

NORTH SOMERSET

Life

Independence for the elderly

Carelink gives you help at the touch of a button



Interested in making a difference to health and social care services?

'Tell us what you think' Drop-ins

Come and share your views!

We are particularly interested in hearing about:

- Needing a GP - outside surgery hours
- Physiotherapy or rehabilitation
- Care homes in the area
- Dementia diagnosis and care
- Plus much more

Join us for a cuppa, snack and chat!

Pop in to any of the following at a time convenient to you:

Winscombe Cricket Club

The Lynch, Winscombe, Tuesday 13 April
7.30 - 9.30pm

Clevedon Town Council

44 Old Street, Clevedon, Thursday 22 April
1 - 3pm

St George's Church Hall, Easton in Gordano

Wednesday 28 April, 6.30- 8.30pm

Badger Centre, Wadham Street, Wsm

Wednesday 5 May, noon - 2pm

Any queries or access requirements, call 01934 876 806 or email: contact@nsomersetlink.co.uk

Coming in next month's issue

- **Green Special**
Residents tackling climate change
- **Wildlife groups dig deep**



- **International Year of Biodiversity**

Your next issue of *Life* will be delivered from 3 May

 *recycle me when you've read me*

Strong roots change lives

Can you help a child grow?

We need foster carers who can nurture, support and care for our looked after children.

Anyone can become a foster carer. All we ask is that you have time, space, patience and commitment.

For further information on fostering call **01275 888 999**, visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk or email fostering@n-somerset.gov.uk



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.

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01934 888 888
8am-6pm Mon-Fri



Council Connect for all streets and open spaces enquiries:

01934 888 802
8am-6pm Mon-Fri
streetsandopenspaces@n-somerset.gov.uk



Care Connect for all adult social services enquiries:

01275 888 801
8am-6pm Mon-Fri
care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk

Emergency (out of hours):

01934 622 669

Fax

01934 418 194

Online

www.n-somerset.gov.uk

Tourist Information Centre

Phone 01934 888 800

Online www.n-somerset.gov.uk/tic
www.visitsomerset.co.uk

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Spending your money wisely



Dig in to get fit



Gardening can bring both physical and mental benefits so anyone who wants to get fit in the great outdoors can now join a new course.

A six-week beginners' gardening course starts this month in Clevedon for people to test out their green fingers by growing their own food, improving their garden, encouraging wildlife and becoming more active.



The course is supported by the council's Go4Life scheme and activities include preparing the ground, sowing, aftercare and maintenance.

Research shows that gardening for 30 to 45 minutes a day a few times a week has significant health benefits, including decreased risk of high blood pressure and diabetes, healthier bones, muscles and joints.

Gardening can rebuild strength after an accident or illness and provide a purposeful activity for someone coping with a difficult period in their life.

The course runs on Fridays, 10am-noon, from 23 April to 28 May. It costs £10 per session and includes seed sowing, germination, taking cuttings, planting out, feeding crops, pests, diseases and weeds.

01275 874 766 • priccarol@yahoo.co.uk



Breathe easy

People with a respiratory problem, their carers and friends can now get information and advice from a new support scheme.

Weston-super-Mare Breathe Easy group is part of the British Lung Foundation and meets at Hutton Village Hall on the third Wednesday of each month.



The next meeting is on 21 April from 2pm and all are welcome.

One in seven people suffers with some form of respiratory problem, ranging from asthma to lung cancer.

01275 873 322 • 01934 521 259



Man jailed for council tax arrears

A North Somerset man who failed to pay his council tax arrears has been jailed for 42 days.

Maurice Hayward, of High Street, Yatton, was found to have committed 'wilful refusal' when he first appeared at North Somerset Court House in March last year.

He had consistently failed to pay his council tax despite numerous efforts by the council to recover the debts and after bailiffs had visited his home a number of times without success.

North Somerset magistrates awarded liability orders for unpaid council tax of almost £9,000 at the initial court hearing and he was sentenced to 90 days in prison, suspended on the provision he made payments of £250 a month.

Hayward's failure to keep to this agreement meant the prison sentence was imposed when he returned to court last month.

Celebrate school's new era

Past and present pupils of Bournville Primary School in Weston-super-Mare can celebrate its history during an event next month.

The closing ceremony will be held at 4.30pm on Friday 7 May for people to have one last look around the old school buildings before they are demolished to make way for the new school.

Portishead PCSO best of the bunch

PCSO Debbie Charman receives her award from Alan Ham, of Avon and Somerset Police Authority



Neighbourhood police officers who make a real difference in their communities have been awarded for going the extra mile.

The Community Policing Awards, hosted by Avon and Somerset Police Authority, took place last month to recognise officers and staff who go the extra mile to help reduce crime and improve the quality of life in their area.

PCSO Deborah Charman, based at Portishead, won the Outstanding Customer Service Award.

She said: "I am absolutely stunned and overwhelmed. I love the job and love helping people so want to say a big thank you to anyone who took the trouble to nominate me.

"It's so rewarding to feel that you really make a difference. People are so grateful when you make the extra effort and I feel very humbled."

All nominations were put forward by members of the public and winners were selected by an independent judging panel.



Swim to success
p20

Private fostering arrangements

Families who look after another child under a private fostering arrangement are being urged to step forward and let the council know.

Private fostering is when a child who is under 16 (or 18 if they are disabled) lives with and is cared for by an adult who is not related to them for 28 days or more.

This is a private arrangement between the parents and the person providing care, which could include children being sent to this country for education or health reasons by parents living abroad or children living with family friends because of separation or divorce.

The arrangement is made without social services being involved but it is a legal requirement to let the council know at least six weeks before the arrangement begins, to ensure children are safe, well cared for and protected from abuse or neglect.

01275 888 999

fostering@n-somerset.gov.uk

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/fostering



Challenge yourself to a good read

Adults who have lost the reading habit are being urged to pick it up again with the help of a new challenge.

The Six Book Challenge has now been launched to inspire less confident adults with a love of reading.

The initiative, run by North Somerset

Council's library service, invites people to read six books and keep a diary while giving them rewards along the way.

Rewards include key rings, pens and free DVD or CD loans and those who read six books before the end of June will be entered into a prize draw to win a trip to London.

Margaret, who entered last year, said: "I loved reading the books. It helped me relax in the evening and has encouraged me to carry on reading."



01934 426 388

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/libraries





Be the big difference in a disabled child's life

Local people are being urged to make a big difference in the life of a disabled child by becoming a short-break carer.

People are needed by North Somerset Council's Family Link Scheme to help support a disabled child and their family in the area.

The appeal has been launched to coincide with the Shared Care Network's Be The Big Difference campaign.

Short breaks are the most requested support service by families of disabled children and can help transform lives.

By providing short breaks in your home a disabled child has opportunities to make new friends,



develop their independence and enjoy new activities. It also gives families regular breaks which enable them to recharge their batteries.

For more information contact the Family Link Scheme: 01934 427 645
familylinkscheme@n-somerset.gov.uk
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/fis



Test your blood pressure



Forty per cent of strokes could be avoided if high blood pressure was controlled so free testing sessions will be held in Nailsea this month.

Know Your Blood Pressure Day, run by the Stroke Association, takes place on Saturday 17 April and the

Rotary Club of Nailsea and Backwell is organising a clinic where people can get checked out in a couple of minutes.

No appointment is necessary, just turn up between 9am-1pm at Weston College's Nailsea campus in Somerset Square.

New transport plan for the region

Get vocal - be heard

Long-term transport plans for the region are now being devised and people are invited to have their say.

The council is developing the next Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP 3) for the area, which will set out transport policies for North Somerset until 2026. It will tie in with the long-term planning document for the area, the Core Strategy.

The plan covers all modes of transport and is set in the context of council priorities and wider government goals, such as the need to support economic growth and tackle transport-related CO₂ emissions.

A consultation will be held in the summer when the draft strategy and delivery plan is available. In the mean time, visit www.travelplus.org.uk for more information.

Improvements are now being made as part of the current transport plan and funding from other sources, including a new road layout and improved pedestrian area at Pier Square in Weston-super-Mare, traffic lights at the A370 Hutton Moor roundabout, new road surface on the Long Ashton by-pass, footpath improvements on Brinsea Road in Congresbury, improvements to cycle routes such as the Strawberry Line and Flax Bourton Greenway, and improvements to bus stops across the area.

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/corestrategy



Social care transformed

Social care services are changing to give people more choice and control over the way they receive support.

The change is part of the national Putting People First programme which was devised by the government after consultation with residents, carers and social workers.

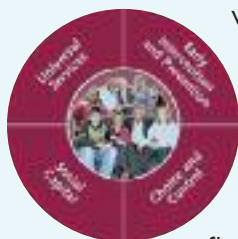
The aim is to give people greater flexibility and control over the support they receive to help them to stay in their own home longer and be more independent.

In North Somerset improvements are being made to the way the

council manages and provides services, making it easier for people to access education, housing, leisure and transport facilities. The council is also working more with partner organisations to improve choice and control for people using social care services.

This more personalised, flexible support could make a big difference to a person's life. Personal budgets can mean people could choose a mixture of services depending on their personal need.

See future issues of Life for more information.



Free early education
p23



New rules at recycling centres

Getting rid of household waste in North Somerset is now easier thanks to changes being brought in at recycling centres across the district.

From last month, the recycling centres in Weston-super-Mare, Portishead and Backwell are now being run by new contractor May Gurney.

There is now a 'meeter and greeter' at every site to help people put the right materials in the right containers, a new layout of containers, new signs, and a bigger range of materials can be recycled.

Only household waste will be accepted so tighter controls are in place against trade or commercial waste (any waste generated by a business or commercial enterprise, including waste generated from properties that are not homes such as a property that is rented out or a business run from home).

Trade and commercial waste can be taken to the waste transfer station in Weston-super-Mare. Call 01934 419 447 first.



Care Connect: 01275 888 801 • care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/personalisation



Spring clean your smoke alarm

Spring is in the air so now it's time to make sure smoke alarms are up to scratch.

Avon Fire and Rescue Service is reminding people to dust off their smoke detectors and make sure the battery is working.

Just a couple of mouthfuls of toxic smoke could knock a person unconscious so the sooner people are made aware of a fire, the quicker they can get to safety.

Top tips on staying safe:

- Never overload plug sockets
- Make sure candles are placed in the correct holders
- Never leave cooking unattended
- Plan an escape route from the house
- If you smoke, always ensure cigarettes are fully extinguished after use
- Make sure all electrical items which don't need to be kept on are switched off at night and doors are closed to prevent the spread of fire.



www.avonfire.gov.uk • 0117 926 2061



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



Help at the touch of a button



Gwyneth and Brian West with son Martin

People are now living longer than ever before but those who want to remain independent may need a little extra support.

Thousands of elderly and disabled residents in North Somerset are now using a 24-hour personal alarm system to get help at the touch of a button.

Life found out what the system — Carelink — means to its users...

Peace of mind

Worle pensioner Gwyneth West has worn her Carelink alarm pendant since suffering a mini stroke three years ago.

She now lives in an annexe at the back of her son's house with her husband Brian and says the peace of mind it gives is unbeatable.

Gwyneth, aged 75, said: "Touch wood, I've never had to use it in an emergency but it gives us reassurances. I think it's such a good idea.

"Brian can't be with me all the time so it gives him peace of mind when he's not here."

Bristol City FC season-ticket holder Brian will be 74 this month and is more mobile than Gwyneth.

He said: "Having the pendant means I can go out and about and not worry about her being home alone. I can go to the football or to the shops."

Their son Martin said: "When my mum had a stroke, it really shook my dad up. It was after that we moved into this house, so they could live in the annexe.

"Having Carelink means my dad can come and go, enjoy the football and not worry about my mum. It's all about helping people feel safe and secure at home."

Gwyneth added: "We are lucky we've got so much support. And the people at Carelink are so nice."



Tremendous relief

Independence is the key reason for using Carelink, according to one Wrington resident.

The 80-year-old has been wearing the pendant since last December and said: "I cannot tell you what a difference it has made to me. If I have got this on, I do not care if I fall over. It gives me a tremendous feeling of relief."

She is undaunted by the technology and said: "It's very easy to use, and the monitor is quite small so it doesn't take up much space. You don't have to worry about just knocking it and setting it off."

The resident, who lives alone but has a tendency to fall over, added:

"It's quite extraordinary. I had no idea I was so fussy until I wore it and realised the relief I felt about not worrying about falling."

New products to make life easier

Innovative new products are now available which could make living at home independently easier for elderly and disabled residents.

Telecare is a new service in North Somerset which includes a range of sensors and detectors that can help raise an alert and support those at risk of falls, wandering or experiencing memory difficulties.

The equipment includes sensor mats on beds which would raise a call if the person is out of bed for longer than a reasonable time period, or sensors on doors if a person is likely to wander off.

Devices can be stand-alone or linked to Carelink or a similar 24-hour monitoring centre, to provide peace of mind and a response in real emergencies.

Telecare is unobtrusive, simple to use and tailored to suit users' own needs.

To find out more call Care Connect on 01275 888 801.



Carelink installers Christine Richards (left) and Cathy Hollingdrake

How does Carelink work?

Carelink is a 24-hour monitored personal alarm system which connects through people's telephone lines to a monitoring call centre.

The system, run by North Somerset Council, features an alarm button which can be worn around the neck like a pendant or on the wrist like a watch.

Anyone who needs help or assistance can press the button and be put through to a fully-trained operator in the contact centre. The operator can hear and speak to people, even if they are not near a telephone. If help is needed, the operator will contact nominated carers or the emergency services as appropriate.

For more information call Carelink on 01934 412 063

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/olderpeople

care@n-somerset.gov.uk



Get in contact with your council

Getting in touch with council services has never been easier thanks to a host of contact points throughout North Somerset.

Council Connect is about making it as straightforward as possible for you to get information about council services - whether online, by phone or speaking to a member of staff.



What can you do?

At Council Connect points you could report a pothole, view a planning application, find out when your recycling and waste is due to be collected or get involved with public consultations. At the Campus and For All Healthy Living Centre in Weston-super-Mare you can also buy green recycling bags and Playhouse tickets.

You can also log onto North Somerset Council's website and print information free of charge to find out about all council services. Full access to the internet is available to library members, and membership is free.

Customer phones are available for people to speak directly to staff in the 10 most popular service teams. Advisors are on hand to help you directly or give you the details of someone else who can.

Many access points are open outside normal office hours, for your convenience.



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



Visit Council Connect

Contact points are located throughout North Somerset

- Backwell library
- Banwell library
- The Campus (Weston-super-Mare)
- Clevedon library
- Congresbury library
- For All Healthy Living Centre (Weston-super-Mare)
- Long Ashton library
- Nailsea library
- Pill library
- Portishead library
- Town Hall reception (Weston-super-Mare)
- Worle library
- Weston-super-Mare library
- Yatton library

More service at Town Hall

Access to a wide range of council services is now available under one roof.

The new-look Town Hall in Weston-super-Mare has access to information about a wide range of services, including building control and planning, bus and rail passes, disabled and parking permits.

Two public access computers and telephones are also available.



Feedback so far

The member of staff was well presented and friendly. They showed me how they accessed my query on the website and offered me the option of filling in online or phone. A really pleasant experience.

Staff were happy to explain the process and show me how to access the information for myself.

The member of staff was helpful and printed off the information and said I could use the computer or the Council Connect phone to report my problem if I wanted.

Don't forget!

If you can't visit a Council Connect point in person there are alternative ways to get in touch to suit your lifestyle.

Pick up the phone and call Council Connect from the comfort of your own home or from a mobile if you spot a problem while you're out and about. Advisors are on hand to answer any streets or open spaces queries from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. Call 01934 888 802.

For 24-hour help, go online to find a wealth of information or get interactive at www.n-somerset.gov.uk



Meet officers in person

Discuss your streets and open spaces queries during drop-in sessions and meet council officers in person.

Regular drop-in surgeries are at Long Ashton and Yatton libraries:

- Long Ashton - first Thursday of every month, 10am-1pm. Call 01275 392 358
- Yatton - every Friday, 10.30am-1.30pm (in adjoining Yatton Town Council office). Call 01934 426 100

Additional surgeries are also held at Yatton library. Citizen Advice Bureau sessions take place every Thursday from 10am-1pm (first Thursday of every month is 1-3.45pm) and North Somerset Credit Union meets every Tuesday from 2.30-4.30pm.

Lovely Blagdon Lake



This energetic route is not for the faint-hearted but rewards walkers with wonderful views.

Walk information

Distance: about 5 miles

Difficulty: Hard – steep uphill section. Loose stones and muddy paths. Wear wellies as section near lake is prone to flooding

Accessibility: Lots of wooden stiles

Duration: allow 3 hours

Map: OS Explorer 141

Refreshments: Pubs and shops in Blagdon

How to get there

Car

A368 to Blagdon. Turn off at Church Street. Walk starts in Grib Lane, near the New Inn.

Bus

- Service **672** from Bristol (only every couple of hours)

From Church Street, turn into Grib Lane. Walk past the cottages towards the lake. The public footpath begins as a small path in front of the houses, with the lake to your left. Pass through a metal gate and walk along this path, which can get quite muddy.



You will then see a little gate on your left hand side, with a stile. Go over this and follow the footpath through the wooded area, watching out for overhanging branches, before going over another stile which leads out into the open. Ahead of you is another stile which leads into a field. This is the start of the Soil Association Organic Farm Trail, with information at each stile about organic farming.

Head towards the bottom-right corner of this field, go over the stile into the little wooded area, round the bend, and over the next stile onto a sandy track. Turn right onto the sandy track, towards Holt Farm. Before you reach the farmhouse, a stile will be on your left with the public footpath sign pointing straight across the field. Follow this, heading

towards the wooden stile in the next fence. Continue across the next field, over another stile, and then straight ahead again. The farm is now just to your right.



Continue straight ahead, towards another stile and onto a small path which leads around the wooded copse. Be careful of the electric fence! Go over the stream, over another stile and continue ahead through the next field, keeping to the left hand-side.



At the end of this field is another stile and the path now continues alongside a gravel track, with the lake just on your left. Some flooding can occur here so take care.

The walk now continues straight ahead for about a mile, so follow the path, go over a number of stiles and kissing gates, and keep to the left of the fields.

You will eventually come out onto a lane so turn right here, past the cottage and stone chimney. Follow the lane until you reach Snatch Farm, where you turn right at the junction towards Ubley.



In the centre of Ubley, veer left at the junction, signposted towards Bath. Follow the lane uphill, take care crossing the A368, and continue uphill into The Sidelings.

At the top of the lane you can choose to take the gravel/stone byway or the footpath, which can be muddy. Both paths lead in the same direction.

Did you know?

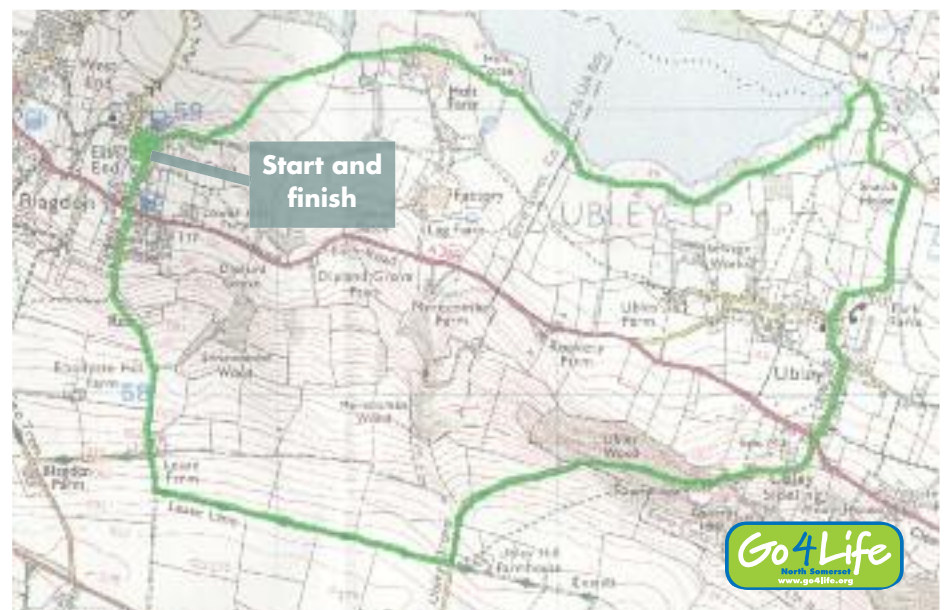
Walks previously published in *Life* can be downloaded in PDF format from the council's website. Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/lifewalks

As you get nearer Blagdon, the ground gets quite steep so take care. You will shortly come to a wooded area, so veer right and continue downhill here. This leads to a muddy path between the trees and a couple of stiles, before you come out onto Score Lane. Cross the A368 back to Church Street.



If following the byway, at the end veer to the left onto the gravel track, which is Ubley Drove. At the junction in the lane, turn right following the wooden footpath sign. Continue through two kissing gates, keeping to the right edge of the fields. This path continues for just over half a mile, with views over Blagdon Lake to your right.

Turn right at the end of the path to start making the descent. The path continues straight ahead, past Leaze Farm. Keep to the right edge of the field as you descend.



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Retired people in North Somerset who feel they've still got a lot to offer society are giving up their free time to help others.



Making the most of retirement

90-year-old George Burgess (left) with Alan Jones

Get involved

RSVP is led by volunteers and has a varied list of projects, ranging from helping children in school to collecting prescriptions for housebound people.

Membership is free and out-of-pocket expenses are reimbursed.

Volunteers over the age of 50 are now needed - particularly in Portishead and Clevedon - to help co-ordinate other volunteers who provide support for elderly, frail and isolated people.

Over 50s are taking part in a wide variety of projects - from transporting elderly residents to classroom support in primary schools - as part of RSVP, the retired and senior volunteer programme.

Victor Rawlings is the local organiser for North Somerset and is now looking for more volunteers, especially in Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon and Portishead.

He said: "There are lots of volunteering opportunities so we find out what people's interests are and try to fit projects around those."

Recent recruit Alan Jones has been offering a transport service for elderly residents for about six months.

Alan, from St Georges in Weston-super-Mare, regularly takes 90-year-old George Burgess to a weekly social café at the Crossroads Care centre.

Alan, who is 69, said: "I moved to Weston about three years ago so this is a great way to meet new people and get to know the area.

"Who knows - maybe one day I will need the service myself. Until then, I'm happy to help out."

Jo Payton, from Portbury, has volunteered since 2007. The 71-year-old said: "It's so rewarding. I just go to people's homes to have a chat with them."

Jo makes about two visits a week to elderly people without friends and family. She said: "I even visited one lady on Christmas Day.

"So many older people are on their own and they might not see anyone else for days. They are so interesting to talk to because they have so many stories to tell. I feel so lucky to see these people, it's so fulfilling.

"I would really recommend it and think a lot of people would really enjoy it."



Victor Rawlings

For more information call RSVP regional co-ordinator Bob Maggs on 0117 9250 505 or 0117 9224 392 www.rsvp-west.org.uk office@rsvpwest.fsnet.co.uk

What's on

April – May
2010

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May Day merriment

Walk the walk

Put your best foot forward for a charity walk around Weston-super-Mare on Sunday 2 May.

The Rotary Club's Walkabout will raise funds for It's Childsplay, a regional charity supporting children's hospices throughout the UK. This event supports Children's Hospice South West, which has a site in Wraxall.

Anyone can take part in the walk and participants can choose where they start and how far they go, as long as they finish at the Beach Lawns between noon and 5pm. A number of organised starting points will be based around the town with routes ranging from one to four miles.

Take part individually or as part of a team and pledge to raise a minimum of £10. Register online or on the day.

For more information contact
It's Child Play: 01934 310 010
weston@itschildsplay.org
www.itschildsplay.org

New attractions at agricultural extravaganza

Jousting knights will be one of the new attractions at this year's North Somerset Show in Wraxall.

Crowds will be entertained at the 151st annual show, which takes place from 8.30am-5pm on Monday 3 May at the show ground.

Favourite attractions returning for another year include dog agility, tractor pulling, a falconry demonstration and sheep racing.

Cattle, sheep, pigs, alpacas and llamas will also be on show and North Somerset Agricultural Society secretary Tim Ledbury said: "The livestock is the jewel in the crown of the show."

Gifts, plants and garden accessories will also be for sale, along with food from local farm shops and cottage businesses. Circomedia will also provide a circus workshop.

Advance tickets cost £9 adults, £8 senior citizens, £4 children or a family ticket (2 adults, 3 children) for £19. Call 01749 813 899

Spring will be celebrated across the region soon as events take place over the May Day bank holiday.

Life picks out a few highlights...

All the fun of the fair

Enjoy maypole dancing during a traditional family fun day in Winscombe next month.

May Fair on the Green starts at 2pm at Old Station Millennium Green on Saturday 8 May.

The free event includes circus skills, inflatable rides and community stalls.

01934
843 868



Keep up-to-date with events and activities across North Somerset with the What's On e-newsletter.

Email
whatson@n-somerset.gov.uk
to receive the update.

For up-to-date listings visit
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/events
or call the Tourist Information
Centre on 01934 888 800

THE PLAYHOUSE

WESTON · SUPER · MARE

www.theplayhouse.co.uk

High Street, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1HP

Wed 14 7.30pm

Bill Giles' Weather Show

If you've ever wondered how hurricanes are born, why Ian McCaskill broadcast without his shoes on, or how global warming will affect you, then this is the show for you. This informative and humorous evening, presented by the man who led the BBC weather team for 17 years, will cover all weather phenomena from rainbows to tornados with plenty of opportunity to ask questions.

£12 • Concessions £10

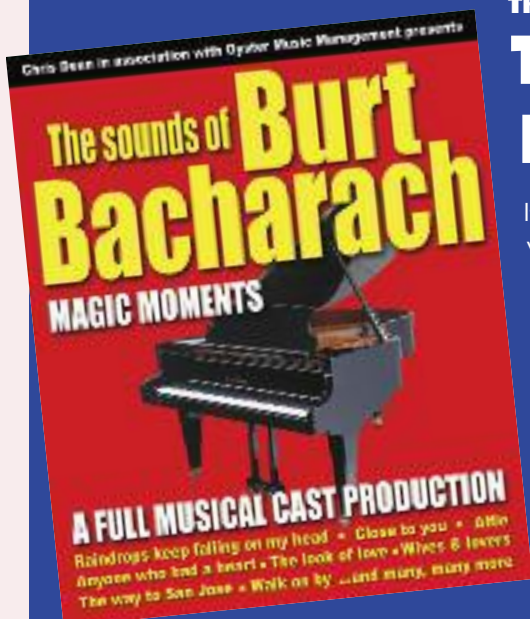


Thur 15 7.30pm

The Best of Bacharach

It's difficult to think of anyone else who has delivered musical goods as impeccably and consistently as Burt Bacharach. This production, created by Chris Dean, offers up sunny classics that bring back memories from four decades. Timeless hits such as *Walk on By*, *The Look of Love*, *Alfie* and many others are performed by accomplished musicians and singers in this stylish show.

£16 • Concessions £14



April

Sat 3 7.30pm

Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain

The Silver Jubilee Tour: God Save the Ukulele Orchestra

Join these all-singing, all-strumming ukulele players for an evening of melodious entertainment

£16 • Concessions £14.50

Wed 7 - Sat 10 7.30pm

(Saturday matinee 2.30pm)

Weston Operatic Society present

Jekyll and Hyde

A rare opportunity to see the hit Broadway musical based on the classic book by Robert Louis Stevenson featuring the songs *This Is The Moment* and *Someone Like You*

Wed £14 (4 for 3) • Thur - Sat Evening £14
Sat Matinee £10

1 in 10 free (Except Wed Eve)

Wed 14 7.30pm

Bill Giles' Weather Show

£12 • Concessions £10

Thur 15 7.30pm

The Best of Bacharach

£16 • Concessions £14

Fri 16 7.30pm

An Audience with Sally Morgent

Britain's best loved celebrity psychic brings her tremendous personality and amazing abilities to the stage

£19.50

Sat 17 7.30pm

Vienna Festival Ballet present Swan Lake

One of the most popular ballets of all time complete with lavish costumes, stunning scenery and the glorious music of Tchaikovsky

£18.50, £16.50 • Concessions £1 off
Children £6

Sun 18 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Tap Dance Fever

Evening: £19.50, £18 • Matinee £17.50, £16
Concessions £1 off

Tue 20 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Coco Before Chanel - The Film

Cert 12 105 mins

The story of famous fashion designer Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel

Evening £4.50 • Concessions £4 •

Matinee £3.50

Free entry to Film Society Members

Thur 22 7.30pm

The ELO Experience

Fantastic tribute to The Electric Light Orchestra

£15.50 • Concessions £14

Fri 23 7.30pm

Foster and Allen

A wonderful evening with the well-loved Irish duo

£17.50, £15.50

Sat 24 3pm and 7.45pm

The Solid Silver 60s Show

Featuring Dave Berry, Mike Pender, Brian Poole, Peter Sarstedt, The Swinging Blue Jeans and The Troggs

Evening: £22, £20 • Matinee: £20, £18

Sun 25 1pm and 3.30pm

Noddy in Toyland

Join Noddy, Tessie Bear and friends for a fun filled afternoon for the whole family

£10

Wed 28 April - Sat 1 May

7.30pm (Saturday Matinee 2.30pm)

Bruce James Productions present

The Black Veil

A chilling thriller based on a short story by Charles Dickens starring James Alexandrou (Martin Fowler in EastEnders)

£14.50, £13.50, £12 • Concessions £1 off

Children £8 • Matinee £10 • Children £8

Sun 18 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Tap Dance Fever

Tap Dance Fever takes the audience on a whistle stop tour of the greatest tap dance moments in show business history. Starting in the era of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers the show tap dances its way through history, thrilling and exciting audiences with highlights from *42nd Street* and *Singing in the Rain* before moving right up to date with *Tap Dogs* and *Stomp*.

**Evening: £19.50, £18 • Matinee £17.50,
£16 Concessions £1 off**



May

Sun 2 7.30pm

Syd Lawrence Orchestra - Live

Life on the road is just one big party! Featuring the music of Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Tommy Dorsey and many more.

£15 • Concessions £14

WINTER GARDENS

WESTON - SUPER - MARE

www.thewintergardens.com



Special Events

Craft Fair

Sun 4 and Mon 5 April, 10am-5pm

Contact Kevin Murphy

01271 343 160

www.kevinmurphycraftfairs.co.uk

Weston-super-Mare - Farmers' Market

Saturday 10 April, 9am-12.30pm

High Street, Weston-super-Mare

Contact Steve Townsend

01934 642 404

www.wsmtcp.co.uk

Festival of Light

Saturday 17 April 10am - 6pm

Healers, readers, therapists and trade stands

Free admission~ Including talks and presentations

Contact Dr Elizabeth Ann Diamond

01934 624 939

www.festivaloflight.biz Workshops available throughout the year

Evening Social Dance

Hosted by Sid Gateley

Saturday 17 April, 8-11.30pm

Tickets £7.50

Doll House and Miniatures Fair

Sunday 25 April

10am - 4pm

Contact Wendy Hobday

01895 834 348

wendyhobday@freenet.co.uk

CD and Record Fair

Fri 30 April - Sat 1 May

Cassettes, videos and DVDs

Contact Martin Saunders

01543 250 677

07885 700 063

To book tickets for any Playhouse or
Winter Gardens event call the Box Office

01934 64 55 44

Cheques should be made payable to North Somerset Council.
Bookings should be paid for within four working days.

Please mention *Life* when booking your tickets

Local Events

April

CLUBS AND EVENTS

Saturday 10

North West Somerset Parkinson's Disease Society
St Francis Church Hall, Nailsea. 01275 842 040

Every Monday

West Hill Senior Citizens Club 1.45-3.30pm, Avon Way Hall, Portishead. 01275 849 080

Kewstoke arts and crafts group 2-4pm, Kewstoke Village Hall. 01934 628 309

Monday 12

North Somerset MS Society 7pm, Lauriston Hotel, Knightstone Road, Weston-super-Mare. Branch secretary needed. 0800 111 4780

Every Tuesday

A1 Camera Club 7.45pm, St Georges Community Centre, Willow Close, St Georges, Weston-super-Mare. 01934 521 780

Wednesday 7 and 21

Weston Society of Arts 2pm, Victoria Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Weston-super-Mare. 01934 626 318

Every Wednesday

Good Companions Senior Citizens Club 2.30pm-4pm, Jubilee Pavilion, Long Ashton Community Centre. 01275 393617

Thursday 8

Weston Horticultural Society 7.30pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Baytree Road. With speaker Nick Hamilton

Every Thursday

Over 50s coffee morning 10-11.30am, Preenes Green Resource Centre, 11 Feniton, Clovelly Road, Worle. 01934 529 733

Thursday 15 – Saturday 17

Clevedon Players – Alan Ayckbourn's Snake in the Grass 7.45pm, Princes Hall, Clevedon.

Tickets £7 (£5 concs) 07816 158 445

Portishead Players – Fawly Towers Somerset Hall, Portishead. 01275 843 169

Sunday 18

Clevedon Promenade Bowling Club Open day for non-bowlers. All equipment provided. 10am-4pm, Elton Road. 01275 844 134

Thursday 22

Bristol Sailors Club 7.30pm. For people interested in sailing. British Legion Hall, Long Ashton. 01275 462 985

Every Friday

Good Companions Senior Citizens Club 9-11.30am, Somerset Hall, Portishead. 01275 848 059

Partially Sighted and Blind Club 10.30am-3pm, Pembroke Court, Clevedon. 01275 872 559

Community cafe (during term-time) 10.30am-12pm, Club Room, Long Ashton Community Centre. 01275 393 570

Nailsea Theatre Club 8pm, Nailsea Little Theatre, Union Street. 01275 852 275

Clevedon Gilbert & Sullivan Society 7.45pm, Crypt Hall, St Peter's Church, Alexandra Road.

Saturday 24

South West Ship Show 10am-4pm, Parish Wharf Leisure Centre, Portishead. Traders and displays with a maritime theme. £3 adults, £1.50 conc. 01275 846 178

VILLAGE MARKETS

Saturday 10 - Abbots Leigh, 10am-noon

Saturday 17 - Yatton - 10am-noon, Village Hall.

Claverham - 10am-noon, Village Hall.

Saturday 24 - Kenn - 10am-noon, Village Hall

MUSIC

Every Tuesday

Weston Choral Society 7.30-9.30pm (Sept to May only) Milton Methodist Church Hall. 01934 813 255

First Thurs of month

Weston organ and keyboard club 7.30pm, Somerset Suite, Weston-super-Mare Football Club. £5 members, £6 non-members. 01934 812 401

Every Friday

North Somerset Community Brass Band 7.30-9.30pm, Puxton and Hewish Village Hall. 01275 397 582

Congresbury Brass Band 7.30-9.30pm, Memorial Hall, Congresbury. 01275 849 611 / 07986 007 829

Lions Brass 4 Youth. County brass band. 6.15-7.45pm. 1st Clevedon Scout Hall. 07815 733886

Wednesday 21

Jazz at the Orange Len Thwaites Abbey Jazz 8-11pm, Prince of Orange Inn, Yatton. £7 or £8 on door. 01934 832 193

Saturday 24

Clevedon Choral Society 25th anniversary concert 7.30pm, Christchurch, Chapel Hill. Beethoven Mass in C Major and Choral Fantasia. Tickets £10 (£9 conc) from SOUK, Clevedon Music Shop or on the door.

Wednesday 28 – Saturday 1 May

Nailsea Musicals Junior Section – High School Musical on Stage. 7.30pm, Nailsea School. 0845 224 7429. www.nailseamusicals.org.uk

Visit www.clearasmud.org.uk for links to more community clubs

Keep holiday boredom at bay

Easter holidays are now in full swing so families looking for an entertaining outing can find a host of activities at North Somerset Museum.

The attraction, in Weston-super-Mare, has plenty of memorabilia and exhibits to keep all members of the family entertained.

And once everyone has had their fill of history, a browse in the shop could reveal some treats. It sells a

wide selection of gifts, including books about the potteries, Birnbeck Pier, and tales of old Weston.

Other lines include jewellery, stationery, pretty soaps and candles, and a range of wooden and educational toys for children.

Complete your visit and put your feet up with a cuppa in the courtyard café.



North Somerset Museum, in Burlington Street, Weston-super-Mare, is open Monday to Saturday, 11am-4pm.



01934 621 028 • www.n-somerset.gov.uk/museum



Go real together

New parents and parents-to-be are being urged to get real and give washable nappies a try.



Real Nappy Week, organised by nappy information service Go Real, runs from Monday 26 April to Sunday 2 May.

The North Somerset Nappy Alliance is supporting the campaign and wants parents across the area to share their experiences, knowledge and information.

Anyone who wants to find out more about the Alliance, hire kits or share stories about using washable nappies which could be featured on the website are invited to get in touch.

Why should washable nappies be used?

There are many benefits to using washable nappies, including being better for your finances, your baby and the environment.

Better for your baby:

Skin can absorb up to 60 per cent of what is put on it and babies' skin is up to five times thinner than adults, making it particularly susceptible to harmful toxins.

Disposable nappies contain bleaches, optical brighteners, perfumes, dyes, super absorbent gels and plastics. Washable nappies, whether made from natural or synthetic fibres, contain no chemicals so parents will always know what their baby is wearing.

Better for your finances:

By the time babies are potty trained they could have had up to 4,000 nappy changes, costing about £1,000 with disposables. You can buy a birth-to-potty set of shaped nappies, liners and wraps for around £300. Home washing can cost less than £1 a week, so washable nappies could save you around £500, which increases greatly if you use nappies for subsequent children.

Better for the environment:

Most of the 690,000 tonnes of disposable nappy waste generated each year is sent to landfill. Environment Agency research also shows a good washing routine can make a big difference, so using real nappies can be up to 40 per cent better for the environment than using disposables.

Volunteer!

Enthusiastic volunteers are needed to help the Nappy Alliance grow. Anyone who could attend events, distribute leaflets, administer hire kits or be a nappy buddy to new parents can call Council Connect on 01934 888 802.

For more information about real nappies call 0800 328 8175 or go to www.goreal.org.uk or www.northsomersetnappies.org.uk



Swimming to SUCCESS

Children and young people are making a splash here in North Somerset thanks to discounted swimming lessons.

Week-long swimming courses take place during school holidays throughout the year at Churchill Sports Centre and they are proving a big hit with families.

From young children taking their first plunge underwater, to older ones bounding along in butterfly stroke, there is something for everyone.

Principal swimming tutor Roy Collins said: "Because it is an intense course, you see progression every day.

"You have to let the children take it at their own pace. If beginners don't want to swim, we don't push them because that will scare them off. They have to be comfortable in the water and take it one step at a time.



"It's all about building confidence. Sometimes a child might be too scared to go in the water but if they keep coming back every day, by the end of the week they might go in."

During lessons children are taught by adults who are undertaking teaching aquatics courses.

Roy sees families return year after year. He said: "In some cases, I'm now teaching some of the grandchildren of the first teachers I trained. It's so good to see them go off and become successful swimming teachers themselves."

Mother Leanne Preston, from Congresbury, said: "My daughter loves it. It's really good because quite a few of her friends are here as well so it gives them something to do in the school holidays.

"It does help build her confidence and I'd recommend it to other parents."

Take advantage of discount swimming lessons

Discounted swimming lessons are available this month for children who want to dive right in. From Monday 12 to Saturday 17 April, an ASA/UKCC level two teaching aquatics course will be held at Churchill Sports Centre.

The course trains prospective teachers so children are needed to give students the opportunity of practising their coaching on real swimmers.

The cost is £25 for the week, with 60-minute lessons each day. The minimum age is five and lessons will cater for all abilities, from beginners to those who can swim at least 100 metres.

For non-swimmers and children in armbands, it costs £15 for the week, with 30-minute lessons each day. Minimum age is five and lessons will centre on developing water confidence.



Churchill Sports Centre
01934 852 303



Be at the centre of fitness

Churchill Sports Centre 01934 852 303

One of Britain's top fencing coaches runs classes for both adults and juniors at Churchill. All equipment is provided for the Wednesday evening classes.

Adults and children who want to try their hand at martial arts could go along to Kyushindo karate lessons every Monday from 7-8.30pm. Beginners are welcome and the first session is free.

The Campus, Weston-super-Mare 01934 427 427

Over 50s wanting to maintain their health, independence and mobility can try Tai Chi every Thursday from 9.30-10.30am.

Other activities for people of all ages include aikido to aerobics, trampolining to toddler groups.

Swiss Valley Sports Centre, Clevedon 01275 877 182

Martial arts fans can kick their way to fitness with karate every Monday from 7-8pm, for all ages and abilities. Ju-Jitsu also takes place every Wednesday, from 7-8.30pm for 10-14-year-olds and from 8.30-10pm for 14 and over.

Gordano Sports Centre, Portishead 01275 843 942

Bop along to new boogie baby dance classes at Gordano. Classes run on Tuesdays, from 5.15-6pm for children aged four to seven and from 6-7pm for those aged seven and over.

Last year more than 1.6million people visited one of North Somerset's nine leisure and sports centres.

All centres have a variety of equipment and classes to help people make their first steps towards a healthier lifestyle.

Just visit your local venue to find out how to stay active in 2010 and spring into springtime...



Wyvern Sports Centre, Weston-super-Mare 01934 642 426

Punch your way to a better shape at Wyvern Sports Centre. Junior boxing classes for six to 14-year-olds take place on Thursdays from 5-7pm. Athletics is also proving a hit which runs from May to August, with sessions for juniors aged eight and over and adults.

Other activities include Pilates, and Wacky Wyvern Saturdays for children aged eight and over.



www.n-somerset.gov.uk/leisure

Making it
right for you



NHS

There has never been a better time to quit smoking!

"Time and again I hear smokers say, 'I'm scared'. You will be but the rewards are brilliant and with support from NHS Stop Smoking Service, you can do it."
Successful quitter Cejay Hanlon, 61, from Weston-super-Mare

National No Smoking Day may be over for another year but NHS North Somerset's Stop Smoking Service is not finished yet!

There is a network of help, support, encouragement and practical advice across our patch to help you quit.

Fifty per cent of smokers who come to us for help are four times more likely to succeed.

A dream trip to the Inca Trail spurred one Weston-super-Mare smoker to quit for good.

Carl Enwright, aged 44, had successfully quit for five years but went back to his 10 to 20 a day cigar habit after divorcing in 2005.

After another unsuccessful New Year's resolution to quit in 2009, and after going for a meal with friends to find he was the only smoker, Carl decided to get serious. One friend was Lorna Puckett, a specialist adviser with NHS North Somerset Stop Smoking Service.

He said: "I went to a drop-in session and saw an adviser, who happened to be Lorna. She took a carbon monoxide reading from my lungs and said it was the highest she had ever seen. A week later, I smoked my last cigar.



"I was worried about relapsing but through the support I received I found it very easy. I've been saving £130 a month since quitting so am really looking forward to a trip of a lifetime to South America. I know I can do it now."

With help from NHS North Somerset you can:

- get support while you quit
- make a personal plan to stop smoking
- set a quit date.

Deal with cravings:

- Get Nicotine Replacement Therapy, Zyban or Champix on prescription.



Where to go from here:

- Visit your GP and make an appointment with a stop smoking advisor.
- Many local pharmacies now give support to stop smoking.
- Visit Health Central at 12-14 Boulevard, Weston-super-Mare, noon-4pm.
- See an advisor and get nicotine replacement therapy during a drop-in session every Wednesday, 6.30-7.45pm at Tesco Café, Tesco, Weston-super-Mare.

NHS North Somerset Stop Smoking Team: 01275 546 744
sts@nsomersetpct.nhs.uk

Parents in North Somerset are giving their children a head start in life thanks to free early learning sessions.

Free early education is the best start

Three and four-year-olds are currently entitled to 12.5 hours of free early education a week, for 38 weeks a year, but from September this will increase to 15 hours.

In North Somerset, a number of childcare providers have offered 15 free hours since last September as part of a pilot project.

Michelle Badger, from Castle Batch Community Pre-school, in Weston-super-Mare, said how successful it's been.

"It's been very popular with parents. We only used to offer two and half hours in the morning and afternoon, with no provision for lunch, but now we can offer three hours at a time. It's really helpful for parents who want to get back into part-time work."

Rachel Jones, mother to three-year-old Freddy, said: "Three hours is a much better amount of time for the children to benefit. It gives them time to get settled and engage with each other and their toys."

Vicki FitzGerald, mother of four-year-old Matthew, said: "It helps to prepare them for school, which is really important. It gives them confidence and they learn to play with other children."



Mother Rachel Jones (left) with son Freddy and Vicki FitzGerald with son Matthew

When is my child eligible?

Child born between:

1 April and 31 August

1 September and 31 December

1 January and 31 March

Eligible from:

1 September following third birthday

1 January following third birthday

1 April following third birthday

What can my child receive from September?

- a maximum of 15 hours early education per week for 38 weeks a year (with two providers maximum)
- a minimum of 2.5 hours and maximum of 6 free hours in one day, between 8am and 6pm
- if a provider is open for more than 38 weeks a year, it may be possible to stretch hours over more weeks.



Family information Service: 01934 426 300
fis@n-somerset.gov.uk • www.n-somerset.gov.uk/fis



Final countdown to general election



Election fever is getting hotter as political parties try to win favour with the British public.



The general election must be called before June and this is your chance to vote for who you want to be your MP.

North Somerset Council's electoral services team manages the elections and it is their job to make sure the process is open, fair and run according to the law.

Life found out the answers to some of the most popular questions...

Q: Am I allowed to vote?

A: To vote in the general election you must be:

- on the electoral register
- aged 18 or over on election day
- a British or Commonwealth citizen.

To add your name to the electoral register, forms are available from the electoral services team. For more information visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk



Q: How do I vote?

A: Vote in person, by post or by proxy.

● In person

Visit your local polling station between 7am and 10pm on election day.

● By post

To vote by post you must first fill in an application form, which electoral services must receive by 5pm, 11 working days before polling day. Ballot papers are then sent out about 10 days before polling day and must be returned before voting closes at 10pm on the day.

● Proxy voting

A proxy is someone who votes on your behalf. To do this, fill in an application form which must be received six working days before polling day. You can still vote in person yourself as long as your proxy has not already voted for you but this cannot be done if the proxy has arranged to vote by post.

Q: Do I need to take the poll card?

A: Official poll cards are sent to every registered elector to tell you where, when and how to vote in person. This is for information only, so you do not need to take it with you on the day.



Q: What happens on election day?

A: When you go to the polling station staff will ask for your name and address and you will be crossed off the list, to make sure you do not vote twice. Ballot papers will be handed to you so then go into a booth and mark your vote with a cross. Fold the ballot paper in half and put it in the box.

Q: What about disabled voters?

A: Large print versions of ballot papers are available in polling stations. Any voter with a physical disability can take a relative or friend with them to help them vote and most polling stations are now accessible for wheelchair users. Blind and partially-sighted voters can also vote in secret using a special device with Braille and raised numbers that can be fitted to ballot papers.

What do first-time voters think?

Life found out what first-time voters from Weston College's government and politics A-level course think about the upcoming election...

I know a lot of people have lost faith in politics. But that's the best motivation to get involved. People need to be made accountable, and the best way to do that is to vote. This election is more relevant than ever.

Ruby Thomas

Political participation in Weston-super-Mare is at an all time low. Candidates should prioritise the need to get people enthusiastic about politics, and active in decision making.

Hannah Freeman

A revision of the current voting system should be put forward immediately as it is long overdue. First past the post may be fast and efficient but we are a democracy and our representative votes count - all of them.

Eddie Farrow

For more details contact electoral services on 01934 634 909
electoral.services@n-somerset.gov.uk
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/voting



A recycling revolution for North Somerset: new collection days

North Somerset Council's recycling revolution moves one step closer next month when recycling and waste collection days change for many residents, in preparation for the council's innovative new services beginning later this year.

How will I find out when my new collection day is?

New calendars will be delivered to all households in April in time for the new collection days starting during the week beginning Monday 3 May.

The map on the opposite page shows the new collection days for each area of North Somerset.



Why is the council doing this?

The refuse, recycling and green waste collection routes are currently spread out all over the district. For example, on a Friday one lorry collects waste in both Wrington and Long Ashton, and collections in Clevedon are spread out over every day of the week.



The changes are based upon a 'zoning' system and North Somerset will be divided up into five zones - each zone having a different collection day. With the new system, each area, such as the whole of Portishead, will have all their recycling and waste collected on the same day.

The new zoning system will make it easier to remember when your collection day is. It will also mean a more efficient use of the collection vehicles, as they will focus resources on one area of the district on a particular day. This will not only save fuel and money, but will allow the council to better deal with problems like vehicle breakdowns, as other trucks in the area could be diverted to provide cover with little disruption to services.

What else is going to change?

At this stage the only changes we are making will be the new recycling and waste collection days, which will include 7am starts and Bank Holiday collections (from May onwards - see back page for Easter collection dates). The council's revolutionary new recycling and waste services will be rolled out across North Somerset in two stages later this year. Look out for more detailed information about this process in next month's Life or visit the website: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/revolution.

Mondays

Nailsea and Backwell and southern rural villages including Banwell, Blagdon, Bleadon, Churchill, Sandford, Uphill, Winscombe and Wrington.

Tuesdays

Tuesdays - Clevedon and central rural villages including Cleeve, Congresbury, Tickenham and Yatton.

Wednesdays

Portishead and eastern rural villages including Abbots Leigh, Dundry, Easton-in-Gordano, Failand, Flax Bourton, Long Ashton, Pill, Portbury and Wraxall.

Thursdays

Weston south, Hutton, Locking, Locking Castle and St George

Fridays

Weston north, Kewstoke, Milton, Sand Bay, Wick St Lawrence, Worle and Worlebury.



If you have any queries or questions about how the new collection days will affect you, or how and when the new services are going to be introduced then please visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/revolution



Budgeting for the year ahead

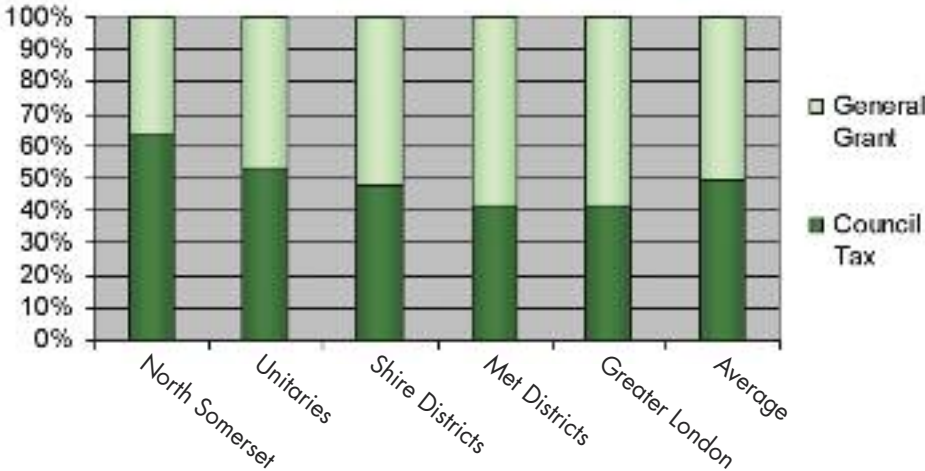
As another financial year gets underway, the council is working hard to improve the quality of life for people in North Somerset.

Savings of more than £10million will have been delivered by the council in the last four years by the end of 2011. This will continue to keep future council tax rises as low as possible without affecting vital services.

How North Somerset compares with other councils

Councils receive funding from central government but North Somerset receives a relatively low level, which means it does not have the spending power of many other authorities.

How funding for authorities in 2009/10 was split between local tax and national grant:



The commitment remains, though, to provide quality services at an affordable council tax and last year's rise was the second lowest in the South West.

This year's rise of two per cent means the average council tax for a Band D property is £1,150.87.

Low government grants mean a relatively high proportion of funding must come from local taxation but the high proportion of residents on fixed incomes creates tension in the budget every year.



Savings and sustainability

Despite efficiency savings already made, current projections still suggest a funding shortfall of £4.4m for 2011/12. This is due to the expected reduction in government grant for next year.

So, the cost review programme will continue with on-going efficiency savings being made and funding sought from external sources.



What you get for your money

North Somerset is a three star council which is 'performing well' according to government watchdog the Audit Commission.

It provides more than 600 services, including running 76 schools, maintaining 1,100km of highways, collecting waste and distributing meals on wheels.

Highlights include...

Helping local businesses

In response to the economic downturn, the council is working with key partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to gather ideas and opinions about how best to support North Somerset's businesses and communities after the recession.



Revamped recycling



The cost of sending waste to landfill is increasing but a vastly improved recycling service coming in this year will generate £15m savings during the next seven years.



Get vocal - be heard

The council is always looking to improve its services and is keen to hear what residents think.

Anyone who wants to make their opinions heard on plans regarding changes to services in the future can log onto eConsult to have their say.

eConsult is an online portal where you can view all current, upcoming and completed consultations. Register with an email address and you will receive alerts about the consultations which match your interests.

Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/haveyoursay to find out more.

Improved exam results

Year-on-year results continue to improve at North Somerset schools. Last year 51.8 per cent of pupils gained five or more A* to C grades, including English and maths.



01934 634 619

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/finance





Bus service back on the road



People in outlying areas around Weston-super-Mare will now be able to get about a little easier thanks to a discontinued bus service being reinstated.

From Tuesday 6 April the service 85 will return to serve the communities of St Georges, Preaton Green and other isolated areas.

The service was cancelled last August following the collapse of ACL Travel but the council has now reinstated it and new operator WebberBus will help shoppers get out and about.

Other routes run by WebberBus include the service 4 to Hutton and South Road, 83 to Bleadon and Worlebury, and 16 to West Wick via Locking Castle.

New operator Wessex Connect will also be running some services across the district, including the 121 from Weston-super-Mare to Bristol and the 660 from Congresbury to Portishead.

All these routes will feature low-floor buses to make journeys easier and more comfortable.

What else is happening?

- High public demand means service 660 will now serve Marine Healthcare Centre, in Harbour Road, Portishead. An extra evening journey from Congresbury to Clevedon is also being added.
- Travellers using Bristol Airport can now stop at the main terminal building thanks to service 121 making an extra drop off.
- Port Marine in Portishead is now being served by service 692, which runs from Nailsea to Portishead.
- First Bus is reinstating routes from Weston town centre to Balmoral Way North Worle. The hourly 5B service will reconnect these areas, and both 5 and 5B will also serve Worle train station. Visit www.firstgroup.com for more timetable information.



Timetables for all these services will be available from the Town Hall in Weston-super-Mare and local libraries.

Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to
**Editor, North Somerset Life,
 North Somerset Council,
 Room 165, Town Hall,
 Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1UJ** or
 email editor@n-somerset.gov.uk

Letters 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,

It was great to see the Citizens Advice Bureau mentioned (in February) as somewhere to help people in North Somerset who are facing financial difficulties.

However, I want to correct what could be a misunderstanding in the contact details, which seemed to imply we were only available on Thursdays. This is far from the case!

Our website gives details of all our opening times in Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon, Nailsea, Pill, Portishead and Yatton. These are open access sessions, so just drop in.

You can see an advisor at one of these venues every weekday. Check the website for opening times.

Currently our telephone advice service is only available on Thursdays but this is about to change! In June we will launch a new telephone service five days a week. Callers will be able to speak to an advisor in person from Monday to Friday, between 10am and 2pm.

We would urge anyone who is worried about their debts to come and seek help. We can work with you to get things back under your control, your creditors are keen to work with you with our help. We have a good track record, they trust the CAB, so can you - we're on your side!

*Anne Richards, Bureau Director,
 North Somerset CAB,
 Badger Centre, Wadham Street,
 Weston-super-Mare
 (0844 826 9692
www.northsomersetcab.org)*

Dear Editor,

May I send a personal 'thank you' to all the people of Nailsea and Backwell who helped the Rotary Club raise just over £2,000 in two days for the Haiti emergency.

It was a fantastic effort and we were overwhelmed by everyone's generosity. We have sent the money raised to DEC who will be able to apply the funds quickly and appropriately at the place of most need.

Everyone knows that the need is very great and the people of Haiti are going to need international support for many years. There is so much to be done, but at least a start has been made. Thank you all very much indeed.

*David Whittlestone, president of
 Rotary Club of Nailsea and
 Backwell*

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/tic

Tide times for Weston-super-Mare

Tide Facts

	Date	High water		Low water		High water		Low water	
		Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)
Approximate high water times at:		am		April 2010				pm	
Clevedon: 10 min	1 Thur	09:03	12.78	02:42	0.23	21:22	12.61	15:01	0.47
Portishead: 18 min	2 Fri	09:41	12.38	03:16	0.50	22:00	12.07	15:31	0.83
later than Weston-super-Mare.	3 Sat	10:18	11.63	03:45	0.91	22:37	11.23	15:58	1.30
	4 Sun	10:55	10.66	04:13	1.43	23:11	10.25	16:26	1.80
Weather conditions which differ from the average will have an effect on the differences between predicted and actual tide times.	5 Mon	11:32	9.66	04:47	1.97	23:50	9.32	17:00	2.32
Strong winds can hold the tide in or push the tide out. Air pressure fluctuations in predicted levels.	6 Tue	-	-	05:27	2.53	12:16	8.76	17:43	2.87
Tidal predictions for Weston-super-Mare have been computed by the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory.	7 Wed	00:46	8.52	06:24	3.10	13:26	8.10	18:51	3.44
Copyright reserved.	8 Thur	02:19	8.17	08:04	3.51	15:05	8.07	21:18	3.62
	9 Fri	03:52	8.60	10:05	3.02	16:28	8.76	22:31	2.90
	10 Sat	04:58	9.46	10:54	2.32	17:25	9.65	23:16	2.21
	11 Sun	05:46	10.26	11:36	1.79	18:08	10.38	23:56	1.73
	12 Mon	06:25	10.82	-	-	18:43	10.90	12:14	1.45
	13 Tue	07:00	11.18	00:32	1.42	19:16	11.25	12:51	1.24
	14 Wed	07:34	11.42	01:08	1.22	19:48	11.53	13:26	1.10
	15 Thur	08:06	11.60	01:41	1.08	20:21	11.72	13:59	1.00
	16 Fri	08:40	11.69	02:15	1.01	20:54	11.78	14:32	0.99
	17 Sat	09:15	11.62	02:47	1.05	21:29	11.63	15:04	1.11
	18 Sun	09:51	11.31	03:18	1.21	22:05	11.26	15:33	1.34
	19 Mon	10:30	10.81	03:47	1.45	22:46	10.74	16:05	1.61
	20 Tue	11:17	10.21	04:25	1.72	23:35	10.15	16:48	1.92
	21 Wed	-	-	05:20	2.06	12:16	9.64	17:53	2.30
	22 Thur	00:42	9.67	06:40	2.41	13:31	9.32	19:25	2.61
	23 Fri	02:05	9.56	08:25	2.49	14:56	9.50	21:08	2.45
	24 Sat	03:30	9.98	09:48	2.09	16:15	10.15	22:20	1.94
	25 Sun	04:44	10.71	10:54	1.64	17:22	10.95	23:24	1.46
	26 Mon	05:45	11.41	11:56	1.23	18:14	11.59	-	-
	27 Tue	06:35	11.87	00:18	1.04	19:01	11.98	12:42	0.94
	28 Wed	07:20	12.10	01:01	0.79	19:41	12.19	13:23	0.81
	29 Thur	08:00	12.19	01:39	0.70	20:20	12.26	13:59	0.83
	30 Fri	08:40	12.11	02:15	0.75	20:58	12.12	14:32	0.96
You can buy 2010/11 tide timetables from Weston-super-Mare Tourist Information Centre for £1.50.		am		May 2010				pm	
	1 Sat	09:18	11.79	02:46	0.92	21:37	11.70	15:01	1.20
	2 Sun	09:56	11.21	03:18	1.22	22:15	11.02	15:30	1.54
	3 Mon	10:34	10.45	03:47	1.61	22:50	10.24	15:58	1.93
	4 Tue	11:11	9.67	04:21	2.03	23:29	9.50	16:32	2.32
	5 Wed	11:52	9.00	05:01	2.42	-	-	17:15	2.71

Keep us in the picture



If you've sent a picture in and we haven't reproduced it here don't worry, we'll try and get it in an edition soon. Keep them coming to editor@n-somerset.gov.uk



Steve Blake



Nicci Freake



Katy Oliver

Bank Holiday collection days

These changes apply to general refuse, green waste and recycling box collections.

Normal day

Friday 2 April
Monday 5 April
Tuesday 6 April
Wednesday 7 April
Thursday 8 April
Friday 9 April
Monday 12 April
Tuesday 13 April
Wednesday 14 April
Thursday 15 April
Friday 16 April

Revised day

Tuesday 6 April
Wednesday 7 April
Thursday 8 April
Friday 9 April
Saturday 10 April
Monday 12 April
Tuesday 13 April
Wednesday 14 April
Thursday 15 April
Friday 16 April
Saturday 17 April

Remember from next month we will collect on all Bank Holidays except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.



Please make sure that your bins are out by 7.30am on the day of collection.

For further information call Council Connect on 01934 888 802

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/waste

