

# NORTH SOMERSET

ISSUE 143 – MAY/JUNE 2019

# LIFE



# DIY SOS

changes lives



**AVON & SOMERSET**  
POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER

With the ongoing national conversation about knife crime, I know local people continue to be very concerned about serious violence. Residential burglary, knife crime and the illegal supply of drugs have a devastating impact on our communities and you want to be assured that the police are doing everything they can do to tackle these issues.

With the council tax bill coming through all of our letterboxes recently, you will have noticed an increase for policing. By increasing policing by £2 a month for the average band D household, local people will help the police to intensify their fight against serious violence.

This investment means we can recruit an **additional 100** new officers and launch a focused operation that will tackle serious violence as part of an initiative **Operation Remedy**. We will be sending a loud and clear message to criminals that coming into our area to commit crime and exploit the vulnerable is not an option.

With your help, we will continue to make our communities safe and feel safe.

*Sue Mountstevens*

Sue Mountstevens  
Police & Crime Commissioner



## HELP FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Communities and voluntary organisations in North Somerset can benefit from up to £3,000 to tackle issues in your local area.

Local community groups are invited to apply for grants to help initiatives which support the PCC's priorities.

Applications are welcome all year. Visit our website to find out more.



*Soroptomists International of Weston-super-Mare received £500 for new resources to highlight domestic abuse and unhealthy relationships.*

## NOMINATE NORTH SOMERSET'S UNSUNG HEROES

Did you know that your PCC recognises those who go above and beyond to keep their communities safe? It's a chance to say to say a big thank you to the truly extraordinary individuals who make a difference to their communities. The winners and their guests attend a ceremony at Police and Fire Headquarters before

enjoying lunch with the PCC and a tour of the police communications centre.

Naseem Talukdar founded 'Feed the Homeless' in 2016 and the charity with the help of volunteers now provide meals for the homeless in Weston-super-Mare and Bristol.

Naseem received a PCC Pride Award in



January: "This award is not just for me, it also goes to all of the volunteers from Feed the Homeless and without them the charity would not exist.

To nominate the silent stars in your community, visit our website.

## WHAT'S OP REMEDY?

Suspected burglars, armed robbers and violent offenders were among those arrested during the first few days of Operation Remedy, which went live on April 1.

Operation Remedy involves an increase of

100 police officers and a £2million investment from local taxpayers to crack down on the crimes that matter most to local people.

Aiming to improve performance, satisfaction and public confidence, it

sees dedicated officers working alongside local neighbourhood policing teams to tackle knife crime, the supply of illegal drugs and burglary.

Visit our website for the latest Operation Remedy news.

**TO IMPROVE THE POLICE'S**  
  
**RESPONSE TO RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY**  
**BETTER RESULTS = JUSTICE**

**TACKLE SERIOUS VIOLENCE**  
  
**INCLUDING KNIFE CRIME**

**OPERATIONS TO DISRUPT & DISMANTLE**  
  
**DRUG SUPPLY ON OUR STREET**

  
**100 POLICE OFFICERS RECRUITMENT**  
**OF 100 NEW OFFICERS, INCREASING PLANNED NUMBERS FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 2004**

## Call us

For all council services, call **01934 888 888** (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)

At the prompt, say who you want to talk to if you know their name, or say what you want to talk about in a word or two.

Direct numbers for other popular services:

For waste and recycling, road issues, planning and building control:

**01934 888 802**  
(Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)

For council tax and benefits:

**01934 888 144**  
(Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)

For social services:

**01275 888 801**  
(Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm)



## Do it online –

report it, request it or pay for it at:

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect)

Or go straight to these popular web pages by adding these shortcuts:

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk)

[/myaccount](#)  
[/planning](#)  
[/schooladmissions](#)  
[/wastecollections](#)  
[/termdates](#)

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North Somerset Council does not endorse or recommend any commercial products or services advertising in *Life* magazine.

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.

## International firm EnerMech to create 100 jobs in Portishead

**An international mechanical and electrical services specialist is moving into Portishead and creating 100 jobs over the next three years.**

Aberdeen-based EnerMech is diversifying from its energy industry roots and setting up its South West base at Kestrel Court Business Centre, in Harbour Road.

The firm will target the nuclear, industrial processing, refining, petrochemical, aviation, defence, transport and infrastructure sectors to create the new roles as it diversifies.

North Somerset Council, along with the West of England Combined Authority's inward investment

arm Invest Bristol and Bath, has supported EnerMech's successful investment into the area, which will create even more opportunities for highly-skilled residents.

This included providing business intelligence, advice on property, talent acquisition and connections into the region's industry sectors.

Duncan Frame, EnerMech's general manager for the South West, said: "We envisage building a significant team of competent, multi-skilled individuals with experience across multiple sectors in the next three to five years.

"We will establish the necessary workshop, storage and testing infrastructure to be on the



doorstep of, and accessible to, potential new clients."

EnerMech currently employs 3,500 staff across 40 locations in the UK, Norway, the Middle East, Caspian, Asia, Africa, Australia and Americas.

## Website winner picks up prize



Customer services apprentice Coco hands the iPad to winner Emma Anderson

**The winner of a council-run competition to win an iPad has picked up her prize.**

Emma Anderson won the prize draw competition after signing up to the council's online MyAccount service to manage her council services.

By registering for an online account, you can view and download your latest council tax bill, report road issues, order recycling boxes and more.

- **council tax** – view your details, set up a direct debit, make payments, apply for discounts and amend address details
- **benefits** – make an application and report a change in your circumstances
- **Report problems** – such as litter or fly tipping
- **waste and recycling** – report a missed collection or request a new or replacement bin
- **business rates** – manage your business rates online.

Sign up online at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/myaccount](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/myaccount)

# Funding secured for Portishead Rail

**The re-opening of Portishead's railway line is back on track after the scheme received more than £31m of funding from the Department for Transport.**

The funding announcement for MetroWest Phase 1, which includes the reopening of the Portishead to Bristol rail line, was made in April.

It comes ahead of the submission of a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Government in July.

All nationally-significant infrastructure projects require a DCO before they can progress.

MetroWest Phase 1 is being led by North Somerset Council and the West of England Combined Authority on behalf of South

Gloucestershire, Bristol City and Bath and North East Somerset councils.

As well as reopening the Portishead Rail branch line, with two new stations at Portishead and at Pill, this MetroWest scheme also includes vital improvements to passenger services along the Severn Beach and Bristol to Bath Lines.

Colin Medus, head of transport and infrastructure at North Somerset Council, said: "This is a nationally-significant project which will open up the rail network to thousands of people across the region and will help relieve congestion during the rush hour periods.

"MetroWest Phase 1 is firmly on track for delivering rail services fit for the future of our region."

## Underground cables getting installed

**Underground cables are now being installed in North Somerset as part of National Grid's upgrade of the South West's electricity infrastructure.**

The 8.5km of cables are being buried underground following consultation feedback which asked National Grid to protect the views through the Mendip Hills area of outstanding national beauty (AONB).

Existing pylons will also be removed from this part of the AONB, leaving it pylon free for the first time since the 1960s. Work is due to be completed by the end of 2022.

Work is also progressing well at Churchill substation, to connect it to the nearby overhead lines and install new equipment.

Ground investigation surveys have also started along the route of the new underground cables between Nailsea and Portishead. In places where staff have to work in the road, traffic lights will be installed.



Find out more at [www.hinkleyconnection.co.uk](http://www.hinkleyconnection.co.uk) or contact National Grid on **08003 777 347** or [hinkleyconnection@nationalgrid.co.uk](mailto:hinkleyconnection@nationalgrid.co.uk)



## Climate emergency declared in North Somerset

**North Somerset is one more than 50 councils across the country to declare a 'climate emergency' following UN warnings of future catastrophe.**

The motion was unanimously passed at a council meeting in February in a bid to force through plans for more carbon reduction.

It follows the publication of a UN report which warned countries have until 2030 to take positive action to limit climate 'catastrophe'.

The motions are not legally binding but make it easier for the council to be held to account.

North Somerset Council had already adopted a low carbon reduction target, agreed with the other West of England councils, to reduce emissions by 50 per cent by 2035.

The plan will be reviewed regularly to include actions and opportunities as they arise.

Read North Somerset Council's low carbon action plan at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/climatechange](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/climatechange)





## Police enquiry service moves out of Castlewood

**Police enquiries are no longer being taken in Clevedon after the service desk was closed due to declining usage.**

Enquiry offices provide an important service in local communities but there was progressively lower usage at the Castlewood office at certain times of the week and an overall decline over the year.

Instead, more and more people are contacting the police in ways that are convenient to them, such as the telephone or online.

The Castlewood service closed in March but you can still make face-to-face police enquiries at Nailsea police station, in Pound Lane, and the Town Hall in Weston-super-Mare:

**Nailsea Police Station –**

Monday to Friday, 10am-6pm

**Weston-super-Mare Town Hall –**

Monday to Friday, 8.30am-5pm

Saturday, 9am-2.30pm

Local police officers will continue to work in local communities across North Somerset, with a focus on protecting the most vulnerable from harm.

[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)



### ADVERTISEMENT



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## Term dates for 2020/21 decided

**School term dates for the 2020/21 academic year have now been agreed.**

The school year is 195 days and includes five in-service days used for staff training.

These are:

**Term 1:**

Tuesday 1 September 2020 to Friday 23 October 2020

**Term 2:**

Monday 2 November 2020 to Friday 18 December 2020

**Term 3:**

Monday 4 January 2021 to Friday 12 February 2021

**Term 4:**

Monday 22 February 2021 to Thursday 1 April 2021

**Term 5:**

Monday 19 April 2021 to Friday 28 May 2021

**Term 6:**

Monday 7 June 2021 to Wed 21 July 2021

Foundation, trust, academy and voluntary-aided schools set their own term dates and may differ from North Somerset Council-run ones.

Check individual schools for their term dates.

Visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/termdates](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/termdates)



# Childcare for children with additional needs

**More and more childminders in North Somerset are being trained to help care for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).**

A joint project between North Somerset Council and Springboard Opportunity Group aims to develop specialist skills and confidence in supporting children with SEND alongside mainstream



children. Specialist childminders are committed to ensuring children with SEND are learning and developing in a high-quality, inclusive, home-based environment.

As well as additional training, childminders can use the services of the Springboard specialist childminder co-ordinator for advice and support.

This then gives parents of children with SEND more opportunities to access the 30 hours of pre-school childcare entitlement.

Do you have a child with special educational needs and disabilities? Find out more about what's on offer at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sendchildcare](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sendchildcare)



## Raising awareness of deafness

**Find out more about the services available to deaf and hard of hearing people during an awareness week in North Somerset.**

Deaf Awareness Week runs until Friday 10 May and various activities are planned.

These include British Sign Language story times in four schools; a services day with organisations including Hearing Dogs, Sense, Action on Hearing Loss, Citizens Advice North Somerset, Avon Fire and Rescue, and Vision North Somerset; and BSL taster sessions.

Look out in the local press and on social media for up-to-date listings, as well as [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/daw2019](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/daw2019)



# Wacky race returns to Weston

**A wacky charity race which sees bin men and women pushing wheelie bins along the prom in Weston-super-Mare returns next month.**

The National Refuse Championships can be seen on the Beach Lawns on Saturday 15 June and on-site entertainment will make it a fun family day out.

As well as the races, there will be food stalls, live music, fun fair rides, a children's zone and refreshments.

The annual event is in aid of the Alzheimer's Society and last year £21,000 was raised.

This is the third year the event has come to Weston and founder Spencer Law said: "The town has been such a great host and we see no reason to go elsewhere."

"The races are very entertaining, free to watch and it's a family-friendly event."

The reigning champions are Grist Environmental. Local team Biffa Weston were first place runners-up last year.

The event runs from 9am-5.30pm.



Find out more at [www.nationalrefusechampionships.co.uk](http://www.nationalrefusechampionships.co.uk)



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St Monica Trust

Enjoy a full and active retirement at **Sandford Station Retirement Village** in North Somerset

[www.stmonicastrust.org.uk/villages/sandford-station](http://www.stmonicastrust.org.uk/villages/sandford-station)

To find out more or book a place on an open day call **0117 919 4262**. Or visit our show home open every Thursday 10am-12noon.

Registered Charity 202151



# Enjoy a fun and free Festival of Learning

Try your hand at a range of fun activities during a new festival in Weston-super-Mare which will bring learning to life.

The first ever Festival of Learning takes place on Saturday 15 June in the Italian Gardens and Winter Gardens ballroom and will feature a host of hands-on activities for all ages.

Have a go at making slime, take part in science experiments, carry out a survey using digital and



laser technologies, build a garden wall, learn British sign language, take part in a drawing techniques workshop, try 3D printing, design a storyboard and much more.

If anyone is interested in becoming an apprentice, studying part-time or remotely, doing an evening leisure course, or being supported back into employment, Weston College staff will be available to tell you what's on offer and help you enrol.

The festival runs from 11am to 3pm on Saturday 15 June.

Register to attend the festival in advance at [www.weston.ac.uk/festivaloflearning](http://www.weston.ac.uk/festivaloflearning) or just turn up on the day. Call 01934 411 411 to find out more.



## Get the insiders' guide to local arts and culture

An insiders' guide to culture, arts and heritage in North Somerset, Bristol and beyond has launched to encourage local people to live like a tourist.



Each month, the My Bath Bristol e-newsletter will feature exclusive competitions, behind-the-scenes opportunities and special discounts to inspire residents to explore the world-class cultural and heritage attractions on their doorstep.

Sign up at [www.mybathbristol.co.uk](http://www.mybathbristol.co.uk) with your name, email address and postcode.



## Volunteers needed for Summer Reading Challenge

Volunteers are needed to help run this year's Summer Reading Challenge in North Somerset's libraries.

The annual scheme encourages children aged four to 11 to keep reading throughout the school summer holidays and have fun visiting the library.

This year's challenge runs from Saturday 13 July to Saturday 7 September and volunteers aged 14 and over are needed to talk to children about the books they have read and hand out rewards.

Flexible volunteering sessions are available and full training provided.



Do you want to help encourage children to read and have a few hours to spare?

No previous experience is necessary. To apply visit [northsomersetlibraryvolunteers.wordpress.com](http://northsomersetlibraryvolunteers.wordpress.com), email [library.volunteers@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:library.volunteers@n-somerset.gov.uk) or call 01934 426 657.

Closing date for applications is Monday 10 June.



# Hundreds of volunteers he



Adaptation and improvement officer Stephen Philp with the DIY SOS team



## Hundreds of volunteers came together in Weston-super-Mare to help transform a home into a wheelchair-friendly space for a local family.

The flagship BBC show DIY SOS: The Big Build came to the town in March and up to 100 volunteers worked 12 hours each day during the nine-day build.

The house, in the Coronation estate, got a two-storey timber frame extension on the back to make room for three wheelchairs and four hoists.

It was a joint project with North Somerset Council, who arranged planning and other permissions and also helped sort out assistive equipment.

The house belongs to the Sweet family – parents Cat and Chris and their three children, Louisa, aged 14, Max, aged 11, and six-year-old Harry.

All three children were born healthy but Harry was then diagnosed with the rare genetic condition Ehlers Danlos syndrome, which affects his joints.

In 2017, Louisa and Max were diagnosed with Friedreich's Ataxia, a rare and neurodegenerative life-limiting neuromuscular condition for which there is currently no treatment or cure.

Both Max and Lou are already part-time wheelchair users and are likely to be increasingly reliant on them as their mobility is affected in the future.

Stephen Philp, senior adaptation and improvement officer at North Somerset Council, said: "Working on such a big project demonstrates how critical close relationships between the trades and good communication are to achieve the goal within tight deadlines.

"It has been particularly pleasing to see how local contractors worked alongside national ones in responding to the challenges and they worked together to complete the project.

"Helping adults with disabilities and families with disabled children complete adaptations to their homes to maintain independence is very rewarding but does have its challenges."

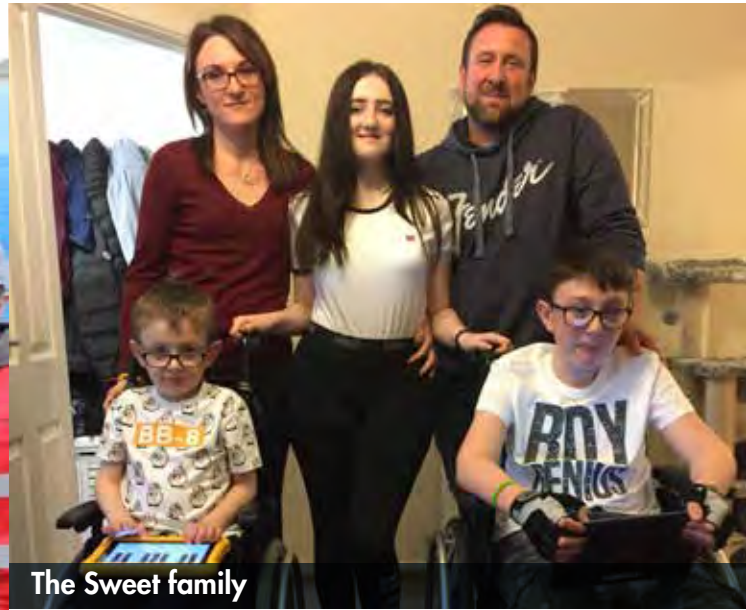
DIY SOS: The Big Build is presented by Nick Knowles and his team of Billy, Mark, Chris and Jules.

Interior designer Sophie Robinson, presenter of The Great Interior Design Challenge, worked on the inside of the house.

Producer Hamish Summers said:

*"We completely rely on the support and generosity of the local community of tradespeople and suppliers to carry out the work, to help transform the lives of truly deserving families."*

# Help transform a family home



The Sweet family

The Weston-super-Mare episode of DIY SOS: The Big Build is expected to be broadcast on BBC One next year.



## Tailored services for individual needs

Tailored services are provided by North Somerset Council to support adults with disabilities and families with disabled children to live as independently as possible.

The council provides a range of services, such as providing specialised equipment or adaptations to the home.

These adaptations might include portable ramps, handrails, stairlifts, hoists, bathing aids or more.

Assistance is available through a Disabled Facilities Grant programme, funded by central government. This grant is means tested for adults but not families with disabled children.

An assessment will first be made by an occupational therapist to decide on the level of need and identify the necessary and appropriate work.

People can also be supported to find more appropriate accommodation to meet their needs.

Stephen said: "We recognise that finding a home suitable for later life can be complicated and some difficult choices need to be made.

"Planning ahead can help you stay as independent as possible, for as long as possible."



For information about social care services available from North Somerset Council visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/adults](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/adults), call 01275 888 801 or email [care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk)

For information about care options in later life visit [www.firststopcareadvice.org.uk](http://www.firststopcareadvice.org.uk)



# Crackdown on rogue landlords to improve housing standards

**Rogue landlords who let out poor-quality properties can make life a misery for their tenants so a crackdown is now on to improve standards.**

Poor housing conditions can have a huge impact on your general health and wellbeing so if you rent privately, you have the right to ask for problems to be fixed.

Most private landlords in North Somerset do provide high-quality accommodation but some do very little to maintain their properties or listen to tenants' complaints.

North Somerset Council's private rented housing team is working hard to tackle this and is now cracking down on landlords who aren't meeting their legal responsibilities.

Earlier this year the team received £10,000 from the Government's Rogue Landlords Fund to challenge irresponsible landlords who offer unsafe or inadequate housing and improve standards in the private rented sector.

A key part of this is encouraging private landlords to become accredited to the National Landlords Code of Excellence (NLCE).

Lisa Osborn, the council's private rented housing manager, said: "No-one should have to live in an unsafe, run down or neglected property.

"We're committed to improving standards in the private rented sector across North Somerset.

"Accreditation to the NLCE means tenants can be confident the landlord has the professional expertise to provide safe, quality accommodation.

"You get access to advice and information, including regular newsletters and training events to keep up-to-date on changing legal requirements and help ensure continued professional development."

The NLCE works to ensure both landlords and tenants are clear about their obligations and responsibilities, to reduce the possibility of misunderstandings and disputes, and offering assistance and guidance where problems do arise.

Lisa added: "Our message to landlords in North Somerset is this – make sure you're accredited.

"And if you're a tenant looking to rent a property, always look for a NLCE-accredited member."

## Housing inspections

Inspections are now taking place at properties in a part of Weston-super-Mare where landlords are not accredited by the NLCE.

Officers are visiting properties to assess safety, quality and legal compliance.

If they find a hazard which is actionable, the council will use its statutory powers.

This could include issuing a formal notice of legal proceedings and/or a civil penalty if the landlord fails to complete the required work – which could result in a penalty of up to £30,000.



# Rogue landlords breaking standards

*"The rogue online reporting tool is great because I could make an anonymous complaint about the lack of fire detection and a leaking roof and I knew it would go to the right people."*

*I was always scared that if my landlord found out I'd made a complaint to the council that he would evict me. I can't afford to move anywhere else and just wanted it fixed."*

**Sarah**, tenant (not her real name)



## What powers do councils have?

More powers are now available to local councils to ensure private rented accommodation meets minimum, safe standards.

These include...

**Civil penalties** – imposed on individuals or organisations for certain housing offences.

**Rent repayment orders** – a way for tenants or the council to claim back rent or housing benefit from a landlord.

**Banning orders** – preventing those who commit certain housing offences from working in the lettings industry in the future.

**Changes to mandatory Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licensing** – properties shared by five or more people over any number of storeys must now be licensed.

Privately rented accommodation must comply with minimum energy efficiency standards.



## Report concerns

New online forms are available to make it even easier to report a problem about landlords, letting agents or a property.

Whether you are a tenant, neighbour or someone in the local community, the private rented housing team will respond to your concern.

You can report...

- overcrowding or anti-social behaviour at a privately rented property
- a neglected rental property in need of repair
- poor letting practices, such as no tenancy paperwork or poor response to repair requests
- unlicensed houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).

**Report it at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/roguelandlord](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/roguelandlord)**

All landlords (or agents) must make sure rental properties are fit for human habitation. If not, the tenant can take the landlord to court for breach of contract, who can be forced to carry out improvement works and pay compensation.

Find out more about the National Landlords Code of Excellence accreditation at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/landlordaccreditation](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/landlordaccreditation)



# Help change a future

Caring people are needed to step forward and help transform the life of a local child or young person.

Foster Care Fortnight runs from Monday 13 to Sunday 26 May and the message to potential carers in North Somerset is – we *need you*.

The awareness event was established nearly 20 years ago to raise the profile of fostering and show how it can transform lives.

There are about 230 children and young people being looked-after by foster carers in North Somerset at any one time.

These children are unable to live with their birth family for a variety of reasons.

Some might need to be looked after for just a short time, others might need care until they are ready to live independently.

Due to a shortage of foster carers in North Somerset, some children must be placed in expensive private agency foster placements.

This is extremely costly and can be very upsetting for the children and young people who might have to move far away from their families, schools and other familiar sources of support.

It can also add unnecessary stress during a time that might already be traumatic.

There are some myths about who can foster and many people do not come forward because they think they won't be accepted.

Clare McCarthy, a North Somerset Council social worker, said this isn't the case.

She said: "While fostering is a challenging and demanding role, we believe there are people in our community who'd like to step up and become foster carers.

"During Foster Care Fortnight we'd like to give you a nudge to get in touch.

"We're looking for a wide range of carers who can reflect society as a whole and we'd love to talk to anyone who's interested."

There are some set criteria, such as having some experience of caring or working with children, as well as practical issues such as having time and a spare bedroom.

But Clare added: "Even if you don't meet the criteria at the moment, we'd be happy to discuss how you might achieve this in the future.

"By coming forward and becoming a foster carer you could help change the life of a North Somerset child or young person, and really make a difference."

## Busting some fostering myths

Discover the truth behind some common fostering myths:

# by fostering



## I don't own my home

You don't need to – a safe home with a secure tenancy is fine, whether that's privately rented, owned or in shared ownership. All you need is a spare bedroom so the child or young person has a space of their own.

## I've never been a parent

While you do need some experience of working with children, you don't need to be a parent. Experience could be gained through your work or helping to look after siblings or friends' children.

## I have children still living at home

Different children have different needs. Some foster children benefit from being placed in households with other children while others don't. Fostering North Somerset will always talk to each family member to ensure a good match is made.

## I'm disabled

Every new foster carer goes through an assessment process during which any disability will be considered. If you're able to offer a safe, caring home to a foster child and can meet their needs, Fostering North Somerset would hope to take your enquiry forward.

## I can't foster because of my ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or gender

Foster carers come from all backgrounds – your ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or gender should never be considered a barrier.

## I'm single

Whether you are married, in a partnership or single – your relationship status isn't important as long as you can provide a safe, loving home.

## I'm too old

There is no upper age limit providing you can meet a child's needs. Many local carers are retired and make fantastic foster carers.

## I work full-time

Many people combine working with caring. You still need to be able to meet the needs of the foster child, though. Different fostering schemes are available if you work full-time, such as respite fostering at weekends and during holidays.

## I'm not qualified

No professional qualifications are needed as all support and training is provided.



If you think you could foster and make a difference to the life of a local child or young person, get in touch with Fostering North Somerset.

01275 888 999

[fostering@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@n-somerset.gov.uk)

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/fostering)

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

# Multi-million pound bid for Weston to



A big cash boost could be coming to Weston-super-Mare's high street following an expression of interest in a multi-million pound government pot.

A share of £675m is being made available to local councils through the Government's new Future High Streets Fund.

North Somerset Council has submitted a proposal for £10m to make significant improvements to Weston-super-Mare town centre.

The money could be used for a range of initiatives, such as improving transport networks, converting retail units into new homes or restoring historic high street buildings to create new work spaces or cultural venues.

As part of the High Street Fund, £40m of the £675m is being made available to Historic England to set up a parallel Historic Future High Street Fund – Regenerating Historic High Streets.

This fund is being launched this spring and the money will be used to create 60 new Heritage Action Zones.

North Somerset was one of the first areas in the country to gain Heritage Action Zone status and the council hopes to bid for a portion of this money.

Alex Hearn, assistant director for placemaking and growth at North Somerset Council, said: "Shopping habits are starting to change as shoppers are looking more towards a visitor experience than a purely retail one.

"As retail starts to move away from a homogenous high street, more variety is starting to emerge.

*"We are committed to continuingly seek to invest in Weston's town centre and hope that this bid forms part of that future investment."*

The Future High Streets Fund is a two-stage bidding process, with the next stage taking place in 2020.







# wn centre

## Shops in North Somerset receiving business rates cut

Small businesses in North Somerset are getting a third off their business rates this year thanks to a new government scheme being introduced by North Somerset Council.

The Government announced in its budget last autumn that UK high streets would get a £1.5bn boost through the business rates cuts.

Retail properties that have a rateable value of below £51,000 are receiving the discount, which came into effect in April.

Business rates are set by central government every year, collected by local councils and sent back to the Government.

Local councils can keep a proportion of the money paid, which is then used to help pay for local services.

Paul Batts, chairman of Weston-super-Mare Business Improvement District (BID), said: "This will help many small retailers in the area. However, the Government needs to do more to tackle online retailers if we are to preserve our town centres and specialist independent trading areas."

Julie Bisacre, businesses owner and chair of Clevedon BID said: "This is a most helpful development that will be much appreciated by independent businesses, which are clearly the lifeblood of a successful high street."

## Hundreds attend new book launch to celebrate Weston's history

More than 200 people attended the launch of a new book which celebrates Weston's heritage.

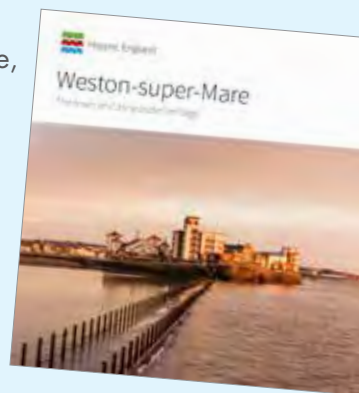
Weston-super-Mare: The town and its seaside heritage was launched in March at a sold-out event at the Blakehay Theatre.

The book is part of the Great Weston Heritage Action Zone initiative, to boost regeneration and encourage people's understanding of the historic town.

Sir Laurie Magnus, chair of Historic England, said: "Historic England is proud to launch this fascinating new book.

"It explains the importance of Weston's architectural heritage, from its Georgian seaside structures to its distinctive crescents and Victorian villas.

*"These special places are not only a source of local pride but also have a vital role to play in making Weston more attractive and prosperous."*



**Weston-super-Mare: The town and its seaside heritage** is available to buy from local shops and online, priced £14.99.



Sir Laurie Magnus, Chair of Historic England and authors Dr Kate Hudson-McAulay, Allan Brodie, Johanna Roethe



# Your New Look Excel Services

Changes have been made to some routes and timetables on First's Excel bus network following feedback from customers.

The changes, which began on 28 April, are designed to provide faster, more punctual and reliable services across the network.

All customers are advised to check timetables carefully before travelling.

[www.firstgroup.com/excel](http://www.firstgroup.com/excel)



Download the First Bus Travel App for live times and tickets or visit the Bristol bus station travel shop to pick up paper timetables.

## X1

No longer serves Long Ashton and instead provides a more direct and quicker journey for most customers travelling between Weston-super-Mare and Bristol.

Long Ashton customers are now served by the X2, X7 and X9. There are minor timetable changes for this service.

## X1X \*new\*

A new express service operates Monday to Friday between Weston-super-Mare and Bristol. This commuter-friendly service provides limited stops at peak times, giving customers a direct option for peak weekday travel.

## X2

Significant changes have been made to the route and frequency of this service. It now operates via Locking Castle, West Wick, Congresbury, Yatton, Claverham, Cleeve and Long Ashton. It operates hourly throughout the day, providing important local links from Monday to Saturday.

## X3 / X3a / X4

Timetable changes have been made to improve reliability and punctuality. Refer to timetables before travelling.

## X5

All journeys now operate via Sheepway following customer feedback. The 0625 from Portishead to Weston-super-Mare has been removed due to low customer demand and several other timetable changes have been made.



## X6

Some timetable changes have been made. Monday to Saturday evening journeys and all journeys on Sundays and public holidays now operate as X7 rather than X6.

## X7

Significant changes include an additional hourly evening and Sunday daytime service, replacing those previously operated by the X6. The X7 no longer covers Yatton, West Wick and Locking Castle as these are now served by the X2. The revised route means more of Clevedon will be served.



List of Routes and Destinations in North Somerset area

- X1** Weston-super-Mare to Bristol via Worle, Congresbury, Backwell, Flax Bourton, Ashton Gate and Hotwells
- X1X** Weston-super-Mare to Bristol **Express** via Worle then non-stop on M5 and Portway
- X2** Weston-super-Mare to Bristol via West Wick, Congresbury, Yatton, Claverham, Backwell, Flax Burton, Long Ashton, Ashton Gate and Hotwells
- X3** Portishead to Bristol via Portishead Marina, Abbots Leigh, Bower Ashton, Ashton Gate and Hotwells
- X3A** Portishead to Bristol via Portishead Marina, Easton-in-Gordano, Pill, Abbots Leigh, Bower Ashton, Ashton Gate and Hotwells
- X4** Portishead to Bristol via Easton-in-Gordano, Pill, Abbots Leigh, Bower Ashton, Ashton Gate and Hotwells
- X5** Weston-super-Mare to Cribbs Causeway via Worle, M5, Clevedon, Weston-in-Gordano, Portishead and M5
- X6** Clevedon to Bristol via Tickenham, Failand, Ashton Gate and Hotwells
- X7** Clevedon to Bristol via Tickenham, Nailsea, Wraxall, Long Ashton, Ashton Gate and Hotwells
- X8** Nailsea to Bristol via Backwell, Flax Bourton, Ashton Gate and Hotwells
- X9** Nailsea to Bristol via Wraxall, Long Ashton, Ashton Gate and Hotwells



**X8**  
The service operates every 60 minutes, Monday to Saturday daytime, between Bristol and Nailsea, and via the Long Ashton by-pass and Backwell. There is a revised route around Nailsea and customers are advised to check timetables before travelling.

**X9**  
There is a revised route around Nailsea, customers are advised to check this before travelling. There are a number of minor timetable adjustments made to improve overall punctuality.

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# Speak up to help stop crime

## Do you know any vulnerable people who might be taken advantage of by criminals?

Crimestoppers charity is running a national campaign to raise awareness of 'county lines' and how vulnerable people might be exploited – and that speaking up can help keep your community safe.

County lines is the term used for organised illegal drug dealing networks, usually controlled by a person using a single telephone number or 'deal line'.



They operate from major UK cities and then distribute illegal drugs across rural and suburban counties via 'runners'.

Vulnerable children and adults are recruited to transport drugs and cash all over the country so

the criminals behind the operation remain detached and are less likely to be detected.

It is often associated with other serious crimes such as sexual exploitation, violence, money laundering and human trafficking.

North Somerset Council works with Avon and Somerset Police to address these issues and regular partner meetings take place.

Howard Potheary, community safety manager and chair of North Somerset Serious Organised Crime Disruption Panel, said:

*"Better information sharing between the council, police and partner agencies is providing increased opportunities for us to take action together to safeguard vulnerable people, disrupt organised criminal groups and bring offenders to justice."*

Early intervention is essential to counter the problem so Crimestoppers is encouraging people to step forward and report it, while remaining 100 per cent anonymous.

## How does it work?

Criminal gangs establish a base in a location and sometimes take over the home of a vulnerable adult by force or coercion, known as 'cuckooing'.

Victims are often drug users but can also include older people, those suffering from mental or physical health problems, female sex workers, single mums or those living in poverty. They may also suffer from other forms of addiction, such as alcoholism.

The criminals then target vulnerable local children and adults through grooming to become drug sellers.

Once someone is involved with a criminal gang, it becomes difficult for them to escape.

The police rely on the public to report these issues.

Signs that cuckooing might be going on inside a property include an increase in people entering and leaving, an increase in cars or bikes outside, a possible increase in anti-social behaviour, increased litter outside, signs of drugs use and a lack of healthcare visitors.

**Mr P** was a vulnerable single person living a very secluded life in his ground floor flat on a local estate.

He was alcohol and drug dependant and struggled to manage simple tasks but had not come to the attention of police or local services so did not get any support.

With no family or friends, he was an ideal candidate for cuckooing.

County line runners find suitable premises through contacts with local users or drug dealers and offer 'freebies' to the occupants in return.

Mr P's flat was overrun, his keys taken from him, and he witnessed assaults in his home.

Local police and his social landlord visited the flat and realised what was happening.

Mr P was initially reluctant to share any information because of a fear of reprisals but police served a 'cuckoo' notice to show the unwanted occupants that the police were interested in the property.

Over the next few weeks there were police visits, arrests were made and weapons seized, without putting Mr P at risk.

Civil legislation was then implemented to ban the individuals from entering the town, Mr P was moved to suitable accommodation to avoid a similar situation happening again, and he was given support in his daily life and to help tackle his addiction.

## Are you worried a young person is being groomed by drug gangs?

Things to watch out for:

- are they often missing from school or home?
- do they travel alone to far off places?
- do they suddenly have lots of money, clothes or mobile phones?
- are they receiving more calls or texts than usual?
- are they carrying or selling drugs?
- are they carrying weapons or know people that have access to weapons?
- do they socialise with older or controlling people?
- do they have unexplained injuries?
- are they very reserved or seem like they have something to hide?
- do they seem scared?
- are they self-harming?

**CrimeStoppers.**

**0800 555 111**

100% anonymous. Always.

**Find out more about these issues at:**

[www.sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk](http://www.sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk)

[www.childline.org.uk/get-support](http://www.childline.org.uk/get-support)

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

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines)

Call Crimestoppers charity 100 per cent anonymously on **0800 555 111**

or [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

 Crimestoppersinthe WestCountry

 @WestCountry\_CS

Fearless is Crimestoppers' youth programme, educating teachers and youth workers about crime issues. Young people can report concerns anonymously at [www.fearless.org](http://www.fearless.org)



# Operator chosen to run innovative food and drink centre

An operator has been chosen to run the unique food and drink innovation centre now being built in Weston-super-Mare.

Nottingham-based The Food and Drink Forum will run The Food Works<sup>SW</sup> on North Somerset Council's behalf, after it was granted a 15-year contract in March.

The £11.8m centre is being built in a 10-acre Food Enterprise Zone, within Junction 21 Enterprise Area.

The new contract began at the beginning of May so The Food and Drink Forum now has the opportunity to influence the centre's fit-out, sign-up occupiers and take bookings ready for when it opens in spring next year.

The centre will provide specialist facilities, technical and business support for food and drink manufacturers across the South West.

It will help new businesses to get started and established producers to innovate and grow, as well as creating about 250 new jobs.

The centre will include:

- 12 food grade business units to lease
- four product development areas
- exhibition, training and workshop space
- meeting rooms and a café.

It is funded by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership, through the Local Growth Fund, and is the only one of its kind in the South West.

The Food and Drink Forum has more than 14 years' experience of food grade premises and facilities management.

It currently operates two successful food parks in the East Midlands and an extensive business support programme.



Do you run a food or drink business and would you like to know more about the opportunities available at The Food Works<sup>SW</sup>?

Do you want to know more about the support and opportunities available to businesses in the wider Junction 21 Enterprise Area?

Contact North Somerset Council's economic development team on **01934 426 266** or email **business@n-somerset.gov.uk**  
**www.foodworks-sw.co.uk**



Construction starts, seen here in March



# Celebrate 150 years of Clevedon Pier



**Help celebrate the 150th birthday of Clevedon's historic Grade 1-listed pier with a fun-filled event this month.**

The Party at the Pier takes place on bank holiday Monday 27 May to celebrate the historic milestone.

Enjoy live music and dancing, explore the pier's archive and enjoy family activities from noon to 6pm.

A ticket-only evening event will follow, with live music and fireworks.

Clevedon Pier opened in 1869 to receive paddle steamer passengers from Devon and Wales.

Special events will continue throughout 2019 to mark the anniversary, such as a Salsa night, wine tasting, talks and presentations.

A souvenir brochure is also being produced and there will be a public memories section of the visitors centre, with people sharing their stories and images of the pier.

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

 @clevedonpierg1

 clevedonpierg1



## Spring season

### at Theatre Shop

Clevedon's Theatre Shop has re-opened for another season to provide a mix of thought-provoking and fun entertainment.

Here's what's on at the Queens Square shop....

#### May

**Tuesday 14 – Thursday 16, and Tuesday 21 – Thursday 23, 7.30pm**  
**Living Quiz with Living Spit**

A quiz with a twist – every question is acted, sung, mimed or danced. For age 12+.

**Friday 17, 7.30pm**

**Hot Flushes**

by Documental Theatre

A Country and Western musical about BHS and the pension crisis. For age 12+.

**Thursday 30, 7.30pm**

**Passionate Machine**

by Rosy Carrick

Rosy attempts to rewrite history and save herself with a time machine. For age 12+.

#### June

**Thursday 6, 7.30pm**

**Very Modern**

by Sarah Corbett

A homage to the modernist age and an ideology for a better, brighter future. For age 12+.

**Friday 7, 7.30pm**

**Sing Happy** by Kate Dimbleby

Classic popular songs with stories about the human voice. For age 10+.

**Friday 14, 7.30pm**

**Poet Laureate** by Luke Wright

Luke Wright is on a mission to reinvent his poetry, to unite rather than divide. For age 14+.

**Saturday 15, 7.30pm**

**An Evening of Light Opera and Show Tunes**

with Teresa De Roberto

A musical journey from Puccini to Lloyd Webber. For age 10+.

All tickets £12. Group bookings and family discounts available.

For information and tickets visit [www.theatreshop.org.uk](http://www.theatreshop.org.uk) or call 0333 666 3366.





## Stunning views from Sand Point

### Walk information

**Distance:** about 4 miles

**Difficulty:** medium to hard: narrow, rugged paths, a couple of wooden stiles. Wear suitable footwear

**Duration:** allow 2-2.5 hours at a leisurely pace

**Map:** OS 153 Explorer

### How to get there

**Start at map ref:** ST332646

**By car:** Two car parks in Sand Bay have recently been improved. The Sand Road (bus terminus) car park – where this walk starts – has been resurfaced and redesigned. Drainage has also been improved and electric vehicle charging points installed. Charges are 20p for 30 mins, 50p for one hour, £1 for two hours, and £2 all day

**By bus:** Service 1

**Refreshments:** Available from the Sand Road car park kiosk (open 10am-5pm every day, weather permitting), and Sand Bay Tea Rooms on Beach Road

Sand Point is an extension of the Mendip Hills and walkers trekking across the peninsular will be rewarded with wonderful views across the Bristol Channel.

Head onto the beach from the Sand Road car park. The sand dunes are man-made sea defences, installed in 1983/4 after a major storm in 1981.

More than 600,000 tonnes of sand was dredged up from the Severn Estuary to raise the beach by about three metres. Fencing was also installed to help stabilise the dunes and encourage vegetation.

Head north on the beach, towards Sand Point. The sand becomes



grassy and it can get a bit muddy so you might want to step up onto firmer ground, next to the trees.

You will come to a wall, the remains of concrete forts which were used as a line of defence during World War 2 by local troops and the Home Guard.

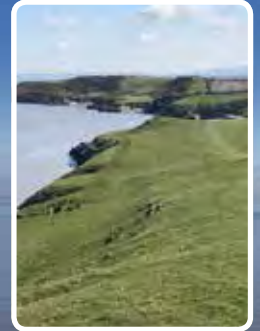
Walk alongside the wall and at the end there are a couple of steps leading to a path and the National Trust car park.



Take the steep steps on your left, signposted Sand Point. At the top of the steps the path forks. Take the left-hand route, through the wooden fence and gate at the top.

Keep going on this rugged track past the trig point, which continues on until the end of the peninsular.





The path is quite rocky and slippery in places so take extra care. It also becomes quite narrow so be courteous to walkers going in the opposite direction.

Sand Point is one of just three places in England where volcanic rock can be found within a layer of limestone.

On a clear day you can see for miles around.

On the return leg, keep to the left to walk on the other side of the peninsular. It's a well-trodden path, with Middle Hope ahead of you.

Exit the path over a wooden stile, above a pebbly beach.

Continue up and over the grassy expanse. It has been grazed by local farmers since the Middle Ages and stock grazing still takes place so keep dogs under effective control.

You will have far-reaching views over the mudflats, sand banks, rocky platforms and saltmarsh which form the Site of Special Scientific Interest.

If you veer up and over the grassland, you'll be above the coastal path below you. Head to the top of the highest mound for wonderful views.

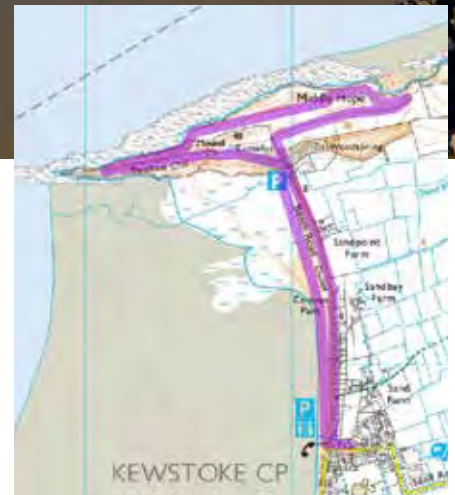
Start veering downhill and see the remnants of an old stone hut on your left. This hut, from the 1850s, was used by shrimp fishermen.

Continue onwards and you'll see three more pebbly beaches ahead of you. Walk to the first one, which is another picturesque place to rest.

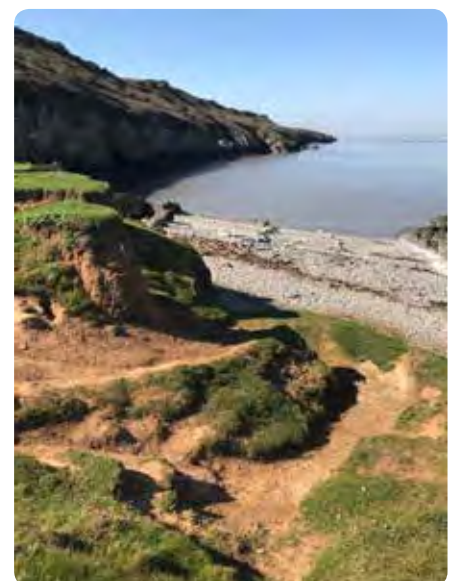
Ahead of you is a drystone wall and a stile. You can continue through here to explore more of Middle Hope.

However for this walk, cross back over the headland towards the wire fence.

Continue with the fence on your left-hand side. Eventually you'll reach a stile, signposted to the car park. Follow these steep steps down and you can return to Beach Road and your starting point.



This map is for guidance only and walkers should carry and use the OS 1:25000 map when out. © Crown copyright and database rights 2019 Ordnance Survey 100023397. You are not permitted to copy, sub-license, distribute or sell this data to third parties in any form.





## LOCAL EVENTS

### May

#### Tuesday 7

Trinity Singers concert as part of North Somerset Arts Week 7.30pm, Christchurch, Chapel Hill, Clevedon. A free concert, with Handel's Zadok the Priest as the centrepiece. [www.trinitysingers.co.uk](http://www.trinitysingers.co.uk)

#### Saturday 18

Bohemian Rhapsody screening at Long Ashton Community Cinema 7.15pm, Community Centre, Keedwell Hill. £5 a ticket from [www.LA-Cinema.uk](http://www.LA-Cinema.uk) (also The Breadwinner on Saturday 15 June and Some Like it Hot on Friday 12 July)

#### Sunday 19

Blagdon Village Fete 1-4.30pm, Blagdon Court, High Street, Blagdon. Everyone welcome but please leave dogs at home.

### June

#### Saturday 22

Butcome Midsummer Fete 2pm, in the gardens of the Old Rectory. Stalls, games, attractions and refreshments. 01761 462 812

#### Sunday 23

Tickenham Open Gardens Day Villagers have got together to open as many gardens as possible for one day. See flowers, fruit and vegetables as see chickens and rabbits, water features and more. Entry £3.50 for adults, £1 for children, under 5s free, including a booklet and map. Any profits will be shared between the charities Alive and the Brown Rock Woodland.

## HEALTH AND FITNESS

### Monday

Stroke Communication Group (E) 10am, Summer Lane Care Home, Diamond Batch. 01275 870 328

Positive Step Coffee Morning (2) 10am-noon, Locking Castle Church Hall, Jasmine Way. [www.positivestep.org.uk](http://www.positivestep.org.uk)

Arthritis Care Weston Branch (2) 2pm, St Saviours Hall, Locking Rd. 01934 622 808

Croquet Club (E, and Weds and Fri, April-Oct) 2-4pm, Clarence Park East, Weston-super-Mare. Just turn up or call 01934 413 515 [clarenceparkcroquet@gmail.com](mailto:clarenceparkcroquet@gmail.com)

Weston-super-Mare Fibromyalgia Group (4) 2pm, Our Lady of Lourdes church hall, Baytree Road, Worle. [wsmfibro@gmail.com](mailto:wsmfibro@gmail.com) [www.wsmfi](http://www.wsmfi)

Myalgic Encephalopathy/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Support Group (4) 1.30pm, The Sub Station, St Andrew's Parade, Weston-super-Mare. [help.me.wsm@gmail.com](mailto:help.me.wsm@gmail.com)

Qigong (E) 7.30-9pm, Locking Village Hall. 07913 922 063 [jan.qigong@gmail.com](mailto:jan.qigong@gmail.com)

### Tuesdays

Western Active Stroke Group (E) 10am, Worlebury Golf Club. 01934 519 266

Somerset Cancer Care Support Group (E) 10am, Summer Lane Care Home, Diamond Batch. 0800 731 4608

Dance fitness (E) 10am, Clevedon Triangle Club. £4. 01275 544 472

Walking Football (E) 10-11am, Weston Football Club. £2 per session. 07970 681 178

DIAL (Disability Information and Advice Line) (E) 11am-3pm (also Thursdays). Answer machine at all other times. 01934 419 426 [www.westondial.co.uk](http://www.westondial.co.uk)

Golden Oldies sing and stretch classes. Venues in Clevedon, Portishead, Weston-super-Mare, Pill and Nailsea. 01761 470 006 [www.golden-oldies.org.uk](http://www.golden-oldies.org.uk)

Stroke Group (E) noon, Parish Wharf Leisure Centre, Portishead. 07899 754 937

Fibro Friends WSM – Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Support Group (2) 11am, 1 in 4 People, Oxford Street, Weston [www.fibrofriendswsm.co.uk](http://www.fibrofriendswsm.co.uk)

Backwell table tennis club (and Thurs). Contact for details – [jeanetteanderson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jeanetteanderson@hotmail.co.uk) or 07960 041 104

Cancer Rehabilitation class (E) 2-3pm, Hutton Moor leisure centre, Weston-super-Mare. 07899 754 937

Weston Macular Support Group (2) 2pm, Lauriston Hotel, Weston. 01934 516 627

Weston-super-Mare Breatheasy Club (3) Healthy Living Centre, Lonsdale Avenue, Weston. Support for people living with a lung disease.

Cancer Rehabilitation class (E) 3-4pm, Hands Stadium, Davis Lane, Clevedon. £1.50 per class. 07800 743 305

Nailsea and District Footpath Group (E) and Thu (E), Sun (2,3), Sat (4). Range of walking difficulties. [www.nfpg.org.uk](http://www.nfpg.org.uk) or 01275 810 067

Bipolar UK (2) 7.30pm, Room 4, Victoria Methodist Church, Station Road, Weston. 0845 434 9915

Tuesday Badminton club (E, term time) 8-10pm, Broadoak School, Weston-super-Mare. [johnrudall@hotmail.com](mailto:johnrudall@hotmail.com)

### Wednesdays

Ashcombe Park Bowling Club (E) and Sat) 10am-noon, Ashcombe Park, Weston. 01934 522 779

Stroke Communication Group (A) 10am, Methodist Church Hall, Silver Street, Nailsea. 01275 870 328

Woodspring Indoor Bowls Club (E) noon-2pm (and every Sat 8.30-10.30am) 236 Milton Road, Weston-super-Mare. 07709 682 696

Women's Action Group (WAGS) 12.30-2pm, 35 Boulevard, Weston-super-Mare. Women-only group for those who need help with addiction. 01934 427 940

Petanque (French boules) (E, and Sundays at 11am) 1pm, Clarence Park bowling club. All ages welcome. 01934 429 563 or 07873 768 127 or just meet at main gate by clubhouse.

NHS Stop Smoking Café (E) 6pm, Tesco café, Weston. 01275 546 744

Weston Area National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (2) 6.30-8.30pm, The Campus, Locking Castle, Weston. [www.nras.org.uk](http://www.nras.org.uk), 01934 620 583

Nailsea and Backwell Diabetes Support Group (2) 7-9pm, Methodist Church Hall, Silver Street. [nailsea.diabetes@gmail.com](mailto:nailsea.diabetes@gmail.com)

Bogs of Somerset Hash House Harriers (E) 7.15pm, various locations. See [www.bristolhash.org.uk/bogs](http://www.bristolhash.org.uk/bogs) 079 6649 5086 or 01275 874 671

### Thursdays

YouTree Cancer Support Group (E) 10am, Lauriston Hotel, Knightstone Rd, Weston. 07932 143 452

FUCHSIA Cancer Support Group (E) 10am, Night Jar pub, Worle. 07896 699 627

Friendship Group (E) 10am-noon, Worlebury Golf Club. For people with long-term illness, carers also welcome. 01934 823 415





**Badders Badminton Group** (E) 10am-noon, Strode Leisure Centre. 01179 682 461

**Walking Football** (E) 10.30-11.30am, Hand Stadium, Clevedon. 01275 878 052

**Wrington Vale Croquet Club** (E, April-Oct) 2.30pm, Wrington Recreation Ground, Silver Street. 01934 862 838

**Parkinson's UK Weston Branch** (1) 2.30pm, St Saviour's Hall, Locking Rd. 01934 813 547/ 625 633

**Portishead Macular Help Group** (4) 2.30pm, Folk Hall. 01275 845 238

**Weston Osteoporosis Support Group Meets** 5 times a year (March, May, July, September and November), in the Lecture Theatre, The Academy, Weston General Hospital. Information about local services and practical matters for people with osteoporosis. 01934 415 096 moraine7@hotmail.co.uk

**Diabetes UK (Weston)** (1) 7.30pm, Waverley Suite, Weston Hospital Academy [also - quiz night (2) Social Club, Devonshire Road] 01934 628 985

**South Avon Canoe Club** (E, Oct-March) 8.15-10pm, Churchill Swimming Pool. Kit provided All are welcome. southavoncanoecub@gmail.com www.sacc.co.uk

## Fridays

**Partially Sighted and Blind Club** (E) 10.15am-2pm, Pembroke Court, Elton Rd, Clevedon. 01275 219 730

**Long Ashton Bowling Club** (E, April-Sept) 6pm, Community Centre, Keedwell Hill, Long Ashton. No previous experience necessary. 01275 853 885

**Portishead Stroke Drop-In Centre** (1) 10.30am, Clarence House, High Street. 01275 818 492

## Saturdays

**Parkinson's UK North West Somerset branch meeting** (2) 10.30am-12.15pm, St Francis Church Hall, Nailsea. 01275 855 524

## Sundays

**Weston Ability FC** (E) 11am-noon, @Worle, New Bristol Road, Weston. Football club for ages 8 and up with special needs. 07876 064 439

## STAY STEADY CLASSES

**Age UK Somerset** runs classes across the area for anyone aged 50 and over, including Movement to Music, seated yoga, Stretch and Flex, Tai Chi, Boccia, and chair-based Flexercise sessions.

Classes cater for all abilities. To view the whole programme visit [www.ageuksomerset.org.uk/somerset](http://www.ageuksomerset.org.uk/somerset) or contact Nikki Smith on 07530 777 895 or [nikki.smith@ageuksomerset.org.uk](mailto:nikki.smith@ageuksomerset.org.uk)

## DANCE

### Mondays

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

**Latin and jive** (E) (absolute beginners 1-2pm, next steps 2.15pm) St Peter's Church Hall, Clevedon. £5. 07940 823 581

**Sequence, Ballroom and Latin Tea dance** (E) 2-4.30pm, St George's Community Centre, Willow Close, Weston-super-Mare. 07437 203 642

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

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

**Fine Lines Dancing** (E) 8-9pm, Folk Hall, Portishead. £5 a class. Shelleyanne.douglas@gmail.com

### Tuesdays

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

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

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

**Abanico Salsa Classes** (E) 7.30-10.30pm (3 classes, beginners to improvers) Kenn Village Hall. Call in advance. 07971 565 406

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Wednesdays

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

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

**Total beginners sequence and ballroom** (E) noon-1pm, Kewstoke Village Hall. 07760 176 747

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

**Latin and jive** (E) (absolute beginners 7-8pm, next steps 8.15pm) St Peter's Church Hall, Clevedon. £5. 07940 823 581

**Easy Strollers line dancing** (E) beginners 7-8pm, 2nd Clevedon Scout Hall, Coleridge Vale Road North  
**50s and 60s rock 'n' roll** (E) 8pm-late, Tavern Inn the Town, Regent Street, Weston-super-Mare. 01934 412 826

**Social dances** (2, 4) 8-10.30pm, Grand Atlantic Hotel, Weston. Regular social dances on Wednesdays, with monthly dances on Fridays and Saturdays. See [www.mthdancing.com](http://www.mthdancing.com) for dates, or call 07711 548 924 or 01934 518 750.

### Thursdays

**Irish Set, English and Scottish Country Dance** (E) 10am-noon, North Weston Village Hall, Portishead. £5. 01275 847 909.

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

**Yatton Sequence Dance Club** (E) 2-4.30pm, Claverham Village Hall. 01275 851 221  
**Egyptian Bellydance** (E) (term time only) 6.45-7.45pm, St Saviours Church Hall, Locking Road, Weston-super-Mare. 01275 855 016

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

## Fridays

**Sequence, Ballroom, and Latin Tea dance** (E) 2-4.30pm, Kewstoke Village Hall. 07760 176 747

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

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

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

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

## Saturdays

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

## Sundays

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

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

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



# Could you complete the ultimate obstacle cour

**Do you want to get your heart pumping and be one of the first to try a new ultimate obstacle course on Weston-super-Mare's beach later this year?**

Extreme Amphibirun is a brand-new event on the town's seafront and it debuts on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September with competitors testing their personal fitness, courage, determination, teamwork and camaraderie.

It's designed as a challenge, not just a race, for anyone aged 16 or over to tackle at their own pace, whatever their ability.

Owner and founder Adam Turner said: "Extreme Amphibirun prides itself on its approach of blending an obstacle course with iconic seaside locations.

"This unique spin on the mud-based running challenges is creating big waves in the obstacle course racing world.

*"We chose Weston-super-Mare ultimately because of its size and location on the west coast."*

## **What does Extreme Amphibirun involve?**

A 10km course packed with 25 world-class obstacles, including sea entry (weather dependant).

## **Who can race?**

Competitors must be prepared to run, climb, haul, leap, slide and crawl as they stampede around the course.

There is a separate mini 2km course for eight to 15-year-olds.



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# A year of adrenaline-packed sport ahead

Lots more sporting events are taking place across North Somerset this year, whether you want to join in yourself or just watch from the sidelines...

## Saturday 11 – Sunday 12 May **National Water Ski Races, Weston-super-Mare**

Competitors from across the country will take part in this prestigious national competition. Three races will be held each day.  
[www.bsw.org.uk](http://www.bsw.org.uk)

## Saturday 3 August **Mendip Marauder ultra marathon**

Run 30 or 50 miles along the Mendip Way from Frome or Wells to Uphill beach.  
[www.albionrunning.org/mendip-marauder](http://www.albionrunning.org/mendip-marauder)

## Sunday 9 June **Regional Water Ski Races, Weston-super-Mare**

Topping speeds of 60mph, finalists from across the South West will go head-to-head.  
[www.bsw.org.uk](http://www.bsw.org.uk)

## Saturday 17 August **Portishead Triathlon**

Swim in the open air pool, run up to Battery Point and cycle around the hillside.  
[www.pac-tri.com](http://www.pac-tri.com)



## Saturday 6 July **Clevedon Swim Run**

Enjoy multiple swimming and running laps along Clevedon's historic seafront. Swim 1.2km in your running gear and run 5.5km in your swimming gear – no changing in-between.  
[www.clevedonmarinelake.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.clevedonmarinelake.co.uk/whats-on)

## Saturday 24 – Sunday 25 August **401 Festival of Running, Portishead**

Open to all ages and abilities. Races include a 5km, 10km, a half marathon, or an additional 6.1km for those who want to complete a total of 26.2 miles over the weekend. Children's races too, along with food, bars and entertainment. Organised by 401 marathon runner Ben Smith, to raise money for the 401 Foundation.  
[www.the401challenge.co.uk/events](http://www.the401challenge.co.uk/events)

## Sunday 14 July **Great Weston Ride**

A 57-mile challenge bike ride from Bristol to Weston-super-Mare, through the Mendips and across the Somerset Levels.  
[www.greatwestonride.com](http://www.greatwestonride.com)

## Saturday 20 July **Clevedon Aquathlon**

A swim followed by a run along Clevedon's seafront. Complete it by yourself or in relay with a friend. Novice and sprint distances available.  
[www.clevedonmarinelake.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.clevedonmarinelake.co.uk/whats-on)

## Friday 18 – Sunday 20 October **Weston Beach Race**

Recognised as the biggest motorsport event on the UK, Weston Beach Race returns for its 37th year. Amateur and professional riders competing together over two days.  
[www.rhlactivities.com](http://www.rhlactivities.com)

### How much does entry cost?

Early bird tickets cost £49, a youth ticket is £19, and an elite ticket is £49. Prices correct at time of *Life* going to print. Check the event website for latest offers, discounts and pricing.



Teams of 10 or more will receive a 10 per cent discount on tickets.

Sign up at [www.amphibirun.co.uk](http://www.amphibirun.co.uk)

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



# Are you aware of mental health issues?

Everyone needs a support network to connect, offload, share, belong and laugh so a new group has launched in North Somerset to help promote this.

Community group AWARE aims to highlight the importance of wellbeing and maintaining good mental health and will do this by organising feel-good events and creating days of positivity.

The first event is the Feelgood Festival, at the Salthouse pub in Clevedon, on Saturday 18 May.

It starts at 9am with a taster outdoor swimming session and activities from 11am.

The festival is part of national Mental Health Awareness Week and all money raised will go to mental health service users in North Somerset.

AWARE is open to all members of the public as well as people who have first-hand experience of living with mental health problems, whether having the illness themselves or care related.



Find out more by emailing [awarenorth@gmail.com](mailto:awarenorth@gmail.com), call 01275 885 154 or visit the Facebook page.

AwareNS



# Supporting good mental health among men

A new group has launched in North Somerset to help tackle the silent crisis in men's mental health.

Money worries, stress at work or the death of a loved one can affect our mental health at any point in our lives.

However, recent data shows that men in particular have high rates of mental health issues and suicide is the biggest killer of young and middle-aged men locally and across the UK.

To combat this, a new Male Health Stakeholder Group has launched to tackle these issues and wider health inequalities among the male population, such as lower life expectancy.

The group will meet four times a year in Weston-super-Mare and is supported by North Somerset Council with help from Community Connect, an information, advice and guidance service for people aged 50 and over.



To find out more or attend a meeting email [stefania.rulli@curo-group.co.uk](mailto:stefania.rulli@curo-group.co.uk) or call 01934 888 803



# Funding for sustainable travel facilities

Businesses, schools and community organisations in North Somerset can now apply for up to £3,000 of funding for new facilities and initiatives to promote sustainable travel.

Grants are available for schemes which encourage people to leave their cars at home – whether to cycle, walk or car share.

This brings benefits to the organisation, by improving staff productivity and having a cleaner and greener reputation, and also to staff, by enhancing their health

and wellbeing and giving them a cheaper and easier commute.

The scheme is funded by the Department for Transport's Access Fund for Sustainable Travel and grants must be at least 50:50 match-funded by the organisation.

Thousands of pounds are already being spent locally...



**St Anne's Church Academy**

Scooter parking has been installed at St. Anne's Church Academy in West Wick after it received £500.

The storage is part of the school's wider sustainable travel plan to help families travel actively.

School business leader Helen Burge said: "Without this funding, it might have taken a couple of years to save for and during this time other priorities might have superseded the original plan."

The school hopes its sustainable travel plan will also encourage families to opt for alternatives to short car journeys.



**eat:Festivals**

eat:Festivals – which runs popular food and drink festivals across North Somerset – received £2,700 to encourage walking and cycling to their events.

Temporary cycle parking, free bike check-ups, information about sustainable travel and freebies were given as rewards for cycling.

Festival organiser Bev Milner-Simonds said: "The grant enabled us to encourage people who would usually drive to walk and cycle, therefore reducing traffic and helping people be more active."



**Paneltech**

Design and manufacturing company Paneltech received £3,000 towards installing a shower and changing facility at their Clevedon site.

Employees can now cycle or run to the office, or take part in lunchtime activity, and shower before starting work.

Designer Will Passey said: "This allow us to promote a cycle to work policy and help increase staff fitness."

Organisations have until Friday 31 May to apply.

Download an application form from [www.travelwest.info/businesses/north-somerset](http://www.travelwest.info/businesses/north-somerset)



# Helping people live indepe

## Free on-street parking is available across North Somerset to disabled people with serious mobility problems.

The national Blue Badge scheme helps eligible people park closer to their destination – whether as a driver or passenger – to make it easier for them to access local shops and services.

The scheme is administered locally by North Somerset Council and Sarah Shaw, the strategic lead for Blue Badges at the council, said:

“We are keen to help people live independently in the community despite the daily challenges which can arise from having a disability.

“We support the national Blue Badge parking scheme as it provides some assistance to people who find walking any distance extremely difficult.



“The badge allows them to park more conveniently so it makes life a little easier by reducing the distance to shops and services.”

*Life found out more...*

## What are Blue Badges?

The national Blue Badge scheme aims to help disabled people with severe mobility problems to access goods and services by allowing them to park on-street close to their destination.

Blue Badges are available to eligible disabled people as both passengers or drivers.

You can also apply if you have a child with a health condition that affects their mobility.

Fast-track applications can also be processed for someone who is terminally ill, to help make the final weeks of their life easier.

Blue badges are not a licence to park anywhere, though. If you park where it would cause an obstruction or danger to other road users you could be fined, receive a penalty charge notice or have your vehicle removed.

## Who grants Blue Badges?

Nationally, the Department for Transport sets out the framework for the scheme, such as the eligibility criteria, maximum fee, length of issue, how the badge should be displayed, and more.

The day-to-day running of the scheme is carried out locally by North Somerset Council. Local authorities follow national guidance to do this.

## How do I get one?

Badges are only given to those who meet the eligibility criteria. Check and apply online at [www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge](http://www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge)

If you don't have access to a computer, free internet access is available in local libraries.

You must answer the questions honestly and agree to abide by the rules of the scheme, as well as submit a passport-sized photo, supply supporting documents and pay the fee.



# ndently in their community



## Using your Blue Badge

It is down to you to use the Blue Badge properly and it is a criminal offence for you or anyone else to misuse it.

You must never give the badge to friends or family to allow them to benefit from the parking concessions.

You must never use a copy of the badge or attempt to alter the details on it.

The badge remains the property of the council and it can ask for it to be returned if it's misused. This misuse could also lead to a £1,000 fine.

If you are using the badge as a passenger, it is your responsibility to make sure the driver is aware of the rules surrounding the scheme.

## Organisations that transport disabled people

Organisations that care for and transport disabled people who would have qualified for a Blue Badge in their own right may apply for an organisational one.

This badge can be used while transporting eligible disabled people but cannot be used at other times.

If employees use the badge when there are no eligible passengers in the vehicle they could face a fine of up to £1,000.



North Somerset Council then carries out checks during the application stage to ensure no badges are obtained fraudulently.

You may need to have an independent assessment to demonstrate your difficulty in walking.

Badges last for three years and there is a £10 fee, which is also charged for lost, stolen or damaged badges.

Allow eight weeks for a new badge application to be processed.

Find out if you're eligible for a Blue Badge and apply online at [www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge](http://www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge)



If you have any questions or would like to report the misuse of a badge, email [blue.badges@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:blue.badges@n-somerset.gov.uk)

# Building a booming family



**One of the UK's fastest growing marketing and media groups is based right here in North Somerset – and it has ambitious plans to grow even further.**

The Ascot Group is the umbrella company under which several other independent companies operate – Purplex Marketing, Insight Data, Business Leader and Ascot Property Management.

Its headquarters is at Worle Parkway Business Park, in Weston-super-Mare, and *Life* spoke to founder and chief executive Andrew Scott to find out more...

## **How was the group founded?**

The Ascot Group started in 2004 when I launched Purplex, a specialist consultancy business. I had previously built a £12m

company in South Wales and, following the sale of that business to an American company, I decided to work with other firms to help them grow.

I had planned to keep it small, with a small office above an estate agent on the Boulevard in Weston-super-Mare, but quickly spotted opportunities to scale-up the business and build a new group of companies.

## **What activities is the Ascot Group involved in today?**

We've grown from a start-up to several companies and 70 employees. Today Purplex is a major PR, creative and digital marketing agency with clients all over the world. We work on exciting projects, from developing PR campaigns to building great digital marketing campaigns, that can involve

anything from new websites to clever Facebook or Google advertising.

In 2007 we launched a software and data management business, Insight Data. We have a fantastic call centre team based in Worle who make thousands of telephone calls every week to collect and add business information to our database. This is then used by companies all over the world via our own software platform to analyse UK business activity.

As part of the journey with Purplex and Insight Data we had struggled to find quality business media to share our story with. Lots of general media was available, like newspapers or magazines, but very little for business-to-business.

So in 2012 we took a massive risk and launched Business Leader magazine. Originally this was circulated in the South West as a print magazine sent to business

# ly of businesses



Andrew Scott

owners and directors, plus a news website and email newsletters.

In 2016 we launched the magazine nationally. Thankfully the risk paid off and today Business Leader is Britain's largest B2B magazine for entrepreneurs, and also operates some huge business events and awards all over the UK.

## Why did you set up the business in North Somerset?

I was living in London and running a business in South Wales and decided to relocate somewhere between the two. I actually came across Weston-super-Mare by accident but instantly fell in love with the area.

The region just ticked every box; from a great lifestyle to excellent transport links. I also met some

really talented people in the area who were travelling to Bristol or further afield to work and I had that 'lightbulb' moment.

*Over the years we've been tempted to relocate to Bristol or even London but it just doesn't make sense. North Somerset has everything and collectively we need to raise the profile of the area and let the world know what a great place it is to live and work.*

## What are your plans for the future?

Our team is really excited for the future. We are now ready to create 200 jobs, from technology and media positions to call centre staff. We are also looking to add other companies to the Ascot family,

perhaps acquiring businesses that have the ambition to grow but not the resources.

Our approach with people is really simple – we employ those with passion and talent and a great work ethic rather than their academic grades. People have to start at the bottom and work up, but for those that do, the opportunities are immense.

*We want to create an Ascot Campus that will support 200 people, provide learning and training facilities and encourage other start-ups and growing businesses to operate from North Somerset.*

[www.ascotgroup.co.uk](http://www.ascotgroup.co.uk)



# Bright future for

**Street lights are being improved across North Somerset to save energy and reduce maintenance costs thanks to a new £6.7m contract.**

About 18,500 street lanterns across the area are being upgraded to LED units as part of the four-year arrangement, which began last month.

The contract is being delivered by Centregreat Ltd, which is also responsible for the upkeep of illuminated road signs and ongoing routine maintenance.

The company will also replace about 2,352 corroded concrete lighting columns with new galvanised steel units.



Shaun Chilcott, North Somerset Council's lead officer for street lighting, said the new contract would bring big improvements.

"Many of our street lights have reached the end of their life so this work will see outdated concrete columns replaced with modern steel units.

"The lanterns will also be replaced with low energy LED units which will conserve energy, helping the environment and reducing the drain on council resources.

*"The initial investment in improving the condition of our street lighting will be recouped in future years with reduced maintenance and operating costs."*

Jerome Mathias, managing director at Centregreat, said: "We are thrilled to be the new street lighting contractor for North Somerset Council.

"We look forward to providing an excellent service and undertaking the delivery of the contract in a friendly and diligent manner."

Centregreat has been operating in the street lighting industry for more than 40 years.

The company installs, repairs, upgrades and maintains street lighting, signage and other street furniture for councils, highway agencies, civil engineering companies, housing developers, airports and private clients.



## What are the benefits of LED street lighting?

LED street lighting brings a number of benefits to residents, road users and North Somerset Council. These include:

- **big energy, maintenance and carbon emission savings** – compared with traditional street lighting
- **white lighting** – which makes colours look more natural
- **a long life** – up to 100,000 hours, which results in less maintenance
- **reduced light pollution** – compared with traditional street lighting systems
- **uniform, high-quality white light** – which is better for security facial recognition and CCTV, so making areas safer.



# street lighting



## Will the new lights be brighter or a different colour from the ones they are replacing?

Any new or replacement lighting is designed to British and European lighting standards and will be 'white' light. The aim is to provide the right standard for the type of road, traffic flow and local conditions. Therefore, some roads will have noticeably brighter lighting.

## Will they shine through my windows at night?

Light is directed down so is unlikely to stray into people's homes.

## Do LEDs contain hazardous chemicals?

Street lighting LEDs contain no hazardous chemicals, unlike most fluorescent or High Intensity Discharge (traditional street lighting) lamp sources which contain mercury.

In addition, LED lanterns are RoHS (Restriction of Hazardous Substances) compliant.

## Why are LEDs considered to be environmentally-friendly?

LEDs are considered to be environmentally friendly in a number of ways:

- their long lifespan offers about 20 years of maintenance-free service, therefore reducing pollution from maintenance and delivery vehicles
- unlike conventional street lighting units, there is no lamp to change, which means no waste
- LEDs use significantly less energy and their light output can be controlled more efficiently than traditional street lights. This reduces the amount of carbon emissions from the electricity production required to operate them
- LEDs emit light in a specific direction so they can provide uniform illumination of an area, so reducing light spill and pollution.

## Are you replacing all existing street light columns?

In the majority of cases the new LED lanterns will be fitted to existing street light columns. However, those that have reached the end of their useful life will be replaced by new galvanised steel columns.

## Will the new lights turn on at the same time?

The new LED lanterns will operate at the same time as they currently do. Where street lights currently switch off for part of the night, this switching regime will be applied to the new units. Similarly, where street lights dim, this dimming regime will be applied.

## When will the work be carried out?

Work is due to start in December and is expected to last about 18 months.

# The road ahead

**State-of-the-art treatments are being used to prolong the life of roads in North Somerset as part of an additional £1.8m investment this year.**

North Somerset Council is using the latest technology as part of its ongoing commitment to investment in the local road network.

The council has adopted a proactive 'whole-life' approach to road maintenance, in line with best practice encouraged by the Department for Transport.

This means that preventative work is carried out wherever possible to extend the life of a road surface before the condition deteriorates to a point where a much more expensive repair is needed.

## Pothole patching

A special machine is carrying out £250,000 of pothole repairs on North Somerset's roads this year.

The Roadmaster Spray Injection Patcher can fill up to 200 potholes a day and is being used for three months to repair post-winter damage.

The machine is used to fill holes and patch roads before surface dressing works takes place, to ensure a smoother surface is created.

The Roadmaster cleans and coats the defected base with binder, fills it with coated chips and then adds a top layer of binder and chips.

A built-in sweeper takes care of any loose chips on the road while the roller wheels provide additional

compaction, leaving a long-lasting and well-defined patch.

The machine can quickly and effectively apply single or multiple sealing layers to the cracked surface, extending the life of the road at minimum cost, and with very little disruption to normal traffic.

All the work is carried out by a single operator who sits in the safety of a cab.

As well as saving money, this technology increases the safety of the operation by removing a road worker from a live traffic situation.

The Roadmaster is also being used to carry out repairs on rural roads which have been highlighted by the council's team of area officers.



## How do potholes form?

A pothole is a structural failure in a road surface due to water getting into the underlying soil structure and traffic passing over the affected area.

The water weakens the underlying soil and traffic then fatigues and breaks the poorly supported asphalt surface.

Continued traffic removes both the asphalt and underlying soil material, which creates a hole.



## Road recycling

Two busy roads in North Somerset are set to be resurfaced using a specialist recycling technique, as part of the council's ongoing commitment to improving the district's roads.

The B3124 (Clevedon Road, Bristol Road and High Street, Portishead) and Winterstoke Road, in Weston-super-Mare, will receive the treatment during 2019/20.

Four more residential roads will also be resurfaced using this technique, known as 'ex situ recycling'.

The technique sees a damaged road restored by recycling and reusing the existing construction materials to build a new surface.

It involves excavating the existing asphalt materials from the road, known as 'asphalt planings', and transporting them to a processing unit to be used as an ingredient in fresh asphalt mixtures.

The new material is brought back to the site to be installed as a new road surface.

This means the road surface is effectively dug up, taken away, recycled, brought back and relaid.

The recycled road has the strength and life expectancy of a traditionally designed and constructed road surface but has huge environmental benefits.

It greatly reduces the need to dispose of huge volumes of waste materials, and import processed aggregates and hot bituminous bound material, resulting in a lower carbon footprint overall.

It is also a cost-effective way of dealing with hazardous waste that would otherwise cost £150 a tonne to send to landfill.

The process is possible thanks to the flexibility of asphalt materials which can be totally recycled and, in most cases, re-used directly back at the site they came from.

Report potholes and other road issues at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect)

For the latest updates on roads and travel in North Somerset follow:

 @NStravel\_roads •  NStravelandroads



# Help feed farmers' fields

## Garden waste is rich in nutrients and can become a useful compost for farmers across North Somerset to improve their crop productivity.

Recycling garden waste is also good for the environment because oxygen is circulated around the waste, allowing it to decompose aerobically.

If this organic matter – including food and garden waste – is sent to landfill instead, then air cannot get to it.



### Online collection calendars

Recycling, waste and garden waste collection calendars will now be available online from now on to help the council reduce its environmental impact.

View or download your calendar from [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/calendars](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/calendars)

Free internet access is available in local libraries. If you still need a paper copy, call the council on 01934 888 802.

Garden and food waste sent to landfill releases methane, a greenhouse gas which is 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

The best way of dealing with this is recycling as much at home using a compost bin.

This will create a nutrient-rich fertiliser for your garden and cut down on transportation, which is better for the environment.

In North Somerset, garden waste is collected fortnightly for most of the year, with monthly collections in December, January and February. It is only collected from registered properties. It costs £25 per bin and up to two bins can be registered per property.

### Compost corner!

Composting at home is a natural and inexpensive process that uses fruit and vegetable peelings and garden waste and turns it into nutrient-rich food for your garden.

Plants and flowers will love everything your compost bin has, including nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium.

It will even act as a buffer to very acidic or alkaline soils.

Home compost bins are available from North Somerset Council for £15.

Order one at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/composting](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/composting)

Find out more about your compost bin and what can go in it at [www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com)

Things to put in your garden waste bin:

- ✓ grass cuttings and shrub prunings
- ✓ flowers, leaves, plants and weeds
- ✓ fruit and vegetables grown in your garden
- ✓ hedge and conifer clippings
- ✓ twigs and tree branches of a maximum 10cm diameter.

Items not accepted:

- ✗ soil, turf, stone or rubble
- ✗ treated wood
- ✗ plant pots
- ✗ cat and dog litter.



Information contained here applies to households in North Somerset. If you live in Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol or Somerset council areas, you will need to check your local arrangements.





# with your garden waste

Questions are often asked about where the recycling goes once it's taken from the kerbside.

This month, *Life* looks at **garden waste...**



## Wash it. Squash it. Sort it.

It takes just 20 seconds to collect a well-sorted box but up to two minutes for one where all items are mixed together.

Separating materials means a faster collection, less congestion, a more reliable service and better use of public money.

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/recycling)

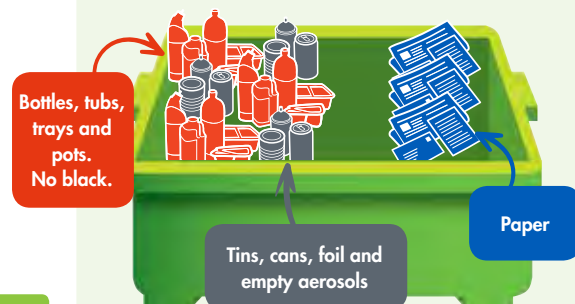
### Either box:

Spectacles, sunglasses, textiles, shoes and clothes (bag separate)

Batteries, small electrical appliances, and mobile phones (bag separate)

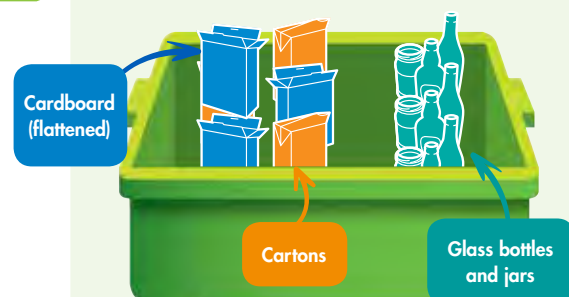
### BOX 1:

Plastic and cans together – paper separate



### BOX 2:

Card and cartons together – glass separate



The waste is shredded, laid out in rows and turned regularly to oxygenate it using natural aerobic processes

After 10 weeks it can be used as soil improver on farmers' fields



Garden waste collected from the kerbside

It is taken to Enovert in Gloucestershire for composting

Read the next edition of *Life* to find out about food waste.

### Top tip

Placing paper in a separate, untied bag will keep it dry and help crews empty your box more quickly.

# Make sure your home renovations comply with building regulations



## Are you thinking of extending or altering your home this year?

If you want to improve rather than move, you need to make sure any changes comply with building regulations to ensure your home is safe.

The Government has recently updated the standards required to comply with building regulations, particularly around fire safety and keeping homes secure.

Some builders might suggest you use their preferred inspector to carry out the checks but the choice is yours and North Somerset Council's building control team provide a professional, quality service.



James Brown, of Cuppa Architects in Weston-super-Mare, said: "North Somerset Building Control are our preferred partner for all Building Regulations work.

"Their thorough, helpful service ensure that our full plans submissions resolve any potential issues before they reach site, so saving time and money for our customers.

"When on site, their experienced, co-operative approach ensures any problems are resolved pragmatically and swiftly, both of which are key when dealing with people's home projects."

Steve Ritchie, of Back to the Drawing Board in Weston-super-Mare, said: "I will always choose the council for building control when I can because I cannot fault their service."

Here are the top reasons why most people use North Somerset Council Building Control and why you should consider using them too:

- officers are professionals with extensive local knowledge about key issues such as ground conditions and drainage
- they provide an independent 'second pair of eyes' giving you assurance that your project complies with regulations
- the team is accredited with the British Standards Institute for quality management procedures
- North Somerset Building Control has helped homeowners longer than anyone else, so officers know their business and are here to stay
- free advice is available
- they can help builders by highlighting solutions to unforeseen technical problems.



Do you need advice about what requires building regulations approval or how to obtain it? Visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/buildingcontrol](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/buildingcontrol)

Information guides about extending or renovating your home, or converting your property, are also available. Download a pdf from the website or pick up a paper copy from your local library.

 North Somerset  
**LABC Building Control**



# Make a life changing difference to an adult needing support

## Could you make a life-changing difference to an adult with a disability, learning differences or additional needs?

North Somerset Council's Shared Lives scheme is looking for people across the area to share their homes, family life, interests and skills with someone who needs help and support to live a fulfilling life.

You could help an adult with a disability or other learning difficulty to build positive relationships with you, your family, friends and wider community network.

Different options are available depending on your circumstances, including day support, short-term respite care or a longer placement...

### Day support

Day support, which could extend into the evening, sees carers offering up to eight hours of support in their own home or doing activities in the local community. It does not include an overnight stay.

### It could be suitable for...

People who can provide care within their own home but do not have a spare bedroom for overnight stays.

### Short-term respite

If you do have a spare bedroom, you could offer overnight support – whether for one night at a time, at weekends, for a week or longer. Support can be in the home or doing activities during the day.

### It could be suitable for...

People with a spare bedroom who can offer overnight stays.

### Long-term placements

Carers are needed who can open up their family home and life to offer long-term support.

### It could be suitable for...

People with a spare bedroom who could provide on-going care.

## Who can apply?

People are needed from a wide range of backgrounds regardless of sexuality, ethnicity, religion or marital status.

You don't need to own your own home or have professional qualifications. You just need a suitable property, have some experience of caring and enough spare time, energy, patience and understanding to meet the needs of the person.

Ongoing support and guidance is provided.



Could you provide support to an adult with a learning difficulty?

Find out more about the Shared Lives scheme by calling **01275 888 368** or emailing **sharedlives@n-somerset.gov.uk**

# Giving a voice to older people

## Are you an older person who wants their voice heard and to get issues resolved?

Older people meet monthly across North Somerset to discuss relevant issues and share their views as part of Senior Community Link (SCL), which was set up in 2009 with the help of Age UK and North Somerset Council.

Representatives from each SCL group then attend the Older People's Championship Group four times a year, along with people from various organisations, councillors and council officers.

Barbara Seaton, chair of the Older People's Championship Group said: "North Somerset is a wonderful place to retire because the council cares."

Members have given their views about many issues, such as bus passes, dropped kerbs, winter fuel allowance, parking for disabled people and visual aids at bus shelters.

They have also arranged for cash and cheques to be accepted when paying for the garden waste service and drew attention to the lack of transport for people in Weston-super-Mare to get to hospital.

Barbara added: "Come and join us. No other organisation for older people has a direct link to the council like this."

*"Your experience of living as an older person in North Somerset may hold the knowledge to make changes and drive the real needs of the people."*



Are you an older person who would like to have your say and influence services? Call Barbara Seaton on **01934 620 391** or email **barbarapseaton@gmail.com**





# Get vocal, be heard

## Listening to residents' views is an important part of the democratic process and North Somerset Council welcomes ideas to make things better.

While the council can't act on every suggestion, it listens to feedback and makes changes where possible.

### You said:

How can I find out when planning applications are being considered that affect me?

### We did:

In addition to fulfilling the council's statutory duty to notify residents directly, an email alert system has been introduced which tells you when a new application is registered in your area.

Visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/lookatplanningapplications](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/lookatplanningapplications) and follow the instructions.

Once completed, you will receive an email every time a new application is registered within the area you specified.

### You said:

I'm worried about the number of cars parked near Flax Bourton Primary – this will only get worse when the school expands.

### We did:

As part of the school expansion, North Somerset Council was able to purchase a parcel of land adjacent to the school site. Part of this now has car parking (the other part will be leased to the parish council for community use). This has already had a big impact for residents in Parsons Mead and Bourton Mead.

One parent, Alison Calder, said: "I know that it's human nature to complain when something needs improving but it's not often that the effort is made to provide positive feedback when there's an improvement.

"So, I wanted to let you know that it's made such a difference: sometimes I have to check my watch on the way to school drop off or pick up, wondering if I'm late/early or maybe it's a weekend!"

 Public and legal notices covering a range of council matters can be viewed online at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/notices](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/notices)

## Comment on council consultations

Have your say on North Somerset Council's policies by taking part in consultations.

All consultations are listed at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/consult](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/consult)

Sign up online to receive email alerts when new consultations are opened.

If you can't get online at home, posters are put up at the beginning of every month in all North Somerset libraries and council connect points, such as the Castlewood office in Clevedon, to publicise open consultations and how to take part.

# Your views

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

@NorthSomersetC

NorthSomersetCouncil

NorthSomersetLife

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

Dear Editor,

Citizens Advice is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. Nationally, the charity started giving advice in 200 locations on 4 September 1939, the day after World War Two started. At that time the service gave advice to whoever needed it on a range of issues, including evacuation, what to do if they'd lost their home, and how to get a new ration book.

The first North Somerset Bureau opened in Weston-super-Mare at the end of 1939 and has survived a bombing raid, several changes of premises and many other challenges. It is proud to still be helping the people of Weston and the wider area of North Somerset.

We would love to hear about how Citizens Advice has helped you – whether back in 1939, 1960 or just last week. We are proud of making a difference and it would be great to hear from you. We would also

love to hear from people who have supported our charity over the last 80 years, whether it's as a volunteer, staff member or funder.

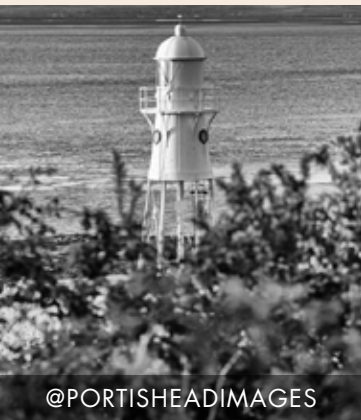
Please get in touch by emailing [80years@nscab.org.uk](mailto:80years@nscab.org.uk), leave a message on 01934 836 213, or visit [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/yourstory](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/yourstory)

*Diana Nicoll,  
Citizens Advice North Somerset*

Correction:

*In the last issue of Life, the Diamond Travelcard bus pass was listed as a way for over 60s to save money. To clarify, unless you have a qualifying disability, the age for a Diamond Travelcard is in line with pensionable age and not when you turn 60. Check when you become eligible at [www.gov.uk/state-pension-age](http://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age) or visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/diamondtravelcard](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/diamondtravelcard)*

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@NICOLEWORBOYS



@ANDYBALLARDUK



Many topics are covered on Twitter and Facebook and last month these issues were raised...

Went to walk dogs on Felton common #winford today about midday and surprised to find so many airport taxis parked on grass and filling the area despite notices advising no parking. You know the times of planes arriving, can you not send someone to correct this?

**North Somerset Council:** Windford Parish Council, Bristol Airport and North Somerset Council are currently working together to identify and implement a legally enforceable solution for this matter.

Could you please pass on my thanks to Darren at Weston recycling centre who has been fantastic today? We cleared our garage out yesterday so I've had to visit the centre a few times today. He's been courteous and helpful each time I've visited. A real credit to the team there.

28835 0319



## North Somerset Life

North Somerset Life is published by North Somerset Council.

For advertising and sponsorship opportunities contact Will Jenkins: 01934 426 474 or [will.jenkins@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:will.jenkins@n-somerset.gov.uk)

For editorial contact [editor@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:editor@n-somerset.gov.uk) or 01275 884 139

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View back issues at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/nsl](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/nsl)

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Coming next issue:

- Summer Special
- What's on guide

### MAY 2019

Date	High water		Low water		High water		Low water	
	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)
	AM				PM			
1 Wed	05:24	10.02	11:19	1.94	17:47	10.19	23:39	1.89
2 Thu	06:07	10.68	11:59	1.54	18:26	10.81	-	-
3 Fri	06:45	11.15	00:18	1.52	19:02	11.27	12:37	1.27
4 Sat	07:20	11.49	00:55	1.26	19:37	11.62	13:15	1.08
5 Sun	07:55	11.74	01:31	1.08	20:11	11.87	13:50	0.95
6 Mon	08:32	11.89	02:07	0.96	20:47	11.98	14:27	0.90
7 Tue	09:09	11.86	02:43	0.97	21:24	11.87	15:02	1.00
8 Wed	09:47	11.61	03:19	1.11	22:02	11.53	15:37	1.23
9 Thu	10:28	11.14	03:51	1.36	22:44	11.01	16:10	1.53
10 Fri	11:15	10.54	04:29	1.64	23:33	10.43	16:52	1.84
11 Sat	-	-	05:20	1.95	12:10	9.96	17:51	2.19
12 Sun	00:35	9.93	06:33	2.26	13:19	9.59	19:15	2.47
13 Mon	01:51	9.73	08:08	2.39	14:39	9.63	20:52	2.42
14 Tue	03:13	10.00	09:33	2.10	15:59	10.13	22:06	2.00
15 Wed	04:30	10.61	10:39	1.69	17:08	10.86	23:12	1.55
16 Thu	05:33	11.28	11:45	1.30	18:05	11.50	-	-
17 Fri	06:26	11.75	00:08	1.13	18:52	11.91	12:34	0.97
18 Sat	07:11	12.01	00:52	0.85	19:35	12.14	13:14	0.83
19 Sun	07:52	12.12	01:31	0.75	20:13	12.24	13:51	0.83
20 Mon	08:32	12.12	02:07	0.78	20:52	12.18	14:25	0.93
21 Tue	09:10	11.91	02:40	0.90	21:30	11.86	14:56	1.12
22 Wed	09:49	11.44	03:11	1.14	22:07	11.28	15:25	1.42
23 Thu	10:25	10.75	03:41	1.47	22:42	10.53	15:54	1.79
24 Fri	11:01	10.00	04:13	1.86	23:17	9.80	16:25	2.15
25 Sat	11:37	9.33	04:52	2.23	23:59	9.18	17:03	2.51
26 Sun	-	-	05:39	2.58	12:23	8.79	17:57	2.86
27 Mon	00:57	8.72	06:41	2.91	13:29	8.46	19:05	3.17
28 Tue	02:16	8.60	08:01	3.09	14:50	8.54	20:34	3.27
29 Wed	03:30	8.95	09:39	2.87	15:58	9.06	22:07	2.86
30 Thu	04:28	9.58	10:34	2.35	16:53	9.77	22:56	2.30
31 Fri	05:18	10.25	11:19	1.89	17:40	10.48	23:40	1.84

### JUNE 2019

Date	High water		Low water		High water		Low water	
	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)
	AM				PM			
1 Sat	06:03	10.85	-	-	18:24	11.08	12:01	1.52
2 Sun	06:46	11.31	00:22	1.48	19:05	11.54	12:44	1.25
3 Mon	07:29	11.63	01:04	1.22	19:46	11.84	13:26	1.06
4 Tue	08:11	11.83	01:45	1.06	20:28	12.00	14:07	0.97
5 Wed	08:54	11.89	02:26	1.00	21:10	12.00	14:46	0.99
6 Thu	09:38	11.77	03:08	1.05	21:54	11.82	15:30	1.14
7 Fri	10:24	11.48	03:51	1.21	22:42	11.46	16:12	1.36
8 Sat	11:14	11.04	04:39	1.42	23:34	11.01	17:01	1.61
9 Sun	-	-	05:34	1.65	12:08	10.57	18:01	1.85
10 Mon	00:32	10.59	06:40	1.85	13:10	10.20	19:13	2.04
11 Tue	01:36	10.33	07:55	1.97	14:17	10.05	20:30	2.09
12 Wed	02:47	10.30	09:07	1.95	15:30	10.18	21:39	1.97
13 Thu	03:59	10.49	10:10	1.83	16:38	10.53	22:39	1.79
14 Fri	05:04	10.80	11:11	1.70	17:36	10.94	23:39	1.59
15 Sat	06:00	11.08	-	-	18:28	11.26	12:06	1.53
16 Sun	06:49	11.27	00:27	1.40	19:11	11.49	12:49	1.39
17 Mon	07:33	11.40	01:08	1.29	19:53	11.64	13:27	1.34
18 Tue	08:13	11.46	01:44	1.25	20:33	11.68	14:02	1.34
19 Wed	08:53	11.40	02:19	1.27	21:10	11.53	14:34	1.41
20 Thu	09:32	11.16	02:52	1.37	21:48	11.20	15:06	1.57
21 Fri	10:07	10.76	03:25	1.55	22:23	10.73	15:37	1.79
22 Sat	10:40	10.29	03:58	1.78	22:56	10.23	16:08	2.02
23 Sun	11:14	9.83	04:34	2.01	23:33	9.76	16:44	2.24
24 Mon	11:52	9.41	05:15	2.24	-	-	17:30	2.48
25 Tue	00:17	9.34	06:06	2.49	12:37	9.04	18:23	2.73
26 Wed	01:10	9.02	07:05	2.71	13:35	8.82	19:28	2.95
27 Thu	02:18	8.93	08:12	2.84	14:49	8.91	20:43	3.00
28 Fri	03:29	9.23	09:33	2.71	15:58	9.40	22:06	2.69
29 Sat	04:30	9.81	10:38	2.25	16:56	10.11	23:01	2.15
30 Sun	05:25	10.48	11:26	1.78	17:48	10.82	23:50	1.69

## Tide timetables for Weston-super-Mare

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

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

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

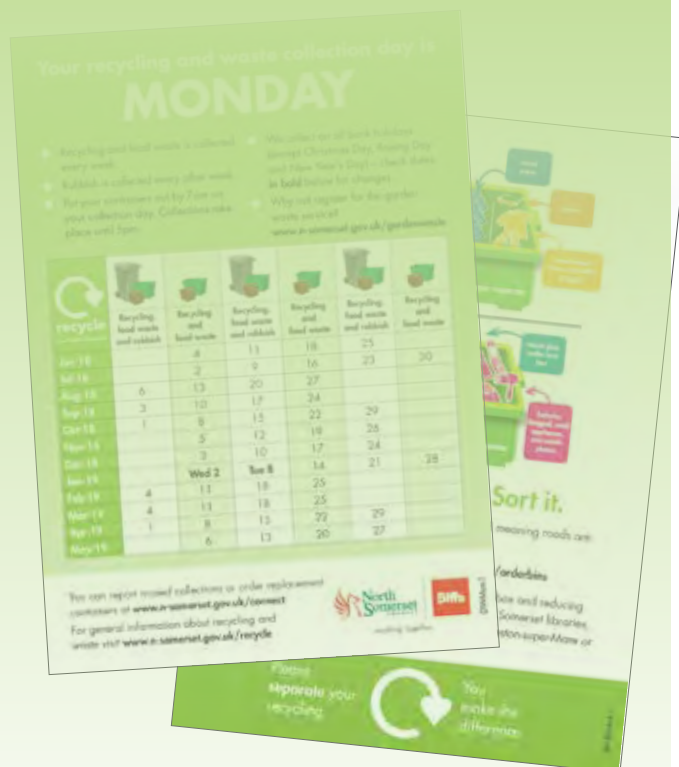
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### Tide facts

Approximate high water times at:  
Clevedon: 10 min • Portishead: 18 min later than Weston-super-Mare.

[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/tidetimes](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/tidetimes)

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