

OUTLOOK



LEARN TO CYCLE

TREE PLANTING

HEALTHY HUB

WHAT'S ON



Celebrating 30 years of Outlook

FROM THE LEADER

“ In this 30th anniversary edition of Outlook, you will see examples of the work we have been doing across the Council to tackle the Climate Emergency, which we declared here in North Herts in May last year. From tree planting initiatives (pg. 8), to ditching blue plastic overshoes at our leisure centres (pg. 7), to introducing more efficient heating systems for eligible residents (pg. 9) and consulting on our emerging Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy (pg. 8), these are all examples of our commitment to taking meaningful action on climate change.

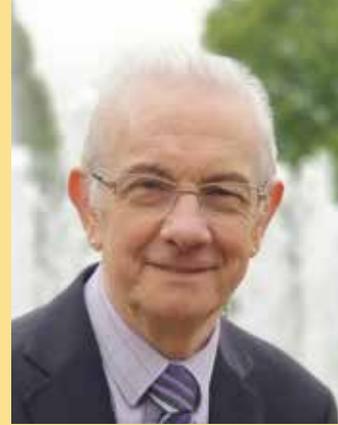
You may well be aware that we set up a Cabinet Panel on the Environment last year and we've

had some productive meetings and extremely useful insights from local residents and community groups as a result. We have also now set up a Climate Change Implementation Group of councillors and senior officers, as a coordinated way of taking forward this critical agenda and in January Cabinet approved a new Climate Change Strategy and action plan.

Finally, on our What's On pages (pg. 14/15) you can find out about events and exhibitions at the North Hertfordshire Museum in Hitchin. We have been extremely fortunate to secure an exhibition of prints made by world famous artist, Rembrandt

van Rijn, which are on display now! This fantastic exhibition will then be swiftly followed by a special exhibition of illustrative designs from Sir Quentin Blake, from the much loved Roald Dahl book, The BFG. We are incredibly lucky to have the Museum on our doorstep and I would encourage you to pop along, ” it's well worth a visit!

CLLR MARTIN STEARS- HANDSCOMB, LEADER OF NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



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CONTACTING NHDC

Most NHDC 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



OTHER WAYS TO CONTACT US:

Phone: 01462 474000



www.facebook.com/northhertsDC



@NorthHertsDC

In Person: Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth, SG6 3JF

- NHDC 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
Textphone (for textphone users) on: 01462 474800



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



North Herts 'stands together' at Holocaust Memorial Day Service



On Monday 27 January, we held a Service of Remembrance at Howard Gardens, Letchworth, to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2020.

Holocaust Memorial Day is an annual event for everyone to remember the millions of people, mostly Jews, murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. This year's event marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

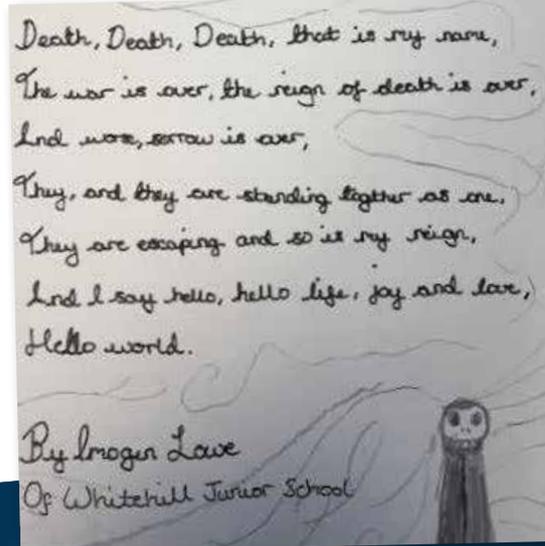
NHDC Councillors and members of the public gathered for a service led by Rabbi Alan Garber from Shenley United Synagogue with contributions from representatives of the North Herts Interfaith Forum (NHIF).

Prior to the event NHDC organised a poetry competition for children at local primary schools. The children were tasked with writing a poem connected to the theme 'Stand Together'. 70 poems were entered and a judging panel comprising of NHDC Councillors Martin Stears-Handscomb, Judi Billing and

decided upon a winner. Imogen Lowe from Whitehill Junior School was chosen and she read out her winning poem at the event. John Gohorry also read out a poem he had written especially for the event, entitled 'Stand Together'. An extract from Imogen's poem can be found below.



Ruth Brown alongside Nick Gill - Editor at the Comet and John Gohorry - poet in residence at David's Bookshop



30 YEARS OF OUTLOOK

In this edition we are celebrating our 30th anniversary of producing Outlook magazine. Despite major technological advances, Outlook remains one of our key ways of reaching residents with news about the Council and its services and is distributed to 56,000 households across the district.

In the very first edition, there are features on shopping in the 90s, a look at tea dances at Hitchin Town Hall and the development of Hitchin Swimming Centre, which was completed later that year. A competition was opened to name the new Hitchin Pool, with the

winning entry being Hitchin Swimming Centre! The then Chairman of the Council, Phil MacCormack took part in a charity parachute jump, and did you know that we even had our own double glazing fabrication unit?

To celebrate 30 Years, we have put our very first edition online, it is a fascinating read – www.north-herts.gov.uk/outlook

Finally, if you would like us to bring back the regular crossword in Outlook do let us know! outlook@north-herts.gov.uk



**RUNNING
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**



NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL



WILD CAMP



Wild Camp is a fun filled Ofsted registered holiday play scheme. Our friendly team are on hand to provide a jam packed day of exciting activities every school holiday for ages 3-12*. Full & half days available.

* From 3 years at NHLC and 5 years at Royston Leisure Centre

Swimming Bouncy Castle Trampolining Multi Sports Arts & Crafts Circle Games



Intensive Crash Courses

Crash Courses include intensive teaching and run during the school holiday period. The courses are designed to develop skills quickly. They are available to everyone, including to children already enrolled onto AquaEd and those who are not currently members.

Call or email your nearest centre to book your space.

www.sll.co.uk/aquaed



NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL



**Running
during
school
holidays**



Woodcock Rd, Royston, Herts, SG8 7XT
www.sll.co.uk/royston 01763 255 190

**NORTH HERTS
LEISURE CENTRE**

Baldock Rd, Letchworth, Herts, SG6 2ER
www.sll.co.uk/north-herts 01462 679 311



Cycling Lessons in North Herts

Balance Ability Courses

An exciting balance bike course for young children! Run over six weeks, the course is aimed at helping children (aged 3+) to gain confidence and to learn the basic cycling skills to enable a smoother transition to pedal bikes. These fun sessions include games which help improve each child's gross motor skills, balance, steering and caution control. Course costs £35 per person. Balance bikes and helmets are not provided (pedals can be removed from pedal bikes at the session).

- 1) Baldock, Knights Templar Sports Centre - Saturdays
4 April – 9 May, 1.15pm – 1.45pm
- 2) Hitchin, Westmill Community Centre - Saturdays
6 June – 11 July, 9.15am – 9.45am
- 3) Royston, Market Hill - Saturdays
3 October – 7 November, 9.15am – 9.45am

Learn to Cycle Lessons

Struggling to grasp how to ride a bike? This course is aimed at helping children, teenagers and adults gain confidence and learn the skills to ride a pedal bike. Run by an experienced

instructor, your 1-to-1 lesson will be tailored to suit your individual needs and ability. These one hour sessions will include activities which will help improve your balance, braking, hazard perception, control and how to use gears (if applicable). Sessions costs £15 per person. Must have a roadworthy bike with two working brakes and a correctly fitted helmet.

- 1) Hitchin, King George V Playing Fields
Saturday 7 March, 11am – 4.30pm
- 2) Royston, Priory Memorial Gardens
Saturday 16 May, 11am – 4.30pm
- 3) Baldock, Avenue Park
Saturday 5 September, 11am – 4.30pm
- 4) Letchworth, Grange Recreation Ground
Saturday 3 October, 11am – 4.30pm

Cycle Confidence Courses

Has your child mastered the art of pedalling but lacks confidence? Run over a week, this course is aimed at helping children aged 5-7 years gain confidence on their pedal bike

and build on their skills. These fun sessions include games and activities to improve each child's steering, braking, caution control, navigation and how to use gears (if applicable). Course costs £35 per person. Must be able to ride unaided for one minute (a bit wobbly is ok)! Must have a roadworthy bike with two working brakes and a correctly fitted helmet.

- 1) Letchworth, Grange Recreation Ground: 6 – 9 April, 9.30am-12pm
- 2) Royston, Priory Memorial Gardens: 27 – 31 July, 10am-12pm
- 3) Baldock, Avenue park: 17 – 21 August, 10am-12pm
- 4) Hitchin, King George V Playing Fields 26 – 30 October, 10am-12pm

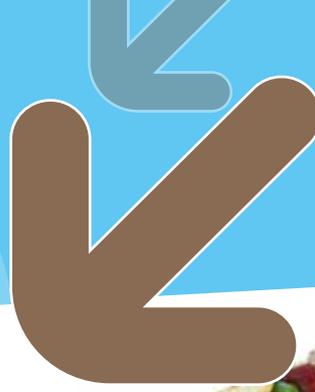
Updates on cycling courses and lessons can be found via our website <https://healthyhubnorthherts.co.uk> and on social media:



Search for: HealthyHubNorthHerts

Booking is essential for all courses. For more information, or to book a place please contact Megan Pinner on 01462 474838 or email active@north-herts.gov.uk

WASTE & RECYCLING



How to reduce your food waste



Each year, seven million tonnes of food waste is thrown out of UK households. This adds up to the average family of four throwing away £70 a month!

Here are some tips on how you can reduce your food waste so you can benefit the environment, as well as your wallet.

- Avoid food waste by making and sticking to shopping lists.
- Before planning a meal, have a look in your fridge and try to use up any loose fruit and veg. Visit lovefoodhatewaste.com for inspiration on how to use up leftovers.
- Make sure you are storing food correctly and that your fridge temperature is set to below 5°C, to avoid food spoiling early.
- Familiarise yourself with items that can be stored in the freezer – this includes bread, yoghurt, herbs and even cake!
- Remember to recycle any food waste that doesn't get eaten, such as vegetable peelings, teabags, eggshells, fish bones and plate scrapings. All these items can go in your food caddy, which is collected weekly from your kerbside and will then be turned into compost.

Be a #LITTERHERO



We are supporting the 2020 Great British Spring Clean, which runs from 20 March - 13 April. This campaign aims to inspire as many people as possible to clear litter from their local areas across Britain. Last year over 563,000 people got involved nationwide, helping to clean up beaches, parks and streets. This included 19 large groups in North Herts, who registered and borrowed litter pickers, hi-vis jackets and sacks from us.

If you are interested in holding your own community tidy up, please visit: www.north-herts.gov.uk/litter and complete the relevant form to request your equipment. This service is offered on a first come, first served basis, as we only have a limited amount of equipment.



Clothes swaps -
enjoy swapping,
not shopping



Clothes swapping is a fun, easy way to de-clutter and update your wardrobe. It's guilt-free shopping with no cost to you or the environment.

Taking part is simple – bring along unwanted, good quality clothes and earn tokens per item. During the swap time exchange your tokens for items which are new-to-you. At NHDC we recently organised our own swishing event for staff which went down a treat.



Why not host your own clothes swap event?

Get some friends, family, colleagues or a community group together for an inexpensive, sustainable and fun way to update your wardrobe!

Make use of free-to-hire equipment, including hangers, clothes rails and a free-standing mirror, plus tokens and posters from WasteAware so you have everything you need to make your event a success.

Hertfordshire WasteAware is the partnership of county, district and borough councils working together to reduce, reuse and recycle Hertfordshire's waste. For more information contact: wasteaware@hertfordshire.gov.uk.



EASTER IS AN 'EGGCELLENT' TIME TO REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE...

Have a reduced waste Easter this year by following these hints and tips:

- When buying chocolate eggs, opt for those in a single foil wrapper, without the plastic or cardboard packaging. This avoids excess waste and the foil can be recycled – as long as it's clean!
- If you do chose to buy an egg in a cardboard box, the box can be placed in your grey bin for recycling.
- Scrunching the foil wrapping into a ball and putting in your grey recycling bin will avoid smaller, loose bits of foil being missed at the recycling centre.
- Soft plastics such as bags for bread and hot cross buns cannot be recycled and will need to be put in your purple bin.



Changes to bin collections over Easter and May Bank Holidays

A reminder that bin collection dates will change over the Easter break and after the two May Bank Holidays. Please note that the early May bank holiday is on Friday 8 May to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. If you normally have a collection on a Friday, your bin will be collected on Saturday 9 May. All other rounds will be unaffected.

Bin collections will change as follows:

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Friday 10 April	Saturday 11 April
Monday 13 April	Tuesday 14 April
Tuesday 14 April	Wednesday 15 April
Wednesday 15 April	Thursday 16 April
Thursday 16 April	Friday 17 April
Friday 17 April	Saturday 18 April
VE Day Bank Holiday Friday 8 May	Saturday 9 May
End of May (Whitsun) Monday 25 May	Tuesday 26 May
Tuesday 26 May	Wednesday 27 May
Wednesday 27 May	Thursday 28 May
Thursday 28 May	Friday 29 May
Friday 29 May	Saturday 30 May



Leisure Centres in North Herts ditch the blue and go green

As part of our ongoing commitment to reduce single use plastics and tackle the Climate Emergency in North Herts, we've ditched blue plastic overshoes at Royston Leisure Centre, the North Herts Leisure Centre in Letchworth and the Hitchin Swimming Centre.

Stevenage Leisure Limited, who manage the centres on our behalf, successfully trialled the initiative in Royston in December last year, and are due to remove them at their centres in Letchworth and Hitchin this month.

This move will save almost 780kg of plastic waste in North Herts each year.

Alongside this, in a bid to reduce the use of single use plastic cups and bottles, drinking water fountains have also been installed at the three leisure centres.

Next time you visit the pools, please help us keep the changing rooms and poolside clean by going barefoot, bringing indoor only shoes, or purchasing flip flops from reception.

TREE-MENDOUS TREE PLANTING IN NORTH HERTS

Twenty two trees were planted this winter at a site in Letchworth, thanks to a collaborative project between NHDC and Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation (LGCHF). Tree species including lime, hawthorn, field maple and rowan mountain ash, were planted at the Temple Gardens Recreation Ground in the town. Larger mature trees were used to give instant impact and the planting programme has helped to visually enhance the site, provide food and shelter for wildlife and contribute positively to dealing with carbon emissions in the local area.

This project fits in well with an extensive tree planting programme we rolled out across North Hertfordshire this winter. Sites such as parks and recreation grounds as well as cemeteries, leisure centres and selected highway verges have all benefitted from additional trees being planted. These trees have replaced trees that have died, will restore tree avenues in cemeteries and will help in the fight against climate change as part of our Climate Change Strategy.

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This project fits in well with an extensive tree planting programme we rolled out across North Hertfordshire this winter.

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Pictured: Cllr Martin Stears-Handscomb, Cllr Steve Jarvis, Pam Burn and David Ames from the LGCHF

Photo courtesy of LGCHF



Your views wanted on using electric vehicles

As part of the Council's commitment to tackling the Climate Emergency, we would like to seek your views on electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging.

Whether you currently own or drive an electric vehicle, are considering buying an electric vehicle in the future, or have no plans to switch to electric, we would like to hear from you.

NHDC does not currently provide on-street charging points for electric vehicles, but we are in the process of developing an Electric Vehicle Strategy, which will set out the Council's role in helping achieve the Government's ambition of at least half of new cars to be ultra-low emission by 2030, and zero emissions from vehicles by 2050.

We cannot guarantee that our position will change, but we will use the results from this survey to help inform and shape our strategy.

Please go to www.north-herts.gov.uk/evstrategy to complete the survey, which should take between 5 and 10 minutes to complete.



Bringing beautiful flower beds to North Herts



Have you ever stopped to think about where the flowers in public flower beds come from? Twice a year, in June and October we plant annual flowers in beds such as the Pixmore Way roundabout in Letchworth, in front of the war memorial in Baldock and at Priory Memorial Gardens in Royston. The flowers put on a vibrant, colourful display and enhance the visual appeal of our towns and parks.

Flowers are grown for us by a nursery in Wisbech, Peter J Ward Nurseryman Ltd, which supplies us and 31 other councils in the UK. Orders for plants are placed in advance to ensure there is enough growing time for when we need them - winter bedding plants are ordered in May to arrive by October and summer bedding plants are ordered in December to arrive by June.

Plants are chosen for their colour, height, hardiness, drought tolerance, long flowering period and disease resistance. They are also chosen according to season; winter plants can include pansy, wallflower or polyanthus and summer plants can include begonia, petunia or

geranium, to name but a few. The plants are nurtured at the nursery in polytunnels where no heating, mains water supply, toxic fertilisers or pest deterrents are used. Water is supplied from a purpose built reservoir, seaweed is used as a natural fertiliser and garlic is used as a natural pest deterrent. All of these measures help to keep costs down and lessen environmental impact.

Flowers are then transported to North Hertfordshire ready for planting by John O'Conner, our grounds maintenance contractor. In total approximately 39,000 flowers are planted each season, matching planting patterns designed by our Grounds Team. The plants are then cared for by the John O'Conner team to ensure they have a long and healthy life throughout the growing season.

If wildflowers are more your thing, then look out for our spectacular displays on Letchworth Gate, Weston Way in Baldock, Cambridge Road in Hitchin and in Royston on the corner opposite the bus station, this summer.



Could you get free central heating?

NHDC is spearheading a group of three councils for the delivery of first time central heating systems in eligible households.

The scheme aims to install 100 gas central heating systems in homes across North Herts, East Herts and Hertsmere. For many, this will be their first central heating system and make a real difference, enabling residents to keep warm in their homes.

Together with energy experts, Yes Energy, East Herts and Hertsmere Council, we've secured over £230,000 from the nationwide Warm Homes Fund, established by National Grid, and administered by Yes Energy Solutions.

NHDC is also providing match funding to support installations in the area, while additional funding is being channelled in through the Government's Energy Company Obligation programme.

Am I eligible?

If you are a home owner or a private renting tenant, you currently have no radiators in your home and rely on inefficient room heaters or fires, you could get an A-rated gas-powered central heating system installed at no cost.

To qualify, you must either be in receipt of certain state benefits (e.g. pension guarantee credit, income support, tax credits, etc.), or have a low household income (typically below £20,000 after rent or mortgage costs have been paid). Householders who are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home could also receive support.

How to apply

For more information contact YES Energy Solutions on 01422 880 100.





We're passionate about
fulfilling
 residents' **lives**

At Care UK, we understand that choosing a care home can be stressful for everyone involved. The committed teams at our care homes deliver the very best in residential, nursing, respite and dementia care.

At Mountfitchet House and Knebworth, we'll support you to live each day the way you want: being pampered in the hair salon, growing veg in the gardens, or chatting to friends in the café.

We hope you like the sound of what our care homes have to offer but appreciate that there's lots to think about.

Get in touch with us to find out how we can help.



Knebworth care home
 59 London Road, Woolmer Green,
 Knebworth, Hertfordshire SG3 6JE
0333 3218 602
careuk.com/kebworth

Mountfitchet House care home
 Coltsfield, Stansted,
 Essex CM24 8LH
0333 321 1932
careuk.com/mountfitchet-house



Community reassurance events help tackle problems and deliver advice



Council staff were busy supporting community reassurance events in Hitchin and Letchworth in the run up to Christmas.

Organisations from the North Herts Community Safety Partnership held an Environmental Action Day at the Jackmans Estate in Letchworth on 9 December 2019.

The event was organised by NHDC and supported by Hertfordshire Constabulary, Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, NLS Services, Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, grounds maintenance contractor, John O'Conner and settle, the social housing landlord.

The aim of the day was to deal with issues relating to environmental crime and antisocial behaviour, as well as offering face-to-face advice to residents. As a result, four untaxed cars were clamped,

a fly-tip was cleared, which included a large wooden wardrobe and a bag of needles used for drugs found and cleared. Residents also raised concerns around items being left in flat stairwells, which could be a potential fire risk.

Meanwhile teams from the Community Safety Partnership also gave out safety advice at a community reassurance event in the Market Place, Hitchin on 3 December. Advice, information and support was on offer to help keep people safe during the festive period and avoid becoming the victim of crimes such as burglaries.

Officers from Hertfordshire Constabulary gave out crime prevention advice, while the Council's Housing Options team and settle were on hand to provide housing advice. NHDC's Environmental Crime Officers provided a wide range of advice, including how to dispose of waste legally to prevent fly-tipping,

and Licensing Officers reminded people to keep safe by ensuring they always use licensed taxis. Helping Herts Homeless and The Haven were also on hand to give advice on what to do if you see someone sleeping rough.

“

The aim of the day was to deal with issues relating to environmental crime and antisocial behaviour, as well as offering face-to-face advice to residents.

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HEALTHY HUB ARRIVES IN NORTH HERTS!

Healthy hub
North Herts

A new health and wellbeing service funded by Hertfordshire County Council and delivered by NHDC, launched in North Herts in January this year.

The healthy hub is a one stop shop where you can access health services, support and advice all in one place, making it easier to get help with a range of physical and mental health issues. Whether it's stop smoking services, help to lose weight, mental health support, encouragement to get more active or even advice on how to cut down on your drinking - your Healthy Hub can help you.

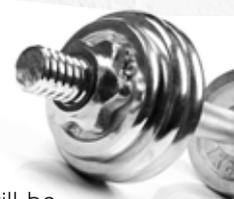
Services for the hub are currently accessible via phone on 01462 474111 or email: healthyhub@north-herts.gov.uk.

This month a pop-up hub will launch at dedicated local venues in the towns and villages across the district to enable as many people as possible to attend appointments.



Bookable appointments will be available with a health and wellbeing consultant who will be able to provide advice and make referrals to partner organisations where necessary.

Regular updates on the whereabouts of the North Herts Hub can be found via the website healthyhubnorthherts.co.uk and on social media, search for [HealthyHubNorthHerts](#)



North Herts dog owners urged to keep microchip details up to date

In North Hertfordshire we have a legal duty to deal with stray dogs that are reported to us.

We work with a dog warden service that collects these dogs on our behalf and the dogs are kennelled for seven days, during which time the owner can claim their dog.

Dogs that are collected in are immediately scanned for a microchip. The microchip will list the owners contact details, including their telephone number. The dog warden can use this information to call the owner and swiftly reunite them with their dog. All dogs collected should be microchipped, as it is now a legal requirement in the UK.

However, microchip details are not always kept up to date meaning if we locate a chip in a stray dog that does not have up to date contact details, we are unable to contact the owner to reunite them. After seven days of kennelling, if we cannot locate the owner, stray dogs are rehomed.



What's worrying you...?

Low Esteem

Stress

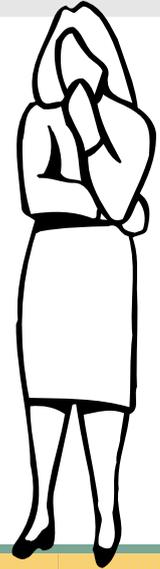
Anger

Anxiety

Low Mood

Come to a free introductory consultation with a qualified therapist in Knebworth

In total confidence call / text
07986 488690 or email
info@emotionalskills.uk



www.emotionalskills.uk

During one three month period last year, we collected 14 stray dogs. Out of those 14, 11 were microchipped and only one of those dogs had up to date contact details for the owner.

So just in case the worst were to happen and you lost your dog, if you change your address or telephone number, always remember to contact the company your dog's microchip is registered with to update your contact details.

For further information on stray or lost dogs go to:
www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/environmental-health/stray-and-lost-dogs

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We work with a dog warden service that collects these dogs on our behalf and the dogs are kennelled for seven days, during which time the owner can claim their dog.

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**Park & Pay
in North Herts
with PayByPhone**

PayByPhone will
be replacing RingGo
as of the **23rd March**

Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play

Extend Parking Remotely

Receive SMS Reminders

paybyphone.co.uk/northherts

paybyphone

**NH
DC**

Paperless Committee meetings

As part of the Council's commitment to tackling the Climate Emergency, all Councillors and NHDC officers now view Committee papers electronically, to reduce the amount of papers printed. If you are intending to come along to one of our committee meetings, we would also encourage you to view the papers online.

You can find the papers via the mod.gov app available in Play Store or App Store, or on our website at <https://democracy.north-herts.gov.uk/>. In the Council Chamber we have a free public Wifi connection

Thank you for your interest in what we do.

Council Meetings

COMMITTEES – 2 March 2020 to 20 May 2020 (7.30pm unless otherwise stated)

An audio recording is taken at all Council meetings (excluding confidential parts). The press and public also have a right to film and record at Council meetings and a protocol on this can be found here: www.north-herts.gov.uk/recordingmeetings

DATE	COMMITTEE	VENUE
5 March 2020	Cabinet Panel on the Environment	Council Chamber, District Council Offices
10 March 2020	Hitchin Committee	Westmill Community Centre, John Barker Place, Hitchin
11 March 2020	Joint Staff Consultative Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices
11 March 2020	Letchworth Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices
16 March 2020	Finance, Audit and Risk Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices
17 March 2020	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices
19 March 2020	Planning Control Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices
23 March 2020	Baldock and District Committee	Baldock Community Centre, Simpson Dive, Baldock
24 March 2020	Cabinet	Council Chamber, District Council Offices
26 March 2020	Southern Rural Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices
1 April 2020	Royston and District Committee	Royston Town Hall, Melbourn Street, Royston
2 April 2020	Council	Council Chamber, District Council Offices
16 April 2020	Planning Control Committee	Council Chamber, District Council Offices
21 May 2020	Annual Council	Council Chamber, District Council Offices

WHAT'S ON this Spring

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

MUSEUMS & THEATRE

BRITISH SCHOOLS MUSEUM

41/42 Queen Street, Hitchin, SG4 9TS
01462 420144
www.britishschoolsmuseum.org.uk

To 28 June

Dreamers, radicals and satirists: Hertfordshire's Inspired Writers

Explore how the county inspired its great writers such as Orwell, Shaw and Forster. Discover their friendship, their insights into society and their links with the county. For further details visit www.britishschoolsmuseum.org.uk

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE MUSEUM

Brand Street, Hitchin, SG5 1HX
01462 474554
www.north-herts.gov.uk/museum
Event details can be found at www.facebook.com/northhertsmuseum
Opening times: Tues – Sat 10.30am to 4.30pm, Sundays 11am to 3pm
Admission free.

22 March

Mothers Day 'Tea on the Terrace'

North Hertfordshire Museum are hosting 'Afternoon Tea on the Terrace' this Mother's Day in the museum's wonderful Terrace Gallery. Bring the whole family – children are welcome. Booking essential. For more information or to buy tickets call 01462 474554 or email hitchintownhall@north-herts.gov.uk.



To 19 April

Rembrandt in Print

Celebrating the work of world famous artist Rembrandt van Rijn - one of the greatest artists of all time. Prints made by the artist, spanning much of his career are on loan from the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

2 May - 21 June

The BFG in Pictures

If you are a fan of illustrator Sir Quentin Blake, you won't want to miss this. Celebrating one of Roald Dahl's much loved books, this exhibit shows a selection of illustrative designs from The BFG. On loan from The House of Illustration.

ROYSTON & DISTRICT MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

5 Lower King Street, Royston, SG8 5AL
01763242587
www.roystonmuseum.org.uk

21 March, 10.30am to 5pm **Royston Cave Experience Opening**

A new permanent exhibit showcasing artefacts from the Royston Cave. For the first time, a full, 3D, virtual reality exploration of the Cave will be unveiled, enabling year-round, step free virtual access to one of England's most mysterious heritage sites. Free entry.

16 April, 11am to 12 noon **Drag Queen Story Time**

A show for children aged 3-11 and their carers! Our Queen will read age-appropriate stories celebrating diversity, and lead nursery-rhyme sing-a-longs. We'll also provide arts and crafts. Free entry.



ASHWELL

7 March, 9.30am - 1pm **Ashwell Annual Flea Market**

St Mary's Church,
Ashwell

Pop along and bag a bargain at the annual village flea market. Free entry. Refreshments available.

Ashwell at Home

Celebrate all things Ashwell with entertainment for all the family. Includes open gardens, free workshops for children and adults, live music, funfair lunches, teas and much more! Entry - £8 adults, under 18's free with accompanying adult. £7 in advance from the website. www.ashwellathome.org.uk

BALDOCK

14 March, 10am and 1.30pm **Kevin F Sutherland's Comic Masterclass**

Baldock Arts and Heritage Centre,
High Street, Baldock

Learn how to create your very own comic strip. Brought to you by comic strip writer and artist of the Beano, Marvel comics et. al. Appropriate for both adults and children (7+yrs). Tickets cost £7.50 each and can be bought on the Heritage Centre website: www.bahc.co.uk

22 March, 3pm **Mother's Day Concert**

Baldock Arts and Heritage Centre,
High Street, Baldock

A special concert to celebrate Mother's Day. Classical songs from Schubert, Brahms, Dvorak and Puccini performed by soprano Laura Valentine. Entry £7, includes glass of Prosecco. £3 children (under 12yrs). Buy tickets at www.bahc.co.uk

TOWN & VILLAGE EVENTS

6 June, 3pm
Potter's Magic

Baldock Arts and Heritage Centre,
High Street, Baldock

Wizards and witches – listen up! A Harry Potter themed magic show for children is coming to Baldock. So whether you are team Gryffindor or Slytherin, this magic show will have something for you! Buy tickets on the Heritage Centre website: www.bahc.co.uk

BARKWAY

2 May, 10am – 4pm
Barkway Market

Manor Farm, Barkway

Barkway's annual quintessential English village market. Over 150 trade and craft stalls, food, bar, entertainment for all, including Royston Brass Band, miniature railway and new this year, Squirry Wirty! £3 entry per adult. Under 16's free. Find us on Facebook and Instagram @BarkwayMarket.

HITCHIN

For more information on Hitchin events go to www.hitchinherts.com

9 April, 2pm – 4pm
Bancroft Bunny Hunt

Hop into Easter and follow the trail to find the knitted bunnies hidden in shops along Bancroft. Sponsored by Molly's Tearoom.

2 May, 11am – 4pm
Sun Street Day

Join in the fun and help to celebrate the businesses and services Sun Street, Hitchin. With food, music and offers instore, it's not to be missed!

23 May, 10am – 4pm
Hitchin Art Hub Art Fair

Looking for some artwork to decorate your walls at home? Then why not buy from local artists who will exhibit and sell their work on the Market Place at this art-tastic event.

30 May, 11am – 4pm
Churchgate and Markets Day

The businesses of Churchgate join forces with Hitchin Markets and the local crafts and farmers markets to promote and celebrate this area of the town. Explore what they have to offer and grab a bargain while you're there!

KIMPTON

1 May, 6pm – 9pm and 2 & 3 May, 10am – 5pm

Kimpton Art Show
Parish Church, Kimpton

Over 100 artists gather to exhibit and sell their work at this annual celebration of art: paintings, photography, ceramics, glass and textiles. £5 entry to open evening on 1 May, £1 entry on 2 & 3 May. Visit www.kimptonartshow.co.uk for information.

LETCWORTH GARDEN CITY

For more information on Letchworth events go to www.loveletheworth.com

18 April
Health and Wellbeing Day

Letchworth Town Centre

Learn about your health and wellbeing, both at home and at work. Get tips and visit stands that promote mental and physical wellness, how to manage stress and different ways to keep fit.

16 May
Chilli Festival

Letchworth Town Centre

Chilli Fest UK returns for its third year to celebrate all things chilli! Hosting some of the best chilli producers from around the country, tantalise your taste buds at this tasty event!

30 – 31 May
Food and Drink in the Garden

Letchworth Town Centre

Food, drink, entertainment – the Food and Drink in the Garden event has it all! With more than 80 stalls ready to tempt you with their wares, pop along, grab a bite to eat and enjoy all this annual festival has to offer.



20 June – 5 July
Letchworth Festival

Letchworth Town Centre

Letchworthians come together at a series of events across the town to celebrate the best that Letchworth has to offer! Proms in the Park, Film Festival, Day of Dance are just some of the events to take part in.

For a full schedule go to: www.letheworthfestival.org

ROYSTON

Opens 11 April to end of September, opening times vary.

Royston Cave

Explore this unique, underground heritage site and delve into the mysterious world of the Templars. See website for opening hours and to book tour tickets www.roystoncave.co.uk

12 April, 10am – 12.30pm
Easter Chocolate Trail

Royston Town Centre

Follow the children's chocolate Easter bunny trail in town shop windows as you walk through the town.

8 May, 12.30pm – 4.30pm
Royston May Fayre

Priory Memorial Gardens

May Day fun for all ages, with arena events, children's fairground rides, miniature ride on trains, music, beer tent and more.



ARE YOU BREXIT READY?

If you are a non-UK European Union citizen or Swiss national, you and your family will be able to apply to continue living in the UK through the EU Settlement Scheme. If your application is successful, you'll get either settled or pre-settled status (depending on how long you have been living in the UK). You may be able to stay in the UK without applying, for example, if you're an Irish citizen or have indefinite leave to remain. The deadline for applications will be 30 June 2021 - or alternatively

the earlier date of 31 December 2020, if we leave the EU without a deal.

Details of how to apply can be found on this poster.

You can also get assistance by entering your postcode on this webpage and seeing what other organisations can help you in your local area:

<https://www.gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme>



Keep up to date with @NorthHerts

Are you keeping up to date with news in North Herts? Sign up to NHDC's email bulletin service called @NorthHerts, which delivers news from the Council straight to your inbox. There are a range of topics so you only need to sign up for what interests you, and you can change your preferences at any time.

Topics include latest news, events, waste and recycling, North Hertfordshire Museum, parks and countryside and Active North Herts. You can also use it to find out about any disruption to services, or to find out what job opportunities there are at the Council.

It is quick and easy to sign up, simply visit the @NorthHerts sign up page www.north-herts.gov.uk/subscribe to find out more.

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL 

NHDC WELCOMES EU, EEA and Swiss nationals

Scan this QR code 

or visit the web page below to apply under the Government settlement scheme:
<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>
Or search 'settled status'

To get help to apply online, contact us on 03333 445 675
You can also use Text message, text the word VISA to 07537 416 944 or email us at visa@we-are-digital.co.uk

We cannot give you advice on which visa to apply for, what information to put in your application, or an application already made.

