

Record numbers celebrate World Heritage Day 2015 in Bath

On Sunday 19 April 2015 Prior Park Landscape Garden played host to World Heritage Day in Bath. The annual event, which celebrates and promotes the city's World Heritage Site status, is now in its seventh year. The theme chosen for the day was the landscape setting of the city – one of the key attributes for which the entire City of Bath was designated a 'World Heritage Site' by UNESCO in 1987.



Built on the southern slopes overlooking the city, the garden of 18th century entrepreneur Ralph Allen's home at Prior Park is the perfect venue from which to appreciate Bath's green setting. Bath & North East Somerset Council were delighted to work in partnership with the National Trust, owners of Prior Park Landscape Garden, in staging World Heritage Day and local residents enjoyed free access through the Council's 'Discovery Card' scheme. The property attracts 37,000 visitors each year. The 1,150 visitors on World Heritage Day set a new daily record for

attendance to the garden, a figure which included a large number of first time visitors.

Visitors of all ages took part in a range of activities including landscape drawing, photography, bug-hunting, dressing-up as Georgians and learning country dances. Garden tours were led by the Mayor of Bath's Honorary Guides, and experts were on hand to help visitors discover more about natural history, garden features, archaeology and Bath stone. Picnickers by Prior Park's famous Palladian Bridge enjoyed traditional music played by Bath City Jubilee Waits, with further entertainment provided by Natural Theatre Company actors portraying Ralph Allen, Mrs Allen, architect John Wood and Capability Brown. Local organisations and Heritage Lottery Fund projects were represented on the day, including the 'Archway Project', which will deliver a new World Heritage Interpretation Centre in central Bath right next to the Roman Baths.



