



## Our Volunteers' Weeks events for 2024!

**To celebrate the amazing work that you, our Volunteers, do, we'd like to invite you to our FREE 'Thank you' events that we've organised as a small token of our appreciation.**

We hope you can join us at an event not only to have a nice time, but they are also a nice opportunity to meet other volunteers, and for us (Kate and Gaynor) and other staff who will be helping, to say thank you in person. Age UK Somerset simply could not operate without your help!

**As numbers are limited for some events please let me know (using the form link below), which event you'd like to attend **as soon as possible** as spaces will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. On the form you are also able to give your 2nd choice in case your first choice isn't available.**

The exceptions are our Coffee and Cake event at the Park Room in the beautiful Centre for Outdoor Activity at French Weir, Taunton on Wednesday 5th from 2.30pm to 4pm and our Morning Coffee and Cake in Tiffanys Restaurant on Weston Pier on Friday 7th from 10am-11.30pm. Both of which are "the more the merrier" and you are welcome to one of these in addition to another event but again you must let me know using the form so that I know numbers to cater for.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND ANY EVENTS I HAVE SOME FAMILY NATIONAL TRUST PASSES I CAN GIVE YOU.

**Please RSVP by Friday 24th May using the form that can be found here:**

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/somerset/get-involved/volunteer/volunteers-week-2024>

Or if you don't use the internet please call 01823 345627 and leave a message with your name and the events you would like to book a place on.

Guests might be able to be accommodated if you are dependent on them for your travel, or if the spaces haven't been filled up by Volunteers. There may be a charge for non-volunteers to cover our costs. Please let us know in the notes section if you need or would like to bring a guest.

By using this form the information from all the responses is collated for me in one place which makes things a lot easier and quicker than having to enter all the RSVPs individually. Only if you have problems with the form email [volunteers@ageuksomerset.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@ageuksomerset.org.uk) but please be kind to me if I'm slow responding to any emails.

I will be in touch after 24th May to confirm your place, check dietary requirements (if appropriate), and give you full details on the itinerary and parking, etc.

Thank you! I hope to see you soon,



Kate Barrington, Volunteering & Communications Manager

**ONLINE BOOKING FORM**

This year we have events covering our whole area! We hope you find one you'll enjoy.

### SEDGEMOOR

- Sunday 2nd June** - Dryad Gin Walk, Broomfield
- Thursday 6th** - Scott Cinemas Tour and screening, Bridgwater
- Thursday 6th June** - Early Night Club, Palace

### NORTH SOMERSET

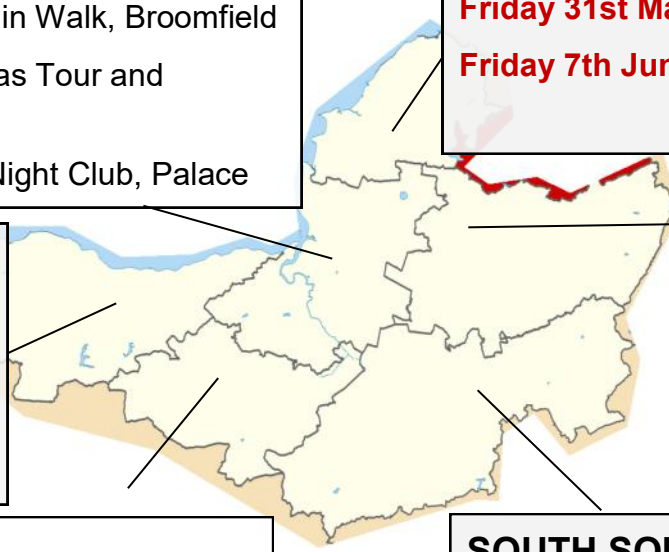
- Friday 31st May** - Alpacas
- Friday 7th June** - The Grand Pier

### WEST SOMERSET

- Tuesday 4th** - Cream Tea, Minehead
- Wednesday 5th** - Watchet Walking Tour

### MENDIP

- Monday 3rd** - Shepton Mallet Prison
- Tuesday 4th** - Glastonbury Festival Site



### TAUNTON DEANE

- Wednesday 5th June** - Cake at French Weir
- Thursday 6th** - BBC Radio Somerset Tour

### SOUTH SOMERSET

- Monday 3rd** - The Newt



To view this interactive map of our event locations on Google Maps visit

<https://tinyurl.com/volweek2024>

**FRIDAY  
31st  
May**

**FRIDAY 31st MAY!!!!**

**1.30pm-3pm -  
Alpaca Walk with  
Chapel Ground  
Alpacas**



*Between Cleeve and Goblin Combe in North Somerset.  
Full directions will be given!*

**An early start to Volunteers Week to fit in with North Somerset Walking Festival!**

Come along and meet the Alpacas at Chapel Ground! They have kindly invited a small group of us to learn more about these wonderful creatures, to feed them by hand (hand washing facilities are available!), and enjoy a short stroll with two of us per alpaca!

**DRYAD  
GIN · Tree · Spirits**



**SUNDAY  
2nd  
JUNE**

**3pm - A leisurely walk to learn about Dryad Gin followed by a taste as part of a**

*Broomfield, near Fyne Court, approx. 5 miles from Bridgwater*

A delightful journey through nature and spirits!

This event has been planned for a Sunday for those Volunteers who work during the week.

I'm excited to invite you to join us on a leisurely walk across beautiful Broomfield Hill, as we follow in the footsteps of Dryad Gin distiller, Becky Wright

Together, we will explore the mesmerising diversity of flowers, trees, and plants that perfectly complement the creation of gin. We'll even connect with the enchanting tree spirits and discover the captivating tale behind Dryad Gin while paying a visit to The Dryad Tree, the muse that inspired this exceptional spirit. And that's not all! You'll have the chance to savor the exquisite Dryad Gin and partake in the traditional blackbirds beak toast.

No dogs please (cattle nearby).

About Dryad Gin - Dryad Gin is a unique, small-batch Somerset gin made with majestic oak trees and distilled in traditional copper stills from the foothills of the Quantocks. Dryad Gin is evocative of sun-drenched afternoons in the company of firm friends, infused with fragrant notes of cardamom, cinnamon, orange peel and almond for a deliciously quaffable tippie rooted in natural mythology.

Becky Wright, the artisan behind Dryad Gin, she is part of the local community spirit, fostering connections and presides over a Pop Up Pub on The Quantocks known as The Dryad Inn.

More info here: <https://dryadgin.co.uk/>

*Please note this event will go on for approximately 1 hour 15 mins and there is walking involved across uneven land.*



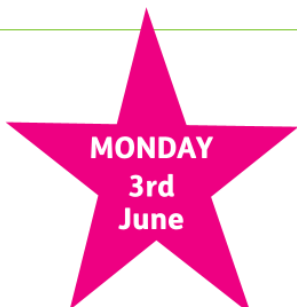
1030am

## Self-guided tour of Shepton Mallet Prison

*Frithfield Lane, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA4 5FQ*

The team that run Shepton Mallet Prison are kindly letting a group of us explore “behind bars” in this self-guided tour. Shepton Mallet Prison, often referred to as Cornhill or The Mallet, housed its first inmates in 1625. The prison closed in 1930 only to be used again as a Military prison during WWII. We will soak up the atmosphere of this amazing 400-year-old building where features of the original 1600s prison can still be seen in the Old Gate Lodge as well as the Governor’s office. We can visit the cells, exercise yard, kitchens and even the execution room if we have the stomach for it.

For more information visit: <https://www.sheptonmalletprison.com/prison-tours/self-guided-tour/>



## 2pm - The Newt in Somerset - The Story of Gardening Exhibition then coffee & cake



*The Newt in Somerset, Bruton, BA7 7NG*

Usually only open to their Members, the kind people at the award winning Newt have kindly agreed to let a lucky small group of us stroll through their gardens to visit the stunning ‘Story of Gardening’ exhibition and then enjoy coffee and cake!

The gardens at The Newt have been shaped over the last 200 years by successive enthusiasts mixing ornamental and productive elements, the gardens are a feast for the eyes !

At The Story of Gardening exhibition you get hands on with soil, scents, botany and design and visit the world’s most famous gardens in virtual reality pods! Wearing a headset you can admire the abundant fruit trees of Babylonstoren or gazing into the lily ponds at Monet’s Giverny!

For more information at the gardens please see: <https://thenewtinsomerset.com/garden>

For more information about The Story of Gardening exhibition visit: <https://vimeo.com/390997668>

*Please note there is a fairly long, mostly flat walk from the car park to the entrance, then on to the exhibition.*



**TUESDAY**  
4th  
June

**9.45am-midday (approx.)  
- Bus Tour of the Glastonbury Festival Site**

*Parking at B & Q Wirral Park Road, Street Road,  
Glastonbury BA6 9XE*

The kind folk behind Glastonbury Festival are once again taking us on a tour around the site before the festival kicks off and they have kindly paid for the bus!!!

We will travel from B & Q on the outskirts of Glastonbury on a minibus to Worthy farm where we will be met by a knowledgeable member of the festival team. They will hop on and chat and answer questions as we have a look at some of the site, much of it new, which will be setting up for this year's festival.

We are so grateful to the Festival team for giving us this very special opportunity to see what's going on at this year's awesome Festival before the 100,000s of attendees arrive!



**TUESDAY**  
4th  
June

**3pm - Cream Tea at Flying Fox, Minehead**

*FOXES HOTEL, THE ESPLANADE, MINEHEAD, SOMERSET, TA24 5QP*

Come and enjoy a delicious cream tea from the Flying Fox outside catering truck by the Foxes Hotel on Minehead's Esplanade.

Foxes Hotel is the UK's only fully operating training hotel for young people with learning disabilities and we'll get to learn more about this while we enjoy delicious refreshments.

For more info please visit: <https://www.foxeshotel.co.uk/>



**1030am-1230pm**  
**Walking Tour of Watchet with the Town Crier / Bellman**

*Meet at Watchet Visitor Centre, Harbour Rd, Watchet TA23 0AQ*

A fun, unusual and unique walk around Watchet with their very own Town Crier! Enjoy this beautiful walk while learning about our fascinating history that makes Watchet the town it is today. Folklore, songs and shanties will be crammed into the experience!

*Please note: The walk covers approximately 1 1/4 miles and is on a flat surface but with about 20m of cobbles.*



**2.30pm-4pm - Big Volunteer Coffee, Cakes, and Cwiz (Quiz!) get-together at French Weir, Taunton**

*The Park Room at COACH (Centre for Outdoor Activities), French Weir park, Taunton*

Come and join other Volunteers and Age UK Somerset staff in this beautiful venue next to the river in French Weir park.

We've hired The Park room so we can serve you coffee, tea and a variety of cakes\*. Afterwards there will be an optional silly team quiz with prizes!

*Please note: The car park for Tesco is just a 4 minute walk away and you can park for free for up to 90 minutes! If you want to be more relaxed there are other pay and display car parks nearby.*

\*Which might not look like the image above!!

# BBC RADIO Somerset

THURSDAY  
6th  
June

1145am - EXCLUSIVE tour of the BBC Radio  
Somerset Studios!

Winchester House, Deane Gate Avenue,  
Taunton, TA1 2UH

BBC Radio Somerset don't do tours....but they  
are for us!

Come and see where the local radio magic  
happens in this special short tour of BBC Radio Somerset's studios. There will also be an  
opportunity for a Q & A session with one of the presenters!

The studios aren't very big and the tour should take only 1 hour.

THURSDAY  
6th  
June



230pm - Behind the scenes tour of Scott Cinema, Bridgwater followed by coffee and a  
VIP screening!

*Northgate Yard, Bridgwater*

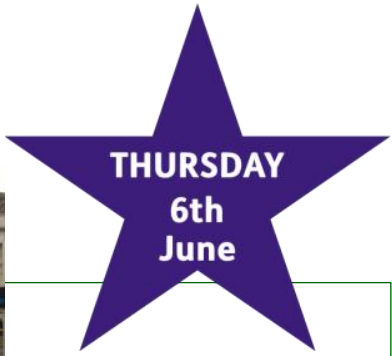
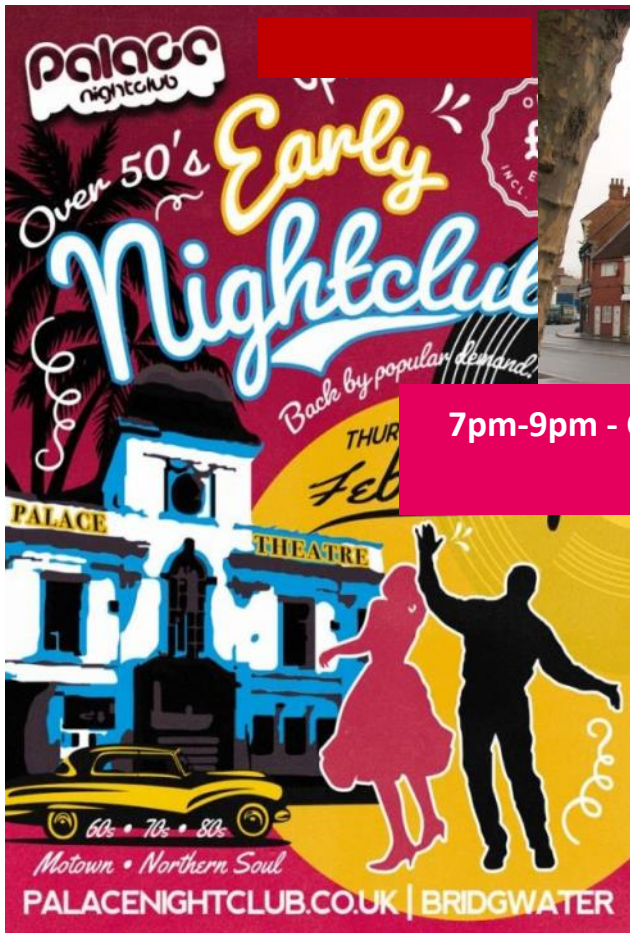
Scott Cinemas don't do tours....but they are for us!

It's not like the old days of celluloid and projectionists  
but a look behind the scenes of the cinema with the  
Manager, Zac, should still be very interesting if you enjoy  
films!

After we've had a tour we will get to go up to the private  
VIP area to enjoy a coffee and take our places in the VIP  
screening area with reclining seats to watch one of that  
week's films!

We won't know the actual film until closer to the date but  
I think we have a choice of at least 7!





**7pm-9pm - Come for a boogie in our VIP area at the over 50s Early Night Club at The Palace**

*The Palace, Penel Orlieu, Bridgwater*

We started the Over 60s Early Night Club back in November and now The Palace run their own popular Over 50s night once a month!

They have invited us to come along for free and have given us the use of a private balcony area which includes seating underneath the iconic dome! You can dance to hits from the 1950s-1980s or just sit and chat with fellow Volunteers.

The night actually runs 7pm-11pm but that's far too late for me these days!

*Please note: There are more than 20 steps to climb to get up the private balcony area.*



**10am-11.30am - Morning Coffee, Cake a little history at The Grand Pier, Weston super Mare**

*Tiffanys Restaurant, The Grand Pier, Sea Front, Weston super Mare*

The very kind people at The Grand Pier have invited us to use the room at Tiffanys Restaurant which offers beautiful views of the sea.

Come and join other Volunteers to enjoy a coffee/tea and cake before listening to a short talk about the history of the pier.

**CLICK FOR ONLINE BOOKING FORM**