

www.n-somerset.gov.uk





# Recycling and waste collections this Christmas

Changes to normal recycling and waste collection days will take place over the festive period to allow for bank holidays.

Check your calendar to make sure you're putting the right bins out on the correct day. You can check online at

### www.n-somerset.gov.uk/calendar

Collections return to normal on Monday 14 January.

## Recycling centres

Recycling centres are now on their winter opening hours, until Sunday 31 March.

All centres will be closed on Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 December, and Tuesday 1 January.

# www.n-somerset.gov.uk/recyclingcentres

# Speed-up collections

Help crews collect more quickly and efficiently by sorting your recycling boxes into the different material types.

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	h Somerset

If your normal collection day is	Your revised collection day will be
Monday 24 Dec	Monday 24 Dec (as normal)
Tuesday 25 Dec	Thursday 27 Dec
Wednesday 26 Dec	Friday 28 Dec
Thursday 27 Dec	Saturday 29 Dec
Friday 28 Dec	Monday 31 Dec
Monday 31 Dec	Wednesday 2 Jan
Tuesday 1 Jan	Thursday 3 Jan
Wednesday 2 Jan	Friday 4 Jan
Thursday 3 Jan	Saturday 5 Jan
Friday 4 Jan	Monday 7 Jan
Monday 7 Jan	Tuesday 8 Jan
Tuesday 8 Jan	Wednesday 9 Jan
Wednesday 9 Jan	Thursday 10 Jan
Thursday 10 Jan	Friday 11 Jan
Friday 11 Jan	Saturday 12 Jan

Turn to page 13 to find out what to do with your recycling if severe weather hits the area.



# Leader's column

Over much of the last year there has been a real problem with the waste collection service provided by our contractors BIFFA. Too many missed collections, changes to routes and timetables, as well as a lack of communication with residents who contacted the Waste Collection telephone number at North Somerset Council to find out what was happening.

However, over the last couple of months BIFFA have put in additional resources, system changes and some experienced senior management to identify and tackle some of the problems.

It was evident that some of the collection routes were too long for the crews to complete, resulting in non-collections, usually near the end of the route. Meaning some households were repeatedly missed and understandably irritated and angry.

There has also been an increase in the amount of rubbish, taking longer to collect and lorries filling up. It has also become apparent that when householders were missed, there was no guarantee that the information was recorded adequately so that action could be taken.

BIFFA altered the routes and brought in more vehicles - obvious you might think but not only is it more expensive, there is a shortage of qualified drivers. This is a problem across the country and is affecting some bus companies and taxi firms as well as waste collection operators.

The cost of waste services is about £6m a year, which is just £1.30 per house per week. Doesn't seem possible does it? £1.30 a week to pick up all your rubbish. Something wrong with the tendering process, companies underbidding each other, then not able to provide the service at that price.

The council also has to pay £2m in fines to the government for the amount of rubbish we still have to bury in landfill sites. Stop the fine and we could pay for better collection.

BIFFA have made a huge improvement within the contract value and the crews out on the roads are working hard to improve collection consistency. There is no doubt the service is much better but we need to see it stay at this level and we need better communication.

The Council team will continue to work with BIFFA to provide a better service but we also need to try and recycle more and put less into the black bins. For some residents this is difficult because of space to store bins but for many others, perhaps we could just do a little more.

Thank you all for your patience.

Councillor Nigel Ashton Leader of North Somerset Council

## Contacts

## 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

Or go straight to these popular web pages by adding these shortcuts: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/myaccount /planning /schooladmissions /wastecollections /termdates

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### **Winter Focus**

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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.

# Share your favourite memories of Clevedon Pier

Clevedon Pier celebrates its 150th birthday next year and people in North Somerset are being asked to share their favourite stories of it.

Special events will take place throughout the year to mark the milestone and a big birthday party is planned for Bank Holiday Monday 27 May.

As part of the celebrations, a selection of stories will be displayed This could include...

- what does the pier mean to you?
- did you dance the night away during the rock 'n' roll era?
- was your first date on the pier?
- do you have a commemorative plaque and what's the story behind it?

what was your favourite event on the pier?

Send your stories and photos to enquiries@clevedonpier.com, drop into the Toll House, or post on social media.

- f ClevedonPierGrade 1
- @ClevedonPierG1



# Remember to register to vote



If you want to vote in next year's local elections you need to return your electoral registration form to North Somerset Council.

Forms were sent out to households in the summer and reminders have been sent to all non-responding properties.

The council needs to know who lives at your address to check who is eligible to register to vote.

You need to tell the council about any changes or confirm if nothing has changed.

This can be done by text, telephone, post, or online. Details are on the form.

For any questions, contact electoral services on 01934 634 909 or electoral.services@n-somerset.gov.uk



# Report or request a council service at any time

Many things can be reported or requested on North Somerset Council's website - meaning you can do it at your own convenience rather than just in office hours.

Online you can:

- ✓ order a new recycling box
- ✓ tell the council about a pothole
- ✓ report dog mess, litter or fly tipping
- ✓ find out about social
- ✓ view planning applications
- ✓ set up a direct debit to pay your council tax, and more.

Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect to report or request a council service 24-hours a day.



# Sand art portrait to remember the fallen

Stunning sand art will be drawn on Weston-super-Mare's beach on Remembrance Day to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War.

Pages of the Sea is a remarkable public event being orchestrated by film director Danny Boyle.

Over several hours, a portrait of an individual from World War 1 will emerge from the sand.

And then, as the tide rises, the image will wash away as individuals and families say goodbye.

The event is being held at beaches across the UK on Sunday 11 November and will take place on Weston's beach, near the Grand Pier, between 1pm and 3pm.

Danny Boyle has also commissioned a new poem by poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy which will be read by individuals and families on the beaches.

He said: "Beaches are truly public spaces, where nobody rules other than the tide.

"They seem the perfect place to gather and say a final goodbye and thank you to those whose lives were taken or forever changed by the First World War.

"I'm inviting people to watch as the faces of the fallen are etched in the sand and for communities to come together to remember the sacrifices that were made."

The event is being co-ordinated by arts development charity Theatre Orchard, who will be working with artists and communities to create a unique and resonant experience.

Creative director Fiona Matthews said: "We are delighted to be able to involve Weston-super-Mare in this landmark, national initiative.

"It promises to be a truly special event that is about connecting people in the here and now, and across history."

Tide times may vary. For the latest updates visit www.pagesofthesea.org.uk



# Centenary Fields dedications

Weston Woods in Weston-super-Mare and Battery Point in Portishead have been designated as Centenary Fields to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War.

The Centenary Fields programme, run by the Fields in Trust charity working in partnership with The Royal British Legion, protects valuable green space in perpetuity as a living remembrance to those who fought and lost their lives in World War I.

Nationally, Fields in Trust has nominated 100 open spaces to be classified as a Centenary Field.

This dedication is aligned with the spirit of North Somerset Council's Armed Forces Community Covenant.

www.fieldsintrust.org

Turn to page 22 for a round-up of remembrance events across North Somerset



# Enjoy a theatre trip

Enjoy live theatre, zany shows, improvised comedy and musical mayhem in North Somerset this winter.

### The Theatre Shop, Queens Square, Clevedon:

Saturday 1 December
Three Kings – Travelling Light
2pm and 4pm

Based on an original idea by Katie Sykes, Saikat Ahamed and Craig Edwards. Three weary travellers from far-off lands meet by chance. £8. Recommended age 5+.

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 December

### A Commotion in the Ocean

by Wassail Theatre and Mooney Stories 2pm A mash-up of Greek myth and Christmas spirit. £8. Recommended age 5+. Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 December

### The Little Match Girl

by The Last Baguette 2.30pm and 7.30pm

A family Christmas show inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's traditional tale. £8. Recommended age 4+.

Book online at www.theatreshop.org.uk or call 0333 6663 366 (£1.50 booking fee applies)



### The Tropicana, in Weston-super-Mare:

Thursday 29 November (also at Theatre Shop, Clevedon, Thursday 13 – Saturday 15 December)

Murder She Didn't Write by Degrees of Error 7.30pm
Improvised murder mystery.

£10. Recommended age 12+.

Monday 3 – Wednesday 5
December (also at
Theatre Shop, Clevedon,
Monday 26 November –
Saturday 1 December)
Nativity by Living Spit 7.30pm
A silly version of the nativity
story. £10. Recommended
age 14+.

Book online at **www.thetheatreorchard.org.uk**Advance tickets also from the Tropicana's Bay Café.







# Overnight centre for homeless people to open

### A night centre for homeless people in Weston-super-Mare is due to open.

Since last winter, 15 organisations, charities. Weston Town Council and North Somerset Council have been working together to set up a rough sleeper night assessment centre.

The referral-only centre was due to open on 1 November subject to completion of works, after temporary planning permission was granted to provide a safe and welcoming place for homeless people.

It also helps rough sleepers to access any necessary services to help them move into settled accommodation.

If you know someone rough sleeping, use the national reporting line Streetlink: 0300 500 0914 or www.streetlink.org.uk

The centre, open until March, is operating from Somewhere to Go, in the Boulevard.

The initiative also has support from the police, health and other statutory agencies.

North Somerset Council has commissioned homeless charity St Mungos, which provides outreach support and welfare checks for anyone sleeping rough alongside the YMCA.

Professional organisations and local volunteers ensure rough sleepers can access daily meals, health care, help accessing accommodation and more. The council has also developed a new partnership with St Mungos to bring together all local organisations who work with rough sleepers.

This is improving and co-ordinating all the services available.

Anyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness can access bespoke help thanks to the new Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

North Somerset Council's homelessness prevention team works to resolve people's current housing problem or helps them move on in a planned way and avoid homelessness.

This information is then passed onto the council, who will visit the reported location and offer support to the person.

For more information contact the council's homelessness prevention team: 01934 426 330



### ADVFRTISFMFNT



# New bid for nearly £80m in government money

Hopes for a new road to bypass Banwell are kicking into high gear as North Somerset Council is set to bid for money to get it built.

Money from the £80m bid could also fund more general improvements on the A38 to Bristol and be used to create more secondary school places in the Locking Parklands area.

The bid, which will be submitted to the government in the next few months, is the first step.

If successful, the council will then work with the community to finalise plans.

# Get your skates on booking your Christmas party

If you haven't booked your Christmas party yet you need to get your skates on – and the Tropicana on Weston's seafront could be the perfect venue.

The Tropicana is hosting Eat, Skate and be Merry evenings on Friday 7 and Friday 21 December.

For £20 per person you get 45 minutes ice skating at Icescape, a hot meal in the Bay Café, and you can party at the bar until 1 am.

Book your tickets at www.tropicanaweston.co.uk/xmas

TROPICANA

ADVERTISEMENT





# Apply now for reception and junior school places

Applications are now open for school places if your child is due to start school for the first time or transfer to a new one next year.

If your child was born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 you can apply now for reception places starting next September. The closing date is Tuesday 15 January.

ADVERTISEMENT

Any child now in their last year of infant school and due to transfer to a junior school will also need to apply by this date.

It's very important to apply by the closing date to stand a chance of being offered your preferred school.

Parents can name up to three preferences, for schools both within and outside North Somerset.

Schools are also required to consult about their admission arrangements if there are significant changes to their policies or oversubscription criteria.

For schools proposing a change, the consultation for admissions from September 2020 will be available on the council website between November and January.

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

The closing date for primary or junior school applications is Tuesday 15 January.

Apply online at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/ admissions. Paper forms available on request. Contact 01275 884 078 / 014, or admissions@n-somerset.gov.uk



We're award-winning home improvement experts who design and build bathrooms that help you live independently for longer.

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To find out more call 0300 323 0700 or visit our website. wecr.org.uk/specialist-bathrooms

future in mind.





# **MMR** vaccinations benefit the whole community

Health chiefs are calling for all parents to get their children vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) because of the benefits to them and the wider community.

Parents are being urged to take up the vaccine when it is offered to their children or go back and get it done if they missed it the first time.

The MMR vaccine is offered routinely to infants in England as part of the NHS childhood immunisation programme.

It is important they receive two doses. Ask your GP if you're unsure they've had both.

Those who missed their second dose will remain susceptible to the diseases but are still recommended to get the vaccine.

Contact your own GP for more information.

# **WINTER IS COMING**

# Preparing for the worst winter weather



autumn chill in the air so now is the time to start looking ahead to what winter weather may bring.

Long-term forecasts are hard to predict but snow, strong winds and floods can have a major impact on communities

Last winter saw the worst weather in decades as the 'beast from the east' caused major disruption across the UK and locally in North Somerset.

We'll keep our fingers crossed this winter is milder but just in case. there is lots of useful information inside this Life to see you through.

### This special winter focus edition includes:

- festive opening hours
- snow warden training information
- recycling in severe weather
- keeping warm and well
- getting around
- salting routes, and more.

Keep this edition to hand throughout the coming months because you never know when you might need it.

In the event of severe weather, the council will give a round-up of information and advice at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/disruption looking for - whether schools, children's centres, libraries or leisure facilities – to find out if any emergency closures are in place.

Here, you can also find out what we're doing to keep the main roads moving, if recycling and waste collections are affected by someone you know receives home care services.

The council's social media feeds will also be regularly updated.

- @NorthSomersetC
- MorthSomersetCouncil

# Helpful numbers

Floodline -0345 988 1188

Gas emergency service - 0800 111 999

Get direct flood warnings by signing up to the Environment Agency's flood information service at

www.fws.environment-agency.gov.uk

Stay up-to-date with Met Office weather warnings at www.metoffice.gov.uk or download the smartphone app.

Report or get information about power cuts - 105

Wessex Water leak line -0800 692 0692



# WINTER OPENING HOURS \*



# Festive opening times

# Council telephone contacts

Need to contact the council over Christmas?

- \* Normal opening hours will apply up until Friday 21 December
  - Main council switchboard 01934 888 888: 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri
  - For all streets and open spaces enquiries -01934 888 802: 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri
  - Council tax and benefits service - 01934 888 144: 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri
  - For all social services enquiries -01275 888 801:

8am-6pm, Mon-Fri

- \* Monday 24 December
  - 9am-4pm for all except social services which will open 8am-6pm
- \* Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 December - closed
- \* Thursday 27 and Friday 28 December normal opening hours
- \* Monday 31 December (same as Monday 24)
- \* Tuesday 1 January closed
- \* Wednesday 2 January onwards - normal opening hours.

Remember, you can report things online at any time at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect www.n-somerset.gov.uk/myaccount

# For full details of all festive opening hours of council services, visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/ festive

# Schools

In times of severe weather, schools make independent decisions about whether to close or not, based on local circumstances.

Many schools have their own systems in place to contact parents directly via text message or their own website.



# Libraries

Libraries will be closed on Monday 24 December, Tuesday 25 December, Wednesday 26 December and Tuesday 1 January.

Normal opening hours will operate on all other days except...

- \* Weston library will close at 5.30pm on Thursday 27 and Friday 28 December, and 5pm on Monday 31 December.
- \* The Campus library, in Locking Castle, Weston-super-Mare, will close at 5pm on Thursday 27, Friday 28 December and Monday 31 December.

## Extended access at libraries

Anyone who has attended a briefing session and registered to use the extended hours service to access Portishead, Winscombe, Worle and Yatton library buildings during unstaffed hours, can gain entry during these times:

- \* Monday 24 December -8am-8pm
- \* Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 December closed, no access
- \* Thursday 27 to Monday 31 December, and Tuesday 1 January - 8am-8pm

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/libraries

Find out more about extended access and what's on offer at libraries on pages 30-31.





# Leisure centres

Leisure centres will be closed on Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 December, and Tuesday 1 January.

Opening hours vary on other days at different centres. Find contact details for your local one at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/ leisurecentres

# WINTER COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

# Could you help clear snow in your community?

Community-minded people are needed in towns and villages across North Somerset to help clear pathways and keep important routes clear after snowfall.

Volunteer snow wardens go out in their neighbourhoods to help make local routes safe, such as paths to local shops, doctors' surgery or other essential buildings.



More than 100 snow wardens have trained in North Somerset since the scheme launched in 2013 and last winter's snowfall really put them to the test.

Marilyn Edwards, from the Clevedon group, said: "This year proved the value of having a group of trained volunteers at the ready to be 'called to arms'.



"Nineteen volunteers split into teams to tackle the footpaths outside health centres, the hospital and steep hills down into town.

"Snow wardens are a great bunch of people who enjoy helping the community."

Volunteers undergo training and are kitted out with shovels, gloves and hi-vis

Roles include checking grit bin levels, applying for new grit bins and formulating a plan of action. They are fully insured by North Somerset Council.



## Community grit bins

Grit bins are available across the area for people to salt roads and public areas themselves.

They can be found near steep hills or areas at risk of repeated freezing, such as under trees or in shade.

The salt is for public use and it is illegal to use it on your own land. If you do, you could be prosecuted for stealing.

Use a shovel or spade to get the salt out because it is very corrosive and could damage your hands if you pick it up.

Parish and town councils pay to have the bins installed where they are needed and North Somerset Council fills them.

If one needs refilling visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect or call 01934 888 802

ommunity Resilience North Somerset

The next snow warden training session takes place at 6.30pm on Tuesday 13 November, at the council's Castlewood office in Clevedon.

Register your interest by emailing snow.warden@n-somerset.gov.uk or call 01934 426 322.

You can also find the community resilience team on social media search for Community Resilience North Somerset.

Find out what to put in a home emergency kit at www.communityresilience-ns.org.uk



# WINTER RECYCLING



Extra recycling and waste is usually generated over the festive period so what do you do with it all and what happens if severe weather causes disruption?

> I have extra waste because friends have visited. How do I get rid of it?

> > Extra general waste that doesn't fit in your black bin should be taken to a recycling centre or stored until your next collection.

I have extra recycling which doesn't fit in my boxes. What should I do with it?

Excess

recycling (except glass) should be separated into different materials and placed in carrier bags next to your containers.

Any glass bottles and jars should be put into the recycling box to help reduce the likelihood of crews being injured by broken glass which they can't see clearly in the bags.

Remove packaging from inside large cardboard boxes and flatten them down to the length of your recycling box for collection.

# Collecting recycling and waste this winter

## What to do in severe weather

If icy roads and hazardous driving conditions cause disruption to recycling and waste collections, here's what you need to do...

### Waste

Put your wheelie bin or grey council-issued bags out on your normal collection day. If it's not collected, then leave it out and crews will come back as soon as possible.

# Food caddy and recycling boxes

Continue to put these out on your normal collection day. If they are not collected by 7pm, take them back in and put them out again the following week on your normal day.



## Garden waste

Put your garden waste bins out on your usual collection day. If they are not emptied, take them back in and put them out again the following month on your scheduled day.

Extra vehicles may be used over Christmas to collect recycling. All items will be recycled.

Turn to page 42 for festive recycling tips.



## How you can help

- Put your bins and containers out by 7am on your usual day. Check www.n-somerset.gov.uk/ calendar
- If collections are missed from a whole street, there's no need to report it as it will already be logged
- Check the council's website, Facebook and Twitter accounts for updates
- Separating recycling into individual materials helps crews collect quickly and more efficiently
- Help neighbours who may have difficulties.

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/recycling

# **WINTER WELLBEING**

# Keep warm and well

# Keeping warm as the cold weather bites is essential to avoid serious health problems.

Coldness can weaken the immune system, increase blood pressure and lower body temperature, which could lead to heart attacks, strokes or chest infections.

Various schemes are available in North Somerset to help you heat your home so don't be afraid to ask for help...

- a community bulk oil buying scheme is available through the West of England Rural Network. Contact 01275 333 701 or www.wern.org.uk/oil
- residents whose homes are heated by oil, wood, coal or LPG (gas) may be able to bulk-buy fuel through a low-cost loan from Wessex Resolutions. Homeowners and private tenants with a household income of less than £30,000 a year can apply. It can be used in conjunction with the bulk oil buying scheme above. Contact www.wricic.org.uk or 01823 461 099
- Wessex Resolutions also offers loans for essential home repairs, improvements, or new boiler.

- genuine energy debt could be cleared through a grant. Contact Talking Money: 0117 954 3990 or www.talkingmoney.org.uk
- people born on or before 5 November 1953 could get the winter fuel payment of between £100 and £300. Call 0800 731 0160
- you could get £140 off your electricity bill this winter under the Warm Homes Discount scheme. Contact your local supplier or call 0800 731 0014. Park home owners can call Charis Grants on 03303 801 040
- insulation and heating improvement funding is available through the Energy Company Obligation Flexible Eligibility scheme. Contact the home energy team at the Centre for Sustainable Energy: 0800 082 2234

www.cse.org.uk/advice

grants are available for vulnerable or low-income households to get a free gas connection. Apply to Warm West (in partnership with Wales and West Utilities):

01656 747 623 or www.ieservices.org.uk

www.gov.uk/warmthiswinter



# Community meals

Hot meals delivered directly to the door are a lifeline for people who are too frail or ill to cook for themselves.

Community meals are ready to eat when delivered and a wide variety of tastes are catered for. including allergies and specialist diets.

Delivery drivers also perform a valuable welfare check and can carry out other services, such as cutting up food, checking you are comfortable, or contacting your family or doctor if there is a problem.

If the service is requested before 9.30am, a meal can be delivered that day.

It costs £5 for a hot meal and pudding. An additional tea time meal costs £3.30. There is no charge if a meal is cancelled.

Call **01275 882 867** or email community.meals@ n-somerset.gov.uk



# Get the right care from the right professionals

Winter weather can be bad for your health so it's important to get the right care, at the right time, from the right professionals.

If you feel unwell - especially if you're over 65 or have long-term health conditions - there are teams of experts on-hand across North Somerset ready to help.

Making the right choices about where to access this medical care means patients can save time and it reduces pressure on busy NHS services.

# Get your flu vaccination

Flu can have serious consequences. The only form of protection is to have a flu vaccination.

Having your flu jab means you're protecting yourself and your loved ones by reducing the risk of spreading the virus, including to people who may be more prone to a serious illness.

Some people with certain long-term health conditions, children and pregnant women are entitled to a free flu vaccination. Children in reception class and years 1 to 5 will get their free vaccine at school. Alternatively, adults can pay a small fee at their local pharmacy to get the vaccination. It usually costs about £10.



# Help stop the spread

Practising good hand washing can help stop the spread of flu and other illnesses including Norovirus. Wash your hands thoroughly before preparing food or eating, after going to the toilet and after changing nappies.



# Pharmacists are the first port of call

If you have a cough or cold, speak to a pharmacist before it gets more serious. The sooner you get advice, the better. Pharmacists are fully qualified to advise the best course of action and help you stay well this winter.

# Call 111 for quick medical help

If you need medical help quickly and it's not an emergency call the free NHS helpline 111.

Fully trained advisors are available 24-hours-a-day and can put you



STAY WELL THIS WINTER

straight through to healthcare professionals.

The helpline is a gateway to local urgent care services - whether the minor injuries unit in Clevedon or the GP out-of-hours service - and tells you which is most suitable for your needs and how to access it.

# Repeat prescriptions

If you've been prescribed any medication, remember to pick it up before the Christmas holidays start. Many GPs and pharmacies close over the festive period.



# Keep an eye out

Cold weather can be very harmful, especially for people aged 65 or older. Check in on neighbours and loved ones.

Don't go to A&E or call 999

Remember. pharmacists are the first port of call, or ring 111 for quick medical help



# **WINTER GETTING AROUND**

# Getting around in severe weather

Anyone who relies on public transport to get to work or school could find themselves stuck if the roads are covered in snow.

If bad weather strikes this winter, here's what to do to help you get around...



Commercial operators run the majority of North Somerset's public transport services so it's up to them whether a service can operate safely during bad weather.

Most bus operators will update their websites and social media during times of disruption.

First bus passengers are advised to keep an eye on:

- f FirstWestofEngland
- @FirstBSA

Council officers will also try to share as much information as possible on the North Somerset public transport Facebook page and on real-time information screens at bus stops.



# Live bus times through smartphone app

For day-to-day use when the weather is better, the free UK Bus Checker app is a handy way to check on your smartphone or smart watch exactly how far away a bus or train is.

This real time, live information is based on GPS receivers located inside each bus.



The app is available to download from the Apple app store or Google Play.

You can also plan your journey in advance and see real time information about buses and trains at www.travelwest.info/ journeyplanner

# Getting to and from school

Schools and colleges make their own decisions about whether to reduce their opening hours or shut completely because of bad weather.

The decision will be made at the earliest opportunity to give sufficient notice to parents and carers.

School transport is usually run by independent operators so if



a school does remain open, the operator will determine whether buses can run safely.

Check your school or college's website for open/closed updates.

If any public transport services are impacted by adverse weather, North Somerset Council will put messages out across its social media feeds and www.n-somerset.gov.uk/disruption





# WINTER GETTING AROUND



# A gritty issue

Plummeting temperatures can make the condition of our roads treacherous.

But a dedicated team of council officers is on hand to help keep North Somerset's major routes passable in most conditions.



North Somerset Council doesn't have the resources to arit all roads but residents can easily find out which routes have been treated near them by visiting an interactive online map.

Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/ winterroads and pop in your postcode to see which routes are gritted and help plan your journey.

# Keep on moving



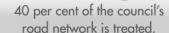
Gritters usually go out in the early morning or after rush hour as they need to keep moving to spread the salt properly. The weight of the traffic then helps break up the salt and make it more effective.



Six gritter lorries are on round-the-clock standby throughout winter to salt main routes.



The council's salt barn holds 2,000 tonnes of salt.





Officers receive weather forecasts from Metdesk and use this data to decide if and when to treat roads. The decision is based on road temperature not air temperature, as these can be quite different. Crews can be called out with two hours' notice.



The council's Facebook and Twitter accounts will be updated with news of when the gritters are out and about.



Salt is used instead of grit because it has de-icing properties - grit is only effective as an abrasive to break down ice and snow.



Highways staff are on duty 24-hours-a-day to monitor weather conditions.



Each gritter now uses sophisticated software to control how much salt is dispersed, where, and how widely. This means the driver can concentrate on just driving, so makes it safer.



# Top tips for drivers

Travelling can be treacherous in severe winter weather so follow these top tips when the frost starts biting...

## Before winter weather arrives

✓ Check your vehicle is well serviced, tyres (including the spare) have good tread depth and are properly inflated, the battery is in good condition, lights are clean and working, and windscreen wipers and washers are working and topped up.



# Before setting off

- ✓ Listen to local and national radio for travel information Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/ roadworks for current and future roadworks, diversion routes and live traffic flow. Also check local salted routes at www.nsomerset.gov.uk/winterroads
- ✓ Allow extra time for your journey.
- ✓ If you plan to drive, check your vehicle is well serviced and maintained and there is plenty of fuel in the tank. Keep a winter weather kit in your vehicle - a scraper, de-icer, warm clothes, shovel and torch. Consider taking hot drinks with you.
- ✓ Use a cigarette lighter to warm a key for a frozen lock.

- Clear all snow and ice from windows, the roof, mirrors and lights and de-mist the windows. Make sure you can see clearly all around before starting a journey.
- ✓ Low winter sun can dazzle a driver and further reduce visibility. Use sunglasses or your sun visor. Slow down if you can't see clearly ahead.
- ✓ Cyclists and pedestrians need to be visible and be seen. Wear light colours during the day and reflective gear once dark. Dress appropriately for the weather.
- ✓ Make sure your mobile phone is charged in case of an emergency.
- ✓ If the weather is severe, ask yourself if the journey is essential.

If you get into trouble, stay with your vehicle if possible until help arrives or give local police the details if you have to abandon it.



Police non-emergency contact: 101 • In an emergency: 999 www.n-somerset.gov.uk/winterroads



# Tips to keep you safe on the road throughout winter



## **Antifreeze**

A frozen and cracked engine costs hundreds of pounds to repair but antifreeze only costs a few pounds. Engines need a 50:50 mix of antifreeze and water for the winter - this offers protection to -34°C. Most modern cars use long-life antifreeze. Make sure you use the right type.

## Batteries and electrics

There are extra demands on car batteries in the winter thanks to lights, heating and wipers.

- Turn off electrical loads such as lights, heated rear window and wipers before trying to start the engine.
- If the engine doesn't start quickly, wait 30 seconds between attempts.
- If you don't use your car often, give it a regular overnight trickle charge.

# **Visibility**

- Make sure all lights are working and lenses clean.
- If the roads are really mucky you might need to clean your lights after every trip.
- Also keep number plates clean to avoid getting a fine.
- Make sure windscreen wiper blades are in good condition. Don't leave them mid cycle as they may freeze to the windscreen.
- If you need to clear snow off your car, don't forget the lights front and back.
- You must use headlights when visibility is seriously reduced. If you use fog lights, remember to switch them off when visibility improves so they don't dazzle other drivers or obscure your brake lights.

## **Tyres**

- Don't let air out of your tyres to get more grip - it doesn't work and it's unsafe
- At least 3mm of tread for the winter is recommended.
- Think about getting winter tyres or all-season tyres - these are made from a special rubber that gives better grip in cold, wet conditions

### Snow and ice

Take it slow – with stopping distances 10 times longer, gentle manoeuvres are the key to safe driving in ice and snow.

- Wear comfortable, dry shoes for driving.
- Pull away in second gear, easing your foot off the clutch gently to avoid wheel-spin.
- If you have to use your brakes, apply them gently.
- If you drive an automatic, check the handbook – some have a winter mode or recommend selecting '2' in slippery conditions.
- If you do get stuck, straighten the steering and clear the snow from the wheels. Put a sack or old rua in front of the driving wheels to give the tyres some grip.

# Protect your home

If your boiler is on the blink or windows are letting in a draught, it might be time to carry out home improvements to keep you warm and well.

For older and more vulnerable residents in North Somerset, a variety of schemes are available to help you live safely and independently in your own home.

North Somerset Council works in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Energy to provide insulation and heating improvements in homes with a low energy efficiency rating. Find out more at www.cse.org.uk

Low-cost loans are also available through Wessex Resolutions.

For small tasks such as bleeding radiators or hanging curtains, the relaunched handy person service could be just the job...

# Major changes

Larger jobs which could take a day or more need to be carried out by professional traders.

It's not always easy to find a trader you can trust so look out for accreditation bodies and approval schemes.

North Somerset Council recommends two – Buy with Confidence and the Trustmark.

Visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk/find-a-business or www.trustmark.org.uk





Any local traders who would like to join the Buy with Confidence scheme can contact North Somerset trading standards team on **01275 888 634** to find out about promotional membership rates.

People in private rented or social accommodation will need to check what responsibilities their landlord has before seeking support from the council, as legal obligations and duties vary depending on the tenancy agreement.

For more information visit
www.england.shelter.org.uk/housing advice



# Handy person service relaunched

Small repairs, odd jobs, maintenance and adaptions can be carried out by a hired 'handy person'.

North Somerset Council has recently joined forces with Weston-based company AMS Electrical to offer this handy person service for people aged 60 and over or who have a disability and are unable to carry out the work themselves.

The service is provided by AMS and the council contributes to the cost to keep it affordable to those who need it.

AMS Electrical business operations manager Anne said: "Having worked in the community for many years within the electrical market, we have branched out and added the handy person division.

"We are excited to further support those in need within North Somerset."

The handy person costs £15.60 an hour, for a maximum of three hours per visit, and a maximum total of six hours a year.

To book call **01934 520 116**, email **info@amselectricalservices.co.uk** or visit **www.amselectricalservices.co.uk** 



# Try equipment before you buy

Anyone who struggles with dayto-day activities and needs a little extra help to stay independent at home might benefit from assistive aids and adaptations.

If you're uncertain about what's available or the choice seems a little overwhelming, a drop-in equipment and demonstration centre in Weston-super-Mare lets you 'try before you buy'.

Visit the centre, based in the Motex building, in Winterstoke Road, to view a range of aids and devices, with trained staff on-hand to answer any questions.

Try beds, recliner chairs or bath aids, or see what adaptations are available to make life easier at home.

The centre opened in 2014 and is now run by North Somerset Council so occupational therapists and staff there can also give free advice about other services available and practical support.

Some equipment is available to buy there and then, or find out about online suppliers to research more options and information to suit your needs.

If you have a disability which stops you from using your home effectively, you might be eligible for the meanstested disabled facilities grant.

Visit www.gov.uk/ disabled-facilities-grants for more information.





North Somerset Equipment and Demonstration Centre, Motex building, Winterstoke Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 3YW. Disabled parking and limited visitor parking available.

Drop in any time – 10am-4pm, Monday-Friday – or call **01275 888 804** 



# Funding home improvements

Homeowners are responsible for funding their own home improvements and adaptions but support may be available for more vulnerable people.

Low-cost loans are available through Wessex Resolutions for essential home repairs or improvements. Visit www.wricic.org.uk or call 01823 461 099

People who need help funding small home repairs could potentially seek charity funding.

Visit www.turn2us.org.uk/ get-support to find out more.



For general advice about help available, call Care Connect on 01275 888 801



# Remembering the fallen

Commemorative events will be happening across North Somerset this month to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War and Armistice Day.

Many towns and villages across the area are hosting their own events alongside traditional Remembrance Day services on Sunday 11 November. This includes...

- Clevedon a concert and pipers on Wains Hill
- Congresbury an indoor street party and service of remembrance
- Long Ashton a band, poppy trail, service of remembrance and beacon lighting
- Tickenham a cascade of 100 hand-knitted poppies, exhibition, poems and a service of remembrance
- **Weston-super-Mare** a Festival of Light in the Italian Gardens with songs from Weston College.

# Light a candle

Residents, churches and organisations across North Somerset are invited to light a tealight and remember the fallen of World War 1.

The Legacy of Light takes place at 6pm on Saturday 10 November as a lead-in to the next day's armistice commemorations.



# Other ways to mark the historic centenary include:

# Search your family history

Family history sessions take place in North Somerset libraries this month so people can search for their ancestors from World War 1.

Volunteers will be on-hand in Portishead and Weston-super-Mare libraries to help out, while other libraries will offer family history sessions and free access to the Ancestry website.

Contact your local library for more information.

## Find a war memorial

About 1,500 North Somerset men were killed in conflict during World War 1 and memorials can be seen around the area

The Imperial War Museum is compiling a War Memorials Register, a national register of memorials and the names they commemorate and where to find them.

Visit www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/ search

### Alfred Leete exhibition

Find out more about the Westonborn artist who created the iconic 'Your Country Needs You' poster.

Alfred Leete: The Man Behind the Icon is now open at Weston Museum in Burlington Street.

The centrepiece is the original artwork for the inspiring Lord Kitchener poster, on loan from the Imperial War Museum.

It runs until Sunday 13 January and entry is free.

www.westonmuseum.org

Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/remembrance for a full round-up of events, and search #northsomersetremembers on North Somerset Council's social media accounts.

See page 5 for information about Pages of the Sea.





Picture courtesy of Exclusive Ballooning



The world's top hot air balloonists will arrive in Weston-super-Mare this month for the resort's first ever night glow.

Up to 30 balloons will line up on the beach to illuminate the night skies with their show choreographed to

Weston-super-Glow takes place on Saturday 17 November and is the first event of its kind on a beach.

Organisers hope it will become a regular fixture in North Somerset's events calendar.

As well as the night glow, there will also be a mass ascent at 2.30pm, weather permitting.

Spectators can enjoy catering vans on the prom, entertainment on the Beach Lawns, and parking all day on the lawns for £5.

The event is free of charge and weather dependent.

Updates will be given 48 hours beforehand on the Weston Seafront social media accounts.

- f @WestonSeafront
- @WestonSeafront

# More dates for the diary

Now until 6 January

# Icescape @ The Tropicana

Ice rink, Santa's grotto, rides, festive food and drink.

www.icescape-tropicana.co.uk

# Friday 9 November

# **Weston Carnival**

From 7.15pm, Locking Road car park

About 120 illuminated floats. marching bands, fancy dress walkers and entertainers.

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/ westoncarnival



# Saturday 15 December eat:Christmas

# 9am-4pm,

Italian Gardens, Weston-super-Mare Experience a taste of Somerset with this festive themed food, drink and gift market, organised by the people behind eat: Weston and eat:Portishead, With entertainment from Weston Brass, the Renewal Gospel Choir and a special appearance from the big man himself.



# Christmas lights switch-on events:

- Saturday 24 November -Clevedon
- Monday 26 November -**Portishead**
- Thursday 29 November Weston-super-Mare
- Friday 30 November -Nailsea



# Take time out - Walk





# Walk information

Distance: about 2 miles.

Difficulty: easy to medium, with one fairly steep climb. The walk is along a compact gravel surface then a rocky, uneven lane. There are some loose stones, ruts and mud, so wear suitable footwear.

Duration: about 1.5 hours at a leisurely pace.

Map: OS 153 Explorer.

# How to get there

Start at map ref: ST 358578

By car: Parking is available on Roman Road, on Bleadon Hill. If heading east, there is a semi-circular layby on the left-hand side, shortly before Canada Coombe.

Walk along rocky paths and enjoy far-reaching views of the Somerset Levels and coast during this short climb around Bleadon Hill and Canada Coombe.

Bleadon Hill is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and part of the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

It features grassland, scrub and woodland, and is home to a variety of plants. Enjoy far-reaching views of the Somerset Levels and coast during this short walk.

From the layby on Roman Road, continue east.

At the bend, where the road becomes Canada Coombe. continue ahead on the footpath.



This is a compact gravel path and bridleway and you'll catch glimpses of Weston-super-Mare in the distance between the trees.

At the end of the path you'll come to a t-junction. This is signposted as a bridleway, the Butcombe Mendip Pub Trail, and the West Mendip

Turn left here, heading downhill. It is another stony, uneven track so take care.

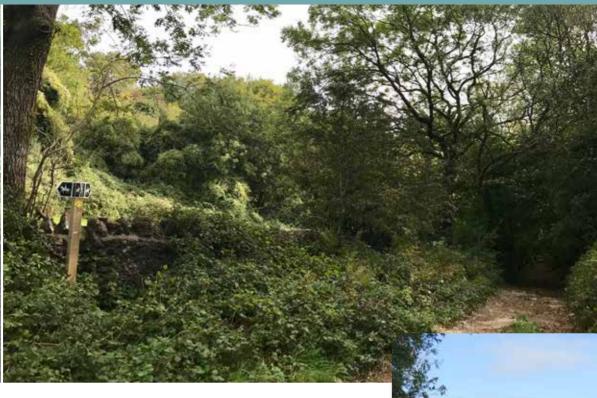
Go past the farmhouse and follow the track around to the right.



# Take time out - Walk







Keep following this wider track, as it then heads downhill. You'll pass woodland on your right, Christon Plantation.

At the next t-junction turn right, following the yellow waymarker. You are now on Bridewell Lane. It is a rocky, uneven track.

Continue on to the next t-junction and turn right again. You will now head uphill, with the woods on your right and a field on your left.

This becomes a fairly steep climb. Continue on as it bends to the left (do not enter the woods), then around to the right. You'll see Crook Peak in the distance ahead of you.



Pass the cottages on your left and at the junction with Keeper's Cottage, take the right-hand path, a rocky route going uphill.

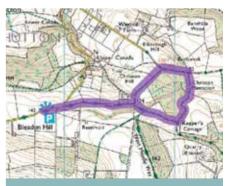
As you continue up the hill, turn around to see wonderful views behind you.

At the next junction, continue downhill on the rocky path. From here, you can see Weston-super-Mare in the distance.

Continue round the bend and you'll find yourself back at the signposted junction from earlier in your walk.

From here, retrace your steps along the compact gravel footpath and back to Roman Road.





This map is for guidance only and walkers should carry and use the OS 1:25000 map when out. © Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 100023397. You are not permitted to copy, sub-license, distribute or sell this data to third parties in any form.









### **LOCAL EVENTS**

### November

### Saturday 10

Congresbury Singers Autumn concert - Everyone Sang 7.30pm, Old School Rooms, Congresbury Songs from the era of WW1 including Linden Lea, If You Were the Only Girl in the World and Roses of Picardy. Tickets £8 including refreshments, in advance from Congresbury Post Office or a choir member. Donations to the Royal British Legion.

### Portishead Choral Society - We Will Remember

Them 7.30pm, Methodist Church, Portishead, A free concert to commemorate the end of WW1, www. portisheadchoral.co.uk

### Monday 12

Men's Group launching 7.30-9.30pm, Kewstoke. Exploring conscious connections together in a changing world. Call Tony 01934 414 545

### Friday 16

West Mendip Orchestra

7.45pm, Churchill Academy. Cristina Dimitrova playing Paganini's Violin Concerto No.1. Tickets £10 (concessions £8, students £21 on the door.

# Friday 16 - Thursday

Grete Howard LRPS a Photographic Exhibition 9.30am-4pm, 65 High Street, Nailsea.

### **Tuesday 20**

Clevedon Music Club 7.30pm, Teignmouth Room at Clevedon Community Centre, Princes Road. The Divertimento Piano Trio. Tickets £9 on the door. 01275 875 262

# Thursday 22 -Saturday 24

Backwell Playhouse Theatre Company perform Gaslight 7.30pm (with Sat Mat at 2.30pm), Backwell Playhouse. A psychological thriller written in 1938 but set in the 1880s, written by Patrick Hamilton. Tickets 2 (£10 members) from 0117 963 3586 or www. backwellplayhouse.co.uk

### Saturday 24

Cantantibus Organis -Costanzi Consort directed by Peter Leech 7.30pm, All Saints' Church, Westonsuper-Mare. Music by Palestrina, Marenzio, Ferdinando di Lasso. Dumont and Peter Philips. Tickets £12, students £5, under-16s free. 10 per cent discount and reserved seating at www. costanziconsort.org.uk

### Christmas Words and Music 7.30pm, Victoria Methodist Church, Station Road,

Weston. £5 including mince pie and coffee. Donations to Children's Hospice South West.

### Nailsea Concert Orchestra's Christmas Concert St

Francis Church, Nailsea. Commemorative World War One concert Tickets £12/£10/£2.50 in advance from Nailsea Music Shop or on the door.

### December

### Saturday 1

Worle Community Concert Christmas Concert 7pm, Priory Community School, Worle. With WCSA Youth Choir. Tickets £6 (£3 for children) from 01934 622 542 or 07972 909 939

### Churchill Music: The story

of Gilbert and Sullivan 7.30pm, St John the Baptist Church, Church Lane, Churchill. £12, Churchill Music Champions; £16 non-Champions; U18s £4 from www.churchillmusic. org.uk or 01934 852 589

### Friday 21

Portishead Philatelic Society - a philatelic

quiz 7.30pm, Friends' Meeting House, St Mary's Road Portishead New members welcome, www. portisheadphilatelicsociety.

### **CLUBS AND SOCIETIES**

### **Mondays**

Craft and sewing sessions (E) 10am-1pm and 1-4pm, Weston-super-Mare. Contact 01934 643 261 or emmabilly25@gmail.

Weston Monday Art Group (E) 10am, St Saviour's Church Hall, Locking Rd. 01934 514 127

Winscombe District U3A Coffee Morning (1, except Aug) 10am, Winscombe Community Centre. £1 inc refreshments.

Tots1 (E, term time only) 10-11.30am, Bristol Road Baptist Church, Southside, Weston-super-Mare

Iron Age hillfort of Westonsuper-Mare restoration group (E) (and Fridays) 10am-noon, access from Trinity Road.

Winscombe Probus Club (2 and 4) 10.30am, Winscombe Community Centre. 01934 782 505

01934 412 038

Duplicate bridge (E)(and Thurs, Fri, Sat) 1.30pm, 21 Montpelier, Weston. 01934 633 530

Kewstoke Arts and Crafts Group (E) 2pm, Village Hall. 01934 628 309

Georgian Club for over 60s (E) 2pm, St Georges Community Centre, Willow Close. 01934 510 953

NHS Retirement Fellowship (2) 2pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, Worle. 01934 417 850

Winscombe District U3A (3, except Aug and Dec) 2pm, Winscombe Community Centre. £1.50 members, £2 non-members.

Yatton Art Group (E) 2.15pm, Village Hall. 01934 249 907

Clevedon Mixed Leisure Club (1 and 3) 2.30pm. Consti Club, Kenn Road. 01275 875 179

Weston Flower Arrangement Society (4) 2.30pm, St Georges Hall. 01934 812 177

Whist drive-in, Portishead (E) 7.15pm. 01275 844 290 or 848 505

Clevedon Lions Club (3) 7.15pm, Walton Hotel. 01275 878 983

Weston Amateur Radio Society (E) 7.30pm, Weston Social Club, Drove Rd. 01761 221 206

Weston Quilters (1) 7.30pm, United Reform Church, Waterloo Street. 01934 834 278

Clevedon Gardeners Club (2 and 4, Sept-Mar) 7.30pm, Room 2, Clevedon Community Centre, Princes Road. clevedongardeners@gmail. com

Worle Lions (2) 8pm, Windsor Castle pub. www.worlelions.co.uk 08458 339 862

Lions Club of Portishead (2) 8pm, Clarence House, High Street. 08432 895 330

Nailsea Lions Club (2) 8pm, Grove Sports Centre. 01275 855 046

Yatton WI (2) 8pm, Yatton Village Hall 01934 834 796

Royal British Legion (Portishead) (3) 8pm, Clarence House, High Street. 01934 251 468

### **Tuesdays**

Weston U3A (E) 10am, Friends Meeting House, High Street

Art Group (E) 10am, Hutton Village Hall. Any medium. 01278 784 032 or 07977 323 553

Mendip Art Group (E) 10am, Banwell Village Hall, 01934 645 885

North Somerset Botanical Painting Society (E) 10am, Brackenwood Garden Centre, Abbots Leigh. 01934 832 952

Age UK free advice sessions (1) 10am-noon, Portishead Library, (2) 10am-noon, Nailsea Library, (4) 9.30am-12.30pm, Winscombe GP surgery. 0845 643 4621

Coffee and Chat (E, also Saturdays) 10am-noon, Portishead High Street Methodist Church, Portishead. 01275 844 917

Friends of Trendlewood Park (3) (and first Sun) 10am-1pm, Trendlewood Park, Nailsea. www. friendsoftrendlewoodpark. org.uk, 07879 607 492

Clevedon Happy Companions Club (E) 10.30am-2.30pm. Small, friendly social group for 4th age Clevedonians. 07887 744 295

Coffee Stop drop-in coffee morning (E) 10.30am, Milton Baptist Church, Baytree Rd. 01934 641 574

Kewstoke's Tiny Teds Toddler Group (E) 10.30am-noon, St Paul's Church Hall. £2 per family. 07980 384 034

Clevedon Probus Club 1974 (1)(3) 10.30am, Community Centre, Princes Rd. 01275 876 297

Clevedon Probus2008 Club (2)(4) 10.30am, Clevedon Community Centre, Princes Rd. 01275 874 631

Multicultural Friendship Association (E) 1-3pm, Weston Room, Badaer Centre, Wadham Street, Weston, 07587 335 963. www.mfa-wsm.org.uk

Lynne Castell Watercolours Árt Group (E) 1-4pm, Greenways Farm, 2 Lyefield Road, Worle 01934 628 760 or www.lynnecastell.f2s.com

Portishead Rotary Club Memory Café (1)(3) 2.15pm, Jubilee Hall Slade Rd. 01275 871 197 Weston Scrabble Club (E) 7pm, St Saviour's Church Hall, Locking Rd. 01934 620 948

Weston-super-Mare and District Family History Society (4, except Aug and Dec) 7pm, Vintage Church, Hughenden Road, Weston. 01934 418 998

Catenian Association (1) 7.15pm, Cadbury House Hotel, Congresbury. For Catholic men. 01275 877 180

Rotary Club of Portishead (E) 7.30pm, Clarence House, High Street. 01275 845 509

A1 Camera Club (E) 7.30pm, St Georges Community Centre, Willow Close, 01934 521 780

Hutton Ladies Group (1) 7.30pm, Village Hall 01934 623 450

Bleadon Photographic Club (1, 2, 4) 7.30-9.30pm, Bleadon Coronation Hall. 01934 812 573

Portishead Quilters (1)(3) 7.30pm, Redcliffe Hall. 01275 848 467

North Somerset Vintage Tractor Club (1) Redhill Village Club. 01275 474 649

Weston Railway Society (1) Function Room, Conservative Club. 01934 628 289

Clevedon Art Club (2) 7.30pm, Sixth Form Centre, Clevedon School, Valley Road 01275 879 556

Women of Weston Women's Institute (3) 7.30pm, Vintage Community Church, Hughenden Road, Weston. WeAreWOWWI@gmail.

Weston Archaeological and Natural History Society (2) 7.30pm, Victoria Methodist Church Hall, Station Rd. 01934 620 785

Portishead Townswomen's Guild (4) 7.30pm, Folk Hall. 01275 847 271



Clevedon and District Model Boat Club (4) 7.30pm, The Salthouse (also sail on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 10am)

Nailsea and District Model Railway Club (E) 7.30pm, Clevedon Craft Centre, off Moor Lane, www.nailseadistrict-mrc.co.uk

Clevedon and District Flower Club (4) 7.30pm, Community Centre, Princes Rd 01275 859 797

Nailsea Miners Rotary Club (E) 7.45pm, George pub, Backwell. 01275 854 641

Weston and Mendip Advanced Motorists' Group (3) 8pm, Village Hall, Crookes Lane, Kewstoke

Yeo Valley Lions Club (2) 8pm, Yatton Village Hall. 08458 339 602

North Somerset Modellers' Society (2) 8.30pm, Windsor Castle pub, Milton. 01934 417 907

### Wednesdays

Lynne Castell Oils, Acrylics, Pastels Art Group (E) 10am-1pm, Greenways Farm, 2 Lyefield Road, Worle, 01934 628 760 or www.lynnecastell.f2s.com

Yeo Valley Probus Club (1) (3) 10.30am, Backwell Bowls Club 01275 857 769

Backwell Probus Club (2)(4) 10.30am, West Backwell Bowling Club. For retired men, to listen to talks on a wide variety of topics. 01275 462 627

North Somerset Over 50s Club (4) 11am, Clevedon Community Centre. 01275 842 282

Gordano Probus Club (2) 12.30pm, Clarence House, High Street, Portishead. 01275 398 706

Portishead Probus Club 73 (3) noon-3pm, Clarence House Social Club, High Street. 01275 814 249 / 07715 572 106

Failand Art Group (E) 1.30pm, Village Hall, Oxhouse Lane. Jimpeck1502@gmail.com Banwell Bridge Club (E) 1.30pm. Village Hall. 01934 522 405

Friends of Weston-super-Mare Museum (3) 1.30pm, Blakehay Café, Wadham Street, Weston. Meetings free to members. Small fee to visitors.

Woodspring Scrabble Club (E) 2pm, United Reformed Church, Weston. 01934 815 358

Nailsea Scrabble Club (E) 2pm, Mizzymead Recreation Centre 01275 464 864

Worle Friendship Club (E) 2pm, Worle Community Centre, Lawrence Rd. 01934 510 863

Portbury Over Sixties Club (1) 2pm, Portbury Village

Backwell Garden Club (3) 2pm, WI Hall. 01275 855 822

Portishead Senior Citizens Forum (3) 2.15pm, Folk Hall. 01275 843 678

Clevedon Senior Citizens' Forum (L) 2.30pm, Masonic Hall, Albert Road 01275 874 296

Weston Amnesty International (2) 6.30pm, Worlebury Golf Club, Weston, 01934 419 014

Weston Bridge Club (E) 6.45pm (and Fri/ Sat 1.45pm), Haywood Village Academy, Whitney Crescent. 01934 647 634 or ivangerstel@gmail.com

Weston Sea Cadets (E) (and Fri), 7pm, Cadet HQ, Sunnyside Rd North. 11 to 18-vear-olds.

Portishead Spiritualist Association (E) 7.30pm, Brampton Way Playgroup Hall, Brampton Way. 01275 843 744

Weston Moose Social Evening (L) 7pm, Ebdon Arms, Wick St Lawrence. Skittles, darts and friendly conversation. 01934 814 042 or 41 litton@tiscali.co.uk

Wrington Vale Rotary Club (E) 7.30pm, Burrington Inn, Burrington Combe. 01934 844 214



Clevedon Yeo Rotary Club (1 and 3) 7.30pm, Walton Park Hotel, Wellington Terrace, Clevedon. 01275 218 987 www. clevedonyeorotary.org.uk

Nailsea and District Horticultural Society (2) 7.30pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Stockway North, £2 for members, £3 for visitors 01275 855 342

Nailsea Stamp and Postcard Club (2) 7.30pm, Mizzymead Recreation Centre. 01275 855 875

Nailsea and Backwell Townswomen's Guild (2) 7.30pm, Methodist Hall. 01275 810 579

Worle WI (3) 7.30pm, Castle Batch Community Centre, Bishop's Avenue. 01934 511 329

Portishead Floral Art Society (3) 7.30pm, Somerset Hall. £5 for visitors. 01275 374 201

Royal British Legion (Clevedon) (3) 7.30pm, Community Centre, Prince's Rd 01275 879 816

Gordano Valley 41 Club (4) 7.30pm, Royal Inn, Portishead. 01275 817 258

Moorhens WI (1) 8pm, Locking Castle Church. moorhensWI@gmail.com

### **Thursdays**

Community Coffee Morning (E) 10am, Clarence Park Baptist Church, Walliscote Road Weston 01934 424 550

Probus Club WSM (1)(3) 10am, Worlebury Golf Club, Worlebury. 01934 514 857 www.probusweston.com

Probus Club of Nailsea (2) (4) 10am, Mizzymead Social Club. 01275 790 335

Probus Milton (2)(4) 10am, Milton Methodist Church. 01934 525 476

Weston Twins and More (4) 10am, Kids Hut, Winter Gardens. 01934 528 348

Civil Service Retirement Fellowship (1)(3) 10am, Friends Meeting House, High Street, Weston. 01275 858 766

Copse Coffee drop-in coffee morning (A) 10.30am, Copse Rd Chapel, Seavale Rd, Clevedon. 01275 798 667 / 07873 180 135

Notable Club (E) Uphill Scouts Hall. 07749 625 217

Channel Scrabble Club (E) 2pm, Friends Meeting House, High Street, Weston-super-Mare. 01934 418 876

Social duplicate bridge (E) 2pm, Vintage Community Church Hall, Hughenden Road, Weston-super-Mare. 01934 627 751

Winscombe Bridge Club 2pm. 01275 540 604 www.winbridge.org.uk

Uphill Friendship Club (over 50s) (E) 2.15pm, Victory Hall, Uphill. 01934 429 678

Weston and District National Trust Association (2)(and fourth Fri) 2.15pm, Corpus Christi Church Hall, Weston. 01934 633 593

Yatton Knitting Club (E) 5.45pm, Yatton Library. All abilities welcome. Free tea or coffee, 01934 426 100

Craft and sewing sessions (E) 6-9pm, Weston-super-Mare. Contact 01934 643 261 or emmabilly25@gmail.com

Vintage Hornby Railway Collectors (4) 6pm, Scout Hut, Totterdown Rd Weston. 01934 413 053

Loves Book Club (1 6.30pm, Loves Cafe, 9 West Street. 01934 645 672

Vegetarian Cookery Club (A) 6.45pm, Church Hall, 500 Locking Rd, Worle. 01934 628 860

Uphill Brushstrokes (2) 7pm, Uphill Village Hall. All abilities. 01934 820 105

Weston Woodturning Circle (3) 7pm, Weston Football Club, Winterstoke Rd. 01934 510 862

Weston Chess Club (E) 7.30pm, Weston-super-Mare Conservative Club. 24-26 Alexandra Parade. 01934 643 171

Portishead Camera Club (E, Sept-May) 7.30pm, Redcliffe Bay Hall, Newhaven Road. 01275 848 895 www. portisheadcameraclub.co.uk

Weston-super-Mare Horticultural Society (2) 7.30pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Baytree Rd.

Banwell WI (2) 7.30pm, Village Hall, Banwell. Visitors welcome. 01934 253 761

Hewish and District WI (3) 7.30pm, Hewish and Puxton Village Hall, Maysgreen Lane. 01934 249 352

Avon Wildlife Trust Long Ashton (3) 7.30pm, Jubilee Pavilion, Keedwell Hill. 01275 392 690

North Somerset Rural Business Forum (3) 7.30pm, Mendip Spring Golf Club. £7.50 for non members. 01531 820 307

Royal British Legion (Nailsea) (3) 7.30pm, Grove Sports Club. 01275 856 879

Bleadon Sugarcraft Club (4) 7.30pm, Bleadon Coronation Hall, Visitors £3.50. 07535 915 582

Bristol Sailors Meeting (4) 8pm, British Legion Hall, Long Ashton.

### Fridays

Good Companions Senior Citizens Club (E) 9am, Somerset Hall, Portishead. 01275 848 059

Gadget Club (1) 10-11am, Town Hall library, Weston-super-Mare. 01934 426 010

Lynne Castell Calligraphy Group (A) 10am-1pm, a Weston venue. 01934 628 760 or www.lynnecastell.f2s.com

Mead Vale Friendship Club (over 50s) (E) 2pm, Community Hall, Worle. 01934 510 672

Portishead Folk Hall Senior Citizens Club (E) 2pm, Folk Hall, High Street, Portishead. £1, inc refreshments and entertainment 01275 390 350

50-plus club (E) 2-4pm. Castle Batch Community Centre, Bishop Avenue, Worle.

Scrabble Club (E) 2.15-5pm, Clevedon Conservative Club. £1 per session. 01275 342 974

Long Ashton Bowling Club (E - May-Sept) 6pm, Community Centre, Keedwell Hill. 01275 853 885

Nailsea Computer Club (1)(3)(4) 7pm, Southfield Church, Southfield Close, Nailsea. 01275 852 521 North Somerset Quilters (3) 7.30pm, WI Hall, Station Rd Backwell 01275 463 119

Portishead Stamp Club (4) 7.30pm, Friends' Meeting House, St Mary's Rd. Annual convention at Gordano School on 18 August and discussion at Friends' Meeting House on 24 August. New members welcome from Portishead and beyond. www. portisheadphilatelicsociety.

org.uk Banwell Society of Archaeology (2) 7.30pm, Banwell Village Hall.

#### **Saturdays**

Hutton Lace and Craft Group (2) 9.30am, Village Hall. 01934 822 871

**CREWS Backstage Support** (E) 10am-1pm, The Stables, Princes Rd, Clevedon. 07824 821 814

Craft and sewing sessions (E) 10am-1pm and 1-4pm, Weston-super-Mare. Contact 01934 643 261 or emmabilly25@gmail.com

Portbury Community Café (1) 10am, Village Hall. 07971 501 374

Friends of the Playhouse 10am, upstairs bar of The Playhouse, High Street, Weston. Regular fundraising coffee mornings.

Better Nailsea litter picks (2) 10am-noon, then Community Group meeting noon-2pm, 65, High Street, Nailsea.

betternailsea@gmail.com

YABEEP Natural Beekeeping Group (2) 10.30am, Claverham Village Hall, Bishops Rd. YABeeP@gmail.com

Avon Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers (2) 10.30am, Bowls Pavilion, Long Ashton Community Centre. 01275 464 526

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

Weston-super-Mare & District Family History (E) 2pm-3.30pm, Weston library, Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Rd.

### Sundays

Games and other activities group for over 50s (3) 2-4pm, The Lawnside, Church Lane, Backwell. 01934 888 803

Worle Lions Quiz (1) Windsor Castle pub. Entry £2.50 inc food and cash prize.

www.worlelions.co.uk 08458 339 862





I chose Kingfisher because it had made an excellent job of my daughter's house and I like to support local business when possible. The customer service was very good and they were extremely helpful, efficient and made a first class job with the installation. I would definitely recommend Kingfisher to my friends."



- Barbara Biggin, Cheddar



Everyone at Kingfisher is pleasant, helpful, a pleasure to deal with and have on site. We are extremely pleased with all aspects of our installation and the after sales service has been excellent. A first class company whom we have no hesitation in recommending."

- Mr and Mrs Whittle, Draycott

Kingfisher is a local, friendly, family set up. We were given the opportunity to look at previous installations locally which reassured us that we had made the right choice.

We would definitely recommend Kingfisher."
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# Incentives

to help promote sustainable travel at your workplace





Enthusiastic people who cycle, walk or travel actively for part of their commute are needed to inspire colleagues to do the same - and free equipment is available to help.

Incorporating physical activity into everyday life - such as walking and cycling instead of using a car - can improve health and wellbeing as well as reduce congestion and emissions in the local area.

Research shows that regularly active employees take 27 per cent fewer sick days, have improved productivity and higher morale.

There are currently more than 200 cycle and walking champions in workplaces across the West of England and North Somerset Council hopes to recruit more.

The Active Travel Champion scheme, with funding from the Department for Transport, provides support, training and resources for people to raise the profile of cycling and walking in their organisation.

Anyone who signs up to become a champion will receive a range of free support...

- ✓ welcome pack everything to get you started
- ✓ emergency cycle repair kit a fully-equipped repair kit for your organisation, including a pump, tools, inner tubes, spare lights and lock
- ✓ promotional materials a regular supply of maps and leaflets, along with seasonal promotions such as hi-vis and rucksack covers.

### You can also access all of the following for free:

- ✓ bicycle maintenance sessions - group sessions to learn bike maintenance
- ✓ Dr Bike sessions bicycle servicing to keep colleagues commuting
- ✓ travel roadshows engage staff and carry out personalised travel planning
- ✓ an electric pool bike get a six-month electric loan bike for business travel
- ✓ individual bike loan employees can borrow a bike for free for two
- ✓ adult cycle training improving people's skills and ability to cycle confidently

- ✓ an accompanied ride to work help others find their best route and build their confidence
- ✓ led cycle rides tailored group rides led by a qualified guide
- ✓ pool umbrellas to encourage lunchtime walks and walking meetings
- ✓ bus taster tickets to try commuting by bus (with the walk at either end of the journey)
- ✓ user groups guidance and support to set up a walking or bike user group.

Become an active travel champion by contacting the sustainable travel team at North Somerset Council: sustainable.travel@n-somerset.gov.uk or 01934 426 404

Sign up before Friday 30 November to receive £150 towards an active travel breakfast at your organisation.

For public transport information and routes visit www.travelwest.info

For hints and tips about cycling and to see local maps visit www.betterbybike.info



Libraries and children's centres under one roof

Joint libraries and children's centres in Worle, Pill and Yatton are offering a wide range of services under one roof in each of their local communities.

The libraries and children's centres came together last year because of North Somerset Council's reduced budget.

Changes needed to be made to keep these services in all three communities.

At Worle, alterations were made to the Milton and Old Worle Children's Centre in Mendip Avenue, just off Worle High Street, to enable the library to move into the refurbished building from its previous home in The Maltings.

At Pill, work to refurbish the library building at Crockerne House in Underbanks involved remodelling the inside and providing an outside play area.

This meant the children's centre, previously based at Crockerne Primary School, could move into the building.

In Yatton, alterations were made to the High Street library so Yatton Moor Children's Centre, previously at Yatton Infant School, could move into the refurbished building.

### Do you run yoga classes?

Are you a club leader and need a space? Each library offers space for hire so contact them directly for more information.

## What's on where

A range of clubs and support sessions take place at Worle, Pill and Yatton joint libraries and children's centres...

Worle - councillor surgery, 50+ internet tuition, Bookstart Rhymetime, story time, adult colouring group, children's code club, Brilliant Babies, Cheeky Monkeys, breastfeeding support, Let's Play, Melody Makers

Pill - Lego club, Bookstart Rhymetime, Stay and Play, Rhyme and Sign, childminders' group, Well Baby clinic

Yatton - story time, knitting club, councillor surgery, Bookstart Rhymetime, Duplo club, Citizen's Advice Bureau clinic, writers group, Lego club, breastfeeding support, baby massage, first aid (baby resus), Social Babies, mini adventure Stay and Play, Well Baby clinic



To find your local library visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/libraries

For a full calendar of events at all libraries visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/libraryevents

For events at other children's centres, find your local one at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/childrenscentres



# Extended library opening hours

Opening hours at Worle, Yatton and Winscombe libraries have increased following the introduction of a self-service swipe card system.

The system means members can access these libraries durina unstaffed hours, either earlier in the mornings, during evenings or for extra hours at weekends.

Portishead library already uses the system, called Extended Access.

More than 800 people have signed up to use it since January and it's been used more than 4.500 times.

North Somerset Council libraries manager Andy Brisley said:

"Convenience is important to today's users and this gives them greater flexibility in how and when they use the library."

To use extended access, you must first attend an induction session explaining how the system works and what services are available. It also includes important health and safety information.

Book onto a session at www.eventbrite.co.uk (search for 'extended access'). If you don't have internet access, ask library staff for help.

New sessions are added all the time. Find out more at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/ extendedaccess



# The 24-hour library

Get 24-hour library access by downloading digital books, audio books and magazines for free on your smartphone or tablet.

Online library apps mean you can borrow and listen to an audio book while commuting to work or read the latest thriller on your smartphone late at night.

The apps contain an improved range of titles thanks to the seven local authorities across the South West pooling their resources.

To read or listen to these e-publications, you'll need to log in with your library membership details and create an account.

If you're not yet a library user, find your local one at

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/libraries

www.librarieswest.org.uk/join

Find these apps in the Apple app store or Google Play on Android...

- books use cloudLibrary. There are more than 15,000 titles to choose from. Borrow up to five at a time, for up to 21 days. Reserve books if they're currently on loan.
  - www.librarieswest.org.uk/ ebooks
- children's books there is a small collection of about 500 eBooks for children.

www.librarieswest.org.uk/ kidsebooks



- audio books use BorrowBox. It has more than 3,000 titles. Borrow up to five at a time, for 14 days. Reserve up to five at a time. www.librarieswest.org.uk/ eaudio
- magazines use RBdigital. More than 100 titles available, including computers, current affairs, entertainment, food, and science. Checkout as many as you like and keep them for as long as you want. Each title has at least 12 months of back issues. Create a free account at www.rbdigital.com/somerset before using the app.







Adventures on the high seas have been enjoyed by young care leavers in North Somerset to help widen horizons, make new friends and boost self-esteem.

Two groups of young people set off on trips run by the Tall Ships Youth Training Trust; one around the west coast of Scotland and one along the south coast from Portsmouth.

North Somerset Council wants to provide more opportunities for children in care as they grow into adults, as it now has responsibility to support them until they are 25.

The council currently has about 225 looked-after children and 220 care leavers, and 10 of these were chosen to take part in the Tall Ships trips.

The trips were funded through the chairman's charity fund and were the idea of this year's chairman of North Somerset Council, Cllr David Jolley.

Local companies also gave sponsorship money and contributed towards buying equipment, such as sleeping bags and deck shoes.

Social services team manager Liza Zakheim said: "As corporate parents, we have a duty to our children in care and care leavers to promote opportunities to develop their self-esteem.

"The Tall Ships activity provided 10 of our young people the chance for a once-in-a-lifetime experience with fun, positive challenges."



The young people were responsible for getting themselves to the departure points, then cooking and cleaning on-board and sailing the ships.

Bethany was on the Scottish trip and said: "The whole week was amazing. We saw dolphins and seals.

"We all pulled together doing jobs, such as having a rota to cook."

Participants had to get-along in confined spaces and as a result, new friendships were formed.

Chas Cowell, youth development and training manager at Tall Ships, said: "They were a very happy and buzzing group of young people who had an excellent week and want to come back again.

"One participant has been recommended to come back as a potential volunteer watch leader."

North Somerset Council hopes to provide more trips and opportunities for children in care and recent care leavers in the future.



North Somerset Council is a corporate parent to about 445 children and young people.

The council doesn't have enough foster carers locally and some children have to be placed in expensive, private foster care placements away from their home, schools and family.

Find out more about all types of fostering at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/fostering or call 01275 888 999

# Could you help a young person move towards independence?

Do you have a spare bedroom and would you like to help a young person to live independently?

Supported Lodgings is a council scheme where host carers rent out their spare room to a young person aged 16 to 18 who has been living in care and is almost ready to live independently.

These young people often need help with basic living skills, such as cooking and budgeting, and some may prefer an adult's help when trying to become more independent.

Hosts can still work full-time as they just need to help the young person develop life skills and give emotional support.

During their stay, the young person will need to demonstrate a commitment to finding employment or further education and agree to keep to your house rules.

To be a host you must be aged 21 or over. It doesn't matter if you work, have qualifications, or if you own or rent a home. Your marital status, sexuality or cultural background also doesn't affect an application.

You just need to provide a comfortable room, a key to the house, at least one meal a day and use of communal rooms and facilities, such as the kitchen, bathroom and laundry.

Hosts also receive comprehensive support, free training, free membership to the Fostering Network, comprehensive insurance and financial help to cover rent, utilities and support for the young person.

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

Or contact **01275 884 281** or supported.lodgings @n-somerset.gov.uk

# Value for money



# Balancing the books

Balancing the budget books is getting ever-harder for local authorities up and down the country as government funding dries up.

North Somerset Council expects to receive no direct funding from central government from 2020 but at the same time there is an increasing demand for services, particularly adult and children's social care.

Some short-term funding for adult care has been made available - such as the specific council tax levy - but the number of vulnerable people needing support and the complexity of their needs continues to exceed available resources.

To meet these challenges, the council has made more than £90m in savings since austerity measures began in 2010.

It is also improving its financial self-reliance by giving greater focus to locally-generated resources, such as income generation.

Despite these on-going pressures, North Somerset Council has maintained most frontline services and resident satisfaction rates.



### Statement of accounts

The statement of accounts is published annually to give local residents information about the council's income and expenditure for the previous financial year.

As a public authority, the council is responsible for ensuring its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and it is used economically, efficiently and effectively.

This means having robust systems and processes in place and valid reasons for its actions and decisions.

The statement of accounts is a complex financial document so here in *Life* is a summary.

A full version is available at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/accounts





# Income and outgoings

Income for North Somerset Council comes from central government grants, council tax and business rates.

This money is used to cover the cost of providing services.

In 2017/18, this added up to...

# Where the money comes from...

Total	£387.7m
government grants	£17.7m
Service-related	
Business rates	£35m
Fees and charges	£44.9m
Council tax	£102.4m
grants	£187.7m
General government	

## What it's spent on...

Schools	£100m
Adult social care	£94.5m
Development and	
environment	£68.7m
Housing benefits	£57.7m
Children and	
young people	£35.7m
Finance and investments	£10.9m
Public health	£10m
Housing services	£4.7m
Other corporate services	£2.1m
Non-service	£1.7m
Transfers to general	
and earmarked reserves	£1.7m
Total	£387.7m





# Capital investments



Significant investment has been made in commercial property during the last financial year to provide an annual return and help protect frontline services.

In March the council spent £40m acquiring North Worle District Centre in Weston-super-Mare.

This 11.8-acre commercial site includes a Sainsbury's supermarket, TK Maxx store, five other retail units, a pub and a 504-space car park.

The investment will allow the council to improve this important strategic site near the motorway, the entrance to Weston-super-Mare and new villages, as well as contributing funds to council services.

The council estimates it will make a net return of more than £400,000 a year from it.

To fund its commercial investment portfolio, the council has approved a £100m fund.

As part of this strategy, in the current financial year the council has acquired the lease of the Sovereign Centre in Weston-super-Mare.



## Capital spending in 2017/18:

Commercial property		
investments	£40.2m	
Schools	£10.5m	
Existing roads	£8.8m	
New roads and transport £7.6m		
Housing	£3.7m	
Other capital investment	£3.3m	
Strategic and regeneration		
projects	£2.2m	
Leisure centres	£2.2m	
Total	£78.5m	

## Where the money comes from:

Total	£78.5m
Reserves and balances	£1.8m
Sales of assets	£6.4m
Grants and contributions	£25.6m
Borrowing	£44.7m



## Balance sheet at financial year-end

The balance sheet shows the council's financial position on 31 March 2018, the end of the financial year.

It is a snapshot of the assets the council owns, the liabilities it owes

and the reserves it has available to fund future expenditure.

Despite the challenging economic outlook, the council maintains prudent levels of reserves to protect its services from future financial risks.

# The council's net assets...

Property plant and

Net assets	£56.6m
Other long-term liabilities -£4.2m	
Pension liabilities	-£232.7m
Long-term borrowing	-£162.2m
Money owed by the council	-£61.6m
Money owed to the council and investments £91.6m	
Other long-term assets	£13.4m
Investment property	£56.4m
equipment	£355.9m
rroperty, pianti ana	

# Which is financed by...

Total reserves	£56.6m
Unusable reserves	£5.1m
Allocated reserves	£42.9m
General reserve	£8.6m



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



# Current financial performance and plans for the future

As government funding is reduced. North Somerset Council must continue to look at other ways of generating income to pay for services.

The council wants to do this by investing in sites, promoting economic growth, regenerating and shaping the future of North Somerset

To meet growing demand, the council has included an extra £5.4m in its 2018/19 budget for services to vulnerable adults, and £2.7m for children, and will continue this growth into future years.

Budgeting is a year-round process.

Details of the 2019/20 budget and its impact on your council tax will be available in Life next spring. Got an idea about how the council could save money?

Your first port of call could be your local ward councillor.

Find your local councillor and more about how the council works at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/councillors

Hard copies of the annual accounts are available by writing to Melanie Watts. Head of Corporate Accountancy, North Somerset Council, Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ.

A full version of the council's audited statement of accounts for 2017/18 is available at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/ accounts

For more information call the finance team: 01275 884 037



## Weston Vision



# Victorian seawall brought back to former glory

A crumbling Victorian seawall in Weston-super-Mare has been brought back to its former glory following a £320,000 cash injection.

Slipway after

Part of the wall, underneath Knightstone Island, collapsed last winter due to prolonged exposure to the sea and required large cavities to be filled and a section to be rebuilt.

The original seawall was made up of a mixture of hard core and stone but with many years of strong currents and waves, stones were

washed away and cavities began to form which required fixing.

As part of the restoration work, a full condition survey took place all the way up to Birnbeck Pier to ensure no further restoration work is required in the near future.

Work has also taken place on the ramp/slipway near the Grand Pier, which required some enhancement work due to storm damage.

Funding for the work came from the Environment Agency.

Darren Gilbert, highways and environmental manager at



Seawall before

North Somerset Council said: "The stone work has been done sympathetically to the original design to integrate with the existing stone work and we're delighted with the result."



## Independent coffee wagon rolls into town

A renovated horse box selling coffee, delicacies and locallysourced refreshments is the latest addition to the wide-ranging food and drink offerings in Westonsuper-Mare's town centre.

Ginger and Rhubarb is parked in front of Carlton Street car park, just around the corner from the popular restaurants of Dolphin Square.

It is run by Fay Powell, who was inspired to set it up after seeing the regeneration of the town.

Fay said: "I've lived in Weston my entire life and I've wanted to do this

for several years. With all the exciting changes happening in the town centre, it seemed like the right time.

"I think we have so much to offer in our region and I'm passionate about using local produce wherever possible, even down to the renovation of the horse box which was done by local fitter Tudor Catering Trailers in Weston, and we're delighted with the result."



Ginger and Rhubarb stocks Extract Coffee and Hot Chocolate from Bristol, Bradley's Juice from Hewish, handmade treats from Christopher's Chocolate in Weston, and chorizo pokers from Somerset Charcuterie.

There are also lunchtime offerings of toasties and sandwiches in addition to the homemade cakes. Greetings cards and gifts are also for sale.

Ginger and Rhubarb is open 8.30am-2.30pm Tuesday to Friday during autumn and winter, as well as during event weekends.

Keep an eye on social media for the latest updates.

@fay\_gingerandrhubarb ginger rhubarb@outlook.com





Above: Creative Hub manager Kerry O'Neill (centre), with Stable board member and chief executive of Authentic Digital Will Jeffries, and Stable front of house Samantha Brannigan.

## Creative co-working hub celebrates one-year anniversary

Weston's creative tech and digital co-working hub has celebrated its milestone one-year anniversary.

The Stable, in Wadham Street, offers co-working and office space to creative tech and digital freelancers, micro and start-up businesses on flexible and low-risk terms.

It opened its doors last September and to celebrate the event, held a birthday party with members, supporters and local businesses.

Manager Kerry O'Neill said: "This last year has been an epic achievement for everyone involved.

"We've had the pleasure of welcoming Google Digital Garage twice, as well as Arts Council England, Watershed Arts and SpaceHive, the crowdfunding platform."

The Stable's next phase is to expand the building and double the available space - an extra 4,000 sq ft - for sole traders, freelancers and small businesses.

As well as the economic benefits of supporting startup businesses, The Stable helps to reposition Weston as a well-connected, quality location, which is a good place to live and work and has a distinct personality based around creative arts and culture.

Networking events and support are available to members of The Stable to cultivate their business success.

To find out more or register your interest in becoming a member, visit www.thestableweston.com







# Expert advice available for businesses to succeed

Expert advice and tailored support is being given to new start-ups and existing businesses across North Somerset to kickstart their growth.

Workshops and one-to-one sessions are being delivered through the Enterprising West of England programme to help people understand what's involved in starting a business and how to take the next steps.

The programme sees three of the region's most experienced business support providers working with the four West of England councils.

Locally, it is being delivered by North Somerset Enterprise Agency (NSEA), based in Weston Business Quarter in Weston-super-Mare.

#### The offer includes...

- Starting in Business a free three-day course for anyone thinking of setting up a new venture. It includes getting the basics right, making money and being profitable, marketing, and finding and keeping customers.
- One-to-one advice from qualified professionals on a range of topics.
- Strategy and finance workshops for existing businesses – including specialist help on issues such as property law, leadership skills and finance.

NSEA began delivering the programme in January this year and businesses are already benefitting.



The Enterprising West of England programme has been commissioned by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to support small and medium-sized enterprises and business growth.

It is funded by the European Regional Development Fund, Business West, The Prince's Trust, YTKO Group, Bristol City Council, Bath and North East Somerset Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council.







## Goddesse Education

A former teacher and single parent who came to North Somerset with a 'make or break' plan is now succeeding in business after just a year.

Alice Smith was a former head of department at a private school but moved to the area to escape an abusive marriage.

At the age of 40 she found herself as a homeless, single parent suffering from severe posttraumatic stress disorder and unable to function except to write.

Alice wrote about her experiences and turned them into successful stage shows, inspiring other domestic abuse survivors with her mental health recovery.

She slowly began to regain her confidence but suffered another setback when her father died in October 2017.

Feeling that she had nothing left to lose, she decided to start her own business, Goddesse Education.

Alice said: "I came from a low point where I felt everything had been destroyed.

"Running my own business has helped me regain my sense of self-worth. I have a real purpose and am helping many people along the

"I accessed free oneto-one advice sessions from NSEA which had a profound effect on how I run my business."

Alice is now delivering GCSE English tuition and has taken 300 people through exam retakes.

She has also worked on a project to teach English as a foreign language and won an exciting university contract.

Alice said: "If you have a longing to run your own business, don't wait. Now is the time and go for it. I did and don't regret it for a minute."



### Mendip Dog Walking and Pet Services

A dog-walking service which offers everything from canine exercise to doggy sports car rides is nearing its first successful vear in business.

Churchill-based Mendip Dog Walking and Pet Services launched in January after Andy Cleary took voluntary redundancy from his office job of 20 years.

Being outside the business world for the first time was 'scary but exciting' and Andy pledged his next career move would be doing something he loved.

He said: "I was able to qualify for Job Seekers Allowance at the start, which not only helped me financially with weekly payments, but also referred me to North Somerset Enterprise Agency.

"NSEA quickly took me under their wing, providing a free one-to-one meeting with a business advisor.

"I then took part in the three-day starting in business course. It was an eve-opener and made me consider issues I had not even thought of."

As well as dog walking, Andy offers a pooper scooper garden service for people who struggle to bend down or clear up after their dog; a wedding service for customers who want their beloved pets at their special day; and canine thrill rides in an open-air sports car for pooches who love the wind through their ears.

www.mendipdogwalking.co.uk



Would you love to launch your own business, or need help to grow one?

Contact North Somerset Enterprise Agency to find out what advice and

info@nsea.biz • 01934 418 418 www.northsomersetenterpriseagency.co.uk



support is available.

# Recycle and reuse

Christmas can be a time of excess but there are plenty of ways to reduce and recycle your waste over the festive period.

Here are some helpful reminders about what can and can't be recycled locally in North Somerset, and what to do with your Christmas waste...

#### Advent calendar

Consider getting a traditional wooden, fabric or cardboard advent calendar which you can reuse year-on-year to become a family tradition. Otherwise, for single-use chocolate calendars, put the cardboard and plastic tray in the appropriate sections of your recycling box.



#### **Batteries**

These can be recycled in your kerbside collection box by putting them in an untied plastic bag. Try using rechargeable ones where possible.

#### Black plastic trays from biscuits and chocolates

Not currently recyclable so needs to go in the general waste.

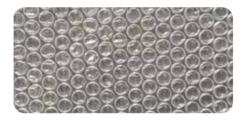


#### Cardboard boxes

Remove all packaging and flatten boxes down to the length of your recycling box. Place out for recycling with your containers.

#### **Broken drinking glasses**

Wrap in newspaper and place in your general waste bin.



#### **Bubble wrap**

Reuse where possible, otherwise put in your general waste bin.

#### Cards

Cut out the pictures to reuse for next year's gift tags. Non-glittery cards can go in your recycling box.



#### **Crackers**

These are not recyclable so place in the general waste bin.

#### Christmas trees

For households registered for the garden waste service, real trees will be collected with garden waste collections from Monday 21 January to Friday 1 Febraury. More information in the January edition of Life. Sign-up for the service at

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/ gardenwaste

#### Foil (mince pie cases and trays)



Rinse, squash and place in your recycling box.

#### Foil (to wrap the turkey)

If it's greasy put it in your general waste bin. Clean foil can go in the recycling box.

#### Food waste

Reduce the amount of food waste you create by shopping with a list, using up leftovers and maximising use of your freezer. Visit www. lovefoodhatewaste.com/recipes for leftover recipe ideas. All food waste, including turkey carcasses, can be placed in your food caddy for recycling.



# this Christmas





#### Gift ribbon

Keep and reuse for future gifts where possible. If not, put in the general waste.

#### Lights (Christmas tree and fairy lights)

Any broken lights can be placed in a carrier bag in your recycling box or taken to the recycling centre.

#### **Napkins**

Try reusable, cloth ones where possible. If you are using paper ones, they are not recyclable and should go in the general waste.

#### Old toys

If old toys are in a good condition they can be donated to charity or sold. If they are broken, take them to the recycling centre or put in the general waste.

#### **Polystyrene**

Polystyrene is not recyclable so should go in your general waste or be taken to the recycling centre.

#### **Sweet wrappers**

Soft plastic wrappers should go in the general waste but foil wrappers can be scrunched together into a foil ball and put in your recycling box.



#### Sweet tubs (cardboard, metal and plastic)

Put them in your sorted recycling box, separating out the different materials.

#### **Tinsel**

This is not recyclable - keep it for next year, donate it to school art projects, or put it in the general waste.



Avoid wrapping paper wherever possible - try reusable gift bags instead, or brown parcel paper with a reusable ribbon. Not all wrapping paper is paper-based. Some is made from plastic and metallic film. To check, scrunch it into a ball. If it stays in the ball shape, it's paper-based and should be recycled. If it springs back flat, put it in with your nonrecyclable waste.



For waste tips, recycling advice and questions, contact the team on social media.

See the inside front cover for recycling and waste collection days over Christmas, and page 13 for what to do with your boxes and bins in severe weather.

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/recycling

# Be the 'eyes and ears' of your street

People in North Somerset are being urged to be the 'eyes and ears' of their street and report any potential unlicensed houses of multiple occupation (HMOs).

North Somerset Council wants to hear from residents who think an unlicensed HMO might be operating in their road, to protect more vulnerable people who may be living in cramped, unsafe conditions.

HMOs are residential properties where people from different households are living and sharing facilities, like a kitchen and/or a bathroom.

They provide a valuable supply of low-cost housing, particularly for those on limited incomes, but residents are sometimes more vulnerable because of their financial or immigration status, age and lifestyle.

HMOs can have issues such as overcrowding, small bedrooms, waste storage problems, or unsafe gas and electricity supplies.

#### New licence legislation

Since October, all landlords who rent out a property to five or more people from two or more households must have an HMO licence, or face prosecution or a fine of up to £30,000.

Previously, licences were only needed if the property was three or more storeys. This important change means more properties need to be licensed.

Lisa Osborn, private rented housing manager, said: "Having a licence means there are extra conditions placed on the management and occupation of the building."

# Be the eyes and ears of the community

Work is under way to improve living conditions in the private rented sector and make sure everyone has a safe and decent home.

The HMO licence allows the council to impose conditions on the management of the property – so if neighbours think a house nearby might be a HMO, the council can investigate.

Lisa said: "Tenants can sometimes be reluctant to complain about problems because they are afraid of being evicted, so we need neighbours to work together with us and act as a community by letting us know about potentially unlicensed HMOs."

#### Signs to look out for include...

- are there lots of people coming and going at odd times and tenants changing regularly?
- are there lots of vehicles parked outside and an above average amount of recycling and rubbish being produced?
- does the property have a poor external appearance?
- are there lots of visitors who shout up to occupiers to be let in?







# 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:

I saw a public notice on a lampost last week but can't remember the details. Is there a way of viewing it online?

#### We did:

Public and legal notices are published on North Somerset Council's website.

Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/decisions and click on the link for public and legal notices.

These are categorised into:

- electoral notices (such as a notice of poll for a parish council vacancy)
- highways and public rights of way (such as a change to speed limit restrictions); and
- registration and legal notices (such as applications to approve premises for marriages and civil partnerships)
- planning.

From www.n-somerset.gov.uk/ decisions, you can also find links to agendas and minutes of committee and panel meetings, director decisions, and executive member decisions.

You can also read about how the council makes decisions, with a link to the council constitution.

This document explains how the council delivers its services, its decision-making process and how residents can have their say.

#### 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

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 - Letters, photos, tweets, posts

# Your views

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

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



#### Dear Editor

In October, the Playhouse Theatre, in High Street, Weston-super-Mare, unveiled a commemorative plaque remembering Sir Ken Dodd.

Sir Ken Dodd was the patron of The Friends of The Playhouse for many years.

The Friends now have two new patrons - Richard Cadell who presents Sooty and Sweep; and Trevor Payne, a Clevedon resident and originator and star of hit show That'll Be The Day.

Join the Friends of the Playhouse for £10 a year.

David Kingsbury, Friends of the Playhouse

Photo courtesy of Neil Gibson

#### Dear Editor,

I am proud to be part of an exciting video project with my daughter and her two brothers as part of Down's Syndrome Awareness month.

The hastag #wouldntchangeathing was popularised in March by the video '50 Mums, 50 Kids, 1 Extra Chromosome'

The video depicted 50 mums with their children, all with Down's Syndrome, having fun and signing along to Christina Perri's A Thousand Years.

It had more than 230 million views and sparked schools to learn to sign, a government petition to introduce signing in schools, and was shown at the Queen's birthday celebrations.

It also launched the charitable organisation Wouldn't Change a Thing, which aims for negative, outdated perceptions of Down's Syndrome to become a thing of the past.

This follow-up video shows the joy that children with Down's Syndrome bring to family life.

Find it on Facebook and Twitter:

- Mouldntchangeathingdotorg
- @wouldntchangea1

Nikki Holt, Weston-super-Mare www.wouldntchangeathing.org

North Somerset Life is on Instagram. Tag #northsomersetlife to share your photos











Not a great day – no bin – cut off online and now cut off by phone trying to get my council tax refund

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

North Somerset Council: Monday morning is a busy time for the council tax line and it cuts you off automatically if there are more than 10 people in the queue. You can fill in an enquiry form at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/enquiry and they'll get back to you within a maximum of 10 working days.

Please can you clarify why your website and the box stickers you say you can recycle small electrical items (specifically irons) but when I put one out to be collected in the recycling it has been left?

North Somerset Council: Please try again next time. If the small container for electrical items on the vehicle is already full, the crew will leave it behind.

## **Life** contacts and tides times



### 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

For editorial contact editor@n-somerset.gov.uk or 01275 884 139

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Your copy should be delivered with your post unless you use Royal Mail's opt-out service to block unaddressed mail.

View back issues at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/nsl For free regular emails about news, events and services subscribe at www.northsomersetlife.co.uk

#### Coming next issue:

- Works starts on The Food Works<sup>SW</sup>
- Could you foster?
- Have a healthy 2019

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TYO VEIVIDER 2010									
Date	High water		Low water		High water		Low water		
	Time	Height (M)		Height (M)	Time	Height (м)	Time	Height (M)	
		A	M			PM			
1 Thu	-	-	05:32	2.68	12:15	9.59	18:23	2.79	
2 Fri	01:04	9.36	07:11	2.86	13:40	9.64	20:05	2.63	
3 Sat	02:30	9.73	08:41	2.45	15:04	10.27	21:20	2.05	
4 Sun	03:46	10.55	09:49	1.82	16:13	11.13	22:24	1.46	
5 Mon	04:46	11.40	10:48	1.24	1 <i>7</i> :08	11.83	23:16	0.99	
6 Tue	05:34	11.98	11:34	0.87	1 <i>7</i> :54	12.21	23:56	0.78	
7 Wed	06:17	12.27	_	-	18:35	12.25	12:13	0.76	
8 Thu	06:55	12.38	00:34	0.79	19:12	12.36	12:49	0.81	
9 Fri	07:31	12.3 <i>7</i>	01:07	0.91	19:48	12.23	13:21	0.94	
10 Sat	08:07	12.17	01:37	1.10	20:24	11.88	13:51	1.15	
11 Sun	08:41	11.69	02:05	1.35	20:57	11.26	14:18	1.45	
12 Mon	09:14	10.99	02:30	1.69	21:28	10.49	14:45	1.82	
13 Tue	09:44	10.20	02:56	2.07	21:59	9.72	15:1 <i>7</i>	2.22	
14 Wed	10:16	9.47	03:29	2.45	22:36	9.03	15:56	2.63	
15 Thu	11:00	8.82	04:10	2.86	23:27	8.46	16:47	3.05	
16 Fri	-	-	05:08	3.27	12:10	8.38	18:00	3.40	
17 Sat	00:50	8.18	06:29	3.58	13:47	8.48	19:40	3.44	
18 Sun	02:22	8.55	08:23	3.42	14:59	9.17	21:10	2.85	
19 Mon	03:26	9.37	09:32	2.73	15:53	10.05	21:57	2.19	
20 Tue	04:16	10.28	10:1 <i>7</i>	2.09	16:40	10.8 <i>7</i>	22:40	1.67	
21 Wed	05:02	11.08	11:01	1.62	17:24	11.52	23:24	1.30	
22 Thu	05:44	11.69	11:43	1.28	18:05	11.98	_	-	
23 Fri	06:26	12.12	00:06	1.04	18:47	12.26	12:25	1.06	
24 Sat	07:06	12.36	00:47	0.89	19:30	12.36	13:07	0.96	
25 Sun	07:48	12.41	01:27	0.89	20:13	12.27	13:46	1.00	
26 Mon	08:31	12.23	02:08	1.03	20:57	11.93	14:29	1.18	
27 Tue	09:15	11.83	02:49	1.30	21:46	11.39	15:11	1.46	
28 Wed	10:05	11.26	03:32	1.63	22:38	10.75	16:00	1.78	
29 Thu	11:01	10.66	04:26	1.98	23:37	10.18	17:02	2.10	
30 Fri	-	-	05:33	2.28	12:04	10.21	18:18	2.32	

DECEMBER 2018

Date	High water		Low	water	High	water	Low water		
	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)	
		A	M			P <i>I</i>	M		
1 Sat	00:45	9.86	06:55	2.44	13:1 <i>7</i>	10.08	19:40	2.32	
2 Sun	02:02	9.92	08:14	2.29	14:34	10.30	20:49	2.06	
3 Mon	03:15	10.34	09:19	1.96	15:44	10.77	21:51	1.76	
4 Tue	04:18	10.90	10:18	1.63	16:42	11.22	22:47	1.48	
5 Wed	05:09	11.35	11:07	1.37	1 <i>7</i> :30	11.51	23:30	1.31	
6 Thu	05:54	11.64	11:47	1.24	18:12	11.65	-	_	
7 Fri	06:33	11.80	00:08	1.25	18:51	11.72	12:23	1.22	
8 Sat	07:10	11.88	00:40	1.26	19:28	11.70	12:56	1.24	
9 Sun	07:46	11.81	01:11	1.32	20:04	11.52	13:27	1.32	
10 Mon	08:20	11.54	01:40	1.44	20:38	11.15	13:56	1.48	
11 Tue	08:53	11.09	02:09	1.65	21:09	10.67	14:26	1.71	
12 Wed	09:25	10.56	02:38	1.91	21:41	10.14	14:58	1.98	
13 Thu	09:58	10.01	03:10	2.18	22:15	9.62	15:36	2.28	
14 Fri	10:36	9.49	03:48	2.47	22:57	9.15	16:23	2.58	
15 Sat	11:25	9.06	04:39	2.78	23:50	8.80	1 <i>7</i> :19	2.86	
16 Sun	-	-	05:41	3.05	12:28	8.82	18:29	3.05	
1 <i>7</i> Mon	01:01	8.69	06:56	3.20	13:49	8.97	19:50	3.02	
18 Tue	02:23	9.05	08:25	3.04	14:59	9.57	21:08	2.59	
19 Wed	03:27	9.80	09:34	2.48	15:56	10.36	22:02	2.02	
20 Thu	04:22	10.65	10:26	1.91	16:49	11.11	22:52	1.53	
21 Fri	05:13	11.39	11:16	1.46	1 <i>7</i> :39	11.70	23:41	1.16	
22 Sat	06:02	11.95	_	-	18:29	12.12	12:03	1.12	
23 Sun	06:49	12.32	00:28	0.91	19:16	12.36	12:50	0.90	
24 Mon	07:36	12.52	01:13	0.78	20:04	12.43	13:36	0.81	
25 Tue	08:22	12.53	01:58	0.78	20:50	12.30	14:23	0.84	
26 Wed	09:09	12.33	02:45	0.91	21:39	11.95	15:13	0.99	
27 Thu	09:58	11.93	03:35	1.13	22:29	11.43	16:03	1.24	
28 Fri	10:50	11.39	04;26		23:21	10.83	16:57	1.54	
29 Sat	11:45	10.82	05:22	1.74	-	-	17:57	1.85	
30 Sun	00:19	10.29	06:26	2.04	12:46	10.35	19:03	2.12	
31 Mon	01:24	9.93	07:35	2.25	13:54	10.09	20:11	2.26	

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

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/tidetimes

Tide facts



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