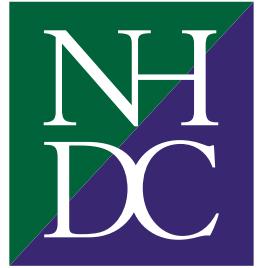


COMMUNITY NEWS FROM NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OUTLOOK



LEISURE CENTRES

ANNUAL REVIEW

WINTER HEALTH

SAFE SPACE



CARVING OUT A
BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR
NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

FROM THE LEADER

As we move into a new period of restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic, I wanted to reassure all of our residents that we are here to support you in any way we can. During lockdown we provided welfare support, gave homeless people a place to sleep, gave out business grants worth £27.5 million to over 230 businesses and we are working with other councils to protect our leisure services for the future. We have also set up a coronavirus community fund for groups who are delivering essential services during the pandemic.

It is important to us that you are always able to use our services. Did you know that most of them can be accessed through our website?

However, our staff are also still here on the other end of the phone should you need to speak to us.

We are confident we can keep our services running, and Councillors continue to listen to your concerns through online Town Talks and Surgeries, where we are unable to meet you in person. However, as cases rise, there is always the possibility of new Government regulations and / or staff absences, meaning that we may have to suspend services. The easiest way to keep an eye on any disruption to services is to sign up to our email alerts service (details on page 5).

We are all of course hoping that we can celebrate Christmas with our loved ones, but in order to give ourselves the best chance of doing that, I would urge you please don't be complacent and bend the rules. Let's help keep each other safe and keep our facilities open by continuing to wash hands, use a face covering and remain socially distanced from others. Remember – hands, face, space.

Stay safe, look after each other and
please reach out if you need help.

Cllr Martin Stears-Handscomb,
Leader of the Council

IN THIS ISSUE...

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

- 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 ”



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

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE COUNCIL



OFFICES CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19

NHDC's Council Offices remain closed to the public due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, our services are all fully operational and our teams are working hard to continue to deliver these to our communities.

If you would normally visit the Council office to get information and advice, you will find that many of our services are available online: www.north-herts.gov.uk. If you need further assistance, please call us on 01462 474000.

How we're supporting vulnerable residents during the pandemic

Throughout the COVID -19 pandemic our Homelessness & Housing Advice team have continued to provide a front-line service to support residents at risk of homelessness, as well as those who are already homeless and often in emergency situations. The team have successfully managed this process usually over the phone or at a safe distance.

If you need assistance, please visit the online housing assistance referral portal on our website www.north-herts.gov.uk to provide details of your situation. Alternatively, you can contact the Housing Options Team on 01462 474000 or email housingoptions@north-herts.gov.uk.



The advertising of social rented homes through the Council's choice-based lettings scheme, Home4U, was put on hold during lockdown, but is now back in operation. Customers who used the customer service centre to place bids on available homes, or need to apply for housing, can still do so on any PC, laptop, tablet or phone at www.Home4U.org.uk. If you don't have internet access, you could visit the local library, or please ask family, friends or a support worker to help place bids.

The Council's Herts Careline community alarm service has also continued to support thousands of residents across the county, helping them to remain independent in their own home during the pandemic. Customers have remarked how reassuring it is to have Careline at the end of their pendant alarm system. The service has continued to further support 100+ residents who join each month by offering contact-less installations (if requested) – providing equipment

to the doorstep then guiding the resident to set up the equipment via the telephone from outside, if people would prefer the installer didn't enter their home.

While many people have been isolated or shielding at home, having the Careline service has been a great relief to customers and their families that someone is there for them 24/7 if they're unwell. For more information visit: www.care-line.co.uk



Herts Careline
Because independence is important

“
The service has continued to further support 100+ residents who join each month by offering contact-less installations (if requested)
”



NO JOINING FEE

Your health has never been so important, that's why we're offering no joining fee* at our North Hertfordshire fitness centres. We have a range of memberships available which include the gym, swimming, classes and more. Our facilities are covid-19 response approved with spacious gym layouts, socially distanced studios and wide swimming lanes.

Join in centre or online at sll.co.uk with code OUTLOOK.



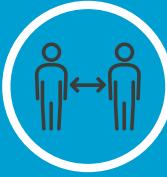
Enhanced cleaning regimes with cleaning stations throughout our fitness suites.



One way systems in all of our centres to safely get around.



Hand sanitising stations available throughout our facilities.



Two metre social distancing; classes, gym equipment and queues follow these measures.



Fishponds Road, Hitchin,
Hertfordshire, SG5 1HA
sll.co.uk/hitchin

lifestyles
at knights

Weston Way, Baldock
Hertfordshire, SG7 6EY
sll.co.uk/knights-templar

**NORTH HERTS
LEISURE CENTRE**

Baldock Rd, Letchworth,
Hertfordshire, SG6 2ER
sll.co.uk/north-herts

lifestyles
at pendleton

Stotfold Road,
Arlesey, SG15 6XS
sll.co.uk/pendleton



Woodcock Rd, Royston,
Hertfordshire, SG8 7XT
sll.co.uk/royston

Safety first for leisure centre visitors in North Herts

The national lockdown earlier this year saw an increase in the number of people taking an interest in health and fitness. Since reopening their doors, leisure centres in North Herts have welcomed existing customers and a number of new faces to their gyms, swimming pools and fitness classes, with many wishing to continue building on this new interest, to improve their health and fitness for the future.

Stevenage Leisure Limited (SLL) who manage and run North Herts Leisure Centre in Letchworth, Royston Leisure Centre, Hitchin Swimming Centre and Archers Gym, have worked tirelessly to make sure the environment is safe and secure for their customers.

Safety measures include:

- restricting numbers of visitors to allow for social distancing
- installing one way systems
- sectioning off areas in gyms and sports halls to make sure social distancing is adhered to
- widening lane swimming so swimmers have two metres between them
- sanitiser facilities for hands and gym equipment, with gym equipment sanitised after each use.

To find out more about measures to keep users safe go to:
www.sll.co.uk/re-opening/



KEEP UP TO DATE WITH OUR ALERTS

1.



2.



3.



Sign-up at www.north-herts.gov.uk/updates

Our e-bulletins are not just for coronavirus related information. You can sign up to receive news on topics such as parks and countryside, waste and recycling and news from the North Herts Museum and much more.

WASTE & RECYCLING

Autumn is the perfect time to clear your garden!

As the weather takes a turn, it can be tempting to stay huddled up inside enjoying your garden from the comfort of your sofa.



But before you go and grab that cuppa, autumn is the perfect time to clear your garden and get it ready for spring.

If you don't currently subscribe to our garden waste collection service, there is still time. Subscribers receive fortnightly collections until the end of September 2021. This year you also have the option of signing up via Direct Debit, meaning you won't need to resubscribe each year.

The cost of the service is £40 until the end of September 2021. If you are in receipt of council tax reduction you are eligible for a concessionary rate of £20 for the year.

For more details and to sign up visit
www.north-herts.gov.uk/gardenwaste



Disruption to Services

To be notified of any disruption to services due to coronavirus, or severe weather, sign up to our free text alert service at www.north-herts.gov.uk/textalerts. Alternatively why not sign up to our email bulletin service at www.north-herts.gov.uk/subscribe

You can also receive up-to-date information via Twitter @NorthHertsDC, www.facebook.com/northhertsDC or on our website.

Waste and recycling collections over the festive period

Look out for our Christmas bin hanger arriving in mid-December, which will detail changes to your collections over the festive period. You can also check this information on our website by searching for: 'Waste and Recycling Collection Calendar'.



HOW TO RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

For many people, the Christmas tree is the centrepiece of their festive makeover and a real tree is a must!

Fortunately, real Christmas trees can be effectively recycled – shredded into wood chippings which are then used in parks and woodland areas, or turned into compost.

If you subscribe to our Garden waste collection service, you can leave your real Christmas tree out next to your brown bin for collection on your usual collection day.

Alternatively, volunteers from Garden House Hospice Care will be collecting Christmas trees again between 6 and 11 January for a minimum donation of £10. Last year they collected over 600 trees and raised £7,700.

All the trees collected are shredded before being donated to local schools to be used in their playgrounds. Visit www.ghospicecare.org.uk to register for your collection.



What can and can't be recycled?

Wrapping paper

Wrapping paper cannot be recycled because it is often laminated with plastic, foil or other non-paper materials. Much of it is also contaminated by sticky tape which is not recyclable. Please place in your purple bin, or even better, reuse it to make party banners, gift bags, or iron it flat to reuse for next year.

Christmas Cards

These often have glitter or other components which disrupt the recycling process. They can be placed in your purple bin, or even better why not get creative and transform them into gift tags.



Plastic toys

These cannot be recycled in the grey bin, but you could take them to a charity shop if they can be reused, or to your local Recycling centre to be recycled. Alternatively, they should be placed in your purple bin.

Toothpaste tubes

These need to go into your purple bin as we cannot recycle them. You can however look for your local Terracycle group who may be able to accept these from you.



Shredded paper

This can be placed inside an old envelope to stop it blowing around, or wrapped in newspaper. Please do not put it out in plastic bags.

Tissues

These should be placed in your purple bin. We cannot recycle them, nor should they be placed in the toilet as they do not break down like toilet paper.

Disposable razors

Although these are made from plastic, we cannot recycle them and they need to go into your purple bin. You could consider a reusable razor to cut down your plastic waste.



Compostable plastic items such as cups and cutlery

Although we support efforts to move away from single use plastics, we are unable to recycle compostable plastics. They sadly have to go into the purple bin where they will break down in landfill, unlike their plastic counterparts. We would recommend reusable cutlery and cups that can be used time and time again without the need to be disposed.

Recycle even more with Terracycle

TerraCycle is an innovative recycling company that has become a global leader in recycling hard-to-recycle materials, such as contact lens packaging, water filters, bread bags, toothpaste tubes and even crisp packets. To find a collection point near you visit www.terracycle.co.uk

Annual Review

On these pages we take a look back at our financial year, from the start of April 2019 to the end of March 2020, to give you a picture of what services and projects we have been delivering and how we have been managing our finances.



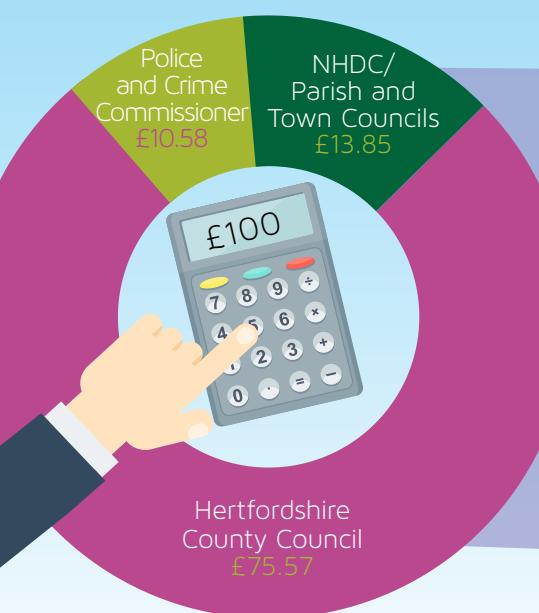
What we spent in 2019/2020

In 2019/20 NHDC managed to achieve budgeted savings of £610,000. This follows the achievement of savings of around £2.9 million in 2018/19 and £1.2 million in 2017/18. For the equivalent of just 63p per day for the majority of households, the services provided by the Council included refuse and recycling collections, leisure centres, parks,

grounds maintenance, housing benefits, licensing, planning, car parking, and environmental health.

The chart below gives a broad outline of the net spend by services (i.e. after allowing for income received). The Council's net spend in 2019/20 was just under £14.7 million, compared with just over £14.6 million in 2018/19. The chart excludes the Commercial Service Directorate, which generated net income of more than £450,000.

Of the 27% of our budget spent on the Place directorate, over half (64%) went on services such as refuse collection, recycling and street cleaning, the remaining was spent on services such as maintaining our parks and amenity areas and management of our leisure facilities. Of the 15% of our budget spent on Legal and Community, over £330,000, or 15%, was paid to local organisations in the form of grants.



How your Council Tax is worked out

We collect your Council Tax on behalf of ourselves, Hertfordshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Parish and Town Councils.

For each £100 that NHDC collects, £75.57 goes to the County Council, £10.58 to the Police and Crime Commissioner and £13.85 is retained by NHDC and the Parish and Town Councils.



The Current Situation 2020/2021

Our Corporate Objectives

In November 2019, Councillors agreed the following Council objectives for 2020/21:

- Be a more welcoming and inclusive council- Engage with and welcome the contributions of residents, community groups and businesses; working collaboratively with local people.
- Build thriving and resilient communities- Work on frequent and regular opportunities to improve the partnership and relationship that the Council has with local citizens.
- Respond to challenges to the environment- Provide a clean and safe environment, in consultation and partnership with local people.
- Enable an enterprising and co-operative economy- Become an increasingly innovative and inclusive Council, committed to generating community wealth, by seeking commercial and investment opportunities and through proactive engagement with a wider range of small and medium sized businesses to build a sustainable local economy.
- Support the delivery of good quality and affordable housing- Enable and support the delivery of good quality and affordable housing in the district, ensuring both new and existing housing is fit for purpose, including a commitment to consultation and ensuring communities have the infrastructure they need.



What have we delivered?

Key projects delivered in 2019/2020 included:

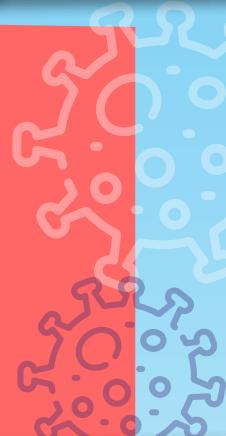
- The opening of the North Hertfordshire Museum and Hitchin Town Hall
- Completion of the Bancroft Recreation Ground Multi Use Games Area
- Renovation of Great Ashby District Park
- Declaring a climate emergency and adopting a Climate Change Strategy
- Installing a number of drinking fountains at our parks, outdoor pools and leisure centres to help cut down on single use plastics
- Ditching blue plastic overshoes at our leisure centres
- Launching a pop-up ice rink at Letchworth Outdoor Pool with our partners SLL



Supporting our communities through the coronavirus pandemic

Since the beginning of the financial year 2020/21, the Council has been working hard to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, with much of our resource dedicated to maintaining Council services and supporting the most vulnerable in our communities. As we now enter a new period of restrictions, it is increasingly important that supporting our communities through the pandemic remains our number one priority. When the restrictions are lifted, we will also need to work to support the recovery of impacted services, the operation of the Council and the recovery of our communities.

The projects we have identified to help us deliver our priorities are still important to us, however the timings for delivery may change and we will endeavour to progress them as we are able to.



Planned projects to support our objectives for 2020/21 include:

- Renovation of the play area at Howard Park in Letchworth
- Refurbishment of the changing rooms at North Herts Leisure Centre
- Replacement of items of play equipment at Holroyd Crescent in Baldock
- Replacement of items of play equipment at Wilbury Recreation Ground in Letchworth
- Renovation of the footpaths in the cemeteries at Wilbury Hills and St Johns, Hitchin.
- Supporting settle's regeneration of John Barker Place in Hitchin to provide new homes and better shops
- Installing additional electric vehicle charging points in car parks



LOCAL ELECTIONS

Local elections due to take place in May this year were postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic and will now take place on 6 May 2021.

The Electoral Services team have been busy conducting the annual canvass over the past few months. This is carried out in order to keep the electoral register up to date and involves contacting each household in the North Herts district to determine who is eligible to register to vote and then inviting them to do so. If you are not registered, you will not be able to vote in next year's and other future elections.

As part of this process it may be necessary for canvassers to visit properties that have not responded in order to get the necessary information. This will only be done if it is considered safe to do so and in line with current government advice.

At election time, why not save yourself a visit to the Polling Station and vote by post instead?

You can apply for a postal vote at any time of the year - you don't have to wait until an election is about to happen.

If you wish to arrange a postal vote, please complete the form on our website and return to the Electoral Registration Services team at the Council Offices.

www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/elections-and-voting/voting-post-or-proxy



Support payments for Covid-19 self-isolating workers

If you have tested positive for coronavirus or are contacted by the NHS Track and Trace Service, you must self-isolate immediately by law.

The Government has launched a Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is being administered by NHDC for residents in North Herts, to support those who cannot work after being told to self-isolate and are struggling financially as a result.

The scheme is for those who are on low incomes, in receipt of certain qualifying benefits, and are unable to work from home.

The Test and Trace support payments are a one-off, lump sum of £500 per person.

To be eligible you must:

- Have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace;

- Be employed or self-employed;
- Be unable to work from home and will lose income as a result;
- Be currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit.

The council will also have a discretionary fund for residents who do not qualify for the Test and Trace Support Payment but need financial support to self-isolate.

For further information on eligibility and to apply:

Visit our website:
<https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/testandtracesupport>

Email: benefits@north-herts.gov.uk
or call us on 01462 474597.



Anti-litter campaign highlights problem of litter in our parks



Five Councillors rolled up their sleeves and did their bit in the fight against littering in our parks back in September.

The litter pick event took place at Hitchin's Windmill Hill and was organised in partnership with The Comet newspaper, as part of our 'Don't be a Tosser' anti-litter campaign.

Councillors Martin Stears-Handscomb, Steve Jarvis, Paul Clark, Richard Thake and Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg competed to see who could pick the most litter in an hour. The winner, judged by Comet reporter and 'Hitchin Hates Litter' campaign manager Jacob Thorburn, was Councillor Dennis-Harburg, whose litter bag almost burst with the amount of litter collected.

The Don't be a Tosser anti-litter campaign aims to highlight the growing problem of littering and remind visitors it is their responsibility to help keep our parks and green spaces clear of litter, by binning it or taking it home with them and not tossing it on the ground.

Specially designed Don't be a Tosser campaign posters with a hard-hitting message, have been put up in parks and parishes across the district.

Windmill Hill in Hitchin and many parks and green spaces in the district have suffered from a great deal of littering since lockdown, due to increasing numbers of visitors to these sites. On some days during the summer, the equivalent of 8 to 10 litter



bins of additional waste were picked from the ground at Windmill Hill.

Please be responsible – bin your litter or take it home with you.

What's worrying you...?

Low Esteem

Stress

Anger

Anxiety

Low Mood

Free introductory consultation with a qualified therapist

We are offering online therapy via Skype, Zoom, FaceTime, or WhatsApp, so that you can access the help you need, wherever you are.

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



We now have a specialist in Child Psychotherapy at Emotionskills.uk

www.emotionskills.uk

“

Specially designed Don't be a Tosser campaign posters with a hard-hitting message reminding people of their individual responsibility not to litter, have been put up in parks and parishes across the district.

”



Housing repair help for low income households

Are you on a low income but need some help with home repairs or improvements? The Home Repair Assistance Grant may be able to help you.

The grant is designed to help provide practical help to help repair, improve or adapt a home, houseboat or mobile home - up to a maximum amount of £5,000.

The grant also provides assistance for elderly, infirm or disabled occupants, helping them to improve their living conditions by adapting

housing, improving security or funding essential housing repairs.

To qualify, applicants must:

- be 18 years or older
- live in the dwelling as their only or main residence, or care for an elderly, disabled or infirm person
- have an owners' interest in the dwelling, or be a tenant of the dwelling

- have a duty or power to carry out these works at the property
- be in receipt of income related benefit, working tax credit, attendance allowance, disability living allowance, war disablement benefit or industrial injuries disablement benefit

To apply go to www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/housing/advice-homeowners/housing-grants and fill out the Home Repair Assistance Grant enquiry form.

NEW 'SAFE SPACE' ARRIVES IN NORTH HERTS

A new 'Safe Space' where victims of domestic abuse can flee to safety when in crisis, has opened in North Herts.

The Safe Space is a house that provides a safe, secret location for victims and their families to shelter for up to seven days, giving them time to seek the help and support they need to escape domestic abuse at home, and to move on to the next stage of their lives.

Provided by Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA) and working in partnership with NHDC to help victims in North Herts, this is the sixteenth Safe Space that SADA have opened – others are located across Stevenage, Welwyn and Hatfield and East Herts.

This Safe Space was officially opened in September by NHDC Executive Member for Housing,

Councillor Gary Grindal, Stevenage Borough Council Leader Sharon Taylor and Stevenage Borough Council and SADA Domestic Abuse officers and is now in regular use.

SADA has close ties with Stevenage Borough Council after initially being based in the town as Stevenage Against Domestic Abuse, before branching out to help domestic abuse victims in other geographical areas, including North Herts, under its new name.

If you would like more information on SADA and the help they can provide, or to talk to one of their support workers, please contact them directly on 01438 242666 or email SADA@stevenage.gov.uk.



Pictured at the opening: Cllr Sharon Taylor, Leader of Stevenage Borough Council, Cllr Gary Grindal, NHDC's Executive Member for Housing and Sarah Pateman, Community Safety Manager, Stevenage Borough Council

More information about places to get help can be found on our website: www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/community/community-safety/domestic-abuse-support

“

The Safe Space is a house that provides a safe, secret location for victims and their families to shelter for up to seven days,

”



Winter health – help our local NHS services to help you

The COVID-19 pandemic means that the NHS is facing its biggest ever challenge. With staff and services under pressure and families across North Herts feeling the strain of life with the virus, it's more important than ever that people get the help they need, when they need it.

These are the things we can all do to be ready for whatever winter throws at us:

- Get your flu vaccination if you are invited by your GP. More people will be vaccinated this year – protecting them from flu and protecting NHS services from being overwhelmed.
- Visit your pharmacist for advice on medicines, or dealing with

common winter illnesses that don't need to be seen by a nurse or doctor.

- Remember that your GP practice is still there for you. To protect you from COVID-19, you will be asked to phone and make an appointment or use the practice's online service to get in touch. This is to ensure that face-to-face appointments can take place safely when they are needed.
- The website NHS 111 online - <https://111.nhs.uk/> - is a great source of urgent advice if your GP is closed. You will be contacted by a highly trained adviser or clinician by phone if you need help or medical treatment.

- Caring for your mental wellbeing is vitally important. Contact your GP practice for help if you're worried about your state of mind, or search online for 'HPFT self-referral'.

Finally, to help with your COVID-19 questions and concerns, Hertfordshire GP Dr Prag Moodley has put together some answers to frequently asked questions, which are available online: www.enhertsccg.nhs.uk/nhoutlook



Healthy hub North Herts

Struggling with your mental health?

Are you feeling isolated and lonely?

Looking for some advice on staying healthy and well?

The healthy hub team are here to find the right support that suits your needs.

The Healthy hub are here to support you!



NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



Call our hub coordinators today to have a free confidential chat on 01462 474111

👉 www.healthyhubnorthherts.co.uk 📩 healthyhub@north-herts.gov.uk

f @HealthyHubNorthHerts

t @HealthyHubNH

i @healthyhubnorthherts

WHAT'S ON

this Winter



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.

15 November - 31 January 2021 Frozen in Time: Early Photographs of North Herts

Step into the past at this fascinating exhibition, featuring over 40 photographs of Victorian and Edwardian North Hertfordshire. From the museum collections, images of towns and villages in the district give a glimpse into the life and work of people who lived here in times gone by. Available only on guided tours – book free tickets for Museum tours on the hour, or turn up at the Museum for tours on the half hour. Exhibition only tours are at 3pm and 3.30pm. Maximum of six people per tour. Book tickets at: <https://north-herts-museum.arttickets.org.uk/>



EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

BRITISH SCHOOLS MUSEUM

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

5 December, from 10am Christmas@TheSchoolyard

Experience a Victorian Christmas at the British Schools Museum! If you're looking for a unique present, the Museum's themed annual Christmas Fair has local crafts, homemade cakes and lots for chocoholics to eat. Fun activities for children to make and take home. Keep an eye out on the School's website for details of more Christmas events between 12 – 20 December. www.britishschools museum.org.uk



BALDOCK

Until 9 January 2021

Habitat: textile exhibition

Baldock Arts & Heritage Centre, High Street, Baldock SG7 6AR

Baldock Arts and Heritage Centre hosts 'Habitat' – a contemporary textile art using techniques such as quilting, weaving, felting, embroidery, dyeing and shibori. Artist led workshops are also available. Open every Wednesday and Saturday 11am - 3pm. For more information go to: www.bahc.co.uk/gallery

5 December Baldock Christmas Fayre

Baldock High Street

Got some Christmas gift shopping to do? Why not shop locally and visit the Baldock Christmas Fayre. A combination of Christmas craft and gift stalls – you'll be in the Christmassy spirit before you know it! Find out more at the Baldock Events Forum website. www.baldockeventsforum.org.uk

HITCHIN

24 November – 22 December, open daily from 10am – 5pm Hitchin Christmas Market

Market Square, Hitchin

Hitchin town centre businesses of all types will be setting up in traditional Christmassy chalets on the Market Square and offering a wide selection of products, including the best in Christmas gifts, stocking fillers and festive food and drink. All the current guidelines on social distancing and cleanliness will be followed to ensure that this Christmas can still be a cracker!

LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY

28 November Letchworth Christmas lights switch on

Garden Square, Letchworth Garden City Town Centre

Bring some merriment and sparkly Christmas joy to late November and turn out to see the great Christmas lights switch on in Letchworth. Ooo and ahh at the twinkly lights and watch the tree glisten as it lights up. For more information, including switch on time, go to the Love Letchworth website www.loveletchworth.com

ROYSTON

To 30 November Royston Arts Society Online Exhibition

Enjoy the best that the Royston Arts Society has to offer, without leaving the comfort of your own home. This 'virtual' exhibition features artwork from local artists, showcasing their skill and creativity in a variety of medias. To view go to <http://feedback.creativeroyston.org/>

All events may be subject to postponement or cancellation dependent upon government Covid-19 advice.



Photographic exhibition brings the past back to life

Have you ever wanted to step back in time? If the answer is yes, then a new exhibition at North Hertfordshire Museum can help you do just that.

Frozen in Time: Early Photographs of North Hertfordshire launches on 15 November and features over 40 historic photos that perfectly capture local moments from eras gone by.

Images show what it was like to live in villages and towns in the district in times past, giving a real feel for North Hertfordshire and the people that have lived here through the ages. Historic photographs include an 1887 photograph taken in Hitchin

of celebrations for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, as local people decked out in uniforms or their finery, pose for a picture in front of a procession float to mark the special event.

This exhibition follows on from the Sylvia Molloy painting exhibition and 'Where's Wally?' children's event, which have been very popular with visitors since the Museum reopened after lockdown.

Frozen in Time will run until 31 January 2020 and can be visited as part of a guided tour. Free tickets can be booked on the hour for



Museum tours or visitors can turn up at the Museum without booking for tours on the half hour. Exhibition only tours are at 3pm and 3.30pm. Maximum of six people per tour. The Museum opens Tuesday to Saturday 10.30am to 4.30pm and Sunday 11am to 3pm. To book tickets go to <https://north-herts-museum.arttickets.org.uk>

Council Meetings

09 November to 25 February (7.30pm start time unless otherwise stated)

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, all committee meetings are currently being held virtually via Zoom and are streamed live on our YouTube channel. Go to our website for further details.

DATE	COMMITTEE	DATE	COMMITTEE
9 November 2020	Cabinet Panel on Community Engagement and Cooperative Development	14 January 2020 5.00 pm	Council Tax Setting Committee
12 November 2020	Council	18 January 2021	Finance, Audit and Risk Committee
17 November 2020	Cabinet Panel on the Environment	19 January 2021	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
19 November 2020	Planning Control Committee	20 January 2021	Planning Control Committee
25 November 2020	Cabinet Panel on Housing, Strategic Planning and Transport	21 January 2021	Council
1 December 2020	Hitchin Committee	26 January 2021	Cabinet
2 December 2020	Royston and District Committee	1 February 2020	Cabinet Panel on Community Engagement and Cooperative Development
3 December 2020	Finance, Audit and Risk Committee	3 February 2021	Cabinet Panel on Housing, Strategic Planning and Transport
7 December 2020	Baldock and District Committee	8 February 2021	Licensing and Appeals Committee
8 December 2020	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	10 February 2021	Planning Control Committee
9 December 2020	Letchworth Committee	11 February 2021	Council
10 December 2020	Southern Rural Committee	23 February 2021	Cabinet Panel on the Environment
14 December 2020	Cabinet Sub-Committee (Council Charities)	25 February 2021 5.00 pm	Council Tax Setting Committee
15 December 2020	Cabinet		
16 December 2020	Joint Staff Consultative Committee		

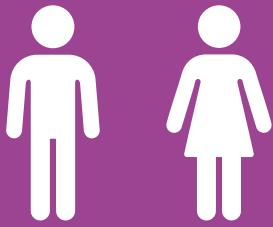
2020/2021

PLAY YOUR PART

Let's protect
North Herts



Wash your
hands



Keep your
distance



Wear a face
covering where
required



Isolate and
get tested
if you have
symptoms

For more information
on how to protect yourself
visit www.nhs.uk

