

COMMUNITY NEWS FROM NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

# OUTLOOK



CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT

RATCLIFFE PAINTING

SHOP SAFE SHOP LOCAL

CENSUS



# SPRING IS KING

IN NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Picture credit: Rob Addis

SPRING 2021

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

# FROM THE LEADER



I wanted to start by saying we know you are fed up with being told what to do and how to live your lives, we understand... we sometimes feel that way too. We all want to see our families, catch up with our friends and let grandparents hug their grandchildren. We understand you want to go back to the office, go out for dinner, or catch up with friends by means other than a video call.

The news of vaccinations means there is now real hope on the horizon and some of you will already have received your vaccinations - a truly fantastic milestone in combating this dreadful virus. The effort by our

colleagues in the NHS and the voluntary sector in particular, in running the vaccination programme has been phenomenal.

But we also see the huge pressure our local NHS services are still under, at the Lister Hospital and in our other NHS settings. People catching COVID and becoming seriously ill or sadly dying is no longer just something you hear about on the news, it is happening now in our communities to our mothers, daughters, husbands, sons and grandparents. So please don't be tempted to bend the rules, we need to work together to get through this. Every person who flexes the rules risks spreading the virus and

increasing the pressure on the NHS, as well as potentially putting their lives and those of others at risk.

If you do need help, please reach out to us or contact the Herts Help service by calling 0300 123 4044 or email [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net). Stay safe and we can look forward to better times ahead.

Cllr Martin Stears-Handscomb,  
Leader of the 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](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk)



### OTHER WAYS TO CONTACT US:

Phone: 01462 474000

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

@NorthHertsDC

- 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](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 ”

# Shining a light on Holocaust Memorial Day

27 January marked Holocaust Memorial Day, a day when the world remembers those lost during the Holocaust and other mass genocides.

NHDC held a virtual online event to commemorate the day, hosting the event on the Council's YouTube channel. The theme of this year was 'Be the light in the darkness' which encouraged people to not only reflect on what happened, but also to focus on the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness before, during and after genocide.

The event opened with a prayer and sermon from Rabbi Alan Garber of the Shenley United Synagogue, focusing on everyone's ability and responsibility to be a light in the darkness during difficult times.

Individuals from different faiths spoke about what the day means to their faith, reflecting on the importance of the day.

Stories were shared from Jewish families who settled in Letchworth Garden City before and after the Second World War and a video interview of Ivor Perl, a Holocaust survivor who was sent to the Auschwitz death camp aged 12, was shown.

Secondary school pupils, including Seren Prosser aged 12, won an NHDC competition asking pupils to write about what being a light in the darkness means to them, and their winning entries were read at the service. A competition was also held inviting primary school children to

create a poster around the light in the darkness theme and Imogen Prosser aged 10 was the winner.

Holocaust Memorial Day is held annually on 27 January, a date which marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

The service can be viewed on the Council's YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/user/northhertsdc](http://www.youtube.com/user/northhertsdc)

## HAVE YOU GOT YOUR CENSUS LETTER?

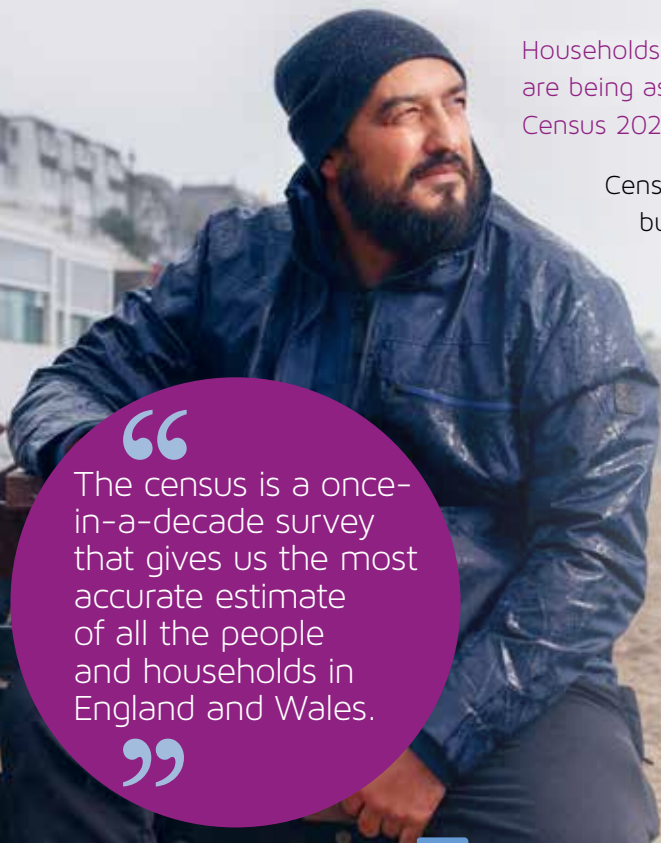
Households across Hertfordshire are being asked to take part in Census 2021.

Census day is on March 21, but households will now be receiving letters with online codes explaining how they can complete their forms. If you don't get one in the next couple of weeks, please get in touch with the census contact centre. You can also request a paper questionnaire if you'd prefer to complete your census that way.

Local census support centres will be open while the census is happening. Staff will offer help for people who are not confident online, who don't have a computer or need help completing on paper.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

For more information, and to find out how to get help, visit [census.gov.uk](http://census.gov.uk) or call the contact centre on 0800 141 2021.



“The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales.”

# WASTE & RECYCLING

## PPE litter a growing problem

PPE waste is sadly becoming an increasing problem in North Herts, with masks and gloves in particular, frequently found littered on our streets and in parks and public spaces.

Not only does this blight local areas, but it also risks spreading infection. Face masks, gloves and other forms of PPE are designed to protect people from infection, but poor disposal risks doing the opposite.

We would like to express our gratitude for the magnificent effort of council waste collection teams during the hugely challenging times of the past year, and for the vast majority of residents working hard to recycle waste and discard PPE responsibly.

Please be responsible and think carefully about how you manage and dispose of your waste, to help our waste collection crews.

If you need to throw away used face coverings, or PPE you should:

- Dispose of them in your purple bin if at home
- Take them home if there is no litter bin, or if the litter bin is full
- Do not put them in a recycling bin, as they cannot be recycled through conventional recycling facilities.



Help keep your bin crews safe

To help slow the spread of coronavirus and keep you and our collection workers safe, please remember to:

- Wash your hands before and after putting your bins out
- Disinfect your bin handles and lids
- If you have coronavirus, double bag and store any used tissues and PPE for 72 hours before being put outside for collection.

Thank you - together we can help maintain a good waste and recycling service for everyone during the COVID-19 crisis.

Wash and squash your recycling waste!



With people spending more time at home during the pandemic, our waste volumes have also increased, with extra home deliveries and more home meals being prepared. To help deal with extra recycling here are some top tips:

- Scrape out any food remains/ pour away excess liquid from your recyclable items.
- Give your recyclable items a quick rinse.
- Squash your recyclable items safely, either with your hands or under your foot.
- Tear any cardboard boxes into smaller pieces.
- Once you have put the items into your grey bin, push down on it all to make more space. Wash your hands after!



# RECYCLE EGGSTRA WASTE THIS EASTER

Did you know cardboard, moulded plastic packaging and foil from your chocolate Easter eggs and treats can all be recycled in your grey recycling bin?

There are plenty of ideas to help you use up any leftovers from your Easter meals, just take a look at [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com) or freeze items for another day. If you still have leftover food to dispose of, make sure it goes into your food waste caddy for composting, to avoid unnecessary waste going to landfill.



## Chocolate fridge cake

Why not have a go at this chocolate fridge cake, which is a great way to use up leftover chocolate Easter eggs, and makes a wonderful afternoon treat! You can use any plain type of biscuit, and use up any mixture of nuts or dried fruit you might have sitting in your kitchen cupboards. Visit: [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/recipe/leftover-chocolate-fridge-cake](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/recipe/leftover-chocolate-fridge-cake)

## Did you know that your fridge should be below 5°C?

The average UK fridge temperature is set at 7°C, which is bad news for milk and other food items kept in the fridge, as they can perish quickly when not stored at the right temperature.

Did you know the equivalent of 3.1 million glasses of milk are poured down our kitchen sinks every day in the UK? And that a family of four wastes £70 every month by chucking food away? What's more, the average UK household could make seven extra meals every week if it said goodbye to unnecessary food waste.

The good news is that putting a stop to this is easy. Set your fridge to the right temperature so that your milk and other food items can last three days longer. Use Love Food Hate Waste's simple tool to find out how: [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/article/chill-fridge-out](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/article/chill-fridge-out)

## Changes to bin collections over Easter and May Bank Holidays 2021

A reminder that bin collection dates will change over the Easter break and after the May Bank Holidays.

Easter bin collections will change as follows:

Normal Collection	Revised Collection
Friday 2 April	Saturday 3 April
Monday 5 April	Tuesday 6 April
Tuesday 6 April	Wednesday 7 April
Wednesday 7 April	Thursday 8 April
Thursday 8 April	Friday 9 April
Friday 9 April	Saturday 10 April

All collections will be one day later than usual following the early and late May Bank Holidays.

To check your collection day visit: [www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/waste-and-recycling](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/waste-and-recycling)

# COUNCIL SUPPORTS NHS TEST AND TRACE SERVICE

In recent weeks, NHDC staff and Councillors have been assisting the NHS and County Test and Trace services. Six members of staff and four Councillors have volunteered to contact residents confirmed as being COVID positive, but who have not been reached by the national NHS or County Test and Trace systems.

Known as 'Contact Door Knockers', the team will carry out at least two home visits for each referral within 24 hours if necessary. Once contacted, our team advises the resident of the essential need to self-isolate, checks their welfare, making sure they have access to food, medicine or any other essential items and provides contact details for HertsHelp – a network of community organisations for access to essential items, if assistance is needed.

If the team are unable to reach the resident, a letter informing them that they need to self-isolate and a HertsHelp information leaflet is left, along with a request that they contact the County Test and Trace call centre.

All door knocking visits are carried out safely, adhering to social distance requirements, and the team wear personal protective equipment. They do not enter people's homes.

Contacting people who are confirmed as COVID positive is critical, as is requiring them to completely self-isolate for the full duration of the time they are contagious. It is with the help of these and other committed colleagues that we can help reduce the spread of the virus.

For more information on NHS Test and Trace go to: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/)



## Healthy Start Vouchers – don't miss out

Are you pregnant or do you have a child under four?  
Did you know you could be missing out on free fruit and vegetables or milk?

If you are at least 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under four years old you could be entitled to Healthy Start Vouchers worth £4.25 per child per week, to spend on milk, plain fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables, and instant formula milk. You can also use them to buy pulses and canned fruit and vegetable as long as they have no fat, salt, sugar or other flavouring added.

The vouchers can be redeemed at local retailers.

If you are entitled to Healthy Start Vouchers you will also get free vitamins designed to help pregnant and breastfeeding women and growing children.

To be eligible you should be in receipt of certain means-tested benefits. Check your eligibility on [www.gov.uk/healthy-start](http://www.gov.uk/healthy-start)

You can pick up an application leaflet at your GP's or baby clinic. Alternatively you can phone for a form on 0345 607 6823 or download and print one from [www.healthystart.nhs.uk/healthy-start-vouchers/how-to-apply/](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/healthy-start-vouchers/how-to-apply/).

## Committee meetings

We are currently live streaming all of our committee meetings on the Council's YouTube channel.

We welcome public participation and hope that our meetings are now more accessible to residents.

If you wish to contribute on the items which are tabled for discussion, you can do so via Zoom.

Please check our website for dates and more information: [www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/council-and-committee-meetings](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/council-and-committee-meetings)

Concerned about debts?

Wondering which benefits you may be entitled to claim?

Questions about furlough?

Need to apply for settled status?

Your local independent advice charity, Citizens Advice North Hertfordshire can help you. They provide free, confidential and impartial advice on a range of issues, including benefits, debts, housing, relationships, employment and consumer problems. As well as a general advice service, they run a number of specialist services including homelessness prevention, energy switching, scams awareness, and crisis intervention.

Life is even more complicated than usual at the moment, and many of us are struggling with reduced incomes, job insecurity, relationship problems, and just how to stay on top of things. In the last nine months their team helped over 4,300 local people with nearly 9,000 issues and gained financial outcomes for them worth £1.1 million.

Over the past 12 months 92% of their clients said they would recommend them to others and 83% said they resolved their problem. Sorting out practical problems has a positive

impact on your mental health and wellbeing so do get in touch and see how they can help.

Their dedicated team are available to offer advice and information. You can contact them on 01462 689801 email them through the website [www.northhertscab.org.uk](http://www.northhertscab.org.uk).

### Calling all Letchworth residents

Citizens Advice have just launched a Letchworth Financial Health Project, available to all Letchworth Garden City residents.

This local project aims to improve the current and future financial education, support and wellbeing of our community, working with partners in Letchworth and identifying new and innovative ways of delivering money advice.

They have a new team of specialist advisers ready to assist with individual confidential advice.

If you need advice and support with debt or benefits now, call 01462 688014 or email [letchworthdebtandbenefits@nhdcab.org.uk](mailto:letchworthdebtandbenefits@nhdcab.org.uk) for assistance.

Later in the year they will be conducting Community Financial Capability Workshops to enable you to:

- Reduce your debts
- Improve your mental and physical wellbeing
- Maximise your income
- Support your family better
- Control your spending
- Find the best deals

For more information look out for the Citizens Advice Gazebo in the Garden Square Shopping Centre and at the Best Before Café, or email [letchworthfinancialhealth@nhdcab.org.uk](mailto:letchworthfinancialhealth@nhdcab.org.uk)

If you would like to support any aspect of their work, you can find details of volunteering opportunities and/or make a donation by visiting [www.northhertscab.org.uk](http://www.northhertscab.org.uk).



## Test and Trace Support Payment *deadline extended*

Residents who are financially struggling after being asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, can now claim financial support from the Test and Trace Support Payment fund until 31 March 2021.

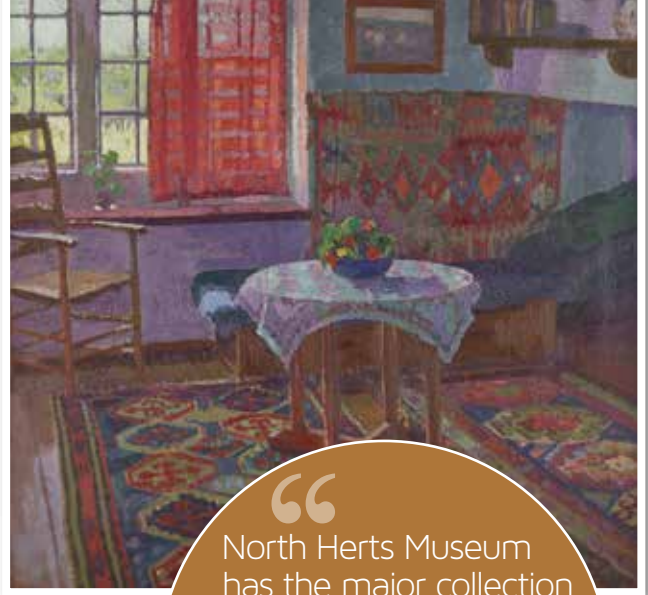
The Test and Trace Support Payments are a one-off lump sum of £500 per person if they have been asked to self-isolate, can prove they cannot work from home and are on a related benefit.

The fund, which was originally due to close in January, will now enable more eligible residents to self-isolate without the worry that they have no money coming in. Applications must be made within two weeks of the end of the isolation period.

A Discretionary Fund for residents who do not qualify for the Test and Trace Support Payment but need financial support to

self-isolate is also available. This enables us to support people who are self-isolating but fall outside of the standard scheme.

To find out more including eligibility criteria please go to: [www.north-herts.gov.uk/testandtracesupport](http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/testandtracesupport)



North Hertfordshire Museum has added a new oil painting by William Ratcliffe to its collection, after being the successful bidder at a London auction last winter.

The painting, called *The Red Curtain*, shows a corner of the living room in a house on the Wilbury Road, Letchworth Garden City, in 1916. Although Ratcliffe was penniless for most of his adult life, his oil paintings now sell for tens of thousands of pounds. Thanks to exceptionally generous grants from the Hertfordshire Heritage Fund, the Arts Council England/V & A Purchase Grant Fund and the Art Fund, the museum was able to buy the work.

North Herts Museum has the major collection of Ratcliffe paintings in the country, because he spent much of his life in Letchworth, and later lived

in Baldock. Born in Norfolk, Ratcliffe grew up in industrial Manchester, where he worked as a wallpaper designer. He moved to the new Garden City of Letchworth as a graphic designer around 1906, but soon gave up his job to become a full-time artist. He never managed to sell much, and from the 1920s was too poor to buy much oil paint and canvas, so instead spent time painting watercolours.

*The Red Curtain* shows one end of the open-plan living room of the house belonging to Stanley Parker, craftsman and art teacher at St Christopher School, whose brother Barry was one of the original Letchworth Garden

“North Herts Museum has the major collection of Ratcliffe paintings in the country, because he spent much of his life in Letchworth, and later lived in Baldock.”

City architects. Stanley Parker and William Ratcliffe were lifelong friends, and Ratcliffe lived with the Parker family on and off throughout his life. In the years before the First World War the Garden City, with its promise of a Utopian lifestyle, attracted many artists, designers and craft workers.

When COVID restrictions allow, and the museum reopens, *The Red Curtain* painting is displayed upstairs in the museum's Terrace Gallery and is well worth a look.

## Herts Careline - here for people when they need us most

The Council's Herts Careline community alarm service is making a huge difference to residents across the county who rely on their 24/7 community alarm and telecare service to support them living independently at home.

The control room takes thousands of calls from elderly and vulnerable people every week, providing emergency medical assistance for those in need. We have received many wonderful comments from residents and their families:

“Thank you for your care and attention in particular when I had to call on your services after an accident and the almost instant attention of a paramedic on the scene was most efficiently done. All power to your wonderful organisation.”

“I wish to express my thanks to the two engineers who visited me this week to test the battery in my alarm. They were the first people I have talked to in six months. They were kind, chatty and have made my Christmas. I am alone and isolated, but the two gentlemen cheered me

up so much I actually cried after they left. Loneliness and isolation are hell, but it was lifted briefly. Thank you.”

The service has seen in the region of 150-200 new customers join the service every month during the pandemic restriction period. The service is able to offer contactless installations (if requested) – providing equipment to the doorstep then guiding the resident to set up the equipment via the telephone from outside.

For more information visit [www.care-line.co.uk](http://www.care-line.co.uk) or call 0300 999 2 9999.





# North Herts Museum: busy during lockdown

The North Herts Museum may be closed to the public, but staff are busy behind the scenes, getting on with projects to improve the service we give you.

At the beginning of lockdown we uploaded a different photograph of the district each day onto our social media channels. This was hugely popular, with some images reaching over 2,500 people. We have also designated Friday as Football Friday, when we're uploading images from the football collection.

As well as using Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to keep in touch, we've created our own YouTube channel with a range of videos about the museum and some videos

especially for children and families. We've also been busy creating online resources on the museum website, including quizzes and a scavenger hunt. Schools who subscribe to the museum service now have their own section of our website, with presentations about the Greeks, the Fire of London and Florence Nightingale, and more to come.

During the last year, over 1,600 items have been added to our online catalogue, called eHive. This is available free for anyone to look at from home and is well worth exploring. The web address is [www.ehive.com](http://www.ehive.com) and if you type NHerts into the Search box you will find information on over 3,500 museum objects.

Finally, planning for our forthcoming exhibitions is well underway, including *The Tiger Who Came To Tea* this summer, followed by an exhibition of Brian Sawford's superb natural history photographs.



northhertsmuseum



Search 'North Herts Museum'



northhertsmuseum



@nhertsmuseum

## GETTING THE HEALTH HELP YOU NEED

With COVID-19 still dominating headlines, please remember that the NHS is still here for your other important health needs. Dr Tara Belcher, a Hitchin GP, explains how to get the help you need this spring.

Tara says: "The NHS is busier than ever. GPs have already vaccinated many thousands of patients in the priority groups against COVID-19, but we continue to be there for everyone who needs us for other reasons.

"How you get in touch with our GP practices may have changed over the past year, but you should still phone or go to your practice website if you are concerned about your health and need help. This is important especially if your problem is urgent, if your long

term condition is getting worse, if you are worried about your child's health or have a symptom that might be cancer. If you're concerned, please don't put off seeking help.

"When you contact your GP, the team will ask questions to find out how urgent your health needs are and which clinician would be best placed to help. This might be a nurse, a pharmacist, a GP, or another member of the team like a social prescriber or a physiotherapist. If you are calling for a routine issue like a blood pressure check, we may ask you to wait a few weeks before contacting us again.

"Don't forget that NHS 111 is there for you too. Visit [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk) or call 111 at any time to have your



Follow North Herts Museum

symptoms assessed and an appointment made with a doctor or nurse if you need one. NHS 111 is also a quick route to mental health help 24/7 – just choose option 2 when you make a call.

"Remember that pharmacists are also medicines experts and popping in for a quick chat can be a convenient way to get help with minor illnesses."

For more information visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)





## SHOP SAFE, SHOP LOCAL!

Launched in January, the campaign aims to encourage residents to make a pledge to support local businesses by shopping online during lockdown.

During the pandemic, towns across the region from Hitchin to Royston have worked tirelessly to offer shoppers an online experience. Many retailers now offer online shopping; whilst many cafes and restaurants are offering takeaways.

The latest research\* reveals that for every £1 spent with a local, independent business, between 50p-70p circulates back into the local economy.

By buying your meat from a local butcher or ordering a takeaway from a local café or restaurant, you will provide much-needed support to your local community.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a huge impact on shops, pubs and restaurants and NHDC is hitting back with its Shop Safe, Shop Local campaign.



Please support local businesses during the pandemic by purchasing local goods and services online where you can.

### How to shop safely

1. Make a pledge to support local businesses throughout 2021
2. Shop online from your local High Street retailer wherever possible
3. Give yourself a treat and order a takeaway
4. When shopping for essential goods and services abide by the physical distancing signage
5. In-store, wear a face covering at all times
6. Wash your hands and use hand sanitisers if shopping for essential goods
7. Handle as few things as possible, only pick-up what you want to buy

8. When you're making a purchase use a card and don't forget to bring your own bag
9. Avoid crowds and if there's a queue, call back later
10. Remember if you have any COVID-19 symptoms you must self-isolate.

The Shop Safe, Shop Local campaign is part of the North Herts Reopening the High Streets Safely Programme. The project is receiving funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. For more information visit: [www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding](http://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding).

\*Independent Retailer Month.

“  
We all love our high streets, and so we all need to do our bit to support local businesses.  
”

## The Healthy Hub Helps out

Throughout the pandemic many of our local services have been working hard to support residents with staying safe and well during a challenging year. The North Herts Healthy Hub were keen to support a couple of these local services with some essential funding to allow them to keep up their hard work.

A shocking rise in domestic abuse has been a distressing outcome of the pandemic and in North Herts we have sadly seen a substantial

increase in individuals and families needing support. Local domestic abuse support services have had their resources stretched and seen an increase in people needing help with emergency food supplies and essential welfare items. The Healthy Hub are working closely with local domestic abuse support specialists **Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA)**, by supporting the provision of essential fresh food and welfare items such as nappies and sanitary products.

Food support networks have also seen a strain on resources, with many people feeling the financial pressure that this year has brought. The **Best Before Café** have supported the residents of Letchworth and beyond by continuing their food rescue service, which allows individuals to rescue surplus food which otherwise would be going to landfill. The Healthy Hub have been able to part fund the fitting of a kitchen, so the Best Before team can continue to develop their service.





## Are you looking to let your property?

Do you have property in North Herts that you wish to rent out? If so, we would love to hear from you!

Our new scheme for landlords, **Lets4U**, has now been operating for several months and many landlords have already successfully let their properties through the scheme.

The Lets4U scheme was introduced to make the process of renting your property as easy as possible. As a housing team, we routinely work with many customers who are looking to rent privately. This means that we are ideally placed to help identify suitable, long term tenants for your property. We are able to provide a dedicated, personal service, including:

- Initial affordability assessments to ensure that prospective tenants are able to manage the rent and other outgoings
- Follow up tenant and property check after three months to ensure the settling in process has gone well
- Ongoing tenancy support and housing advice to both tenant and landlord
- Quick turnaround to minimise void periods.

Where appropriate, we may also be able to help prospective tenants with upfront costs, which will be paid directly to you.

We provide this service free, at no cost to you. This is because you are helping us to help our customers find a home.

We also welcome interest from lettings agents who would like to work with us.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Chloe Brazier on 01462 474288 or email [chloe.brazier@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:chloe.brazier@north-herts.gov.uk)



## Coronavirus – advice if your home is a House in Multiple Occupation

If you live in privately rented accommodation and share your home with others, this is viewed as one household with regard to COVID-19 regulations. When moving into a shared house you should self-isolate for 10 days before you move in, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to other members of the household.

If there is a COVID-19 case, all the household must follow the Stay at Home guidance for households with possible coronavirus COVID-19 infection, to reduce the spread of infection. Search 'Stay at home Guidance' on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) for full details.

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive, you must self-isolate immediately. You should:

- Stay away from other members of your household, especially clinically extremely vulnerable people
- Wherever possible, stay in your own room
- Use kitchen / bathroom facilities after other members of your household where possible, then clean
- Use separate towels / tea towels

- Keep your room well-ventilated
- Wear a face covering in indoor shared areas
- Don't go out to exercise.

If you don't know the people you are living with, or don't speak the same language, please contact our Environmental Health team by calling 01462 474000 and asking for Environmental Health, or email [Env.health@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:Env.health@north-herts.gov.uk)

### Guidance for landlords and tenants

GOV.UK provides guidance for landlords and tenants on the Coronavirus Act 2020. This law protects private tenants by ensuring landlords provide at least six months' notice of intended eviction, except in cases of anti-social behaviour, false statement or at least six month's rent arrears. This applies until at least 31 March 2021.

If you are worried about paying your rent, or if landlords are concerned for their tenants, advice is available from:

- Shelter  
[https://england.shelter.org.uk/housing\\_advice/debt\\_and\\_money\\_problems](https://england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice/debt_and_money_problems)
- Citizens Advice  
[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/)

# Local groups benefit from grant funding



Our Area Committees have been busy granting funding to various local groups and community projects. Here's a roundup of some of the most recent recipients:



## Letchworth Area Committee

**Norton Green Care CIC** is a Letchworth based project that supports vulnerable and socially excluded people by getting them involved in gardening. They recently received £400 for the installation of a new shed and portaloos at the site of their gardening project in Norton Road allotments. First launched in July 2019, the project gives ongoing long-term support to local residents, helping them overcome social exclusion, loneliness, isolation and mental health issues. They also support participants in taking the first steps into paid employment through collaboration with partner organisations including settle Housing Association Tenancy Support, Job Centre Plus and Create Community Networks 'Foundations 4 Work' programme.



## Southern Rural Area Committee

**FC Comets** run youth football teams for ages 6 to 18. The well-established club is based in Ickleford and received

£800 to purchase a new set of metal goal posts to facilitate games of football.

**Knebworth FC** received £300 to purchase two temporary shelters for use on match days, as they are currently unable to use the changing rooms at the pavilion on Knebworth Recreation Ground due to social distancing restrictions

**Offley Primary School** purchased COVID safe furnishings such as wipe down large bean bags, pop up tents, outdoor play equipment and a storage shed with a £1,250 grant. The school run an afterschool club which welcomes children from the local area.



## Hitchin Area Committee

**The Hitchin Quaker Meeting Peace Garden** was granted £2,000 to put towards the cost of a specially commissioned stainless steel sculpture called 'Unity'. The sculpture will comprise of two intertwined loops that seek to encourage thoughts

of connectedness and balance.

Working together with the Art Department of Hitchin Boys School to design the new sculpture, the Hitchin Quaker Group will commission Diane Maclean, Hertfordshire based sculptor and environmental artist, to create the Unity sculpture.

## Royston Area Committee

**1st Royston Scouts** received £796 to help buy eight new tents that will be used by more than 85 Scouts, Cubs and Beavers. The tents will be used for training experiences during the pandemic, such as learning how to pitch a tent and be used for camping excursions when COVID restrictions allow.

**7th Barkway Scout Group** received £795 to assist with purchasing tents, lightweight cookers, lanterns, storage containers, bush saws and water containers. The Scouts will be trained in how to use the equipment ready for camping excursions during 2021, when coronavirus guidelines allow.

**Melbourn Area Youth Development (MAYD)** received £902 to assist with the costs of running a series of workshops for young people from Royston. The funding will enable MAYD to run two six-week workshops for young people aged 13 – 19. Participants will have the opportunity to vote on the workshop themes, including music, dance, cookery, art, drama and sport.

