

# Model pig roasted by arsonists

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Arsonists have wrecked one of Bath's pig sculptures.

The woman behind the city's King Bladud's Pigs in Bath project said the attack was the worst in a series of incidents involving the statues.

There have been 15 acts of vandalism since the launch of the project to celebrate the city's ancient founder five months ago.

Fire crews were called to Julian Road, just after midnight on Sunday night, where they found a wooden pig - named Barking Mad after being decorated with tree bark - ablaze.

An Avon Fire and Rescue spokeswoman said crews believed it had been set on fire deliberately and had passed on information to the police.

The attack comes a month after two model pigs were stolen and although one has been found, the other is still missing.

Former councillor Gitte Dawson, founder of the pigs project, said: "I never ever thought that this could happen to the pigs."

"I thought people would like them and respect them, but that is not the case with a few people.

"This has got to be worst case of vandalism against them that I have ever seen. It upsets me to think people want to hurt them and I am so worried that there will be more attacks.

"People have spent so much time and effort in making these pigs look good and it is appalling that someone can come along and do this.

"I hope it will stop now."

The pig had been sponsored by local people under the banner of the Parkside Community, and its artist



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**TORCHED:** the pig on Julian Road which was set on fire; right, Gitte Dawson, pioneer of the pig project

PICTURE: Kevin Bates

Mark Lovegrave had wanted it to be completely different to the others so decorated it with bark.

He said: "It has really upset me because it took me a long time to make it.

"It is the fact that someone destroyed someone else's property without even thinking about it and so much effort has gone into it.

"I really wanted this pig to stand out and that is why I used the wood instead of just paint."

Justin Braithwaite, a member of the Parkside Community group, said: "The pig will be redecorated

because we will be making an insurance claim and getting the money to do it.

"It is such a shame because it was very well done and one of the better ones."

Meanwhile a booklet outlining the location of all King Bladud's Pigs is now available at outlets including the tourist information centre.

The Bath Chronicle's pig, called Hog the Front Page, has now been installed outside the newspaper's new office in James Street West.

■ Rugby pig's visit - pages 12 & 13; Web comments, page 72



## Take part in uni research

**BATH:** Researchers at the University of Bath are looking at how patterns of behaviour adjust to major changes in life, such as leaving school or retiring.

Previous research has suggested that it may be easier to break old habits, and start up new ones at times like this, as the environment around people is changing too. If this is the case there may be opportunities to help people make positive changes they have always meant to do, but not quite got round to, and which could have a big impact on their health and well-being.

The research team is currently looking for recently-retired adults to take part in interviews about their lifestyle and how it has changed since retirement. To find out more, contact Fay Beck on 01225 386696.

## French mission

**KEYNSHAM:** Louise Mead, a member of Keynsham Explorer Scout Unit, is to spend a month fact-finding in France.

With the help of the Charles de Gaulle Bursary Scheme through the British Council, she will undertake a study of Scouting opportunities in France.

## Show time

**LIMPLEY STOKE:** The Limpley Stoke Watercolour Workshop group has been invited to exhibit its end-of-year show in Bath.

The artists, who will be showing their work in public for the first time, are displaying paintings outside the chairman's room in the Guildhall.

The exhibition will run until September 2.

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