit where they can pause and contemplate their experiences.

The trees will also provide a physical space for people to remember lost loved ones for many years to come.

Details of locations will be published on the council's website when available.

Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/trees



Bringing historic bu

Historic buildings across Weston-super-Mare's town centre are being sympathetically refurbished to highlight their heritage as part a project to breathe new life into the area.

So far five properties in the town centre have benefitted from the Shopfront Enhancement Scheme, partially funded by Historic England as part of the Heritage Action Zones project.

Independent department store Walker and Ling was the first to take advantage of the scheme last year when a beautiful 1950s mosaic was re-instated on its façade.



In April the family-owned store, which is celebrating 130 years of trading this year, was presented with an award by Weston-super-Mare Civic Society for its contribution to the local townscape.

It was also chosen as the subject of a short film by Historic England to highlight nationally the positive community impact of high street engagement.

See the film at www.youtube.com/historicengland

Work on four other buildings has got under way this year and are due to be completed by the end of July.

Fork n Ale Taproom and Kitchen

The frontage of this popular independent restaurant, bar and music venue, in Walliscote Road, has been restored to its original façade and original stained-glass windows reinstated. Work has also been done to repair the stone balustrade.



Old Kendall's building

The prominent building on the corner of High Street and Regent Street – named after a retailer which occupied one of the units in the middle of the last century – now houses 11 business units

including Coffee #1 and Weston Hospicicare.

Tiling is being restored on the building's original façade, while the railings and canopy on the upper floor are being restored.



Buildings back to life

132 and 134 High Street

The building at 132 High Street, most recently The Lamplighters pub, is being transformed into a new pub called The Albert. Next door at 134 is The Stage Door restaurant, café and bar.

Both buildings are having work done to replace their façades. This includes the surrounds, stallrisers (the section below the windows), new timber-framed glazing, entrance doors, awnings and signs.

Existing light fittings are also being replaced, to be replicated along the fascia. Repairs or like-for-like replacements are being made to the windows on the upper floors.



Vibrant art installation set for High Street

A distinctive multi-use art installation is coming to Weston's High Street.

The temporary art installation will form part of the 21st Century super Shrines project, a collaboration between North Somerset Council and Culture Weston, funded by Historic England.

Planning permission for the Shrine has now been granted. The multi-use events and performance space is expected to be installed in the autumn.

Find out more at www.cultureweston.org.uk



What are Heritage Action Zones?

Weston-super-Mare has two Heritage Action Zones (HAZ) thanks to an investment of almost £2m from Historic England.

The scheme aims to unlock potential in town centres that are rich in heritage, to bring them back to life, attract more residents, tourists, businesses and investors, and therefore create economic growth.

Weston's first HAZ – the Great Weston Heritage Action Zone – was created in 2017.

It was one of the first places in England to receive this status and North Somerset Council was awarded £800,000 by Historic England.

This project runs until September 2022.

In 2020 North Somerset Council received a further £1.1m from Historic England for a second HAZ, the High Street Heritage Action Zone.

This project runs until March 2024.

Two exhibitions featuring the work of the Heritage Action Zones are open this summer, at Weston Museum and The Sovereign.

Find out more at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/heritageactionzone

Volunteers help shape our green spaces

Green-fingered volunteers work across North Somerset's parks and open spaces to help keep the area looking beautiful for everyone.

North Somerset's landscape, including green spaces, wildlife and waterways, is important to us all.

However, the environment can be quite fragile and needs careful management to flourish.

Volunteers play an important role in helping North Somerset Council preserve the natural environment by working in parks and nature reserves to carry out a range of tasks, from litter picking to woodland management.

There are five Green Flag sites in North Somerset, the international standard for the management of recreational outdoor space, and community involvement is vital to achieve these awards each year.

Samantha Phillips, North Somerset Council's senior parks and open spaces officer, said: "Working with our volunteers means we can continue to improve these sites for all to enjoy."

One such group is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

The Friends of Prince Consort Gardens formed in 2012 and continues to work in partnership with North Somerset Council to look after the popular Weston-super-Mare park which overlooks the Severn Estuary.

The gardens were awarded Town Green status in 2013, which will protect them for generations to come.

Over the decade there has been a shift from formal flower beds to more informal and nature-friendly gardening, but still with a nod to its Victorian heritage.

The group's largest project so far has been the conversion of the boating pond into a wildlife pond in 2018.

The island within the pond is planted with a Gunnera, a large rhubarb-like plant originally from South America.

Surrounding plants are all UK native pond marginals that are great for wildlife.



Insect biodiversity continues to thrive and this year has been the best for smooth newts.

Chairperson of the group Stephen Monger said: "I am so proud to have worked with the group over these 10 years and witnessed their success in shaping what has become such an exciting North Somerset public garden."

In 2020 a successful fundraising campaign meant the stone walls around Westcliffe Garden could be rebuilt and enhanced.

Volunteers from Westcliffe House, as part of their training course with Bridgwater and Taunton College, installed a new garden design that responded to the sea.

This enhancement project was part-funded by North Somerset Council and grants obtained by the Friends.

On a day-to-day basis, the Friends produce their own compost which feeds the garden beds.

They have also designed and installed educational signs around the wildlife pond, working with North Somerset Council.

The diversity of the projects, the community engagement and the sustainable principles of the group have helped it meet the criteria for the Green Flag award.



Many volunteer groups operate across North Somerset to keep the area looking clean and green.

Find them in:

- **Clevedon** – MARLENs; Poets Walk Volunteers; Clevedon Woodcutters
- **Nailsea** – Friends of Trendlewood Park
- **Pill/Abbots Leigh** – Friends of Watchhouse Hill; Friends of Abbots Pool, St Georges Flower Bank
- **Portishead** – Turn the Tide; Portishead in Bloom; Portbury Wharf Volunteer Community
- **Weston-super-Mare** – Worlebury Hillfort; Weston Mudlarks; Beautiful Bournville; Maderia Cove; Maltlands Park Volunteers; Friends of Grove Park; Cleaner Coastlines
- **Yatton** – Yatton and Congresbury Wildlife Action Group; Strawberry Line Volunteers

New members always welcome. Groups manage meeting times themselves but if you need more information, email natural.environment@n-somerset.gov.uk



Read North Somerset Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy, its plan to protect and enhance the area's natural environment over the next 10 years, at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/greeninfrastructurestrategy

Follow on Facebook for nature and climate updates from North Somerset Council.

📌 **NatureandClimateNorthSomerset**



Living well with dementia

Living with memory loss or confusion can be difficult but help is available to ensure people with dementia and their carers feel connected, valued and supported within their communities.



It's estimated that about 4,000 people in North Somerset have dementia and this number is predicted to increase every year.

North Somerset Council wants to be an organisation which empowers and cares about people, supporting them to make positive life decisions.

For people with dementia and their carers, this means giving people new opportunities to improve their quality of life.

Life takes a look at some dementia services in the area to see how this is happening...

Working together to create new opportunities

Organisations are coming together to support people with dementia and their carers and create new opportunities.

The pandemic was difficult for many of us, especially those who rely on community groups and other social get-togethers.

To combat this, a new service for people with dementia and their carers has recently launched in Portishead, Clevedon and Nailsea.

The Meeting Centre is run by Alive, a charity working across North Somerset and Bristol to improve older people's quality of life and reduce social isolation.

It is held in community settings across the area, from a local church to an Alliance Homes' community hall.

Alive chief executive Isobel Jones said: "The pandemic has been particularly hard for people living with dementia and their carers.

"With no groups open for a long time to provide the normal level of support and activity, it's been challenging."

This new group provides a much-needed space where people can come for a drink, chat and activity, and carers can talk to each other and professionals to find information they need or just relax.

It's open from 10am to 3pm on Tuesdays at Christchurch, Clevedon; Wednesdays at Jubilee Hall, in Slade Road, Portishead; and Thursdays at Mizzymead Recreation Centre in Nailsea.

Find out more by contacting Alive on 0117 377 4756, nsmeetingcentre@aliveactivities.org or visiting www.aliveactivities.org

Keeping the mind active with wide-ranging activities

Singing, dancing, games and crafts are just some of the activities on offer at a day centre for people with dementia.

The Tamar Wellness Centre, in Worle, Weston-super-Mare, provides a day service to people over 55 who have a diagnosis of dementia.

The centre, run by Alliance Homes, gives people the chance to maintain their interests and hobbies while getting involved in new activities.

In a recently cleared garden with wheelchair-accessible raised beds, local charity Alive is running therapeutic horticulture sessions.



Being in a garden can be a source of real joy and achievement for people with dementia.

It helps maintain physical activity, cognitive function and social interaction, as well as help the person feel valued and helpful.

The centre is also developing an outreach programme to connect with people in the community, whether they are living with dementia, are newly diagnosed or are a carer for a person with dementia.

Tamar Court day services manager Laura Hayes said: "Our aim is to help people living with dementia to remain independent for longer and provide essential respite to their carers.

"Being a carer can be very rewarding but also demanding and stressful and it is important that those who care for others also find time to care for themselves."

Carers can also access activity groups, drop-in sessions and one-to-one appointments through North Somerset Carers Support.

Contact **carersupport@alliancehomes.org.uk** for more information.

The Day Centre currently has spaces throughout the week. For more information or to book an appointment call 01934 321027 or email **tamarwellnesscentre@alliancehomes.org.uk**



Prepare for the future with expert advice

Finding out that you – or someone you know – has dementia can be overwhelming but advice and support is available.

The Alzheimer's Society has dementia support workers to offer information and practical guidance.

This might include helping you understand the condition, cope with day-to-day challenges, and

prepare for the future, such as remaining independent and active for as long as possible, how to make informed decisions about your wellbeing, and finding other local services to improve your life.

Find out more and access support in North Somerset by contacting Alzheimer's Society dementia adviser Alison Heath on 0300 123 4589 or **alison.heath@alzheimers.org.uk**

What is dementia?

Dementia describes a set of symptoms which may include memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language.

It's caused when the brain is damaged by diseases, such as Alzheimer's or strokes.

Other symptoms might include difficulties with planning, struggling with conversations, or changes in mood.

Experiences can vary depending on the person's physical health, their relationships with friends and family, the treatment and support they get, and their surroundings.





Creating inviting, open spaces

New orders to help tackle anti-social behaviour and make public spaces in North Somerset more welcoming are now in force.

In response to concerns from residents and businesses, North Somerset Council has introduced a number of new and amended Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) which came into effect in June.

The new orders include a North Somerset-wide one of prohibiting aggressive begging and banning unauthorised camping, fires and barbecues in town centres, parks and open spaces.

PSPOs also include dog control orders aimed at encouraging responsible dog ownership.

The existing order banning dogs on Weston-super-Mare beach between Royal Sands and the Grand Pier from 1 May to 30 September has been amended to 'between the hours of 9am and 7pm'.

New orders have also been introduced, including:

- Broadcroft play area, Claverham – no dogs allowed in the play area now, except on a lead on the public footpath
- Hutton Moor playing fields, Weston – all dogs must be on leads
- Worle recreation ground – all dogs must be on leads and kept off games pitches.

The council carried out a four-week consultation on the new and amended PSPOs and the majority of respondents were in favour.

The orders are in response to feedback from residents and businesses and allow the council and police to deal more effectively with a wider range of anti-social behaviour issues, making public spaces more welcoming, safe and clean.



PSPOs were first introduced by the council in 2017. They are enforced by designated council staff, police officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), and external authorised contractors.

Anyone breaching a PSPO could receive a written warning, restorative justice, a fixed penalty notice of £75 or, in some cases, face prosecution.

Find out more at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/pspo



Being a responsible dog owner

Owning a dog is a fulfilling experience but comes with great responsibility.

Thank you to all North Somerset residents who are already responsible dog owners.

Laws surrounding dog ownership are in place to keep open spaces safe for everyone to enjoy.

It's a criminal offence (Under the 1991 Dangerous Dog Act) to allow your dog to be 'dangerously out of control' either in a public place or on private property.

This can be defined as a dog that has injured someone or where a person believes the dog may injure somebody. This could be as simple as chasing, barking or jumping up at a person or child.

Horse riders are also reporting more cases of being chased by dogs over the last couple of years.

The British Horse Society reported 419 cases across the UK in the past few years, with 16 in the former Avon area.

In Clevedon in December, two horse riders were seriously injured after falling from their horses when a dog ran towards them and scared the animals.

One rider sustained potentially life-changing injuries while the other had a broken foot and bruising.

If your dog injures somebody, it may be seized. If convicted, you could face a lengthy prison sentence and/or a fine.

Your dog could also be euthanised or become the subject of a control order.

Dog attacks on livestock are also on the rise. A recent survey by NFU Mutual found that the estimated cost of dog attacks on farm animals in the first quarter of 2021 had risen by 50 per cent.

An RSPCA survey also found 24 per cent of owners polled had dogs that had chased livestock, wildlife and other animals.

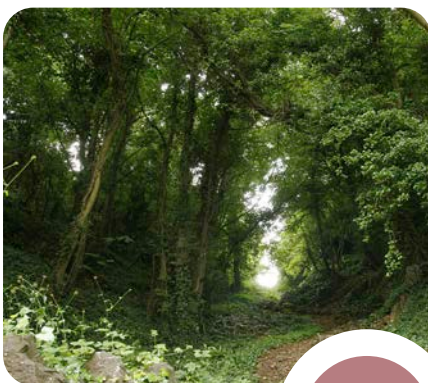
The stress of being chased alone is enough to kill a sheep.

Dogs must never worry livestock. It is an offence under the Protection of Livestock Act 1953 and police may seize the dog.

If convicted, the owner may be liable to a maximum fine of £1,000.

A farmer would have a legitimate defence in law if they had to shoot a dog worrying livestock due to there being no other reasonable means for stopping the dog.

- If you can't instantly recall your dog and put them on a lead, please don't let them off in the first place.
- Even small dogs can attack and harm other animals, including livestock
- Keep close control of dogs, especially around farm animals
- Make sure gardens are secure. Many attacks are caused by dogs which have escaped.



Read the responsible dog owners' guide at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/dogownersguide

Report dog attacks to the police at www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report

Pick up the poo. Dog poo contains bacteria, viruses, parasites and other components that can be dangerous for humans and animals.

Always bag and bin your dog's waste.



If someone is prosecuted and found guilty of a PSPO offence, including not picking up after a dog in a public place, the maximum fine in North Somerset is now £1,000.

Building sustainability into school expansion



Pupils from a secondary school in Weston-super-Mare attended special workshops to learn more about sustainable construction, biodiversity and more.

Winterstoke Hundred Academy, in Locking Parklands, is expanding and pupils will be able to see these greener techniques in action as building work takes shape.

In addition to the main building, the project includes plans for a new learning pavilion where pupils, young people and adult learners will be able to access education, skills and employment training.

The learning pavilion is being delivered by project contractors, Kier, with Winterstoke Hundred Academy pupils helping design how it will look.



At their recent workshops, pupils were given the opportunity to find out more about green technology and the ways that sustainability will be built into the fabric of their new school.

Using the skills learned, they have started to come up with their own ecological features such as planters, bug hotels and ponds, some of which will become a reality when the learning pavilion is built.

Sophie, in Year 8, who attended the workshop said: "We really enjoyed it and found it really interesting. It's great to see what the new school will be like."

In addition to the workshops and educational opportunities with the learning pavilion, Kier have also provided young people with a number of work experience opportunities, as well as a degree-level apprenticeship for one local resident to train as a Quantity Surveyor.

Year 8 pupils who attended the workshop are soon to submit their final designs for the ecological features, which will be displayed around the building site hoardings this summer.

The pupils will get to see features chosen for the final design of the learning pavilion when it opens later in the year.



Find out more about major projects in North Somerset at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/hif



North Somerset Life

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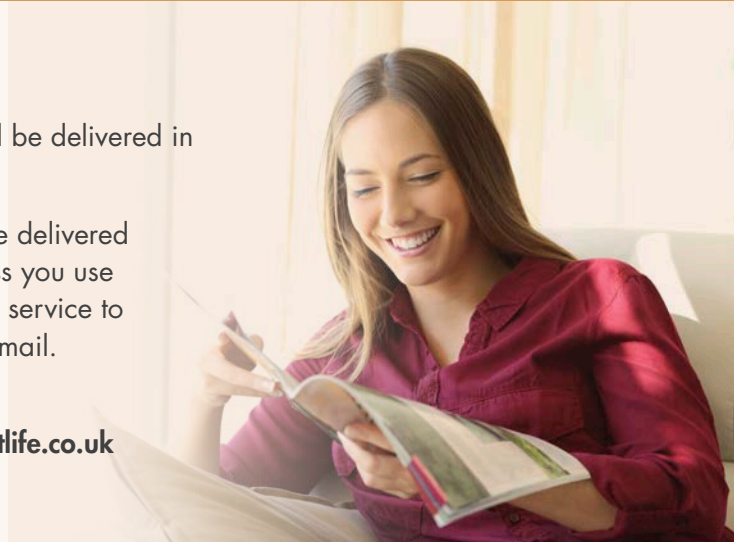
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(Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)

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(Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm)

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Tide times

Check tide times online at
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/tidetimes

Tide predictions are computed by the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory and adjusted for Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and British Summer Time (BST) differences.

- For Clevedon – add 10 minutes.
- For Portishead – add 18 minutes.




Walks in the area are available to view and download at www.northsomersetlife.co.uk

5 climate actions to take today...

There are many steps we need to take to reduce our emissions and it can feel overwhelming to know where to begin. This list is a good place to start.



1. Transport

Use the car less: walk, cycle or use public transport wherever possible. Try one car free day per week.



2. Energy

Use less gas and electricity: put on an extra layer and turn down the heating a degree or two.



3. Food

Eat less meat and dairy: have a meat-free day at least once a week.



4. Rewild

Green your spaces: grow flowers, plants, trees, herbs, fruit or vegetables.



5. Talk!

Spread the word: tell your friends, family, neighbours, colleagues and MP what you're doing and how important tackling the climate emergency is.

For more ideas go to www.n-somerset.gov.uk/climateaction

