

Sustainable community engagement at The Roman Baths

Meliha Hussain-Marchbank, [The Roman Baths - Bath](#)

The Roman Baths has a diverse and successful community engagement programme, with sustainable partnerships and relationships at its heart. This ranges from a programme for people seeking refuge to health and wellbeing initiatives. We want to authentically reflect the needs and wants of community groups and do so through co-produced sessions and activities. This session will explore how our priority of sustainable programming produces beneficial long-term impacts for both the organisation and for community groups. This includes sharing challenges faced and how programmes are tailored for different audiences.

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**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

Improving People's Lives

The Roman Baths



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Meaningful community engagement

Community needs, values and aspirations drive initiatives.

Strategic priorities:

- Co-creation
- Diversification
- Consistency and Sustainability
- Transparency

Thinking reinterpretation!



Community Engagement Programme

- Care homes
- Charities/Partnerships
- Co-curation projects
- Health and Wellbeing Programme
- Holidays, Activities and Food Programme
- Regional/National/International Festivals
- Roman Baths Youth Forum
- Sanctuary Programme
- Tai Chi
- Uniform groups (Brownies, Beavers, etc)
- Work placements and experience



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Sanctuary Programme

'These masterclasses are more than just creative sessions; they can be transformative moments in someone's life journey. Inspired by this realization and subsequent self-reflection, I established a social group for women ... dedicated to helping others find friendship and mutual support.'

Participant testimony



Looking Forward

- Refugee Week 2026
- Supporting skills and employment
- Museum of Sanctuary Award
- Maintaining a sustainable programme
- Long-term: reinterpretation



Health and Wellbeing Programme

- A Roman's Guide to Wellbeing
- Social prescribing and BANES Community Wellbeing Hub
- Charities: Headway, Blind Veterans UK, Carers Centre



Social Prescribing: An approach that connects people to activities, groups, and services in their community to meet the practical, social and emotional needs that affect their health and wellbeing.

Sustainable Practice

“A wonderful opportunity given to local adults to explore our connection with local history, wellbeing and craft in an inclusive social group.”

“I've met new people in similar health situations to myself, we chat and meet outside the group, plus it's a fully accessible venue so I never have to do all the checks and planning I need to do in advance and during visits to other places. Its win win!”

“At the end of your course I was a bit sorry for myself thinking I was on a one way direction of increasing immobility. Your course suggested that I, with medical advice, could intervene! I now am so much better generally! Thank you. Also I am doing a Latin course which I am enjoying after months of mainly sitting in my flat.”

Roman Baths Youth Forum

- Career experience
- Skill building
- ‘Meet The Expert’

- Work placement opportunities





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