

Winter 2016  
Special edition

NORTH  
SOMERSET LIFE

# WINTER FOCUS



TIME TO  
ORDER  
YOUR  
GREEN BIN

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# OPEN EVENT

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# Dear reader,



The latest long-term planning document, which is the planners' estimate of how many new homes the four West of England unitary authorities are going to need by 2036, is just going out for public consultation.

As far as 'good reads' are concerned it is not going to be a Christmas best seller, it is not a thriller but it is certainly a mystery.

According to proposals, North Somerset's share of the homes still needed would mean building on average 1,200 new homes every year for the next 20 years. The mystery is, we do not yet know where they would all go and who will be able to buy them. We know we need more housing but this is too much.

Some say we should just allow Bristol to go on expanding but there is a danger it becomes a mini-London, overcrowded and very expensive. Others say we should give up parts of the green belt to relieve pressure on our other towns and villages. In my view that is totally misguided and misunderstands the likely consequences.

Firstly, the green belt plays an important part for those in Bristol as well as those in rural areas around it. If we allow developers to build thousands of homes as some have suggested, it could disappear in a few years as the precedent will have been set. It will not help villages outside the green belt because no developer is going to give up the land they already own there. They will build on all sites but probably take a long time completing any of them.

Secondly, why is it that in the 21st century, the option some planners seem to favour is expanding existing cities and not improving smaller communities that many people actually want to live in? Why are we always concentrating on more travel into the city and not putting more work out of it?

180 local politicians from around the country turned up to a meeting in Birmingham with the new housing minister to ask what could be done to help more people to get their own home. Prices are far too high but it is not just because we are not building enough, it is the extortionate price some landowners are getting.

In North Somerset, agricultural land can cost between £10,000 and £20,000 an acre. When planning permission is obtained, the value can be £500,000 an acre.

Obviously landowners need to be compensated but it needs to be better regulated. Developers talk about consulting with local communities and then claim that they cannot afford to put in the infrastructure needed. The housing minister didn't turn up.

North Somerset is one of the most popular places to live, let's at least try to keep it that way.

Councillor Nigel Ashton  
Leader of North Somerset Council

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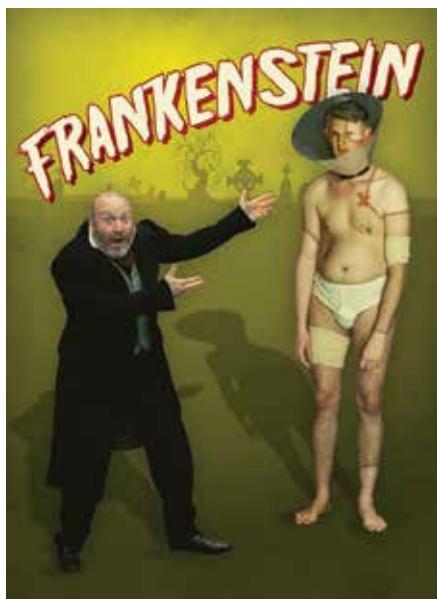
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This publication is available in large print, Braille or audio formats on request. Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English. *Life* editor: 01275 884 139

# Frankenstein comes to the Tropicana

A rib-tickling new adaptation of a popular gothic horror story will leave audiences in stitches when it comes to the Tropicana Theatre this month.



Mary Shelley's Frankenstein is being brought to life at the seafront venue in Weston-super-Mare by historical comedy double-act Living Spit.

The show is co-produced with Salisbury Playhouse and rewritten and performed by Living Spit's Howard Coggins and Stu McLoughlin.

The unique and raucous take on Frankenstein promises to bring grotesque gags and includes an original score performed by a live four-piece band.

The show runs from Saturday 12 to Sunday 20 November (but no performance on Monday 14) at 7.30pm. There are also matinees at 2.30pm on Sunday 13, Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 November.

Other upcoming shows at the Tropicana Theatre include:

● **Glorilla**

Fri 25 Nov, 7.30pm

Spoof show about acclaimed French actress Gloria Delaneuf who shares her life-changing experience with gorillas. For ages 11+

● **Kate Dimbleby and Keith Warmington**

Sat 26 Nov and Sun 11 Dec, 7.30pm

Jazz, blues and country music. All ages

● **Mrs Gerrish's Guesthouse**

by Ministry of Entertainment Fri 2 Dec, 7.30pm

Set in a Weston guesthouse in 1958. Ages 15+

● **Christmas Tales with Granddad** by Pickled Image

Sat 3 and Sun 4\* Dec, 11am\* and 2pm

Festive stories. Ages 5+



● **The Christmassy Christmas Show** by Squashbox Theatre Sun 11 Dec, 2pm

A celebration of everything Christmassy. Ages 3+

● **Noisy Nativity** by Kid Carpet Sun 18 and Mon 19 Dec, 2pm Radical remix of the traditional Christmas story. Ages 3+

● **Instant Wit**

Wed 21 Dec, 7.30pm

Quick-fire comedy improvisation show. Ages 13+

● **Nutty Noah Christmas** Fri 30 Dec, 1pm

Magic, mayhem and music. Ages 4+

● **Beneath the Blizzard** by Fine Chisel

Fri 13 and Sat 14\* Jan, 2pm\* and 7pm

Award-winning theatre company and band. Ages 8+

Tickets cost £14, or £12 concessions, and the show is recommended for adults and young people aged 12 and over.



Call the box office: 0117 902 0344

[www.tobaccofactorytheatres.com/shows/living-spits-frankenstein](http://www.tobaccofactorytheatres.com/shows/living-spits-frankenstein)



St Monica Trust

## Enjoy a vibrant retirement lifestyle

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

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

Registered Charity 202151



## Jill's Garden to get makeover

A much-visited area of a park in Weston-super-Mare is getting a makeover.

Jill's Garden in Grove Park was created by the BBC's Groundforce team to celebrate the life of TV presenter Jill Dando, who hailed from the town.

Groundforce worked with North Somerset Council's parks staff and a team of volunteers in 2001 to transform a sunken rose garden but 15 years on, it needs a revamp.

Proposed work includes re-setting paving slabs and coping stones, re-pointing stonework, removing plants that have outgrown the space, replanting, pruning and

shaping and refurbishing the wooden features such as the pergola. The pond will also be removed as it accumulates large amounts of rubbish. It is due to start at the beginning of November.

TV presenter Alan Titchmarsh said: "Jill's Garden commemorates a very special lady and I am delighted that it is being restored to its former glory."

The work will be carried out by the council's contractor Glendale.

Ongoing maintenance will also be carried out by Glendale but it is hoped a volunteer group would like to get involved.

Anyone interested in volunteering can call Samantha Phillips on 01275 888 930



## Have your say on new orders

Residents in North Somerset will soon be asked for their views on proposed Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs).

These new orders are designed to prevent individuals or groups of people committing anti-social behaviour in public places.

They will replace existing...

- dog control orders
- designated public protection orders that help the police tackle alcohol-related anti-social behaviour
- local byelaws, where appropriate.



North Somerset Council has liaised with the police and town and parish councils to identify areas that could benefit from a PSPO and can make orders to deal with a particular nuisance or problem that is detrimental to the local community.

Residents will soon be able to have their say on the proposed orders, when the consultation opens.

It will appear on [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/consult](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/consult). The new orders are due to come into force next spring and can be enforced by the council and police.

For more information call 01275 884 162



## Sign up now for new garden waste service

Garden waste will be collected in bins from next March and residents are being urged to sign up now to get the best deal.

Residents need to register for the new service which starts on 1 March.

Anyone registering by Sunday 18 December will pay £20 per bin.

Registration after that date will be £25 per bin.

Bins are available in three sizes – 140, 180 and 240-litre.

For more information and to register visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/gardenwaste) or see page 38 for more details.

## Weston Carnival comes to town

More than 140 illuminated floats will light up the night sky above Weston-super-Mare when the popular carnival returns.

This year's spectacular event begins at 7.15pm from Locking Road car park, on Friday 11 November.

The floats will wind their way through the town, along with marching bands, fancy dress walkers and entertainers.

For full details of the route, road closures and parking visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/westoncarnival](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/westoncarnival)



## Get on your bike and ride the new South Bristol Link

Be one of the first to cycle the new South Bristol Link road before it opens to traffic during a family-friendly Santa cycle.

The mass participation, traffic-free ride takes place Sunday 18 December and everyone is encouraged to dress up.

It starts at 11am from the Gatehouse Centre in Bishopsworth, Bristol, and goes for 4.5km into North Somerset.

Cyclists can then continue on for an additional kilometre along the Festival Way cycle path into Ashton Court for a glass of mulled wine, a mince pie and other refreshments.

This TravelWest event is being organised by council staff and contractors Alun Griffiths.



To register to take part in the cycle ride visit [www.betterbybike.info/santacycleride](http://www.betterbybike.info/santacycleride) or call 01934 426 910

## Volunteer needed to help look after cycle routes

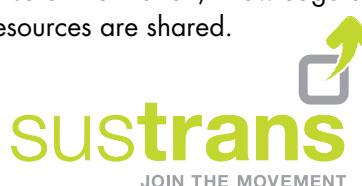
A volunteer with leadership skills who could inspire and co-ordinate local activities is needed to promote walking and cycling in North Somerset.

National charity Sustrans needs a group co-ordinator based between Nailsea, Portishead and Long Ashton to support existing volunteers and recruit new ones.

Sustrans works to enable people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more everyday journeys.

It developed the National Cycle Network and a number of routes pass through North Somerset – 26, 33, 334 and 410 (Avon cycleway).

This volunteer role will act as the main point of contact in the area and ensure information, knowledge and resources are shared.



Find out more at [www.sustrans.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/volunteer) or contact Adam Jukes: 0117 915 0208 [volunteers-sw@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:volunteers-sw@sustrans.org.uk)

More jobs in North Somerset thanks to council contract

Hundreds of new jobs have been created locally since North Somerset Council began a partnership with Agilisys to deliver council services.

About 340 new jobs have been created since 2010 as a result of new contracts that operate out of North Somerset.

The business has also placed more than 50 digital and IT apprenticeships with local employers and employees have dedicated 100 days of local voluntary work.

Agilisys became employee-owned last year, to give the people delivering the services a vested interest in the company's future success.

## Self-employment support for unpaid carers

Anyone who looks after someone who couldn't manage without them might find it hard to juggle their caring role with work.

Self-employment could be a great choice for unpaid carers because it gives flexibility and the potential to earn more money.

A free service has now been set up by Crossroads Alliance to offer to support to these unpaid carers who want to get into work.

The Carers Employment Support Service can help people find out if self-employment is right for them, access a free course about starting a business, information about grants and loans, and one-to-one tailored business support.

Crossroads Alliance is a partnership led by Alliance Homes Group, with Carers Trust Phoenix, Age UK Somerset and North Somerset Community Partnership, with funding from North Somerset Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group.



Crossroads Alliance Carers Employment Support Service:  
03001 239 121  
[CESS@alliancehomes.org.uk](mailto:CESS@alliancehomes.org.uk)

## Pensions guidance to help people plan for the future

Free and impartial guidance about pensions is available in North Somerset to help people plan for their future.

Pension Wise, delivered by the Citizens Advice Bureau, is a Government service to help people make sense of their options and enable them to make the right choices.

People approaching retirement now have greater freedom over how



they can use their pension pots, either taking a lump sum, annuity or a mixture of both.

The 45-minute appointment is available to all over-50s with a defined contribution pension.

Sessions run on Thursdays and Fridays at the Citizens Advice Bureau, based in the Badger Centre, Wadham Street, Weston-super-Mare.



Appointments need to be booked. Call 01823 448 970  
[www.pensionwise.gov.uk](http://www.pensionwise.gov.uk)



## Council is a Disability Confident organisation

North Somerset Council has been awarded Disability Confident status.

The voluntary scheme follows on from the previous 'two ticks' scheme, and means the council...

- has committed to challenge attitudes towards disability and increase understanding
- remove barriers to disabled people

- ensure disabled people have the opportunities to fulfil their potential.

This includes ensuring the job application process is fully accessible, ensuring reasonable adjustments are made for disabled staff, and providing support for staff who become disabled.



## Landlords – do you need tenants?

Landlords who need a tenant for their property could get help from North Somerset Council.

A free service is available through the council to help match tenants with suitable properties.

It offers a range of support including free tenancy agreements, regular inspections, health and safety risk assessments and handling of rent and deposits.

The council can also help complete and fast-track housing benefit forms and chase any outstanding claims.

To find out more contact the housing resource team: 01934 426 271  
[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/housing](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/housing)

# Unauthorised airport parking could be stopped

A planning loophole that allows land around Bristol airport to be used for temporary car parking could be stopped.

North Somerset Council is proposing to make legal changes to planning legislation in the green belt around the airport.

Pockets of land are currently used for unauthorised car parking which is set up using permitted development rights legislation.

The car parks then fail to stop operating after the permitted 28 days, forcing the council to take costly enforcement action.

The legal changes are proposed to come into effect on 1 January 2017 and will be enforced from 1 January 2018.

A copy of the legal direction and a map showing the affected area can be viewed at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/consult](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/consult) until 22 December.

Residents can have their say on the proposals until 1 December.

Comments can be made by emailing [planning.policy@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@n-somerset.gov.uk) or in writing to Post Point 15, The Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ.



## Strong performance for council contact

Good feedback has been received from residents who have been in contact with North Somerset Council.

The council uses a customer experience measure Govmetrics to track its performance and give residents the opportunity to provide feedback.

Residents can do this over the phone using the Council Connect service, in the Town Hall reception area or on the website, by using the smiley faces on many of the council's webpages.

Great feedback has been received this year and the council has regularly been in the top 10 for its face-to-face and telephone service out of over 70 councils nationally.

North Somerset Council's public website has also scored well in a clarity survey.

This was a recent assessment which measured the complexity and quality of language used on council websites across the country.



The survey reviewed 100 pages at random on 191 of the 418 UK local authority websites. North Somerset Council was ranked 52, narrowly missing a top quartile placement.

While this score is encouraging, the council will make further improvements in certain areas of the site where information could be simplified further.

The website clarity index is produced by VisibleThread at no cost to North Somerset Council.

# Get ready for winter



Severe winter weather can cause a lot of disruption so communities are coming together to help each other out if the temperature plunges.

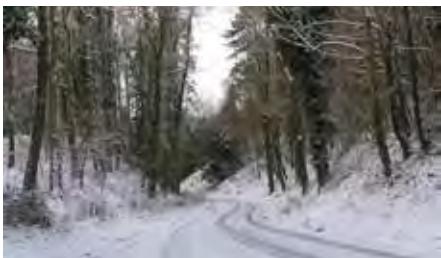
Whether we face snow, ice, floods or high winds, changes to council services often need to be made at short notice.

It's been a few years since we last had snowfall in North Somerset but the council and communities are preparing in advance to ensure essential services can keep going during the worst weather.

This special edition of *Life* includes advice about what to do when the cold weather sets in, so keep it close to hand.

Remember to follow North Somerset Council on Facebook and Twitter for the latest updates.

 /NorthSomersetCouncil  
 @NorthSomersetC



## Get advice during a power cut

A new national number has launched for people to report or get information about power cuts.

The free-of-charge 105 number will put you through to your local network operator who can give help and advice.

You can also call 105 with any welfare concerns related to a power cut, or if you are worried about the safety of over or underground electricity cables or substations.



You can call the number through most landlines and mobile phones.

Call: 105  
[www.powercut105.com](http://www.powercut105.com)

## Snowy schools

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.

As well as this, the council lists information about closures as soon as possible. Visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/disruption](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/disruption)



Members of Clevedon's snow warden team and Clevedon Town Council

## Communities come together

Snowfall has a novelty value for some but can soon become an inconvenience for many and potentially a serious problem for some.

If roads become impassable and public transport is unable to operate on its normal schedules then communities can become isolated and people who need care at home could struggle.

To help combat these problems, North Somerset Council runs a snow warden scheme, in partnership with community interest company Community Resilience North Somerset.

Volunteers are trained, equipped and insured to carry out snow clearance or gritting in priority areas within their local community.

Marilyn Edwards and her husband Paul, of Clevedon, joined the scheme three years ago.

They are now part of a 20-strong group who have successfully secured additional grit bins at critical locations after identifying a need as part of their priority clearance routes for the town.

She said: "We thought it would be a good way to help which didn't involve too much time or regular commitment.

"We all hope it will never happen, but it is reassuring to know there is a plan of action if it does."

Marilyn and Paul have now joined the wider Community Resilience North Somerset scheme in Clevedon, looking to recruit volunteers who are able to help in any emergency incident that may affect the town.

## Get involved

Lots of opportunities are available for people to get involved. If you can't clear snow, you could help monitor community grit bins or co-ordinate volunteers or priority routes.

Volunteers must first attend a short training session to learn the basics, be issued with equipment and get some advice on identifying their local priority areas.

Sessions are organised by North Somerset Council.

Community resilience:  
**01934 426 322**  
[communityresilience-ns.org.uk](http://communityresilience-ns.org.uk)

## True grit

Community grit bins, which are usually yellow but sometimes green, are purchased by town and parish councils and filled by North Somerset Council.

Grit is not for use on private land and it is an offence to take it for your personal use.

Any community grit bins (not those on private land) which need attention should be reported to North Somerset Council: **01934 888 802** or [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect)

If 10 or more people in a community want to join the scheme, sessions can be delivered at a local venue.

**The next snow warden training sessions take place in November.**

Call the community resilience team to book your place:

Castlewood, Clevedon  
Wednesday 9, 11am  
Thursday 24, 1.30pm

Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare  
Monday 14, 11.30am  
Thursday 17, 6.30pm  
Wednesday 30, 1.30pm





# Stay well this winter

Winter can bring serious health problems but there are things you can do to keep yourself and your loved ones well during the colder months.

For more tips and advice on staying well this winter visit  
[www.nhs.uk/staywell](http://www.nhs.uk/staywell)  
[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)



## **W**arm – keep your house warm this winter.

Coldness weakens the immune system, increases blood pressure, thickens the blood and lowers body temperature. This increases the risk of high blood pressure, heart attacks, strokes, and chest infections.

## **I**mmunisations – get your flu vaccination.

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

It is free of charge for people most at risk of developing complications. Contact your GP surgery if you think you are eligible, or contact your local pharmacy if you are over 18 years old.

Anyone can have the flu jab for about £10. Contact your local pharmacy for details or text 'pharmacy flu' and your postcode to 80011 to receive details of your three closest participating pharmacies.

## **N**eighbours – keep an eye on elderly neighbours and relatives.

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

## **T**imely – seek advice from a pharmacist at the first sign of illness.

If you start to feel unwell, even if it is just a cough or cold, get help from your pharmacist before it gets too serious. The sooner you get advice the better – pharmacists are there to help you stay well this winter.

## **E**nough – pick up repeat prescriptions.

If you've been prescribed antibiotics or other medication then remember to pick them up before the Christmas holidays start. Many GPs and pharmacies close over the festive period.

## **R**estock – make sure you have enough food and medicine in your cupboards.

Food gives you energy, which helps to keep you warm. Try to have regular hot meals and drinks throughout the day.

# Where to go for help

**Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it...**

- Hot meals and snacks are delivered to hundreds of people across the area who struggle to cook for themselves. Call community meals: **01275 882 867**
- 24-hour peace of mind is available through the Carelink community alarm. Call Care Connect: **01934 888 801**
- Government advice about energy-saving measures is available from: [www.gov.uk/warmthiswinter](http://www.gov.uk/warmthiswinter)
- A community oil buying scheme is available through the West of England Rural Network. Call **01275 333 701** [www.wern.org.uk/oil](http://www.wern.org.uk/oil)
- Genuine energy debt could be cleared through a grant. Call Talking Money: **0117 954 3990** [www.talkingmoney.org.uk](http://www.talkingmoney.org.uk)
- People born on or before 5 May 1953 are entitled to the winter fuel payment. Call the helpline: **03459 151 515**
- People in receipt of certain low income benefits can get a Warm Home Discount on their electricity bill. Call **0345 603 9439**
- Insulation and heating improvement funding is available for people on certain low income benefits who live in some areas of North Somerset. Contact the home energy team at the Centre for Sustainable Energy: **0800 082 2234** [home.energy@cse.org.uk](mailto:home.energy@cse.org.uk)
- Grants are available for vulnerable or low income households to get a free gas connection. Apply to Wales and West Utilities: **08701 650 597** [www.ieservices.org.uk](http://www.ieservices.org.uk)



## Remember!

If you do need help over the holiday period when your GP surgery or pharmacy is closed, call NHS **111** or visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk). Advisers can direct you to a local service which is open.

**Don't go to A&E or call 999 unless it's an emergency.**





# Get the right care first time

If injuries or illness knock you for six this winter then you might be unsure about where to go for help.



NHS: 111

[www.nscphealth.co.uk/services/  
minor-injuries-unit](http://www.nscphealth.co.uk/services/minor-injuries-unit)

In North Somerset more than a third of people who go to A&E each year could have received the same service from their GP or local minor injuries unit in Clevedon.

And many conditions seen by local GPs could be self-treated at home, with advice from a local pharmacist.

There are many options for healthcare so choosing the right place to go for advice or treatment can sometimes seem a challenge.

But by making the right choices, it saves times for patients and reduces pressure on busy NHS services.

GPs are there for on-going illnesses and injuries.

For advice on less serious conditions that could be cared for at home, it's often much easier to pop in to your local pharmacist for a chat.

Many offer private consulting rooms and while there might be a short wait, you don't need an appointment.

For other situations needing urgent medical help, NHS 111 offers immediate medical advice.

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

**Anyone injured or unwell over the winter period can get the right care first time...**

- ✓ speak to your pharmacist for help with very minor ailments
- ✓ call 111 for urgent but non-emergency help
- ✓ visit the minor injury unit at Clevedon Community Hospital for injuries such as wounds and grazes, broken bones, trips and falls, and injuries in children over the age of three.
- ✓ A&E is for serious and life-threatening emergencies only.



# More than just a meal

Community meals provide a lifeline for vulnerable adults in North Somerset whatever the weather.

North Somerset Council delivers meals on wheels 363 days a year and during winter it is even more important to get to the people in need.

The essential service is recognised as vital in helping people live at home for as long as possible and it also addresses loneliness, social isolation and promotes safety in the community.

Recipient Rosemary Knight said: "My doctor is very happy that I have community meals every day. It's the certainty and regularity that I like, and having the bright and happy driver come is worth as much as the food."

Deliveries are made every day of the year, except Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Emma Channon, manager of the community meals service, said: "We always make sure no-one is left without any help."

"We can help people access somewhere to go for Christmas dinner and link with other agencies, to make sure everyone is supported."

As well as the meals, the service acts as a welfare check and is the 'eyes and ears' for many vulnerable adults.

Emma added: "As the meals are delivered by our employees, there is consistency in the same person visiting each day."



Meals on wheels recipient Rosemary Knight with driver Nikki

"This is especially important where it is the person's only contact with the outside world."

"We go above and beyond to help with any problem we encounter, however small it may seem."

One family member said: "My sister receives community meals and I am extremely impressed by the quick

actions of the delivery staff and friendly but professional manner taken to resolve problems."

North Somerset's community meals service is an active member of The National Association of Care Caterers.

This means it keeps up-to-date with the latest guidance on special diets and has access to specialists in the industry.

A wide variety of allergies and specialist diets can be catered for, including gluten free, low sugar or soft food for people who have difficulty chewing and swallowing. A teatime meal of sandwiches or salad can also be delivered.



You can choose how many days you receive a meal, from Monday to Friday. Weekend delivery is only for the most vulnerable people.

Community meals: 01275 882 867 • [community.meals@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:community.meals@n-somerset.gov.uk)  
[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/communitymeals](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/communitymeals)



# Stay safe on winter roads

Plummeting temperatures can mean travelling becomes treacherous so care is needed when out and about on the roads.

North Somerset Council prepares well in advance for the winter weather so that when the ice and frost appears, crews can jump into action.

## Getting ready to face the frost

Keep an eye on the council's Facebook and Twitter accounts for news of when the gritters are out and about.

Each gritter has a tracking system providing data about its location, how much salt it has dispersed and how far it has travelled.

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.

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

Officers receive forecasts from Metdesk and use that information to decide if and when to salt roads. Crews can be called out with two hours' notice.

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

Cycle routes aren't currently gritted.

Highways staff are on duty 24 hours-a-day - including Christmas Day and New Year's Day - to monitor weather conditions and let gritter crews know when they're needed.

If there's snow the council only has enough resources to focus on the main roads - the A370, A38 and A369. Major 'A' roads will be ploughed as a priority, followed by other strategic B and C roads.



## Top tips for drivers

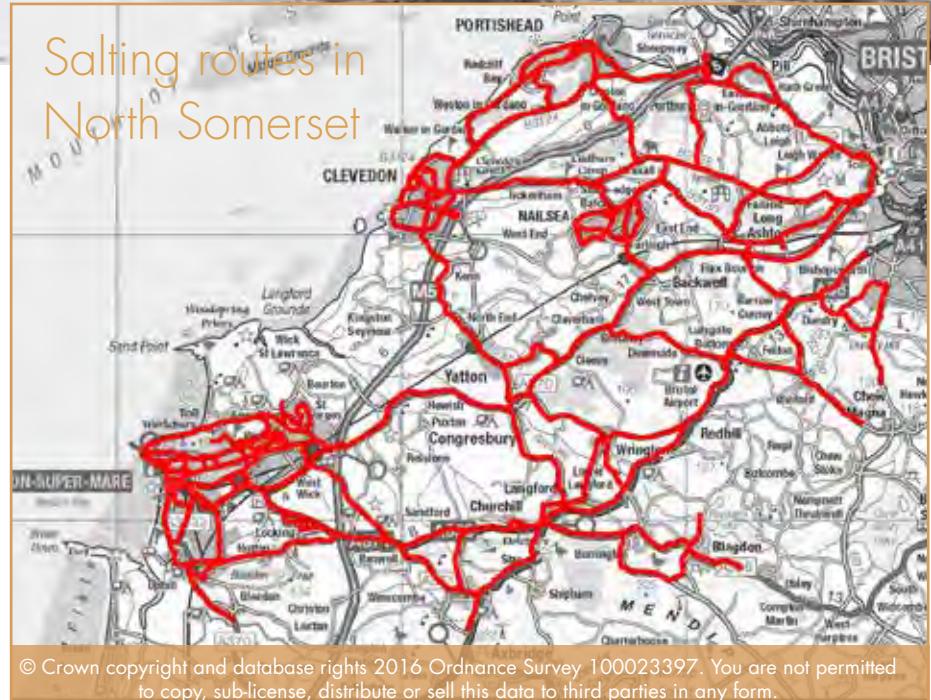
### Before winter weather arrives

- ✓ Check your vehicle is well serviced, tyres (including the spare) have good 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](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/roadworks) for current and future roadworks, diversion routes and live traffic flow.
- ✓ If you plan to drive, check your vehicle is well serviced and maintained and there is plenty of petrol in the tank. Keep a winter weather kit in your vehicle – a scraper, de-icer, warm clothes, shovel and torch. Consider taking hot drinks and high calorie snacks with you.

### Salting routes in North Somerset



- ✓ Cyclists and pedestrians need to be visible and be seen. Wear light colours during the day and reflective gear once it is 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**

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



# Don't let winter weather knock you off your bike



Pouring rain and chilly winds might make you think twice about walking or cycling to work but a little preparation can help you carry on commuting.

Wintery weather conditions and dark mornings and evenings, make walking and cycling more challenging at this time of year but if you take these few simple steps there is no reason to jump in the car.

## ✓ Wrap up warm

Keeping warm in winter is all about wearing layers and avoiding anything too big and bulky as you'll soon warm-up during exercise.

Make sure you have a good set of waterproofs, sturdy footwear, umbrella and gloves.

## ✓ Make yourself visible

Light coloured or fluorescent clothing will increase your visibility during daytime but after dark you'll need to wear something reflective.

If cycling, it is a legal requirement to have a white front light, red rear light (if cycling in the dark), a red rear reflector and amber pedal reflectors.

## ✓ Prepare your bike

Let some air out of your tyres for extra grip on slippery conditions or fit winter tyres.

Think about getting your bike serviced professionally (which costs from about £25) to test your brakes and ensure everything is well-oiled so it works smoothly when cold and wet.

Mudguards will help keep water spray and mud off your back.

Keep your bike dry when not in use by parking it in undercover areas or invest in a waterproof saddle cover.



## ✓ Check for travel updates

Check the weather conditions before you leave. Local travel updates can be found online, TV and radio or mobile apps, as well as North Somerset Council's roadworks website.

## ✓ Allow extra time for your journey

Accidents are more likely to happen if you are in a rush.

## ✓ Avoid un-gritted paths

During snow or icy weather, gritting priority is given to A and B roads. It is advisable to change your route and stick to the main highways and byways instead of off-road routes.

Don't underestimate the hazards of ice when walking or cycling.



# When to recycle in severe weather



Freezing winter conditions can cause serious disruption to recycling and waste collections.

North Somerset Council tries to maintain usual services during bad weather but sometimes delays do happen when roads are icy and driving conditions are hazardous.

Decisions to delay the service are never taken lightly but the safety of crews, pedestrians and other road users must be taken into account.

The council's contractor Kier has contingency and recovery plans in place to ensure it is prepared for any adverse weather and residents can help crews during a big freeze by moving their containers out at the right time.

## 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 collection day.

## Green waste

Put your green waste bags out on your usual collection day. If they are not taken, 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 certain types of recycling, such as cardboard or glass.

## How you can help

- Put your recycling and waste out by 7am on your usual collection day. Check [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/calendar](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/calendar)
- If collections are missed from a whole street, there's no need for residents to individually report it as it will already be logged
- Check the council's website, Facebook and Twitter accounts for updates on services
- Separate recycling into individual materials within your box to help crews collect items quickly and more efficiently
- Remember to help neighbours who may have difficulties.

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



# Developing the Heart of Weston

Growing veg, promoting the arts and encouraging cultural cohesion are just some ideas being developed in Weston-super-Mare as part of a new project to build a healthier community.

Heart of Weston is a community development group set up to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone who lives, learns and works in Weston town centre.



Members include residents as well as representatives from agencies involved in the town centre, such as North Somerset Council, Knightstone Housing, the Clinical Commissioning Group and Voluntary Action North Somerset.

Earlier this year Heart of Weston asked for ideas about how to improve the town centre for local people, with community grants of up to £200 available.

Lots of ideas were put forward and volunteers have been busy over the summer to get things up and running.

## Five projects are now being developed...

### Everyone Welcome

Ideas include creating a community allotment or garden; developing a community café to act as a one-stop shop of information for local residents; and providing a creative arts centre.

### Disability awareness festival

A one-day festival is being planned for early next summer, with activities and stands to raise awareness of disabilities.

### Incredible Edible Weston

Several small edible gardens are popping up around the town, after taking inspiration from Incredible Edible Todmorden.

Community beds have been planted in Clarence Park and Grove Park, and work is now starting at Weston train station.

The group wants to support residents, schools, businesses and other organisations to re-connect with food and get back to basics.

### Central communities

Events to encourage cultural cohesion and improve wellbeing are being organised by North Somerset Faith, Community and Cultural Forum.

### Friends of Clarence Park

Litter picking, planting flowerbeds and organising community events are just some of the events being organised.

Members plan to nominate the park for a national garden competition and hope the group will expand so they can help with similar tasks in Ellenborough Park and Beach Lawns.



Volunteers are now needed to help move these ideas forward. To find out more about the individual projects or join the main steering group, email [how@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:how@n-somerset.gov.uk), call 01275 885 132 or search for the Heart of Weston group on Facebook.



# Planning for future growth

Residents in North Somerset can soon give their views on two important documents which will set out the housing, growth and infrastructure needs for the area for the next 20 years.

North Somerset Council's Site Allocations Plan identifies the sites where the required 20,985 houses are to be built up to 2026.

The Joint Spatial Plan is a document which identifies an additional 39,000 homes across the West of England and looks further ahead to 2036.

## Site Allocations Plan

This local plan sets out in detail the proposed locations for housing and other development.

It ties into the Core Strategy, the main planning document for the area which broadly sets out how communities and businesses in North Somerset will grow and develop in the near future.

The Core Strategy requires 20,985 homes to be built in North Somerset up to 2026 and the Site Allocations Plan is more detailed and proposes specific sites.

In addition to houses, it includes details about land for schools and

businesses, protecting the much-valued green spaces, ecology, and historic buildings and places.

Consultation on the first draft of the Site Allocations Plan took place earlier this year and all comments received were considered.

Now residents have the chance to comment on the final sites chosen before the plan goes before an independent examiner next spring.

## Joint Spatial Plan

North Somerset Council has been working with other West of England authorities to co-ordinate where longer term growth could be across the region.

Studies now show that the West of England (North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset, and Bristol) needs another 39,000 homes over and above what has already been planned for by 2036.

Initial consultation on this took place earlier this year and feedback received has been considered, along with additional information and taking into account important priorities such as protecting the floodplain, green belt, and ecology, and promoting sustainable transport improvements.

Further consultation runs from Monday 7 November to Monday 19 December on the likely options.

Alongside the JSP, a separate joint strategic transport vision is also being developed to provide information on the improvements which will be needed.

Events will be held across North Somerset during November and December to explain both plans. Information will also be available in local libraries, The Castlewood office in Clevedon and the Town Hall in Weston-super-Mare.

Plans and information will also be available online.

For the Sites and Policies Plan visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sitesandpolicies](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sitesandpolicies)

For the Joint Spatial Plan [www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk](http://www.jointplanningwofe.org.uk)

# Create a support network at the touch of a button



Asking for help can be difficult but a new online support service is making life a little easier for people who look after someone else.

## rallyround

Unpaid carers in North Somerset can now use the free Rally Round app to help them keep on top of things for the person they look after.

The online service is operated through a computer or any smartphone or tablet and it enables friends and family to come together to help keep a loved one safe and well at home.

The app creates a social circle so everyone can see which tasks need doing and who is offering to do it.

## How it could help...

Eighty-three-year-old Marjorie lives alone at home.

While she manages pretty well, she can't get out easily and relies heavily on her daughter Margaret to help with shopping, cleaning, paying bills, and getting to medical appointments.

Margaret is very happy to help her mum but she also works full-time and has two teenagers at home so finds it hard to fit everything in.

Margaret said: "I decided to give Rally Round a try and at first just used it as an online 'to do' list.

"A couple of weeks later my brother Nick came over and I told him about it. He was interested so I invited him to join mum's network by email.

"The very next day, I posted a shopping task I intended to do myself after work but Nick saw it in an automated text message and volunteered to do it instead.

"I received a text message when he'd done it, and it was a bit of a 'eureka' moment.

"I never used to ask for help because it was just easier to do it myself. Now there are five of us in mum's network and we can all add or remove tasks as needed.

"Another benefit is that mum now sees more of my daughter, my brother and her friend than she did before because they have good reasons to visit."



[www.rallyroundme.com/n-somerset](http://www.rallyroundme.com/n-somerset) • For more information call Jim Armstrong at Alliance Living: 01934 398 094



# Christmas countdown begins

## Clevedon

Gather around Clevedon's Clock Tower to see the Christmas lights being switched on in the town on Saturday 26 November. The event takes place in the Triangle shopping area from 2pm.

Shoppers can then pick up a host of treats at St Nicholas Fayre, which runs along Hill Road from 5pm on Thursday, 1 December.  
[www.stnicholasfayre.co.uk](http://www.stnicholasfayre.co.uk)

## Nailsea

Stalls and entertainment will offer fun for all the family at Nailsea Community Christmas Fair.

The event takes place on Friday 2 December, from 5.30pm to 8.30pm, at the Crown Glass Shopping Centre and along the High Street.

See the Christmas lights switch on, Santa's grotto, clowns, a skate rink, lantern parade and more.

The skate rink is open from 2-9pm on Friday 2 and 10am-5pm on Saturday 3 December. Tickets cost £4 (plus booking fee) for a half-hour slot, from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/nailsea-community-christmas-fair-skate-rink-tickets](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/nailsea-community-christmas-fair-skate-rink-tickets)



## Portishead

A 'golden mile' of festive illumination can be seen in Portishead when the Christmas lights are switched on.



This popular event takes place from 6.30pm on Monday 21 November in the High Street Precinct. Father Christmas is also expected to make an appearance, from about 6.15pm.

Many shops will be staying open late during the annual Victorian evening on Friday 16 December.

Stalls will be lined along the High Street and children can also visit Santa's grotto. [www.portisheadchristmaslights.co.uk](http://www.portisheadchristmaslights.co.uk)

## Weston-super-Mare

Shoppers in Weston-super-Mare can soon take advantage of late night openings every Thursday in the run-up to Christmas.

The Sovereign Shopping Centre begins its late night openings from Thursday 24 November. Free parking will be available for vehicles arriving after 3pm.

Christmas lights in the town will then be switched on at 6pm in the Italian Gardens on Thursday 1 December. More shops will be open until 9pm each Thursday until Christmas.

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



Take time out - Walk

# Beautiful views over Barrow Gurney

Stretch your legs with a vigorous walk up Dundry Hill and be rewarded for your efforts with glorious views of Barrow tanks and the beautiful countryside for miles around.



## Walk information

### Distance:

Just over 4 miles

### Difficulty:

medium-difficult depending on fitness, as there is a long uphill section up Dundry Hill. Some parts can get quite muddy so wellies are recommended, especially in winter.

### Duration:

2-3 hours at a leisurely pace

### Map:

OS Explorer 154

## How to get there

Start at map ref: ST 531678

### Car:

Very narrow lanes run through Barrow Gurney so there is no on-street parking. Instead, you can park at The Prince's Motto pub if you pop in for refreshments. It is open all day for food and drink.

Barrow Gurney is a pretty village close to Barrow tanks, three artificial reservoirs which supply drinking water for Bristol.

Public footpaths near the tanks have recently been restored and stiles have been replaced with kissing gates so access to this area is now easier.

From Barrow Street, next to the Prince's Motto pub, take the first right, a small lane which veers uphill. This joins Hobbs Lane.

Follow the Sustrans route 334 sign through the gate onto the traffic-free section of Hobbs Lane.

Follow it all the way to the end and you will come out on the A38. Turn left onto this and cross the road carefully.

The public footpath starts on your right-hand side, opposite Lakeside Spas.

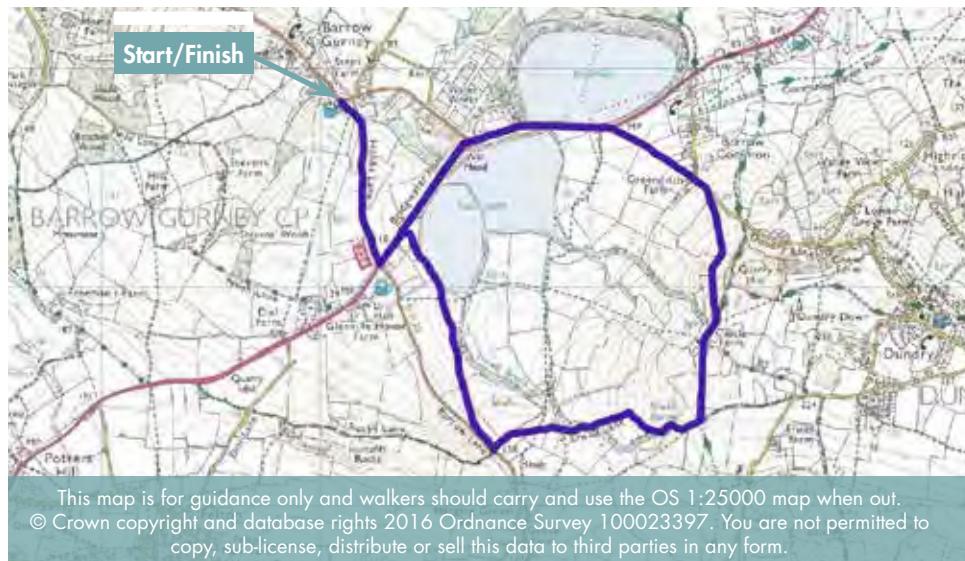
Go through the kissing gate into the field, and veer to the right-hand corner, between the hedgerows.

Keep the hedge on your left and follow the edge of the field. The reservoir is just the other side.

Go through the gate and follow the yellow waymarker directly ahead through the field, keeping the hedgerow on your left.

Ignore the gate you pass on your left and continue ahead, past the trees, to the far left-hand corner of this field.

Continue on into the next field to the far end, and through a kissing gate which exits onto Elwell Lane.



**Keep dogs on leads if livestock is present but do not hang onto your dog if you are threatened by cattle. Let it go and allow the dog to run to safety.**



Turn left onto the small lane (not to be confused with the busy Barrow Lane).

Elwell Lane becomes a gravel track. Follow it all the way through the trees as it winds up the hill, becoming muddier and rockier underfoot.

After exiting the wooded area, go through a gate on your left signposted 'Dundry hilltop walk'.

Walk straight over the field, heading towards the gate in front of the farmhouse. Here, on the brow of the hill, you can see the reservoirs, Clifton Suspension Bridge and the Severn bridges in the distance.

Go through the gate into the courtyard of Castle Farm. Go straight ahead and exit by the barn.

Turn left just behind the barn and the gate is in the fence on your right.

Go downhill across the field, towards the gap in the fence, then head towards the gate in the far right-hand corner. Continue downhill towards the cottage.

There is a stile just after the cottage. Go over this stile, into the field, and then exit over another stile into the lane.

Go past Greenditch Farm, then turn left into the farmyard, following the public footpath sign.

Go through the gate by the cream-coloured bungalow and go across the field, keeping to the right-hand side. Continue ahead into the next field.



On the right-hand side there is a stile just after the metal gate. Exit here to get onto the A38.

From here, you can walk all the way back up Hobbs Lane to retrace your steps back to Barrow Gurney.

Or you could turn left at the next public footpath sign and follow the paths around the southern side of the reservoirs. These have had many improvements, with routes cleared and broken stiles replaced with new gates.



# Take time out

## LOCAL EVENTS

### November

#### Sunday 13

The Battle of the Somme screening 2pm, Curzon Cinema, Clevedon. To mark the 100th anniversary of The Battle of The Somme. Original footage of the Big Push, released in August 1916 while the battle was still ongoing. [www.curzon.org.uk](http://www.curzon.org.uk) or 01275 871 000

#### Tuesday 15

Clevedon Music Club present international concert pianist Lauretta Bloomer 7.30pm, Teignmouth Room, Clevedon Community Centre. £8 on the door

#### Saturday 19

Charity Christmas Fayre 10am-12.30pm, St Francis Church Hall, Nailsea. Christmas cards, gifts, coffee and cakes in aid of the NW Somerset Branch of Parkinson's UK. Free entry. 01275 855 524 or 07891 300 435

#### Saturday 26, Sunday 27 and Saturday 3 December

Destination Bethlehem Clevedon Baptist Church, Queens Square, Clevedon. The nativity brought to life through actors and media. To reserve your free tickets, visit the church on Saturday and Sunday mornings between 10am and noon. 01275 876 878 or [www.clevedon-baptistchurch.org](http://www.clevedon-baptistchurch.org)



## December

### Thursday 1

Babes in the Wood Pantomime 7pm, The Blakehay Theatre, Wadham Street, Weston-super-Mare. Performed by Weston College students. Singing, dancing and audience participation. Tickets £10 or £8 from 01934 645 493

### Saturday 3

Portishead Choral Society Christmas concert 7.30pm, Gordano School. Performance of Francis Poulenc's Gloria, and Christmas music. Tickets £12 (£6 for children and students) from 01275 219 133 or 843 706. [www.portisheadchoral.co.uk](http://portisheadchoral.co.uk)

### Sunday 4

A Dickens of a Christmas 2.30pm and 7.30pm, The Blakehay Theatre, Wadham Street, Weston-super-Mare. Festive entertainment featuring readings, poems and songs from the pen of Charles Dickens and others. Adults £12 (£10 conc), children £6, from 01934 645 493.

### Saturday 10 – Sunday 1 January

Beauty and the Beast pantomime The Playhouse, High Street, Weston-super-Mare. 01934 645 544 [www.theplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.theplayhouse.co.uk)

## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

### Mondays

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.

Tots 1 (E, term time only) 10-11.30am, Bristol Road Baptist Church, Southside, Weston-super-Mare

Winscombe Probus Club (2 and 4) 10.30am, Winscombe Community Centre. 01934 820 893

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 515 923

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

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

Weston Amateur Radio Society (E) 7.30pm, Weston Social Club, Drove Rd. 01761 221206

Weston Quilters (1) 7.30pm, United Reform Church, Waterloo Street. 01934 834278

### Worle Lions (2)

8pm, Windsor Castle pub. [www.worlelions.co.uk](http://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

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

Friends of Trendlewood Park (3)(and first Sun) 10am-1pm, Trendlewood Park, Nailsea. [www.friendsoftrendlewood-park.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftrendlewood-park.org.uk), 07879 607 492

Western Active Stroke Group (E)

10am-noon, Worlebury Golf Club, Monks Hill, Weston-super-Mare. (also last Tues of month, skittles at the Ebdon Arms, Lilac Way. Wick St Lawrence) 01934 519 266

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 Probus 2008 Club (2)(4) 10.30am, Clevedon Community Centre, Princes Rd.

01275 874 631

Multicultural Friendship Association (E) 1-3pm, Weston Room, Badger Centre, Wadham Street, Weston.

07587 335 963, [www.mfa-wsm.org.uk](http://www.mfa-wsm.org.uk)

Lynne Castell Watercolours Art Group (E) 1-4pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Room, Baytree Road, Weston-super-Mare.

01934 628 760 or [www.lynnecastell.f2s.com](http://www.lynnecastell.f2s.com)

Portishead Rotary Club Memory Café (1)(3) 2.15pm, Jubilee Hall, Slade Rd.

01275 871 197

Catenian Association (1) 7.15pm, Cadbury House Hotel, Congresbury.

For Catholic men.

01275 877 180

Weston Scrabble Club (E) 7pm, St Saviour's Church Hall, Locking Rd.

01934 620 948

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

Nailsea Scrabble Club (E) 7.30pm (and Wed 2pm), Mizzy mead Recreation Centre.

01275 464 864

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

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, St Mary's Church Hall, Castle Rd.

01275 879 556 Women of Weston Women's Institute (3) 7.30pm, Vintage Community Church, Hughenden Road, Weston. WeAreWOWWI@gmail.com

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

Nailsea and District Model Railway Club (E) 7.30pm, Clevedon Craft Centre, off Moor Lane. [www.nailsea-district-mrc.co.uk](http://www.nailsea-district-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



<p><b>North Somerset Modellers' Society (2)</b> 8.30pm, Windsor Castle pub, Milton. 01934 417 907</p>	<p><b>Worle Friendship Club (E)</b> 2pm, Worle Community Centre, Lawrence Rd. 01934 510 863</p>	<p><b>Portishead Floral Art Society (3)</b> 7.30pm, Somerset Hall. £5 for visitors. 01275 374 201</p>	<p><b>Winscombe Bridge Club</b> 2pm. 10-week course starting Thurs 29 Sept. £45. Call 01275 540 604 <a href="http://www.winbridge.org.uk">www.winbridge.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Banwell WI (2) 7</b> .30pm, Village Hall, Banwell. Visitors welcome. 01934 824 900</p>	<p><b>Byte Home Computer Club (1)(3)(4)</b> 7pm, Nailsea Fire Station, Pound Lane. 01275 852 521</p>
<p><b>Wednesdays</b></p>	<p><b>lynne Castell Oils, Acrylics, Pastels Art Group (E)</b> 10.30am-1pm. 01934 628 760 or <a href="http://lynnecastell.f2s.com">www.lynnecastell.f2s.com</a></p>	<p><b>Weston Society of Arts (A)</b> 2pm, Victoria Methodist Church Hall. 01934 520 564</p>	<p><b>Royal British Legion (Clevedon) (3)</b> 7.30pm, Community Centre, Prince's Rd 01275 879 816</p>	<p><b>Weston and District National Trust Association (2)(and fourth Fri) (2) 2.15pm,</b> Corpus Christi Church Hall, Weston. 01934 633 593</p>	<p><b>Avon Wildlife Trust Long Ashton (3)</b> 7.30pm, Jubilee Pavilion, Keedwell Hill. 01275 392 690</p>
<p><b>Age UK free advice sessions (1)(2)(3)</b> 10am-noon, Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, (4) 10am-noon, Cadbury Garden Centre. 0845 643 4621</p>	<p><b>Portbury Over Sixties Club (1)</b> 2pm, Portbury Village Hall</p>	<p><b>Backwell Garden Club (3)</b> 2pm, WI Hall. 01275 464 236</p>	<p><b>Gordano Valley 41 Club (4)</b> 7.30pm, Royal Inn, Portishead. 01275 817 258</p>	<p><b>Yatton Knitting Club (E)</b> 5.45-6.45pm, Yatton Library. All abilities welcome. Free tea or coffee. 01934 426 100</p>	<p><b>North Somerset Rural Business Forum (3)</b> 7.30pm, Winford Manor Hotel. £7.50 for non members. 01531 820 307</p>
<p><b>Weston Ladies Cards (A)</b> 10.30am, Night Jar pub, Mead Vale. 07979 051 001</p>	<p><b>Clevedon Senior Citizens' Forum (I)</b> 2.15pm, Folk Hall. 01275 843 678</p>	<p><b>Weston Moose Social Evening (I)</b> Ebdon Arms, Wick St Lawrence. £3 including some food, for charity. 01934 814 042 alan.moosewsm@outlook.com</p>	<p><b>Vintage Hornby Railway Collectors (4)</b> 6pm, Scout Hut, Totterdown Rd Weston.</p>	<p><b>Royal British Legion (Nailsea) (3)</b> 7.30pm, Grove Sports Club. 01275 856 879</p>	<p><b>Portishead Stamp Club (4)</b> 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, St Mary's Rd. 01275 374 738</p>
<p><b>Yeo Valley Probus Club (1)(3)</b> 10.30am, Backwell Bowls Club. 01275 857 769</p>	<p><b>Backwell Probus Club (2)(4)</b> 10.30am, West Backwell Bowling Club. 01275 462 627</p>	<p><b>Community Coffee Morning (E)</b> 10am, Clarence Park Baptist Church, Walliscote Rd. 01934 424 550</p>	<p><b>Loves Book Club (1)</b> 6.30pm, Loves Cafe, 9 West Street. 01934 645 672</p>	<p><b>Wester Social (1)(3)</b> 8.30pm, Royal Hotel Feathers Bar, Weston-super-Mare. westonsocial@virginmedia.com</p>	<p><b>Saturdays</b></p>
<p><b>North Somerset Over 50s Club (4)</b> 11am, Clevedon Community Centre. 01275 842 282</p>	<p><b>Worle Amnest International (2)</b> 6.30pm, Worlebury Golf Club, Weston. 01934 419 014</p>	<p><b>Probus Club WSM (1)</b> (3) 10am, Worlebury Golf Club, Worlebury. 01934 514 857 <a href="http://probusweston.com">www.probusweston.com</a></p>	<p><b>Vegetarian Cookery Club (A)</b> 6.45pm, Church Hall, 500 Locking Rd, Worle. 01934 628 860</p>	<p><b>Weston Moose Semi Formal Dinner (1)</b> Banwell Castle, £10 for two courses. 01934 814 042, alan.moosewsm@outlook.com</p>	<p><b>Hutton Lace and Craft Group (2)</b> 9.30am, Village Hall. 01934 822 871</p>
<p><b>Gordano Probus Club (2)</b> 12.30pm, Clarence House, High Street, Portishead. 01275 398 706</p>	<p><b>Weston and Worle Bridge Club (E)</b> 7pm (and Fri 2pm), St Joseph's Church Hall, Camp Rd. 01934 510 027</p>	<p><b>Probus Club of Nailsea (2)(4)</b> 10am, Mizzymead Social Club. 01275 852 515</p>	<p><b>Weston Woodturning Circle (3)</b> 7pm, Weston Football Club, Southside, Weston-super-Mare</p>	<p><b>Tots2 (E, term time only)</b> 10-11.30am, Bristol Road Baptist Church, Southside, Weston-super-Mare</p>	<p><b>CREWS Backstage Support (E)</b> 10am-1pm, The Stables, Princes Rd, Clevedon. 07824 821 814</p>
<p><b>Portishead Probus Club 73 (3)</b> noon-3pm, Clarence House Social Club, High Street. 01275 814 249 / 07715 572 106</p>	<p><b>Weston Sea Cadets (E)</b> (and Fri), 7pm, Cadet HQ, Sunnyside Rd North. 11 to 18-year-olds.</p>	<p><b>Probus Milton (2)(4)</b> 10am, Milton Methodist Church. 01934 525 476</p>	<p><b>Weston Twins and More (4)</b> 10am, Kids Hut, Winter Gardens. 01934 528 348</p>	<p><b>Weston Chess Club (E)</b> 7.30pm, Weston-super-Mare Conservative Club, 24-26 Alexandra Parade.</p>	<p><b>Portbury Community Café (1)</b> 10am, Village Hall. 07971 501 374</p>
<p><b>Failand Art Group (E)</b> 1.30pm, Village Hall, Oxhouse Lane. <a href="mailto:Jimpeck1502@gmail.com">Jimpeck1502@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Portishead Spiritualist Association (E)</b> 7.30pm, Brampton Way Playgroup Hall, Brampton Way. 01275 843 744</p>	<p><b>Weston Vale Rotary Club (E)</b> 7.30pm, Burrington Inn, Burrington Combe. 01934 844 214</p>	<p><b>Weston Civil Service Retirement Fellowship (1)(3)</b> 10am, Friends Meeting House, High Street, Weston. 01275 858 766</p>	<p><b>YABEEP Natural Beekeeping Group (2)</b> 10.30am, Claverham Village Hall, Bishops Rd. YABeeP@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>YABEEP Natural Beekeeping Group (2)</b> 10.30am, Claverham Village Hall, Bishops Rd. YABeeP@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>Banwell Bridge Club (E)</b> 1.30pm, Village Hall. 01934 518 690</p>	<p><b>Friends of Weston-super-Mare Museum (3)</b> 1.30pm, Blakehay Café, Wadham Street, Weston. Meetings free to members. Small fee to visitors.</p>	<p><b>Nailsea and District Horticultural Society (2)</b> 7.30pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Stockway North. £2 for members, £3 for visitors. 01275 855 342</p>	<p><b>Notable Club (E)</b> Uphill Scouts Hall. 07845 220 349</p>	<p><b>Weston-super-Mare RSPB (1, Sept-April)</b> 7.30pm, St. Paul's Church Hall, Walliscote Rd. 01934 835 208</p>	<p><b>Avon Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers (2)</b> 10.30am, Bowls Pavilion, Long Ashton Community Centre. 01275 464 526</p>
<p><b>Woodspring Scrabble Club (E)</b> 2pm, United Reformed Church, Weston. 01934 815 358</p>	<p><b>Nailsea Stamp and Postcard Club (2)</b> 7.30pm, Mizzymead Recreation Centre. 01275 855 875</p>	<p><b>Worle WI (3)</b> 7.30pm, Castle Batch Community Centre, Bishop's Avenue. 01934 511 329</p>	<p><b>Social duplicate bridge (E)</b> 2pm, Vintage Community Church Hall, Hughenden Road, Weston-super-Mare. 01934 627 751</p>	<p><b>Weston-super-Mare &amp; District Family History (E)</b> 2pm-3.30pm, Weston library, Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Rd.</p>	<p><b>Sundays</b></p>
<p><b>Nailsea Scrabble Club (E)</b> 2pm, Mizzymead Recreation Centre. 01275 464 864</p>	<p><b>Notable Club (E)</b> Uphill Scouts Hall. 07845 220 349</p>	<p><b>Scrabble Club (E)</b> 2.15-5pm, Clevedon Conservative Club. £1 per session. 01275 342 974</p>	<p><b>Worle Lions Quiz (1)</b> Windsor Castle pub. Entry £2.50 inc food and cash prize. <a href="http://www.worlelions.co.uk">www.worlelions.co.uk</a> 08458 339 862</p>	<p><b>Worle Lions Quiz (1)</b> Windsor Castle pub. Entry £2.50 inc food and cash prize. <a href="http://www.worlelions.co.uk">www.worlelions.co.uk</a> 08458 339 862</p>	



## Lives blighted by drugs being turned around

Drug and alcohol addiction can blight communities but a treatment programme being run in North Somerset is helping to turn lives around.



North Somerset Council's community safety and drug action team commissions drug and alcohol treatment services for residents, including one-to-one and group-based interventions, as well as prescribing substitute medication where appropriate.

A number of local drug-related deaths had been linked to heroin so North Somerset Council commissioned a programme using naloxone.

This substance can reverse the harmful effects of a heroin overdose and reduce the risk of death.

North Somerset Council's substance misuse manager Ted Sherman said: "We've made sure that heroin users and people who are in regular contact with heroin users have naloxone and are trained how to use it in an emergency."

"So far, we believe that five lives have been saved in North Somerset as a result of this and we've seen people turn their lives around."

Andrew had a history of drug abuse and offending and had spent much of his adult life in prison.

His life changed when he was referred to North Somerset's early intervention accommodation project a month before he was due to be released from prison.

The project, commissioned by North Somerset Council and delivered with Alliance Living Support, found Andrew a place in supported housing.

Andrew's case worker Paul said: "Over the years, Andrew had been very poor at engaging with services but this time, the early intervention accommodation project, Addaction and probation service all worked with him together.

"He was more determined to make changes and never return to prison again."

While Andrew was in supported housing he remained abstinent from drugs for 18 months.



Paul, the case worker who worked with Andrew

Paul said: "Andrew was making such good progress, he was ready to become more independent."

"We found a one-bedroom flat with a private landlord, he met the landlord and two weeks later, signed up for the property."

Andrew was given help to move in, with re-settlement issues, getting housing benefit and setting up utilities.

He has now been abstinent for nearly three years, is doing voluntary work and not re-offending.

#### **Support is available to individuals at all levels of need.**

This could include advice on reducing the risks of harm, interventions when someone is moving out of their chaotic patterns of use, stabilising their life in the absence of problem substances, and supporting re-integration back into society. Support is also offered to friends and families of people with drug and alcohol problems.

## Police crackdown

A major police operation took place this summer to crack down on drug dealers in Weston-super-Mare.

In July, Avon and Somerset Police made more than 60 arrests as a result of the long and complex investigation and prison sentences totalling 39 years have now been handed out by the courts.

Chief superintendent Ian Wylie, police commander for Somerset and North Somerset, said: "Residents should not have to live in a place where dealers freely sell their drugs on the streets, in parks or where children play.

"This activity is about returning this wonderful seaside town to the local community and tackling the drug dealers head-on.



"I sincerely hope the arrests, as well as our commitment to investing significant resources in lengthy investigations, provides reassurance to residents that we will not tolerate drug dealing and that we are committed to ensuring people feel free to live in their communities without the fear of crime."

He also added: "Helping families and stopping offending in the first place is a really important part of our work with partner organisations."

## According to Public Health England and Alcohol Concern's alcohol harm map...

- Drug treatment prevents 4.9 million crimes per year in England and Wales
- A single crack or heroin user who is not in treatment will commit crime costing about £26,000 a year
- Every £1 spent on drug treatment saves £2.50 in social costs
- Treating one alcohol-dependent individual saves 18 A&E visits and 22 hospital admissions
- Higher risk drinkers in North Somerset are estimated to have generated £2.1m in local healthcare costs in one year.

To find out more about drug and alcohol services in North Somerset call Addaction: **01934 427 940** [www.addaction.org.uk](http://www.addaction.org.uk)





# HOW ARE YOU?

In our adult years, the lifestyle choices we make can dramatically increase our chances of becoming ill later in life.

Making small changes now can improve your health right away and double your chances of staying healthy as you get older. It's never too late to start.



## EAT WELL

A healthy diet can help you look and feel great.



## DRINK LESS

Cutting back on booze is good for your health.



## MOVE MORE

Getting enough exercise means a stronger, fitter you.



## SLEEP BETTER

It's important to get a good night's sleep.



## BE SMOKE FREE

No surprises here – stopping is the best thing you can do.



## STRESS LESS

Relaxing helps you feel good and function well.



## CHECK YOURSELF

Checking your body's most important systems are all running smoothly is a great place to start.

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

BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY  
**ONE YOU**

# Stylish living with added support



Supported living for the over-55s will soon be available at a stylish development near Weston-super-Mare.

Tamar Court, in Tamar Road, Worle, is being built by Alliance Homes in partnership with North Somerset Council to provide older people with the opportunity of living independently but with the peace of mind of additional care when it's needed.

The extra care housing development is almost ready to welcome its first residents into its 65 one and two-bedroom apartments.

Apartments can either be rented through North Somerset Council or bought under a shared ownership scheme from Alliance Homes.

Residents will have their own completely self-contained apartment, with its own front door.

Professional care is provided by an on-site care team if required.



The waiting list for Tamar Court is now open.

To find out more about the eligibility criteria and application process for renting an apartment, contact Care Connect: **01934 888 801** or [care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk). For more information about buying a shared ownership apartment, contact Helen at Alliance Homes on **01275 398 422** or visit [www.alliancehomesgroup.org.uk](http://www.alliancehomesgroup.org.uk)

## Open days

See Tamar Court for yourself at one of the open days arranged this winter. Viewings by appointment only.

Rental apartment  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
10am–noon from 14 November**

Shared ownership apartment  
**Every Friday**

**To book call Alliance Homes:  
03000 120 120 (choose option 2)**

## Why Tamar Court?

Tamar Court has been designed for comfort and security, in an ideal location near local shops and facilities.

### Every apartment includes:

- kitchen with sink, oven, grill, hob
- double bedroom
- fully accessible shower room
- living-dining room
- underfloor heating
- terrace or balcony
- access to shared facilities including restaurant, communal lounges, pamper room and gardening room.



Managing director Jonathan Jones (left) with technical director Nick Dyson

# Giving food and drink a tasty zing

Sweet and savoury flavours which feature in food and drink products up and down the country are manufactured right here in North Somerset.

Create Flavours, based in Clevedon, has developed high-quality flavourings to the food and drink industry for the last 15 years, from multi-national breakfast cereals to local beverages.

*Life* spoke to managing director Jonathan Jones to find out more...

## In a nutshell, what do you do?

We develop and manufacture high quality flavourings for the global food and beverage industries. Most of our products are natural.

We have a highly-skilled team of flavourists, food technologists and quality assurance professionals working alongside production and supply chain specialists.

## How did the company start?

I trained as a flavourist, starting with a US-based company back in the 1980s. I think that it's this technical background that has always informed the company's strategy and driven our innovative approach. It also makes us quite unique in the marketplace.

We did spot a niche early on, which was the substantial growth in natural flavours. When we started in 2001 the UK and north European market was steadily moving towards natural flavours and ingredients, and this has accelerated over the last 10 years.





All the hard work we put into developing natural flavours has certainly paid off and it always makes me very proud that we are still some way ahead of many large global competitors when it comes to the quality of our products.

#### **How has it grown since then?**

Our first premises were in Bristol and there were just two of us, myself and my partner Mandy who is a food technologist.

Initially we had a flavour development, sampling and applications laboratory along with offices and customer meeting rooms. I'd decided that we'd use third parties to manufacture for us but it soon became evident this wouldn't work so we committed to a unit in Clevedon. That was a big investment for us, setting up manufacturing for flavours is a costly business.

We've grown year-on-year and are now the largest independent in the UK. Over the last few years we've taken on two additional units. One is dedicated to our powder technology and the other is a technical and customer innovations centre. We now employ just under 30 people.

#### **Who are your customers and where are they?**

We work very closely with our customers and due to the nature of the business, it needs to remain

highly confidential. However, we supply a range of manufacturers from smaller UK privately-owned food manufacturers to global blue chip brands.

#### **What are your biggest achievements?**

I always think it a great achievement when we win business against our larger competitors. I often walk down a supermarket aisle and spot a new launch that we've been involved in. Some of our competitors are billion-pound companies with global resources and we are still able to out-compete them on key issues such as quality, price and service.

#### **What are the advantages of being based in North Somerset?**

Being close to the M5 is great as a good transport network is important, as is our ability to recruit and retain a high quality workforce.

What do you think of the plans for a new food and drink innovation centre in Weston-super-Mare?

We really should be promoting the South West as a powerhouse for food and beverage production so I think the food and drink centre is a great idea.

There are lots of food and beverage start-ups who need things like new product development support and dedicated, specialist facilities.

#### **What are your plans for the future?**

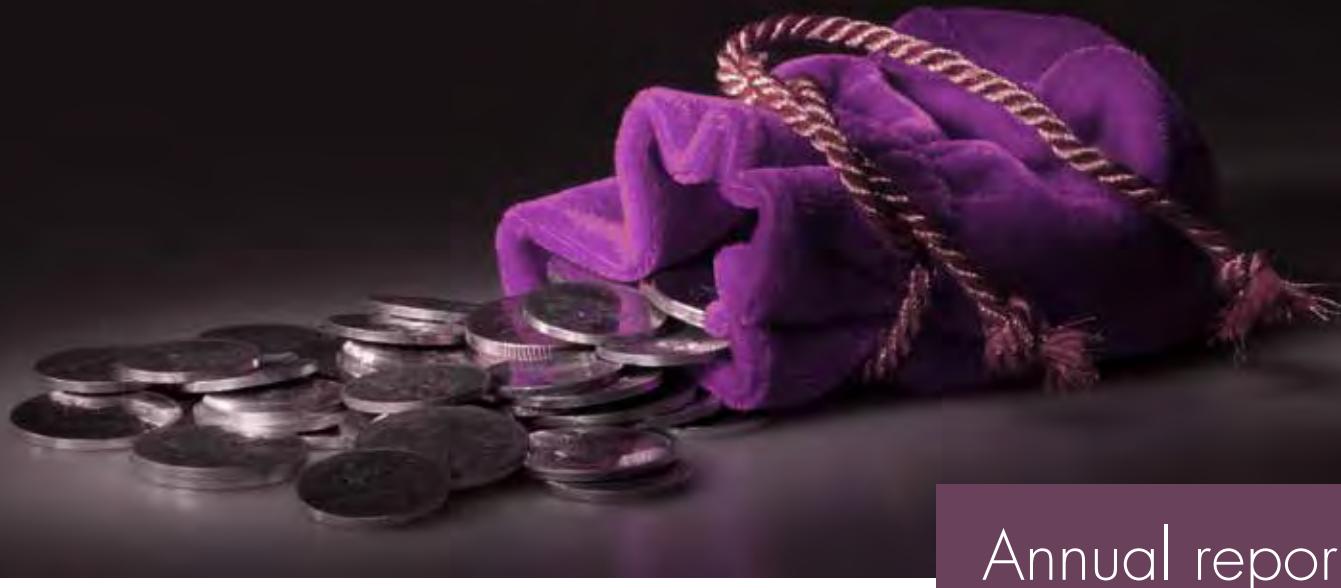
We will continue to grow both our UK and overseas markets. The key to this is to maintain our innovative approach and our operational and technical service levels. We have a strong culture in the business which revolves around customer service. I've seen many businesses get too big for their boots and eventually forget who pays the bills. I think we're all well aware that one of our key challenges is to maintain this culture and keep reminding ourselves how important our customers are.

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





# Pulling the purse strings tighter



Continuing funding cuts means councils across the country are now familiar with the challenge of doing more with less.

North Somerset Council is now in its seventh year of reducing resources and the end of austerity still seems a long way off.

Local authorities will find out more about their future finances on Wednesday 23 November when the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, delivers his autumn statement.

However, indications from central government are that local government will face financial austerity for several more years to come.

North Somerset Council has coped well so far with the challenge and has managed to maintain most frontline services and resident satisfaction rates.

It is anticipating that austerity will continue for at least the next four years, though.

The organisation's corporate plan and medium-term financial plan reflect this and they outline a strategic approach which will enable it to move to a largely self sufficient financial position by 2021.

There is a huge challenge to get there though, especially with the significant pressures and spiralling costs of social care. As well as this, there are increased costs in waste and recycling services, a rising local birth rate and high expectations from residents.

Services need to be transformed and demand needs to be managed by enabling more community-based support and self-help.

## Annual report

Every year councils must publish their accounts to show how they spend the public's money.

Here is a round-up of how the money went in and out of North Somerset Council's public purse during 2015/16:







# Where does the money go?

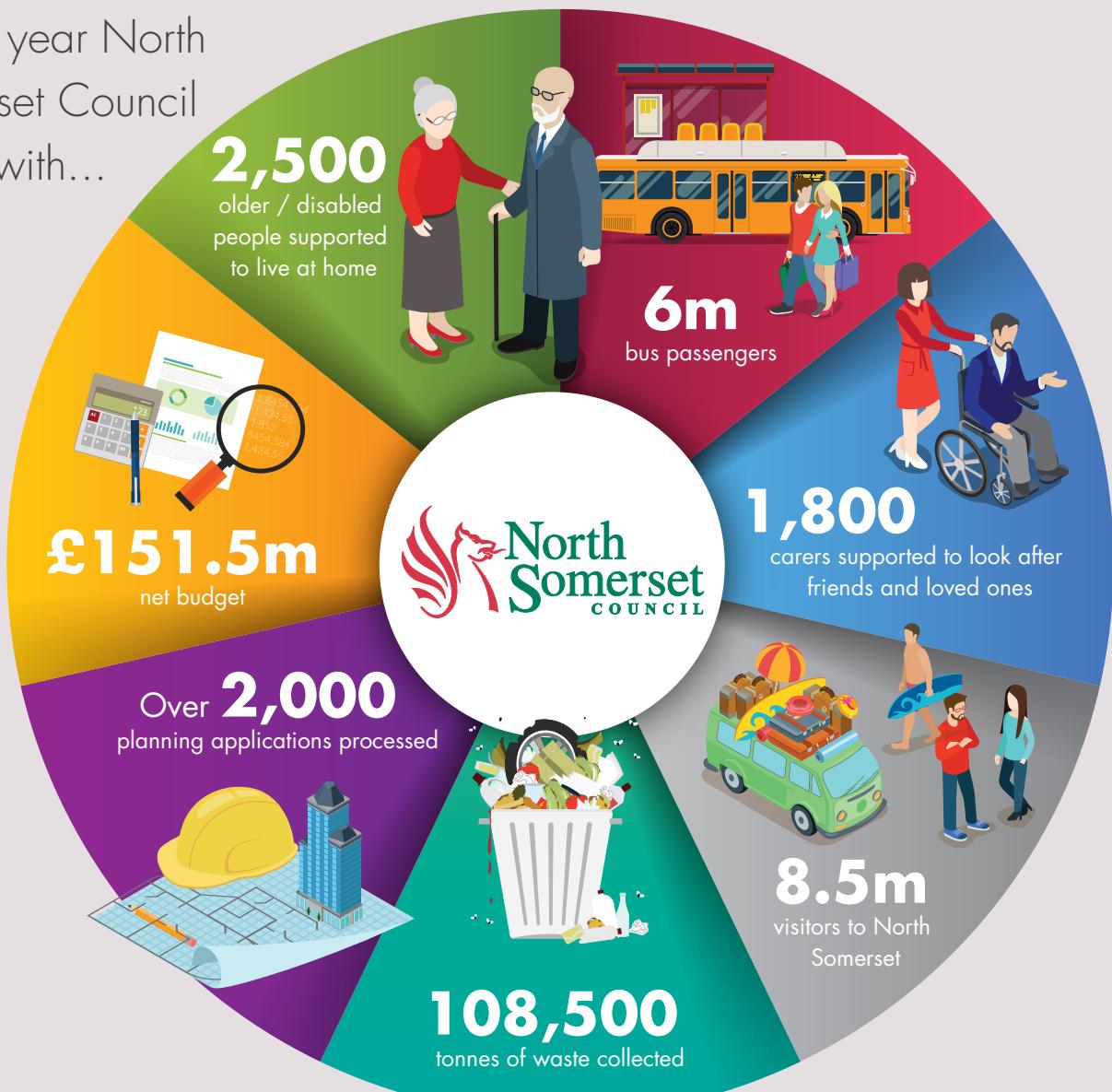
North Somerset's capital investments in 2015/16

In addition to funding services, the council also spends capital money on important investments across North Somerset.



	£m
New roads/transport	17.013
Schools	7.251
Existing roads	8.345
Flood prevention	4.196
Property and asset management	1.180
Housing grants	3.851
Leisure and libraries	3.360
Rail investment	4.220
Other capital investment	0.806
	50.222

In one year North Somerset Council deals with...

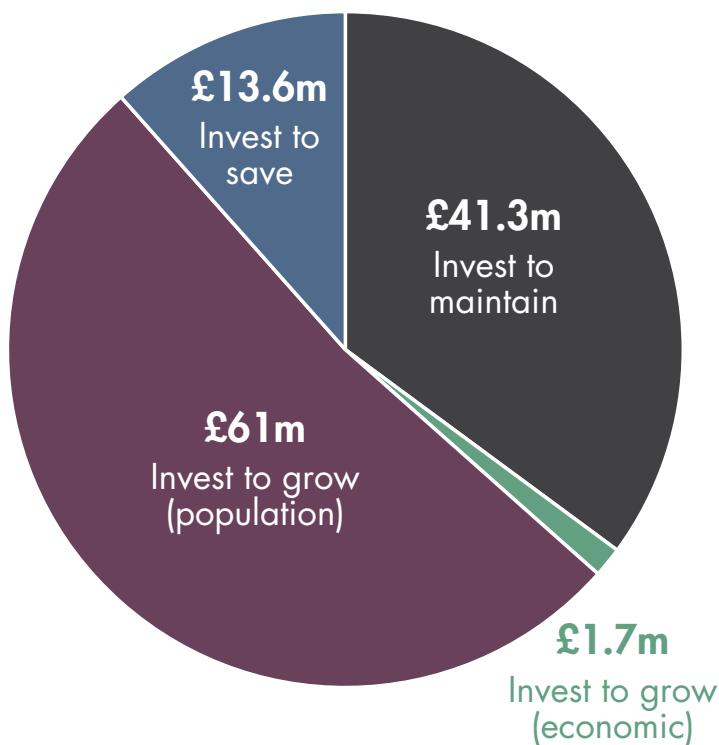


# Investment to grow and prosper



North Somerset Council's capital investment programme covers four themes – invest to maintain, invest to save, invest to grow (population) and invest to grow (economic).

## Approved Investment Programme



### Invest to maintain

Significant ongoing capital investment to extend the life and use of assets, such as roads, schools and other buildings

### Invest to save

Capital investment which aims to reduce current revenue expenditure, generate additional income or mitigate anticipated future costs. This includes disabled facilities grants which enable people to live more independently in their own homes

### Invest to grow (population)

Investment which facilitates population growth, such as providing new transport links, more housing and school places. This includes major transport projects such as South Bristol Link, the north south link road and Metro Rail, as well as additional school places at the North Somerset Enterprise and Technology College and secondary schools in Portishead and Weston-super-Mare.

### Invest to grow (economic)

Capital investment which helps economic growth, largely through regeneration or economic development initiatives. This is a key component of the council's vision, as it recognises that stimulating regeneration is key to its future success. Current investment includes regeneration within Weston town centre. The council will work with partners to create and seize opportunities where possible, meaning investment in this area will grow over the next few years.

For more information contact the finance team: **01934 634 619** • [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/budget](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/budget)

All financial statements have been prepared in accordance with appropriate accounting policies. A full copy of the draft statement of accounts and the auditor's opinion was presented to the council's Audit Committee at the end of September.

# Sign up now for new garden waste service



Garden waste will be collected in bins from next March and residents are being urged to sign up now to get the best deal.

From Wednesday 1 March next year the garden waste service is changing from bags to bins.

Residents will need to register for this new service and people who do so by Sunday 18 December will pay £20 per bin registered to their property.

## Bins are available in three sizes

Sizes are approximate measurements.

**180 litre** – Same as the current refuse bin. H: 106 (cm) x W: 54 (cm).

**140 litre** – Similar footprint to the 180 litre but slightly shorter. H: 105 (cm) x W: 56 (cm).

**240 litre** – Similar height to the 180 litre but slightly wider. H: 106 (cm) x W: 72 (cm).

Each property will be allowed up to two bins and the fee remains the same regardless of size of bin chosen.

Additional amounts of garden waste can be taken to one of the area's three recycling centres for free.

People registering after 18 December will pay £25 per bin, to take into account the cost of ad hoc deliveries, and they might not receive their bin in time for the start of the new service.

Once the new contract starts, existing garden waste bags will not be collected.

## New bags

New, smaller garden waste bags will be restricted to properties that currently use the grey sack service for refuse. All other properties will receive bins.

Households registering for new bags will receive three per registration - equivalent to one bin – and may make up to two registrations, in line with the bin service.

The first bags will be provided as part of the registration payment but future replacements may have to be purchased.

## Registration

Registration is based on the property, so the garden waste bin will stay with the property if you move out.

If you move to an un-registered property, you will have to register that property to receive a garden waste collection. If a property is already registered, the new occupant can continue using the service.

Garden waste bins will be the property of North Somerset Council but residents will be responsible for looking after them and ensuring they are put out for collection and safely returned to the property.

To register or for more information about disposing of garden waste visit [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

## Give your unwanted electrical equipment a new home

Unwanted electrical equipment and furniture can find a new home during a series of reuse events in North Somerset this month.

North Somerset Council is holding the events in partnership with social enterprise Changing Lives, which collects, recycles and reuses donated household goods to support low-income families.

Anyone with unwanted electrical equipment or furniture can take it along to one of these events or to any of the three recycling centres in North Somerset throughout the year.

Only items that can be moved comfortably by two people will be accepted.

### Visit...

- Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton – 4-6.30pm, Tuesday 1 November
- Dundry Village Hall, Crabtree Lane – 4-6.30pm, Monday 7 November
- Hutton Village Hall, Main Road, Hutton - 9am-noon, Saturday 12 November
- Old School Rooms, Station Road, Congresbury - 4-6.30pm, Wednesday 16 November
- Village Hall, Keedwell Hill, Long Ashton - 4-6.30pm, Tuesday 22 November



North Somerset ranks second place in carbon saving league

### High Flyers

	13/14	14/15	
Cheshire West and Chester	116	<b>109</b>	▼
North Somerset	104	<b>108</b>	▲
Dorset Waste Partnership	96	<b>98</b>	▲
Buckinghamshire	91	<b>97</b>	▲
Surrey	94	<b>97</b>	▲
Somerset	101	<b>96</b>	▼
Devon	96	<b>96</b>	
Leicestershire	99	<b>95</b>	▼
Wokingham	91	<b>93</b>	▲
Oxfordshire	91	<b>93</b>	▲
Isle of Wight	92	<b>91</b>	▼

Excellent recycling rates in North Somerset have helped the council to be named as the second highest performing authority in the country.

North Somerset Council gained second place in Eunomia's Recycling Carbon Index 2014/15, which ranks local authorities by their recycling activities and environmental impact.

This index calculates the amount of carbon dioxide emissions equivalent that are prevented as a result of local recycling and waste management activities.

It gives different values to different materials so is a better indication of the actual environmental impact, rather than using simple tonnage data.

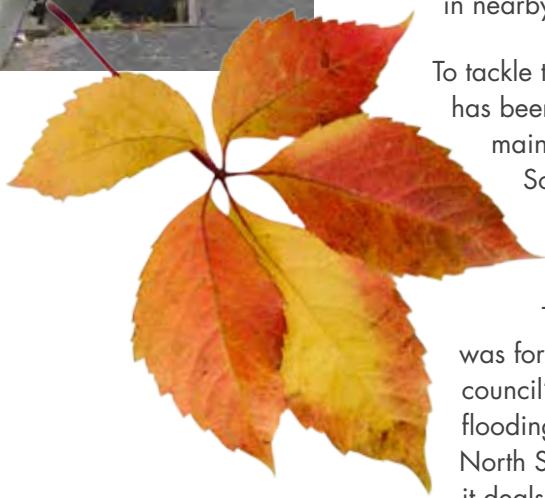
North Somerset has an estimated CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent saving of 108kg per person, just 1kg less than the top performing authority.

Since Eunomia first published the list four years ago, North Somerset Council has been consistently within the top three highest-performing authorities.

[www.eunomia.co.uk/carbonindex](http://www.eunomia.co.uk/carbonindex)

# Digging a little deeper

Falling leaves signal the start of winter weather and a busy time for crews who are out and about keeping the roads of North Somerset safe.



Walking through crisp fallen leaves can be a fun autumn activity but when they start to clog up gullies, problems can occur.

Gullies, also called road drains, are concrete pots under the road surface which are covered by a metal grate.

If they get blocked by fallen leaves it can lead to flooding on the road or in nearby properties.

To tackle this, a new team has been set up to carry out maintenance across North Somerset and help keep the roads clear and safe.

This dig down crew was formed as part of the council's response to the flooding issues that affected North Somerset in 2012 and it deals with the most serious blockages.



## How gullies are cleared

A regular programme of gully and drainage cleaning takes place throughout the year.

As a result, all gullies on the public highways are cleared once a year, and twice a year in areas which are more prone to flooding.

Specialist lorries with powerful equipment are used to drain the gullies and remove high volumes of waste quickly.

In busy residential areas, signs and no waiting cones are put out the day before cleaning is due to take place.

Sometimes crews will come across a blocked gully which is too severe for this machinery to clear – and this is where the dig down crew steps in.

## Gullies at a glance

- North Somerset Council is responsible for keeping more than 37,000 gullies across the area clean and clear.
- The council aims to carry out urgent works within 24 hours. Priority is given to areas where there is flooding within the living areas of a property or there is a highways safety issue.
- Don't tip waste down gullies as it will cause them to block.
- If you notice fallen leaves are starting to block a gully, feel free to clear the surface and remove them, providing it is safe to do so.
- You can report blocked gullies online at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect)

The crew is made up of three workers, an excavator and various plant and machinery.

It travels around North Somerset resolving problems that have been reported by members of the public or have been found during previous council investigation works.

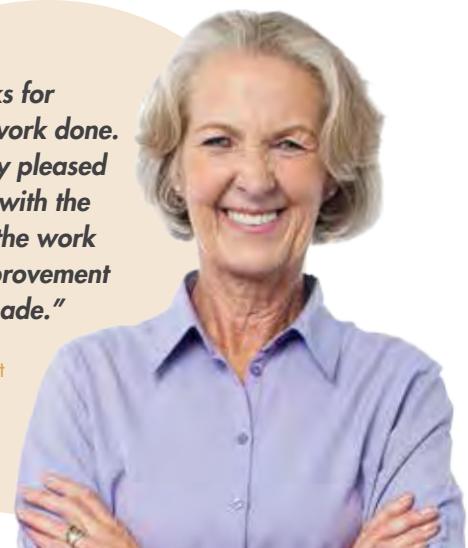
The crew digs down into broken pipes to repair faulty connections, replace broken gully and manhole covers, repair minor drainage problems and help to prevent flooding on the roads or in nearby properties.

Since the dig down crew launched, 18 long-standing flooding issues have been fixed and 14 more schemes are due to be repaired in the coming months.



*"Thanks for  
getting this work done.  
We are very pleased  
generally with the  
quality of the work  
and the improvement  
it has made."*

North Somerset  
resident



[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/roads](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/roads)  
[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/flood](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/flood) • 01275 888 802

# AUTUMN/WINTER SEASON TROPICANA

# THEATRE

Spitz and Co presents

## Gloriator

Tues 1 Nov • 7.30pm

12+

Luke Wright and Paul Jellis presents  
**What I Learned from  
Johnny Bevan**

Fri 4 Nov • 7.30pm

11+

A Living Spit and Salisbury Playhouse  
Production of

## Frankenstein

Sat 12, Sun 13\*, Tues 15, Wed 16, Thur  
17, Fri 18, Sat 19\* and Sun 20\* Nov  
2.30pm\* and 7.30pm

11+

Spitz and Co presents

## Glorilla

Fri 25 Nov • 7.30pm

11+

## Kate Dimbleby and Keith Warmington

Sat 26 Nov and Sun 11 Dec  
7.30pm

all  
ages

Ministry of Entertainment presents

## Mrs Gerrish's Guesthouse

Fri 2 Dec • 7.30pm

15+

Pickled Image presents

## Christmas Tales with Granddad

Sat 3 and Sun 4\* Dec

11am\* and 2pm

5+

Squashbox Theatre presents  
**The Christmassy  
Christmas Show**

Sun 11 Dec • 2pm

3+

Kid Carpet presents  
**Noisy Nativity**

Sun 18 and Mon 19 Dec • 2pm

3+

Instant Wit presents

## Christmas Special

Wed 21 Dec • 7.30pm

13+

## Nutty Noah Christmas

Fri 30 Dec • 1pm

4+

Fine Chisel presents

## Beneath the Blizzard

Fri 13 and Sat 14\* Jan 2017

2pm\* and 7pm

8+

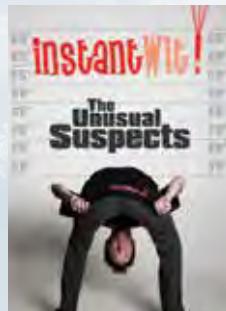
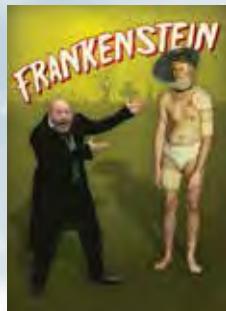
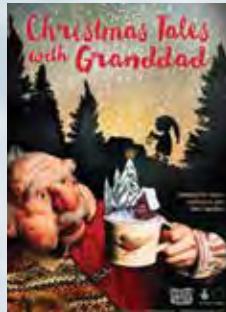
**Ticket prices from £5-£14**



Marine Parade, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1BE

Twitter: WestonSeafront • Facebook: WestonSeafront

[www.thebayweston.co.uk](http://www.thebayweston.co.uk) • [events@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:events@n-somerset.gov.uk)



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Tickets available from:

The Bay Cafe, Tropicana, Marine Parade, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1BE  
(and on the door - cash payments only)

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General enquiries 01934 629 829

# Taking action on empty properties

Empty properties are a wasted resource so help is available for owners to bring them back into use.



Houses left empty in the long term will deteriorate in condition, can become a target for vandalism, attract anti-social behaviour and are likely to decrease in value.

While they can be an unsightly nuisance, it also adds pressure to the housing market at a time of rising rents and people struggling to get on the property ladder.

Bringing a property back into use, whether to be sold or rented out, can generate valuable income to the owner.

North Somerset Council takes a proactive approach to tackling the problem and a wealth of help and advice is available.

This could include advice on letting, leasing or selling the property, and providing advice on issues such as tax relief on refurbishment works or energy efficiency measures.

Financial help through an empty property loan is available to improve, repair or convert premises.

Properties which have received complaints are prioritised so that the worst are targeted first.

The council can also use formal powers if the condition of an empty property begins to cause a nuisance or danger to the neighbouring properties.

These powers could include securing the premises to prevent unauthorised access, or carrying out works in default of owners.

In extreme cases, where all other attempts to work with the owner to bring it back into use fail, the council can take legal action to take ownership of a property.

This could be done through a compulsory purchase order or an enforced sale when significant financial charges are outstanding.



For more information visit [www.no-use-emptywest.co.uk](http://www.no-use-emptywest.co.uk), email [emptyproperties@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:emptyproperties@n-somerset.gov.uk) or call the housing adaptations and improvements team: 01934 426 885



# Get vocal, be heard

Listening to residents' views and questions is a valuable part of the democratic process.

North Somerset Council welcomes ideas to make things better and, while it can't act on every suggestion, it makes changes where possible.



## You said:

**I had an appointment at the Town Hall but the seating provided for visitors is very low.**

**I struggled to get in and out and felt much lower-down than the adviser. This felt quite intimidating.**

## We did:

Seating in the customer appointment area of the Town Hall was designed to be soft and comfortable for visitors.

However, following feedback the council realised this made it harder for older people or those with walking difficulties to get in and out.

As a result, new legs for the seats were sourced to raise them up. The soft padding is still there, but it means they are easier to get in and out of, and the customer is more at eye level with the adviser.



## You said:

**The old railings around Grove Park in Weston-super-Mare look really tatty. What are you going to do to improve them?**

## We did:

The existing railings in Grove Park, on its boundary with Grove Lane, had suffered vehicle damage and had become very worn with age.

The council's green space officers appointed a contractor and 35 metres of traditional cast iron railings have now been replaced.

# Your views

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

 @NorthSomersetC

 NorthSomersetCouncil

 @NorthSomersetLife

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

## Dear Editor,

Regarding your Poets' Walk feature [Sept/Oct], it's a fact that Tennyson never spent even one night in Clevedon.

He did spend an afternoon at Clevedon Court. Hardly time to 'do Poets' Walk.

*Maurice O'Connell, Clevedon*

## Dear Editor,

I read with interest your articles on a variety of subjects. The summer special had an article of particular interest, supported living for the over-55s.

In January 2014 I joined a Latin dance class. I am in my 70s and go twice a week. I have met some of the nicest people from parts of our area – Portishead, Backwell, Weston-super-Mare.

You can have dance tuition which is fun not taxing, no exams to pass, enjoy a cup of tea and a chat. As I said at my first class, 'That's the best £5 I have ever spent'.

It is quite daunting going to a class when you have never danced before and you are on your own. This class has been so welcoming to me.

It's never too late to learn a new skill or brush up on an old one.

Classes are held Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays. Contact Clevedon Latin and Jive on 01275 876 314 or 07940 823 581.

*Name supplied*

## Editor's reply:

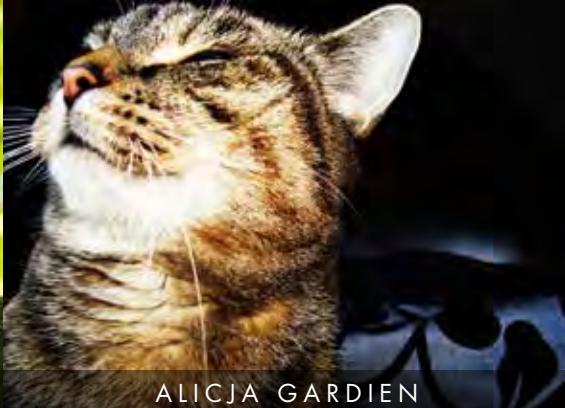
*Thank you so much for your letter and it's great to hear you are enjoying a new hobby and meeting lots of friendly people.*

*A variety of classes are held throughout North Somerset. See our regular what's on listings for more information.*

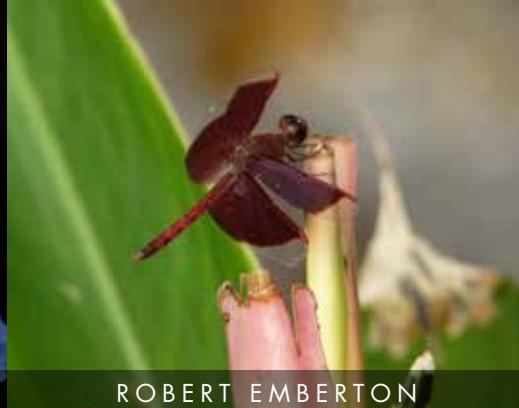
 North Somerset Life is now on Instagram. Tag #northsomersetlife to share your pictures.



IAN FREETH



ALICJA GARDIEN



ROBERT EMBERTON



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

 Yellow lines enforcement required in Leigh Woods please.

**North Somerset Council:** Although we install the lines, the police are responsible for enforcing. You can call them on 101 their non-emergency line.

 Hi, my son has a blue badge as he is disabled but I have misplaced it, how do I go about replacing it?

**North Somerset Council:** Please contact our Care Connect team on 01275 888 801. They are open Mon-Fri 8am-6pm.

 The recycling men were absolutely awful this morning turning my street into a rubbish tip.

**North Somerset Council:** You can report a spillage after collection on our website at [n-somerset.gov.uk/connect](http://n-somerset.gov.uk/connect)



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

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

## Coming next issue:

- New waste and recycling contract latest
- Get fit for New Year

Sign up to *Life's* online edition and receive news straight into your inbox. Visit [www.northsomersetlife.co.uk](http://www.northsomersetlife.co.uk)

## Tide timetables for Weston-super-Mare

### Tide facts

Approximate high water times at:

Clevedon: 10 min  
Portishead: 18 min  
later than  
Weston-super-Mare.

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

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

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

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

Report it. Request it. Pay for it.  
[www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect)



8am – 6pm Mon – Fri

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



**Care Connect:** for all social services enquiries:  
01275 888 801  
[care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk)

**Main switchboard:**  
01934 888 888

**Emergency (out of hours):**  
01934 622 669

North Somerset Council  
Town Hall



Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ

### NOVEMBER 2016

Date	High water			Low water			High water			Low water		
	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)
	AM						PM					
1 Tue	07:28	11.81	00:56	1.20	19:39	11.73	13:08	1.14	01:Thu	07:32	11.63	00:59
2 Wed	07:55	11.73	01:23	1.22	20:07	11.58	13:36	1.20	02:Fri	08:04	11.56	01:31
3 Thu	08:25	11.48	01:50	1.33	20:38	11.25	14:05	1.37	03:Sat	08:38	11.33	02:02
4 Fri	08:54	11.04	02:17	1.55	21:09	10.75	14:33	1.67	04:Sun	09:15	10.97	02:34
5 Sat	09:26	10.48	02:44	1.86	21:43	10.18	15:05	2.02	05:Mon	09:54	10.52	03:08
6 Sun	10:02	9.91	03:17	2.20	22:23	9.63	15:43	2.37	06:Tue	10:40	10.09	03:50
7 Mon	10:47	9.41	04:00	2.52	23:19	9.19	16:36	2.69	07:Wed	-	04:49	2.46
8 Tue	-	-	05:02	2.85	11:54	9.09	17:55	2.94	08:Thu	00:07	9.59	06:06
9 Wed	00:33	9.01	06:32	3.06	13:23	9.21	19:37	2.88	09:Fri	01:23	9.61	07:34
10 Thu	02:04	9.38	08:15	2.83	14:46	9.97	20:58	2.31	10:Sat	02:41	10.08	08:52
11 Fri	03:20	10.26	09:25	2.19	15:53	10.97	21:57	1.70	11:Sun	03:50	10.81	09:54
12 Sat	04:22	11.24	10:25	1.64	16:49	11.86	22:57	1.22	12:Mon	04:49	11.55	10:59
13 Sun	05:15	12.04	11:24	1.16	17:40	12.50	23:50	0.08	13:Tue	05:43	12.14	11:52
14 Mon	06:04	12.59	12:12	0.76	18:29	12.88	-	-	14:Wed	06:33	12.55	00:15
15 Tue	06:49	12.92	00:35	0.52	19:14	13.04	12:56	0.54	15:Thu	07:19	12.75	00:59
16 Wed	07:34	13.02	01:17	0.43	20:00	12.95	13:37	0.53	16:Fri	08:05	12.72	01:42
17 Thu	08:19	12.83	01:58	0.55	20:45	12.55	14:19	0.74	17:Sat	08:50	12.42	02:24
18 Fri	09:05	12.34	02:39	0.89	21:32	11.86	15:00	1.13	18:Sun	09:36	11.87	03:06
19 Sat	09:51	11.59	03:20	1.36	22:20	11.00	15:43	1.63	19:Mon	10:20	11.16	03:48
20 Sun	10:40	10.74	04:03	1.87	23:13	10.15	16:31	2.12	20:Tue	11:07	10.43	04:32
21 Mon	-	-	04:55	2.35	11:34	10.00	17:30	2.56	21:Wed	-	05:22	2.41
22 Tue	00:11	9.52	06:00	2.75	12:37	9.54	18:45	2.84	22:Thu	00:31	9.35	06:19
23 Wed	01:19	9.25	07:25	2.92	13:50	9.47	20:12	2.77	23:Fri	01:35	9.09	07:37
24 Thu	02:34	9.43	08:43	2.66	15:07	9.81	21:15	2.39	24:Sat	02:43	9.20	08:54
25 Fri	03:43	9.96	09:38	2.22	16:07	10.34	22:04	1.99	25:Sun	03:48	9.63	09:46
26 Sat	04:36	10.54	10:24	1.83	16:56	10.80	22:47	1.69	26:Mon	04:42	10.19	10:29
27 Sun	05:19	10.98	11:04	1.56	17:36	11.10	23:23	1.49	27:Tue	05:25	10.71	11:08
28 Mon	05:57	11.28	11:37	1.39	18:12	11.29	23:56	1.36	28:Wed	06:03	11.11	11:45
29 Tue	06:30	11.48	12:11	1.27	18:44	11.41	-	-	29:Thu	06:40	11.39	00:04
30 Wed	07:01	11.59	00:28	1.28	19:16	11.48	12:43	1.21	30:Fri	07:15	11.57	00:41

### DECEMBER 2016

Date	High water			Low water			High water			Low water		
	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)	Time	Height (m)
	AM						PM					
1 Thu	07:32	11.63	00:59	1.26	19:47	11.48	13:15	1.21	2 Fri	08:04	11.56	01:31
2 Fri	08:04	11.56	01:31	1.31	20:20	11.35	13:48	1.32	3 Sat	08:38	11.33	02:02
3 Sat	08:38	11.33	02:02	1.47	20:56	11.08	14:23	1.52	4 Sun	09:15	10.97	02:34
4 Sun	09:15	10.97	02:34	1.70	21:34	10.69	14:57	1.79	5 Mon	09:54	10.52	03:08
5 Mon	09:54	10.52	03:08	1.97	22:16	10.25	15:36	2.05	6 Tue	10:40	10.09	03:50
6 Tue	10:40	10.09	03:50	2.22	23:06	9.85	16:27	2.29	7 Wed	-	04:49	2.46
7 Wed	-	-	04:49	2.46	11:36	9.77	17:37	2.48	8 Thu	00:07	9.59	06:06
8 Thu	00:07	9.59	06:06	2.66	12:46	9.68	19:00	2.54	9 Fri	01:23	9.61	07:34
9 Fri	01:23	9.61	07:34	2.66	14:07	9.98	20:20	2.34	10 Sat	02:41	10.08	08:52
10 Sat	02:41	10.08	08:52	2.33	15:18	10.63	21:26	1.93	11 Sun	03:50	10.81	09:54
11 Sun	03:50	10.81	09:54	1.89	16:22	11.35	22:28	1.53	12 Mon	04:49	11.55	10:59
12 Mon	04:49	11.55	10:59	1.45	17:18	11.96	23:28	1.11	13 Tue	05:43	12.14	11:52
13 Tue	05:43	12.14	11:52	1.01	18:11	12.40	-	-	14 Wed	06:33	12.55	00:15
14 Wed	06:33	12.55	00:15	0.75	18:59	12.65	12:38	0.71	15 Thu	07:19	12.75	00:59
15 Thu	07:19	12.75	00:59	0.57	19:46	12.69	13:22	0.61	16 Fri	08:05	12.72	01:42
16 Fri	08:05	12.72	01:42	0.59	20:33	12.48	14:05	0.71	17 Sat	08:50	12.42	02:24
17 Sat	08:50	12.42	02:24	0.80	21:18	12.00	14:47	0.99	18 Sun	09:36	11.87	03:06
18 Sun	09:36	11.87	03:06	1.16	22:04	11.32	15:30	1.39	19 Mon	10:20	11.16	03:48
19 Mon	10:20	11.16	03:48	1.59	22:49	10.56	16:13	1.82	20 Tue	11:07	10.43	04:32
20 Tue	11:07	10.43	04:32	2.02	23:36	9.87	17:00	2.21	21 Wed	-	05:22	2.41
21 Wed	-	-	05:22	2.41	11:58	9.82	17:52	2.57	22 Thu	00:31	9.35	06:19
22 Thu	00:31	9.35	06:19	2.76	12:57	9.40	18:58	2.85	23 Fri	01:35	9.09	07:37
23 Fri	01:35	9.09	07:37	2.97	14:04	9.27	20:22	2.89	24 Sat	02:43	9.20	08:54
24 Sat	02:43	9.20	08:54	2.80	15:12	9.47	21:22	2.59	25 Sun	03:48	9.63	09:46
25 Sun	03:48	9.63	09:46	2.40	16:13	9.89	22:08	2.19	26 Mon	04:42	10.19	10:29
26 Mon	04:42	10.19	10:29	1.97	17:02	10.37	22:50	1.81	27 Tue	05:25	10.71	11:08
27 Tue	05:25	10.71	11:08	1.62	17:43	10.78	23:28	1.52	28 Wed	06:03	11.11	11:45
28 Wed	06:03	11.11	11:45	1.37	18:21	11.08	-	-	29 Thu	06:40	11.39	00:04
29 Thu	06:40	11.39	00:04	1.33	18:56	11.30	12:22	1.23	30 Fri	07:15	11.57	00:41
30 Fri	07:15	11.57	00:41	1.24	19:32	11.47	21:22	1.17	31 Sat	07:50	11.69	01:18
31 Sat	07:50	11.69	01:18	1.22	20:08	11.57	13:38	1.17				

# Christmas collection days

Only households with **Monday collections** are affected by Christmas and New Year this festive season.

Collection day	Revised collection day
Mon 26 Dec	Sat 24 Dec
Tues 27 Dec	Tues 27 Dec
Wed 28 Dec	Wed 28 Dec
Thurs 29 Dec	Thurs 29 Dec
Fri 30 Dec	Fri 30 Dec
Mon 2 Jan	Sat 31 Dec
Tues 3 Jan	Tues 3 Jan
Wed 4 Jan	Wed 4 Jan
Thurs 5 Jan	Thurs 5 Jan
Fri 6 Jan	Fri 6 Jan

Your garden waste service is changing...



From 1 March 2017 garden waste will only be collected from households with new green waste containers. Order yours online at [www.n-somerset.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/gardenwaste)