

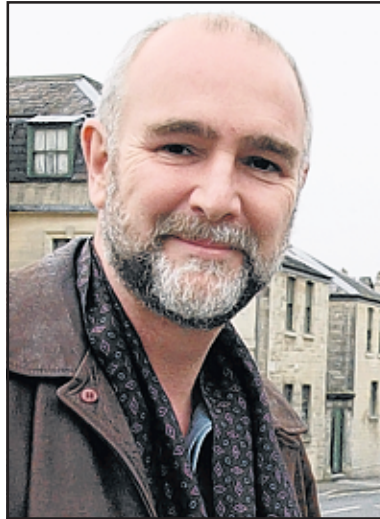
Relief as thieves bring home the bacon

Organisers of the city's colourful pig project have expressed their relief after a sculpture stolen from Royal Victoria Park was found.

Thieves and vandals have caused headaches for the King Bladud's Pigs Project in the past few weeks.

The latest blow was the theft of a pig sponsored by Wookey Hole Caves, which is popular with children at the city park on Friday nights.

Dinopig, which is located near the duck pond in Royal Victoria Park, was found again on Tuesday in



Justin Braithwaite

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bushes by the skate ramp by Bob Harden, a gardener at the Botanical Gardens.

It was the latest pig in the public art exhibition celebrating the city's legendary founder and herdsman Bladud to fall victim to theft and vandalism.

Project manager Justin Braithwaite said: "We are delighted to have Dinopig returned to us and would like to take the opportunity to thank not only Bob Harden but also the media for publicising the theft so promptly.

"The sculpture will need a little loving care to restore him to his former glory but he should be back out on show before the end of the week.

"Any incident of vandalism is upsetting and disappointing but in fact, considering we have almost 100 pigs on the street, the general level of misuse is low.

"We hope that everyone who enjoys seeing the pigs out on display will continue to be vigilant for their welfare."

Last month two of the pigs were stolen while several were targeted by thugs.

One of the pigs taken has now been returned but Cowpig, which was also stolen in the park, is still missing.

Mr Braithwaite said: "We are hop-



LOST AND FOUND: Dinopig was stolen from Royal Victoria Park but has been recovered

ing Cowpig will be brought back or found, too.

"These pigs are very difficult to hide and people can hardly make use of them or display them outside their houses.

"We are grateful to park staff for their vigilance in keeping an eye on the sculptures and helping us to locate the missing pigs."

Meanwhile, The Bath Chronicle's pig in James Street West, believed to

have been another victim of vandalism, was actually hit by a car.

A driver emerging from the Kingsmead car park lost control of her vehicle as she was reaching across to close a passenger door.

Hog The Front Page was taken for repair after it was hit more than a week ago, and is now back on its plinth outside our office at Westpoint.

Anyone with any information on



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the missing pig should contact police on 0845 456 7000 or organisers on 01225 722511.

Pig trail maps are available from Bath Tourist Information Centre, the Bath Abbey shop, Bath Aqua Glass in Orange Grove, Bath City Sightseeing, the Jane Austen Centre, Oldfield Park Bookshop, and Studio Flowers at Charles Street.

For more information visit www.kingbladudspigs.org.