



the NEWS

Bradford on Avon Town Council
Autumn 2022



Green wall for a green town

An environmental project that aims to improve both the town's eco-impact and its visual appeal has been unveiled. The Living Green Wall began construction at the entrance to Bridge Yard on 18 July and was completed 10 days later by the contractors, ANS Global.

The project will have a massive impact: not only adding to the beauty of the area, but also contributing to the goal of becoming a more environmentally friendly town.

The project was kick-started by Stephanie Edwards, who brought the idea to the Town Council as one way of helping to improve air quality in the heart of the town. It is funded by donations from the Arts Festival Group, an Area Board grant, the community, and the Town Council. A big thank you to everyone involved in bringing the scheme into being, including Stephanie Edwards, Joyce Shaw, Alison Abbot (who owns the wall), Ray Winrow, and the entire community for their support.

Cllr Alex Kay, Chair of the Environment & Green Spaces committee, said: "With the addition of the Living Green Wall, Bradford on Avon is making further strides toward becoming a town which can be held up as eco-friendly and eco-conscious. I hope the whole community - residents, businesses and visitors - will look at this wall, smile and think 'what can I do greener today?'"



■ Mayor Cllr Katie Vigar with Stephanie Edwards pictured at the completed green wall; inset, the contractors, ANS Global, at work

The Living Green Wall comprises more than 4,000 plants, contained in 480 modules, and is connected to an automated irrigation system. The Town Council is responsible for its maintenance.

Not only will the wall attract visitors to the town, but it will have many benefits for residents, such as reducing carbon dioxide through photosynthesis



and having a cooling effect on the surrounding area. The Living Green Wall is also expected to boost biodiversity by providing potential shelter, nesting and food for wildlife.

Photo: Trevor Porter

Talk of the town: news in brief

■ Have you ever wondered what's inside the Bradford on Avon 18th century lock-up? Come along and see for yourself what it might have been like to spend the night 'under the fish and over the water' - a reference to the gudgeon-shaped weathervane on the roof of the two-cell prison. The Town

Bridge lock-up will be open from 2-4pm daily, from Thursday 16 September to Sunday 19 September.

■ The popular Local Makers Market has announced dates for the rest of 2022. The markets will take place in St Margaret's Hall on the following Saturdays: 1 October, 12 November,

and 10 December.

■ Some of you may have noticed that the V for Victor plaque is gone from its usual home on the wall of our Visitor Information Centre. But do not fret, it has been taken down for cleaning and restoration and will be back in place soon.



■ Cllr Alex Kay at the community fridge

Community fridge

Bradford on Avon Town Council has opened a community fridge to help tackle food waste and help local people. The town centre Co-Op will stock the fridge, which will be opened daily by volunteers between 9am and 5pm. It can be found at the side of St Margaret's Hall, near the start of the Riverside Walk.



Bradford's Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2022/23 are Cllr Katie Vigar, left, and Cllr Jennie Parker. They are pictured at the tea party held in June at Holy Trinity Church as part of the town's wonderful weekend of celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Residents respond

The latest Residents' Panel survey showed strong enthusiasm for environmental issues with panellists contributing ideas on tree-planting and re-wilding to information events on what the council is doing and how residents can take action too.

Town Mayor Katie Vigar said: "The results of the latest survey have been presented to the Environment & Green Spaces and Town Development committees, and some of the results will be used by the Town Council to inform and shape future decisions." The results can be viewed at bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/residents-panel-information-2

Putting on a blooming lovely display for regional competition



Judging for Bradford on Avon's South West in Bloom entry for 2022 took place in mid-July, when the Mayor Cllr Katie Vigar, Deputy Mayor Cllr Jennie Parker, Chair of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee Cllr Alex Kay and Town Council officers met with the judges for this year's competition.

During the course of the day, the judges were taken on a walking tour of the town to view many of our projects and achievements, including the cemetery, Kingston

Wood, a rewilding project undertaken by a group of Bradford residents, a visit to the gardens of The Hall, and around the town centre. Judges also visited the individual entries to the In Your Neighbourhood category of the competition: The Three Horseshoes pub, Secret Gardens, Wiltshire Heights Care Home and Bradford on Avon railway station.

Cllr Vigar said: "Thank you to the many volunteers, businesses and individuals who have made Bradford

on Avon bloom! We have an impressive array of environmental and horticultural projects here that engage the community in helping our town look the very best it can while also tackling the climate and ecological emergencies."

In last year's competition, the town achieved a gold medal and the Town Council won the Preece Cup for being voted the best of towns of our size. This year's winners will be announced later this summer.



■ Quizzing, quoits and cake are all on the agenda at the Aldhelm Court 60+ Club

Over-60s club welcomes new members

Bradford on Avon Town Council has agreed to continue funding the Aldhelm Court Club service for the over-60s.

Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jennie Parker, has been a keen supporter of the service during her time as a councillor, and wants to see more people joining the group.

At the latest Community & Wellbeing committee meeting, councillors agreed to continue funding the hire of the room for club members.

Cllr Parker said: "The Aldhelm Court 60+ Club is a fun place to be on a Thursday afternoon at 2pm.

"We meet for two hours and the first thing we do is make tea, have a cake and chat. We then spend about an hour playing skittles, quoits, bingo or having a quiz.

"Come along and check us out. We would love to meet you."

Date set for bridge works

Essential works to the Trowbridge Road railway bridge are due to begin in September.

Network Rail has announced rebuilding works to the Trowbridge Road overbridge, where St Margaret's Street crosses the railway line. The work will take place between 5 September 2022 and 3 April 2023.

During this period the road will be closed. There will also be a partial closure of the public right of way (St Margaret's Place) adjacent to the bridge. This will help with maintaining access for residents, according to Network Rail.

The project will involve periods of night working. Railway neighbours have received

an explanatory letter from Network Rail giving dates and times of nighttime and round-the-clock working.

A drop-in session and presentation held on 11 July provided more information about the scope of the works, and the reasons why it is being carried out. A spokesman explained: "The bridge is life-expired and in a very poor condition which cannot be economically repaired.

"The least disruptive solution is to deconstruct the original bridge, maintain the existing abutments and construct a new bridge in its place.

"This will provide a major maintenance-free period of at least 25 years."



■ The railway bridge at St Margaret's Street/Trowbridge Road is in very poor condition and cannot be economically repaired

Save the date

Walkers are Welcome will be holding its next Walking Festival on the weekend of 2 - 4 September 2022. You can view the full programme and book online at walkbradfordonavon.org/bradford-on-avon-walking-festival. Walks are offered for all ability levels; please note that while guide dogs are welcomed, Walkers are Welcome generally operates a 'no dogs' policy.

After a two-year break, Bradford on Avon's wonderful Secret Gardens are planning to open for visitors on Saturday 3 September, from 2-6pm. For latest information, check the Town Council website.



The theme for this year's Flower & Produce Show is Have a Go, with all Bradford on Avon residents encouraged to enter the event. There are 91 classes, from apples to woodwork - and not forgetting those perennial favourites: rudest vegetable and longest piece of bindweed. The show, free to enter and attend, will be held on Sunday 4 September at St Margaret's Hall, from 2-4pm. Pick up a schedule from the visitor information centre, Town Council offices, or download from the Town Council website.

Remember, remember to mark your calendars for Saturday, 5 November. The Town Council will launch a fabulous FREE fireworks display from the Beehive Field, which will be visible right across the town. Over on Victory Field, you will find fun for the whole family with great food, amusements and gift stalls. Check out the Town Council website for more information.

This year's Christmas lights switch-on will take place on Friday, 25 November. Save the date - and see you there!

Final push for skatepark funding

The campaign to build Bradford on Avon a new skatepark is entering its final phase, with volunteers looking to raise a further £60,000 by the end of the year to bring the skatepark into reality.

At a well-attended meeting in early July, a message from the Bradford on Avon skaters was played asking for help to fund a safer space for skateboarders, bikers and scooters.

One young skater said: "We really just need people to raise the money so we can finally get this [skatepark] built for the youth of our community."



What happens next?

A spokesperson for the skatepark working group said: "Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend the meeting on 3 July. "To date nearly £190,000 has been raised by the Town Council and the local community, and we want to see one final push to raise £250,000.

"This could be through collaborative campaigning between groups or businesses, donating or by simply sharing posts you see on social media.

"We want this project over the finish line to give the youth of Bradford on Avon something they can be really proud of."

■ Find out how to donate at <https://skateboa.org/>

Green Week

From Saturday, 24 September, the Great Big Green Week returns to Bradford on Avon. Events include an mini eco-film festival, nature walks, the Repair Café, webinars and more ... An eco-cookbook will also be on sale, with all proceeds going to the skatepark project.

Find out more at <https://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/great-big-green-week/>

CONTACT your councillor

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Climate Friendly BRADFORD ON AVON

The return of the house sparrow

A red-listed bird is returning to our gardens: here's how to encourage them to thrive



Chirp, chirp, chirp. We're probably all familiar with the cheerful sound of house sparrows gossiping in the hedgerows – but did you know that these birds are now red-listed because numbers are dropping so fast?

Here in Bradford on Avon numbers were falling for many years but recently there have been really encouraging signs of a comeback. Many people remarking that they are seeing house sparrows in their gardens, sometimes for the first time, and birds are being observed carrying food for young in places where they have not been recorded for years.

So what do house sparrows need to continue to thrive? Above all, food: seeds and grains for adults and insects for their young.

Could the fact that more 'spaces for nature', where wild flowers and grasses can grow undisturbed, are being left in our town – both in council-owned green spaces and in our gardens – mean that sparrows and other birds can not only survive but increase? Some people may think this looks untidy but surely it is a small price to pay to help birds and other wildlife to flourish.

Nature has been shown to be very important to our mental health, so let's do all we can to encourage a diversity of plants, insects and the birds that rely on them.

You can keep up to date with local news, and contact your town councillor, via our website at www.bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk