



Papal visit:
Pope Benedict XVI

Photographic exhibition to honour Pope

A PRIEST from Whitchurch is bringing a photographic exhibition to the city to celebrate the arrival of Pope Benedict XVI in the United Kingdom later this month.

The *Image of a Pope* will also be shown in Bath, and aims to give people new insights into the ministry of Pope Benedict XVI, who starts his visit in Scotland on September 16.

Father Christopher Whitehead, the Clifton Diocese Director Department for Adult Education and Evangelisation, and Parish Priest of St Bernadette's in Whitchurch, Bristol, is curating the exhibition.

Father Christopher said: "The *Image of a Pope* will be a striking part of our special evening of prayers taking place on the eve of the papal visit on September 15 in Clifton Cathedral.

The *Image of a Pope* brings together photographs of Pope Benedict XVI in different settings - allowing us to better understand the nature and meaning of his ministry."

The photographs have been specially selected by Father Christopher from collections gathered by international photographer Marcin Mazur and other photographers from around the world.

Father Christopher added: "Marcin's images are attracting growing acclaim and regularly feature in national newspapers here in the United Kingdom. In his relatively short career, he's already photographed Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, President Barack Obama and former Prime Minister Gordon Brown."

The exhibition will be in St John's Hall, South Parade, Bath from 7pm until 9pm on September 10 and from 7pm until 10pm in Clifton Cathedral, Pembroke Road, on September 15. For further details, visit cliftondiocese.com.

Existing camps underused, say Conservatives



Proposal: Travellers at Bedminster Down, Bristol. The Conservative group on Bristol City Council says existing sites in the city are underused and there is no need for any more

'We don't need more traveller sites in city'

A MOTION to prevent any more traveller sites being opened in Bristol is due to be discussed by councillors tonight.

The Conservative group on Bristol City Council has made the proposal, claiming that existing sites in the city are under used and so there is no need for any more.

The Liberal Democrat-run authority has earmarked four plots of land in the city as potential traveller sites in a planning blueprint, to add to the two that already exist.

They include; up to seven pitches on grazing land at Woodwell Road, Avonmouth; up to 24 pitches at the former Dunmail primary school in Southmead; up to seven pitches on open space at Begbrook Drive; up to five pitches at a caravan storage yard in St George West.

The council has agreed the maximum number of pitches that need to be provided for the whole city is 24 as 12 are already provided at the site in South Liberty Lane.

The Tory motion is set to be discussed

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at the full council meeting tonight provided councillors leave enough time for a debate.

Put by Councillor Lesley Alexander, it says: "Council welcomes the announcement of the Secretary of State for Communities to abolish the previous Labour government's regional strategies and centrally-set house building targets with the return of decision-making in these matters to individual local authorities.

"It follows from this action that the requirement to provide additional gypsy and traveller sites - as contained in the Site Allocations and Development Management Options document - are no longer obligatory or relevant.

"The number of pitches provided in any particular locality is now something, which is determined entirely by local councils.

"Given that town halls and not Whitehall will now have the final say on development decisions, council recognises

that there is no need for further traveller sites in Bristol - particularly when existing facilities at the transit camp in Kings Weston Lane continue to remain under-utilised.

"Accordingly, council calls on the leader and the cabinet to stop unnecessary and expensive further consideration of this option and to ensure that it is not included in the final version of the Bristol Development Framework."

The call comes just days after Lib Dem councillors were given a hard time at a public meeting held to discuss the proposed site in Southmead.

Executive members Anthony Negus and Gary Hopkins listened to angry complaints from around 100 people during the two-hour meeting.

An open day, where people can view and discuss the Southmead plans, is to be held at the Greenway Centre on September 27 between noon and 8pm.

Final objections to any of the schemes must be registered with the council by October 29.

The *Evening Post* contacted the council for comment but no one was available.

Film fans can watch flicks under stars

OPEN-air, solar-powered cinemas are springing up in parks around Bristol this September.

The Encounters International Film Festival, in partnership with Bristol City Council's Neighbourhood Arts Team, is presenting a series of four free film screenings spread across the city in St George Park, St Andrew's Park, Urban Park and Victoria Park.

Encounters, Bristol's annual festival of short films and all things animated, will be presenting a unique opportunity to see the Children's Jury Animations and short films specifically selected from over 1,600 submissions to suit family and younger viewers.

Now in its 16th year, Encounters is taking the festival out to local communities to provide a taste of what the festival brings to Bristol and to reach a wider audience.

The four screenings are as follows:

- Thursday, September 9, 8pm in St George Park, Church Road;
- Friday, September 10, 8pm in St Andrew's Park, Effingham Road;
- Friday, September 17, 8pm in Urban Park at Barton Hill, Beam Street; and
- Saturday, September 18, 8pm in Victoria Park, St Luke's Road.

The solar-powered cinema screen is made possible thanks to 'Know Alternative', a mobile solar unit with all equipment - including an electric milk float projector - powered by the sun.

Members of the audience are invited to bring a picnic, something to sit on, a blanket, friends and family and wrap up warm for a night of entertainment.

If the weather is wet there are indoor alternatives, and the films will start after dark.

The main Encounters festival runs from November 16-21 and is the umbrella title for two of the UK's leading film festivals, Brief Encounters and Animated Encounters. It celebrates the best short film and animation talent from around the world, with a host of cross-over attractions, at venues in and around the Harbourside area.

For more information, go to www.encounters-festival.org.uk.

Sleep expert's care guidelines

GUIDELINES for health professionals caring for those with sleep problems have been drawn up by a Bristol expert.

Dr Sue Wilson, from Bristol University, has produced information for psychiatrists and physicians on the latest treatments.

Dr Wilson, senior research fellow in psychopharmacology, put together the recommendations following a seminar last year.

They address issues such as pregnancy, childhood disorders and other specific factors.

Dr Wilson says that insomnia can often be improved with specialist cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT).

She also looks at night terrors, sleep walking and violent behaviour at night - known as 'parasomnias'. Physicians may need to refer patients experiencing these episode to a specialist sleep centre, she says.

This is to discover whether the attacks occur during REM (rapid eye movement) or non-REM sleep, which can mean differing treatments.

Dr Wilson's findings are outlined in a paper to the British Association for Psychopharmacology.

University study shows school place lottery has 'failed'

A controversial "lottery" designed to allocate school places fairly has failed to reduce segregation between rich and poor pupils, Bristol University research suggests.

Richer pupils are still dominating places at top-performing schools in Brighton and Hove, and poorer pupils are missing out because of the way school catchment areas are drawn up, according to a study by the Institute of Education and Bristol University.

Brighton and Hove introduced a lottery system, the first of its kind, two years ago following concerns that there were unequal opportunities throughout the country for rich and poor families to access the best

schools. The theory behind Brighton's reforms was that by using a lottery instead of the distance from a child's home to a school as a measure of allocating places, every child would have the same chance of winning a place.

Alongside the introduction of the lottery, new catchment areas were drawn up. Within each of these catchment areas allocations for places is random.

The study, which looks at the first two years of the lottery, concludes that there have been "winners and losers", but so-called "social segregation" - the dividing of pupils based on family income - has not significantly

reduced. It says that the way the new catchment areas have been established means that in general, families in the poorest neighbourhoods still have little chance of getting into the popular schools that are in the city centre.

This is because a particular school may not be in their catchment area.

The study says: "There are clearly winners and losers from these reforms: some students are attending less academically successful secondary schools than they might have expected to; for others the reverse is true.

"The location of these winners and losers largely derive from the design of

the catchment areas rather than the impact of the lottery where it applies."

The report authors, Rebecca Allen of the Institute of Education, and Simon Burgess and Leigh McKenna of the Centre for Market and Public Organisation at Bristol University said: "The main lesson of our analysis is that the introduction of a lottery on its own is not enough to equalise access to the high-performing popular schools."

The study says it will be "several years" before the impact of Brighton and Hove's reforms will become clear because families are expected to move, and house prices will adjust.