

COMMUNITY NEWS FROM NORTH HERTS COUNCIL



# OUTLOOK

GET ACTIVE

ELECTIONS

COMMUNITY LOTTERY

WHAT'S ON



## SPRING IS BAA-RILLIANT IN NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Picture credit: Standalone Farm

SPRING 2022

[www.north-herts.gov.uk](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk)

## CONTACTING NORTH HERTS COUNCIL

Most North Herts Council services can be accessed online. Find out the date of your next waste collection, apply for a licence, report an issue, register to vote or pay a bill, all through our website: [www.north-herts.gov.uk](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk)



## OTHER WAYS TO CONTACT US:

Phone: 01462 474000



[www.facebook.com/northhertsDC](https://www.facebook.com/northhertsDC)



@NorthHertsDC

• North Herts Council is committed to equal opportunities and our  
• aim is to make our services easy for all residents to use. If English is  
• not your first language or you have difficulty reading this document  
• please contact us to discuss how we may be able to assist you.

• Please call: 01462 474000, or email [service@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:service@north-herts.gov.uk)  
• Textphone (for textphone users) on: 01462 474800



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“ MAKING NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE  
A VIBRANT PLACE TO LIVE,  
WORK AND PROSPER ”

# North Herts Council's Leadership Team

In this edition of Outlook we're featuring North Herts Council's Leadership team.

North Herts Council is led by Anthony Roche, Managing Director and supported by six Service Directors. Find out a bit more about them below.

## Anthony Roche – Managing Director

I work with councillors on the strategic vision for the council and lead on the council's response to the pandemic. My aim is that we are an outward-looking and modern council that is easy to deal with.

My background is as a solicitor. I joined North Herts Council in 2008 as a solicitor in the legal team, before progressing to be Monitoring Officer, to Deputy Chief Executive and to Managing Director in 2020.

I have spent the majority of my life living in Hertfordshire and have family who live in the district, so have a personal interest that we deliver a brighter future together.



## Steve Crowley – Service Director - Commercial

My directorate works alongside other service areas and external agents in a bid to generate income, create savings, identify efficiencies and invest on behalf of the council.

After finishing university, I worked in the leisure sector. I started working for North Herts Council in 2001 as an Operations Manager at Hitchin Swimming Centre, then progressed to Contractors and Projects Manager. In 2018 I was promoted to Service Director – Commercial.

I love visiting the North Herts Museum with my family. I was heavily involved in this project, so seeing people enjoying it fills me with pride.



## Ian Couper - Service Director - Resources



I am responsible for services that include HR, accounts and property. These services are mostly there to support other staff to deliver their roles, so may not be very visible externally, although the property team recently installed solar panels on the roof of our office building. I started work at Hertfordshire County Council in 2003, where I did an accountancy qualification, and joined North Herts Council in 2016. I have two young children and spend a lot of time in the district's parks and play areas.

## Ian Fullstone - Service Director - Regulatory



My key responsibilities include planning, parking, environmental health, housing and building control. I joined North Herts Council in 1990 as an apprentice within building control. The council supported me through my degree and professional qualifications to become a qualified building control surveyor, a career which I loved. My entire thirty-year local authority experience has been at North Herts rising to Building Control Manager, then Head of Service to Director of Regulatory today. I've gained valuable experience as a school governor, supporting a school in Letchworth for almost 20 years, and have also had the pleasure of living in Letchworth.

## Sarah Kingsley - Service Director - Place



I am responsible for overseeing our waste and recycling services, leisure facilities, green spaces, our communications and emergency planning. I am passionate about delivering customer focused services and ensuring we engage effectively with residents.

My background is in communications and public affairs with previous roles in renewable energy and transport. I joined the council in 2010 as Communications Manager and was promoted to Service Director last year.

One of my favourite places in North Herts is Weston Hills nature reserve near Baldock - a great place to get away from it all with my dogs, as well as spotting the odd Longhorn cow!

## Jo Dufficy - Service Director - Customers



My priorities are focused on making sure our wide range of services are available and accessible to all and that as a council we are easy to deal with - something we have committed to do in our newly launched Customer Service Strategy, by putting our customers at the heart of everything we do.

I have just had my ten-year anniversary of working for North Herts Council and prior to that I worked at the City of London.

Although not originally from North Herts, I have lived in the district for many years. I love living here and enjoy the open spaces we have.

## Jeanette Thompson - Service Director - Legal and Community



The areas I oversee cover front facing services like community protection, licensing and community engagement, as well as the support areas such as democratic services (arranging Council meetings and elections), the legal section and policy. I am also the Monitoring Officer, trying to ensure that officers and councillors maintain the highest standards of conduct.

I have been with the council since 2015 - and having worked in other authorities I can say that North Herts is a great place to work, with colleagues and elected councillors striving to do their best for the district. In the changing landscape of local government, we hope that the council is now more adept at engaging with the community and trying to get it right.



# FREE

# GYM OR SWIM PASS

Find out what's on offer at your local leisure centre. Enjoy a free gym or swim session and see how exercise can help improve your lifestyle. For more information, visit [www.sll.co.uk/free-pass](http://www.sll.co.uk/free-pass) or scan below.




Woodcock Rd, Royston,  
Hertfordshire, SG8 7XT  
[sll.co.uk/royston](http://sll.co.uk/royston)



Fishponds Road, Hitchin,  
Hertfordshire, SG5 1HA  
[sll.co.uk/hitchin](http://sll.co.uk/hitchin)

**NORTH HERTS  
LEISURE CENTRE**

Baldock Rd, Letchworth,  
Hertfordshire, SG6 2ER  
[sll.co.uk/north-herts](http://sll.co.uk/north-herts)



# ARE YOU READY TO COMMIT TO AN ACTIVE YOU?

With spring around the corner, it might be time to review, restart or refresh how active you are in your day-to-day life. You may have started the year with a resolution, but now is the time to turn this pledge into a habit.

We all have daily habits that we might not even think about – such as brushing our teeth, that morning cup of coffee, commute to work or a set nighttime routine. But how do you make keeping active a habit?

Many people try and create healthy habits the wrong way, such as making a bold New Year resolution to start exercising and lose weight or complete a marathon by the summer, without running a mile. Some people succeed at continuing their resolution throughout the year, others may find that after a few months the commitment dwindles. The key to success is setting ourselves up to form healthy habits.

To create a new habit the best way to succeed is to start small, make it easy, do something every day and reward yourself with mini milestones. You might start with a morning stretch session after you have brushed your teeth, walking to work, or walking the kids to school instead of jumping in the car.

Stevenage Leisure Limited (SLL) is on hand to help you form your new habits and succeed. The group operate the North Herts Leisure Centre in Letchworth, Archers Health & Fitness in Hitchin and the Royston Leisure Centre under a contract with North Herts Council. All their leisure centres have a fantastic

range of equipment and facilities to help you get active. The teams can help you to develop your activity plan which might include an early morning gym session, a pilates class to help you unwind and relax, or even a dip in the pool.

SLL is offering a free gym or swim pass at your local leisure centre so you can see how healthy habits and keeping active can help improve your lifestyle. For more information on how to get your pass, take a look at the ad on the opposite page.



“  
The key to success is setting ourselves up to form healthy habits.  
”



# WASTE & RECYCLING

## Save your clothes from landfill and help the planet

The fashion industry accounts for about 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions – that's more energy than both flying and shipping – and it is estimated that £140 million worth of clothing is sent to landfill each year.

So instead of throwing out old clothes and buying into fast fashion, think about repairing, donating, selling, swishing or swapping. Unwanted clothing can also be recycled via your kerbside recycling collections. You can include clothes, paired shoes, towels and bed linen – just put them in non-reusable plastic bags (please don't use black sacks or charity donation bags), tie them up to keep the contents dry and put them next to your grey bin on your usual collection day.



## Amp up your recycling – don't forget those batteries

They may be small but they are highly toxic and when old batteries are thrown away in your household rubbish, they end up in landfill where they could corrode and leak harmful chemicals into our soil and waterways.

It's easy to recycle alkaline batteries through your kerbside recycling collections. Pop them in a plastic bag you cannot reuse such as a bread bag, tie it up and place on top of the lid of your grey recycling bin. They have to be kept separate as they go to a different recycling centre.

You can also drop them off in dedicated bins at supermarkets and other shops as well as your local recycling centre.



## Recycling electrical and electronic equipment

Small household appliances such as vacuum cleaners, irons, kettles and toasters as well as TVs and computer equipment should not go in your purple bin.

Waste electrical and electronic equipment (known as WEEE) cannot be sent to landfill so before disposing of it please consider:

- if the item is still working, can it be passed on to someone else you know or online?
- if it isn't working, could it be repaired via a local repair person or repair café?
- does it need a replacement part? Parts can be much cheaper than buying new.
- can it be returned to the supplier? Some items such as TV set top boxes and larger white goods can be picked up by your new or old supplier.



If none of these options work for you, please recycle your WEEE at your local recycling centre.



# LOVE FOOD, HATE WASTE

Want to save £100s this year and help save the planet at the same time? Food waste is one of the largest contributors to climate change and it is estimated that families waste around £720 worth of food a year.

By adopting small changes in our behaviour – planning our meals better, only buying what we need, storing food properly and knowing the difference between best before and use by – we can all make a big difference, and fill our wallets and stomachs instead of our bins!

Food Waste Action Week takes place from 7 to 13 March, so why not use this week to start some good food habits:

- introduce an 'eat me soon shelf' in your fridge, so you know exactly what needs eating first
- swap some fresh fruit and veg to frozen
- unless you know you can get through it all, store bread in the freezer.

For more ideas, tips and information follow us on social media and join our Facebook group **Waste Warriors** or visit [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com)



## Eat more veggies

With spring in the air it's a great time to think about how you can eat more fruit and vegetables and less meat, not only for health reasons but it will also help tackle climate change. Here are some top tips:

**Grow your own fruit and veg** – it is likely to be more nutritious as you can eat it when it's completely fresh so it won't have lost as many nutrients or have a carbon footprint through being transported.

**Buy local and eat what's in season** – this reduces the carbon footprint of transporting food over long distances. Challenge yourself to create a meal entirely out of locally-sourced food!

**Eat more plant-based meals** – try using plant proteins like beans, nuts, pulses or meaty mushrooms.



The Great British Spring Clean – the nation's biggest mass participation environmental campaign takes place between 25 March and 10 April – grab a litter picker and get involved!

As well as local parish and town councils, we have over 70 volunteers in our Adopt an area scheme who look after areas of land in North Herts.

If you want to get involved in the annual Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean check locally if something is happening already. Please register any events taking place on our website. We have litter picking kits available for groups to borrow and can also arrange to collect your bags of rubbish.

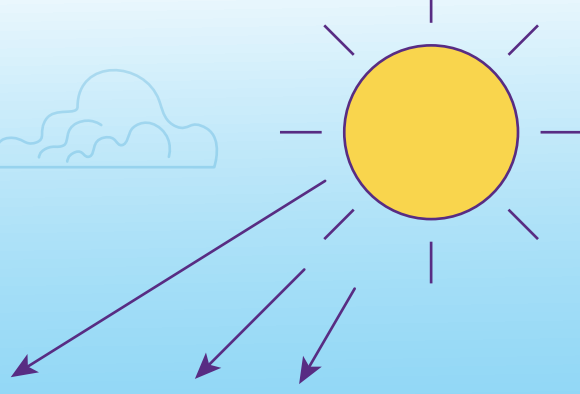


Therfield Residents' Group

Thank you to the wonderful groups, volunteers and organisations who have litter picked throughout the year!

## Give your street a spring clean

For more information and to book your litter pick visit: [www.north-herts.gov.uk/community-litter-picking](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/community-litter-picking)



# World Water Day:

## 5 ways you can conserve water at home and make a big difference

### Catching rays on the roof

Solar panels have been installed on the roof of our office building in Letchworth to help reduce our carbon emissions and save money.

They are expected to generate more than 10,000 kWh of electricity and save around 5.3 tonnes of carbon each year. The estimated financial saving during the 25-year lifetime of the panels is over £60,000.

The reduction of carbon is roughly the equivalent of more than 6,500 trees growing for one year so this is great news for the environment.

Installing solar panels is just one of a number of measures the council is taking as part of our Climate Change Strategy, having declared a climate emergency in May 2019. We have already switched to renewable electricity and green gas in our buildings and we are looking at providing additional electric car charging points in our car parks.

Look out for details of a new innovate scheme the council is exploring for residents who would like solar panels installed.



Every year World Water Day is celebrated on 22 March in a bid to increase awareness about saving water. Here are some suggestions of how you can reduce your water usage.

#### TAPS

Turning off the tap when you brush your teeth can save up to 6 litres of water a minute and a dripping tap can waste up to 15 litres of water a day, which is 5,500 litres of water in a year! Try to turn off the tap when you brush your teeth and get that dripping tap fixed.



#### SHOWERS

A five-minute shower uses half the water of a full bath. Consider timing yourself in the shower to keep it as short as possible and turning the water off when you're not rinsing. Putting a plug in when you shower can also show you how much water you are using – you can even use this saved water to water your plants!

#### TOILETS

The older your toilet, the more water it is likely to use for flushing. Old toilets can use over 10 litres for one flush. Whether your toilet is old or new, you can still save up to 5 litres of water a day by using a cistern displacement device in your toilet – this can be as simple as placing a small bottle filled with stones and water (with the bottle lid on) in your toilet cistern.

#### DRINKING WATER

Waiting for the tap to run cold is estimated to waste up to 10 litres of tap water a day per household. Consider filling a jug with tap water and keeping it in your fridge – this will also help to keep your fridge cool and use less energy!

#### DISHWASHER AND WASHING MACHINE

Did you know that washing a full machine load of clothes uses less water and energy than two half-loads? The good news is that dishwashers and washing machines are better for the environment than cleaning by hand, but it is important to ensure, as much as possible, that they are fully loaded before we turn them on.



It is worth considering investing in water-efficient goods when you need to replace household goods. Installing a water butt to your drainpipe can also collect around 5,000 litres of water a year which can be used to water your plants or clean your car and wash your windows.

For more information and ideas, check out [www.waterwise.org.uk/save-water](http://www.waterwise.org.uk/save-water)





# INTO THE WILD



As the weather gets warmer, you may notice that some highway verges are being left to grow a bit longer and may look wilder than usual.

As part of our efforts to increase local biodiversity and wildlife habitats, we have instructed our grounds maintenance contractor John O'Conner to reduce the frequency of grass cutting in some areas of our four main towns, Letchworth, Hitchin, Baldock and Royston. With fewer vehicle journeys taking place, the move will also dramatically reduce the council's contribution to carbon emissions.

On average we'll be halving the frequency of grass cutting of certain highway verges, so vehicles

will be going out six to nine times a year instead of 12 to 14, resulting in a positive impact on the local environment. You may notice the difference more in the summer with cutting taking place once a month rather than every two to three weeks.

Traditionally North Herts has had a relatively high frequency of grass cuttings compared to other areas so this will bring us more in line with other councils.

Grassed areas in parks and cemeteries will not be affected.



## 10,000 EXTRA TREES GROWING

Thanks to everyone who took part in our tree giveaway and planted a sapling at home.

By nurturing a tree, you have helped improve local biodiversity and air quality, and reduced your own carbon footprint to help tackle climate change.

One resident sent us this lovely comment: "One of your fantastic hazel trees has been happily planted in its new home (pictured), thank you for this great initiative."

## Check out the sensory trail at Howard Park this spring

Have you taken your kids to the new and improved Howard Park in Letchworth yet?

A wobbly bridge, concave and convex mirror panels and sound cones – so you can hear the faintest whisper across the playground – help form a brand new sensory trail designed to stimulate the senses which include sight, hearing, movement and balance.

Additions to the play area also include a roundabout designed for older children and a sand pit climbing frame, or giant sandcastle!

Six-year-old local resident Matylda (pictured) said:

"I have been here before but I love the new stuff. My favourites are the mirrors, they're really fun."

We worked with Groundwork East on this project.

We regularly review how we can improve our greenspace and Howard Park – which includes play areas for all ages and abilities – was identified for improvements through consultation with residents. We have just carried out a greenspace survey which was open to all residents to find out what you value most and what our priorities for greenspace should be – the results will be published soon.



# Repair café @Hitchin Hackspace set to return on Saturday 19 March



Do you have something that needs fixing? Prefer to mend it than throw it away?

Following a successful event at Hitchin Hackspace back in November, the Repair café @ Hitchin Hackspace, in collaboration with Plastic Free Hitchin, will host its first event of the year on Saturday 19 March 2022 from 11am.

The repair cafe operates out of Hackspace, located at 67 Bancroft. The building was renovated using funds from North Herts Council's Hitchin committee and locality budget from a Hitchin County Councillor. North Herts Council are keen supporters of the cafe and has assisted the group with signage for their events and promotion.

Every year thousands of repairable household items go to landfill because their owners don't have the time, skill or tools to repair them.

The Repair Cafe is run entirely by volunteers and enables members of the public to bring their damaged items for volunteers to give them a new lease of life, preventing thousands of repairable household items from going to landfill every year.

Suggested items to bring to the Repair Café include electrical appliances, clothing, furniture,

“ Every year thousands of repairable household items go to landfill ”



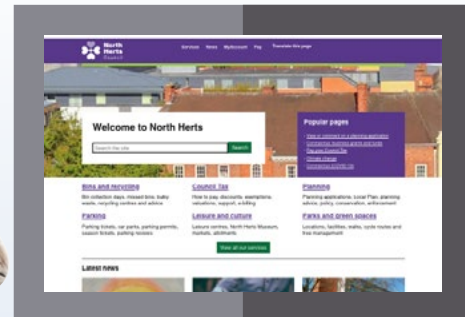
crockery, housewares, bicycles and toys etc. Anything that's broken (which you can manage to carry on your own to the Repair Café) is welcome and has a good chance of getting properly repaired. If it can't be repaired on the day, you can get advice as to what needs to be done and how to attempt to repair it safely yourself.

Book your repair online and enjoy a cuppa and a cake whilst you wait.

The event is also an opportunity for the community to get together, get to know each other, help and learn from each other!

If you have a talent for fixing electrical, electronic or mechanical items, garden tools, bicycles, textiles, jewellery or clothing and you'd like to help at the repair sessions, please get in touch.

For more information visit: [www.facebook.com/plasticfreehitchin1](https://www.facebook.com/plasticfreehitchin1) or contact: [hitchinrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:hitchinrepaircafe@gmail.com)



## NEW-LOOK WEBSITE

You may have noticed that our website has recently had a makeover and been rebranded with our new logo and shorter name (North Herts Council).

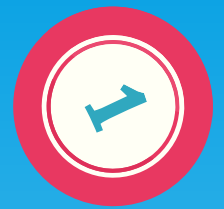
We hope you agree the visual design of the new site is a vast improvement on the old one. It has been designed to be more accessible than the previous site, meaning it can be used by people with a more diverse range of needs and abilities.

We're also in the process of reviewing and rewriting information across the site, but we're keen to get your feedback now. If you have any comments or come across any issues then please get in touch ([www.north-herts.gov.uk/contact-us](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/contact-us)). You can send us your comments about a specific page by clicking on the feedback link which appears at the bottom of every page.

Our new logo – four hearts representing a flower and our drive for sustainability – was launched alongside the new website and was designed in house. You'll see it being rolled out gradually across things like signs and vehicles as and when they need to be updated or replaced, so as to avoid unnecessary additional costs.



# Support local good causes and be in with a chance of winning a weekly **£25,000 jackpot!**



We're launching a Community Lottery as a fun and creative way for local voluntary and community groups to raise much-needed funds. The Community Lottery allows players to choose the charity, voluntary group or community organisation they want to support when they purchase their lottery ticket(s).

Tickets cost just £1 per week with 50p from every ticket sold going to a chosen charity, voluntary group or community organisation across North Herts. As well as supporting a good cause, players have the chance to win a weekly jackpot of £25,000 if they match six numbers. Other weekly prizes are also on offer such as £2,000, £250, £25, or three free tickets.

## How to purchase North Herts Community Lottery tickets

Visit [www.NorthHertsCommunityLottery.co.uk](http://www.NorthHertsCommunityLottery.co.uk) where you will be able to choose a good cause, set up a preferred payment method and purchase a ticket!

If players do not wish to support a specific organisation, they can still take part and donate 50p of their ticket price to the 'good causes fund', which will be distributed by North Herts Council via a community grants scheme.

## Are you part of a local good cause, and interested in signing up?

Each organisation that signs up will receive a personalised webpage on our North Herts Community Lottery website, as well as a range of marketing material to promote and encourage your supporters to play.

Visit [www.NorthHertsCommunityLottery.co.uk](http://www.NorthHertsCommunityLottery.co.uk) to sign up online or alternatively please contact [support@NorthHertsCommunityLottery.co.uk](mailto:support@NorthHertsCommunityLottery.co.uk) or **01462 520015**.

**The first draw will take place on Saturday 19 March.**

Terms and Conditions apply. Visit: [www.NorthHertsCommunityLottery.co.uk](http://www.NorthHertsCommunityLottery.co.uk)



## Council Meetings

All meetings are held at 7.30pm unless specified below. Please check our website for venue details [www.north-herts.gov.uk](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk)



| DATE       | COMMITTEE                                 |
|------------|---|
| 1/03/2022  | Hitchin Committee                         |
| 2/03/2022  | Standards Committee                       |
| 3/03/2022  | Southern Rural Committee                  |
| 8/03/2022  | Royston Committee                         |
| 9/03/2022  | Joint Staff Consultative Committee (11am) |
| 9/03/2022  | Letchworth Committee                      |
| 14/03/2022 | Baldock Committee                         |
| 15/03/2022 | Overview & Scrutiny Committee             |
| 16/03/2022 | Finance, Audit and Risk Committee         |
| 17/03/2022 | Planning Control Committee                |
| 22/03/2022 | Cabinet                                   |
| 23/03/2022 | Council                                   |
| 31/03/2022 | Planning Control Committee                |
| 20/04/2022 | Planning Control Committee                |
| 26/05/2022 | Annual Council                            |



# LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

From previous productions including Dr Foster and The World's End, to the recent Landscapers series on Sky featuring Olivia Colman, North Herts is the place to be for filming!

The latest programme to hit TV screens will be teen drama, Tell Me Everything, featuring rising British talent as well as the main council building in Letchworth! It's due to air on ITV2 soon.

There's always an exciting buzz when filming is taking place in one of our towns or sites. We welcome filming in the district and do all we can to ensure that any filming is carried out with as little disruption to residents as possible. We are currently working on a filming

policy to encourage more film and television companies to come to the area and to promote our lovely District. Filming production can generate a great revenue stream for the council and we know residents love spotting local hotspots once productions air.

North Herts offers a diverse range of locations – rural settings, woodlands, picturesque villages, historic market towns and the world's first garden city, Letchworth.

If you are looking to do any filming in North Herts, we would welcome your request via our website: [www.north-herts.gov.uk/filming](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/filming)



## Love your North Herts High Street

The pandemic has had a big effect on our town centres, which is why we've been doing all we can to support local traders and those working in the hospitality industry.

In the lead-up to Christmas we launched a campaign to encourage residents to support their high street, as part of our Welcome Back project.<sup>1</sup>

To help boost sales for our towns' traders we urged residents to support their high street and buy Christmas presents locally. The consumer shift to online shopping has been widely reported, however if residents make the switch back to town centres there's many

economic and environmental benefits to be gained. The latest research<sup>2</sup> reveals that for every £1 spent with a local independent business, between 50p-70p circulates back into the local economy, that includes more employment in the area. Heading into town and supporting local businesses helps to cut unnecessary mileage from delivery vans and goods being sourced from overseas, which in turn reduces our carbon footprint.

The campaign included a series of free 'Love Your Herts High Street' bag giveaways, where we handed out free tote bags at events in towns



across North Herts to encourage shoppers to reuse shopping bags when popping into town.

1. Supported by the North Herts Reopening the High Streets Safely and Welcome Back projects which are receiving up to £264,340 of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020.
2. Independent Retail Month





# Royston & Hitchin

## community wellbeing days

from the North Herts Healthy Hub

FREE WELLBEING TALKS AND FAMILY ACTIVITY SESSIONS



### Royston

Market Hill Rooms, Fish Hill, Royston, SG8 9JL

2 Mar - Messy Play for under 5's

16 Mar - Dance workshop for 1-4 year olds

30 Mar - Low impact exercise class for adults

6 Apr - Fun with food for Easter for 1-10 year olds

20 Apr - Pottery painting for adults

4 May - Movement to music for 1-4 year olds

18 May - Low impact adult movement class

Session times vary - please contact the hub for more info and booking.

### Hitchin

Westmill Community Centre, John Barker Place, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 2PG

7 Mar - Fun with food for under 5's

4 Apr - Fun with food for Easter for 1-10 year olds

9 May - (am) Movement to music for 1-4 year olds

9 May - (pm) Low impact exercise class for adults

Free NHS health checks for age 40 to 74 years

Session times vary - please contact the hub for more info and booking.

Numbers are limited so must be pre-booked by emailing [healthyhub@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:healthyhub@north-herts.gov.uk) or calling 01462 474111



## Keep warm and save money

With the rise in energy costs, did you know you might be eligible for help with the costs of energy efficiency measures in your home?

You could save money, be warmer and help fight climate change!

### Warmworks 0808 196 8255

This government funded scheme is open to homeowners, private tenants and people in social rented accommodation, where the home has a low energy rating and a low annual income. Measures include:

- wall, loft and hot water tank insulation
- double/triple glazing to replace single glazing
- energy-efficient doors
- air source, ground source, and hybrid heat pumps

- biomass boilers
- thermostats and heating controls.

### Energy Efficient Home Scheme 01422 880100

This scheme offers grants to households on low incomes and means tested benefits. In some cases, qualifying homeowners and private renting tenants can get the full cost covered for:

- first time central heating
- cavity wall and loft insulation.

**Scam warning:** Please be cautious if you receive any phone calls, texts, emails or doorstep calls from any traders presenting themselves to you. Our contractors may approach you if they think you are eligible, but they won't make you sign anything on the spot. You can then contact the provider or the council to check the details.



Trading Standards advise not to do business at the door and don't be rushed into making a decision before ensuring you are satisfied they are legitimate.



# ONE DAY WITHOUT GENOCIDE

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place internationally every year on 27 January, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. It's for everyone to remember the six million Jewish people murdered during the Holocaust and other mass genocide.

To help younger generations deepen their understanding of genocide and ensure that it forms no part of their future, we invited children and young people from across the district to enter a competition, based on the 2022 theme 'One day'.

The winning art pieces (pictured) were featured during the council's HMD event, in partnership with North Herts Interfaith Forum.

Charlie, age 15, won the creative writing with some dramatically imaginative diary entries from April 1945, written in the first person of a concentration camp survivor. He dedicated it to one of his relatives whose tank was the first to enter Bergen-Belsen concentration camp during the liberation.

For more information visit [www.north-herts.gov.uk/HMD](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/HMD)



## North Herts heroes honoured

Community-minded residents who have gone above and beyond to make a real difference will be celebrated in March at the Chair's Community Recognition Awards.

Judges included Cllr Val Bryant, Chair of the Council, representatives from Willmott Dixon as sponsors, and Georgia Barrow, Editor of The Comet.

Winners will receive a beautiful, engraved glass trophy and gift voucher.

Find out who won at [www.north-herts.gov.uk/awards](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/awards)



## Do you want a rewarding career where you can help others?

### Then become a Shared Lives Carer.

- Make a real difference to someone's life.
- Receive an income and tax free allowance.
- All training provided; no previous experience needed.



Sharing the ordinary to create the extraordinary

Scan me!



# WHAT'S ON

this Spring

## EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

### HITCHIN TOWN HALL

**25 March, 8pm**

**80s vs 90s Pop Night**

8pm-midnight, £8pp (over 18s only).

Tickets on sale: [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com)

### HITCHIN

**14 May**

**Hitchin Eco Day**

A fun day for the whole family to explore sustainability. Shop eco-friendly products, learn about environmental campaigns and have fun at the interactive activities.

The event is a collaboration of Plastic Free Hitchin and Hitchin BID.

### ASHWELL

**5 March**

**Ashwell's Famous Flea Market**

All sorts of weird and wonderful things for sale. Free entry, tea/coffee available.

**8 May**

**Ashwell at Home –  
A day of wellbeing**

Open gardens, free workshops, live music, funfair. £8 adults (under 18s free with paying adult) or £7 in advance from the website, proceeds go to Ashwell Museum, Church and School.

[www.ashwellathome.org.uk](http://www.ashwellathome.org.uk)

### BALDOCK

**5 June**

**The Baldock Big Lunch**

Baldock high street

[www.baldockeventsforum.org.uk](http://www.baldockeventsforum.org.uk)

### BARKWAY

**7 May**

**Barkway Village Market**

Church Lane

Over 120 stalls including craft fair, refreshments and entertainment.

£3 per adult. [@barkwaymarket](https://www.facebook.com/barkwaymarket) on Facebook and Instagram.

### HOLWELL

**2-9 July**

**Holwell Scarecrow Festival**

Join Holwell's 6th annual Scarecrow Festival and vote for your favourite scarecrow! All money raised goes straight to The Garden House Hospice to support their incredible work. <http://holwellscarecrows.org>

### KIMPTON

**29 April-2 May**

**Kimpton Art Show**

St Peter & St Paul Parish Church  
An exhibition/sale of artwork from a wide genre of talented artists, part of Kimpton May Festival. [www.kimptonartshow.co.uk](http://www.kimptonartshow.co.uk)

## Paddington™ comes to town!

The brilliant touring exhibition from the British Library, *Paddington: The Story of a Bear*, is coming to North Herts Museum from 19 March to 26 June. Follow his trail of marmalade splats to explore his tales of adventures in this educational and fun exhibition.

Celebrate one of the world's most beloved fictional characters over 60 years on from when he was first introduced in 1958. Featuring over 50 books, documents and original artworks, highlights include the first edition of *A Bear Called Paddington* by Michael Bond given to his parents, a selection of memorabilia owned

by Michael Bond – including Bond's typewriter used in the 1960s – and original illustrations of Paddington stories by artists including Peggy Fortnum, David McKee and R.W. Alley.

Join us for a marmalade sandwich-fuelled trip down memory lane – an average visit lasts 30 minutes.

North Herts Museum is located in Brand Street, Hitchin, open Tue-Sat 10.30am-4.30pm and Sun 11am-3pm, admission is free.

Visit: <https://northhertsmuseum.org> for more information.



# Elections May 2022



**Elections to North Herts Council will be taking place on Thursday 5 May 2022 as well as some Town/Parish elections.**

You must be registered to vote in order to have your say at these elections. If you are not already registered, the quickest and easiest way to do so is online, at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote).

The process takes only a few minutes – you just need your national insurance number to hand. Applications must be submitted before midnight on Thursday 14 April 2022 to be able to vote on 5 May 2022.

Voters have the choice of voting in person at their local polling station, by post or by proxy. There will be covid safety measures in place at the polling stations.

If you would prefer to vote by post, the deadline to apply is 5pm on Tuesday 19 April 2022. Postal Vote application forms can be downloaded from [www.north-herts.gov.uk/voting-post-or-proxy](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/voting-post-or-proxy) and may be scanned/photographed and returned via email to

[elections@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:elections@north-herts.gov.uk). Alternatively, you can post them to **Electoral Services, North Herts Council, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF.**

## Would you like to work at the elections?

If you are interested in working for us at the elections either on a polling station or at the count please express an interest by emailing [elections@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:elections@north-herts.gov.uk) with your contact information, the role that you are interested in and any experience you have previously. We will add you to our staff database and contact you should a position arise.

## The way you vote in district elections will change in May 2024.

From May 2024, district councillor elections in North Herts will be held once every four years (known as 'all-out' or 'whole council' elections),

instead of the current system of electing 'by thirds'.

District councillors at North Herts Council are currently elected 'by thirds', meaning that elections take place in three out of every four years, with one third of councillors being elected each time. The new arrangement from May 2024 will mean that all district councillors are elected at the same time for a four-year term of office.

The decision to move to whole council elections as of May 2024 was made at an Extraordinary meeting of Council on 7 December 2021 and applies only to district council elections. Prior to the decision, a public consultation was carried out with 54% in favour of the change and 46% wanting the system to stay as it is. To find out more visit: [www.north-herts.gov.uk/electoral-cycle-changes](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/electoral-cycle-changes)



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