



Water Space Study “Call for Ideas” launched!

As part of the Water Space Study we are asking for design ideas to improve the River Avon & Kennet & Avon Canal within the Bath & North East Somerset Area - from now

until 8th September 2016. Any ideas should relate to the 5 Study themes:

- Assets and Asset Management
- Mooring and Navigation
- Regeneration and Development of the Waterways
- Environmental Enhancement and Water Quality
- Recreation and Leisure

Please email your ideas to us at riveravon@bathnes.gov.uk or use the form attached (and on our webpage www.waterspacebath.org.uk) if you have a more detailed proposal.

The River Avon Festival of Nature 2016 - Some of the highlights

June was a busy month for the Water Space Study, with the River Avon themed Festival of Nature 2016 reaching Bath, Keynsham and Saltford. In total, the Water Space partnership (B&NES Council, Canal & River Trust, Wessex Water & the Environment Agency) delivered 20 events and activities and events, with around 3000 people attended the River themed events in Bath, Keynsham and Saltford.

We also closed our Boater Survey with 102 responses received, the headline results are on our [website](#)

Some of the highlights included:

- A news item about the River Avon and our River Corridor Bat Surveys on BBC Points West
- An Open Studio event with a chance for people to see the emerging design ideas for the River Corridor development and enhancement. A [report of the event](#) is available on our website.
- Walking tours run by local volunteers from Kennet & Avon Canal Trust and Bath's Mayor's Guides and a local historian, exploring the River



This Newsletter has been prepared by Bath & North East Somerset Council on behalf of the River Avon Project. The Council is working in partnership to deliver a Water Space Study in 2016/17.



Avon and Canal.

- A River Avon Poetry Trail, funded by the Arts Council - with poetry boards featuring poems inspired by the waterside setting.
- The first ever Festival of Nature event in Keynsham, attended by 750 people. A finale event in Bath featured family friendly activities, all with a river and wildlife theme, and was attended by approx. 1600 people.
- A celebration party in the Colonnades in Bath for Festival event volunteers and sponsors.

A special thank you to the 35 volunteers who took part in the project, supporting the Water Space Partnership's aim to "Revitalise our Waterways from Dundas to Bath to Hanham".

The Water Space project team is now moving on to analyse the results from these consultation events and to develop design ideas to improve the River Avon and Kennet & Avon canal within Bath & North East Somerset.

Bath's Biggest Ever Bat Survey!

As the River Avon Bat survey work continues with four out of the six months of data collection now underway, we are learning more about how bats are using the River corridor in the Bath Enterprise Area.

As part of this project we have been doing some citizen science. Beth Mitchell, an Apprentice in B&NES Council's Skills and Regeneration team, has been working with us on this project and has prepared a blog for our newsletter about the work so far:

On the 21st June Bath saw its biggest Bat



Thank you!

Thank you to Cher Bradley-Smith our River Avon Project Intern for all her work in the Environment & Design Team as a volunteer on the Water Space Study, over the last 6 months. Cher is going on to complete her Geography Undergraduate dissertation fieldwork, evaluating the impact of storm Desmond on Thirlmere Lake and Helvellyn Mountain torrent in the Lake District, a research collaboration between Bath Spa University, Durham University and United Utilities. Best of luck for the future Cher!

Survey! Brought together by B&NES & Clarkson & Woods as part of the recent Festival of Nature, local residents were invited to volunteer their time to help Ecologists survey Bath's brilliant bats.

The aim of the survey is to raise awareness about local wildlife to Bath residents whilst also encouraging them to engage with more activities. This was a fantastic opportunity for people to learn more about Bats and gain experience and skills!

The survey allowed 26 volunteers to hear bat calls through the provided detectors and get a glimpse of them commuting and foraging!

Surveys took part in six locations at the same time, and areas surveyed included Royal Victoria Park, Bathampton, Odd Down, Weston Park, Alexandra Park and the River Avon Corridor. You can see the [results](#) for yourself on our website together with some new [bat information posters](#).

Clarkson & Woods Ecologists displayed their results of the Bat Survey at the Festival of Nature on the 25th June, alongside their "Eat like a Bat" and "Build your own Bat Box" activities.

I am now working on a bat education pack for local primary schools, which will feature some cartoons about Horace the Horseshoe bat and his life on the river in

Bath, we've been working on the animations with local graphic animation students and ecologists.

Coming Soon...

The next newsletter will feature project updates from River Corridor Fund capital projects currently under development in the area.
