

Charity announces new chief

St John's Hospital has announced the appointment of a new chief executive.

Sue Porto, formerly CEO of children's literacy charity Beanstalk, will take up the post in early May.

She has also worked for The Prince's Trust and HM Prison Service.

Recently appointed chairwoman of trustees Liz Brooks said: "St John's is delighted that someone of Sue's calibre is joining the organisation, at a time when we are seeking to expand our support to disadvantaged people in Bath. Sue will complement several exciting and innovative plans we already have in the pipeline."

St John's Hospital provides alms-house accommodation, individual and community grants.

Sue Porto is replacing former chief executive Jonathan O'Shea, a graduate of Bangor University who has gone on to work at Ty Hafan, a children's hospice charity in Wales.

Search for help to put on big party

The organisers of Peasedown St John's biggest event are looking for an assistant entertainment manager.

The Party in the Park team was set up seven years ago to organise the summer extravaganza – which attracts more than 2,500 people who enjoy seven hours of live music and entertainment in the centre of the village.

Due to the growth and popularity of the event, the festival team are keen to recruit someone to work with entertainment manager Danny Brothers to organise the acts and performances.

Mr Brothers said:"Increasingly every year we have performers approaching us up to a year before each festival to ask if they can take part. "

The position is an unpaid, voluntary role. For more details contact: Danny Brothers on 07740 313422 or southamptoncobbler@hotmail.com or Nathan Hartley on 07737 192156 or nathan_hartley@msn.com.

Find out about life with Lions

The City of Bath Lions Club is looking for new members and is inviting people along to an open evening tonight.

There will be a complimentary drink and nibbles, as well as the chance to find out more about the club.

Lions president Maurice Hubert said: "We need friendly people of all ages to put something back into the community by helping others, holding fundraising events, sharing social events and having fun.

"We support many local projects and good causes, both physically, and by fundraising on their behalf. We raise funds with activities such as race nights, collections and through our golf day."

The open evening is at Pratt's Hotel, South Parade, at 7pm.

Phone Maurice on 07973 688223 or visit www.bathlions.org.uk.



Looking up Southgate Street from the Old Bridge c.1900



The southern end of Southgate Street c.1970s



The wrecking ball in action demolishing the old Southgate in September 1971



Public benches outside The Mall, Southgate, 1995



The Mall, Southgate Centre, October 1994



The demolition of the northern end of Southgate Street



The Southgate Centre and Southgate Street, 1973



The Odeon Cinema, 1962

Reminders of old shopping trips to centre

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Do you remember the old Southgate Centre? If you spent your childhood shopping in Marchant's Passage these old black and white photos might take you back.

Most of the photographs were taken by Bath Chronicle photographers.

They are now part of archives at Bath Central Library, which are being digitised by Bath in Time.

Designed by British architect Owen Luder, the original Southgate Centre was built in 1972 and was demolished in 2007.

Bath's new £360 million SouthGate Centre opened in several phases, with the first shops opening in 2009.

These included high street chemist Boots, as well as clothing stores Republic and New Look.

Developer Multi also opened an 876-space underground car park beneath the centre.

Do you have any memories or photographs of Bath you'd like to share?

Email news@bathchron.co.uk or tweet us @BathChron.



The view up Southgate Street c.1935



Southgate Street pictured on 22 September, 1961



A newspaper seller at the Odeon, Southgate, during the floods in 1960

Students create a fresh look

Students studying three-dimensional design at Bath Spa University will be making their mark on the city of Bath with two innovative exhibitions.

For Light Shift, at the Holburne Museum, students will be creating light installations to alter the way visitors view the museum and its grounds.

The exhibition, running from February 16 to 20, is being supported by the internationally-renowned lighting company iGuzzini.

Students are also putting together CUSTOMISATION, a collection of objects investigating and altering different manufacturing processes.

Student Rebecca Tucknott and project leader Jennifer Flume said: "As designers it is important that we have an in-depth awareness of the materials and techniques available to us.

"Probing Bath and the surrounding area to learn about the equipment and techniques used by local manufacturers, we discovered processes that provided the starting point for a series of experiments which pushed boundaries and brought new and exciting results."

CUSTOMISATION will be exhibited at Unit 4, Seven Dials, Sawclose, Bath on February 21 and 22 from noon to 7pm.

Workshops for children will run each day at 11am.

Professor Anita Taylor, dean of the Bath School of Art and Design, said: "These two projects showcase the outstanding talent of the art and design students. They have been able to work with the local community, in collaboration with business and cultural organisations to develop very different projects, which I encourage everyone to come and experience."

‘Do not eat’ warning on daffodils

Health watchdogs are urging shops to remove daffodils from stands near fruit and vegetables in case they poison shoppers.

Public Health England has written to all major stores advising that shoppers who have English as a second language are at risk of confusing the bulbs and stems with spring onions.

Daffodils can also be mistaken for vegetables used in Chinese cooking.

Professor Paul Cosford, medical director at Public Health England, said: "Daffodils are dangerous if eaten and poisoning can occur as a result."

Cases of poisoning linked to daffodils and narcissi numbered 27 in the UK last year.

Vicar to offer his advice at surgery

The Vicar for the St J's Group will be holding an advice surgery open to residents on Saturday, February 21.

Residents can meet Reverend Matthew Street at St John's Church Vicarage, Peasedown, from 10am to 11am.

The church wants to build links with the community via the surgery.