

Pig invasion takes Bath back 3,000 years

A hundred pigs have arrived on the streets of Bath. The life-size porkers are part of a major public art project designed to raise money for a new four-mile long foot and cycle path to the city, and commemorate King Bladud, who founded the city almost 3,000 years ago. Struck down by a disfiguring disease, he was forced from the royal court and became a swineherd. His pigs also contracted the disease, but both man and beast were cured when they rolled around in the hot mud around Bath's springs, thus beginning the town's spa tradition.



The modern invasion of pigs is the work of local sculptor Alan Dun, and each has been decorated by different artists and schools.

They will be dotted around the city until they are sold at auction on 31 October. The proceeds will go to the Sustrans Two Tunnels Project which aims to link the centre of Bath to the village of Midford on paths passing through two disused railway tunnels, one of which is a mile long. Midford's main attraction is a 19th century folly castle, recently bought by Nicolas Cage. www.kingbladudspigs.org