Hertsmere Arts and Culture Newsletter

Welcome



Welcome to the monthly 'We Are Creative Hertsmere' newsletter, produced by Hannah, Hertsmere's Creative Strategy Support Officer.

If you have any events or stories you'd like us to feature, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Hertsmere Year of Culture 2027 🎉

We're delighted to invite you to be part of the Hertsmere Year of Culture 2027 Opening Showcase at Allum Hall on Sunday 10 January, from 1pm to 4pm.

The event will officially launch a fantastic year-long celebration of creativity, culture, heritage and community across Hertsmere, bringing together local organisations, artists, community groups and residents.

Get involved: We are looking for local organisations to have a stall at the event. Use this opportunity to raise awareness of your organisation and showcase your work, projects and activities.

If you are interested, please get in touch and we can provide further details about the event and performance arrangements. Please email the YOC Team.

Grants 🎁

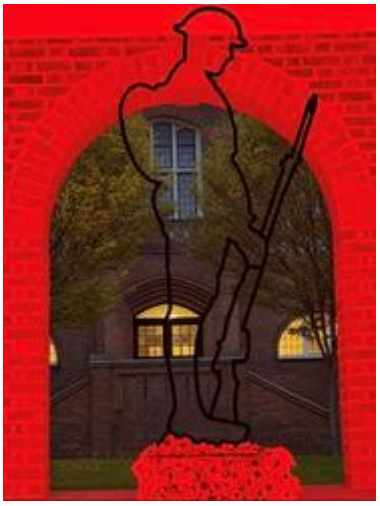
Community organisations and voluntary groups across Hertsmere are being encouraged to apply for grants of up to £500 to help deliver local events and activities during Hertsmere's Year of Culture 2027.

Applications for Round 2, covering April (Health & Wellbeing), May (Nature & The Outdoors) and June (Music), will open on Monday 4th January 2027.

Details on eligibility and the application process are available through the webpage Year of Culture Grants - Hertsmere Borough Council

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This month's highlights



Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday celebrations

This November, across the borough, Hertsmere residents commemorated those who gave their lives in the World Wars. Ceremonies were held in churches, schools, community centres and by civic services.

An internal display at the Civic Offices on the history of Hertsmere at war is now on rotating display in All Saints Church, Borehamwood and can be seen by the public for free.

Pictured: Tommy Silhouette photographed as part of the Grange Academy Bushey's Remembrance display.

New Community Garden opened in Aberford Park, Borehamwood

A new community garden was opened on 20 November 2026 in Aberford Park by Hertsmere Councillors, Communities 1st and Life Build. The garden was designed by a local pupil from



Monksmead School, who entered a landscape design competition earlier this year.

The judges stated that her design showed creativity, accessibility and sustainability. The garden now features new seating area, a herb garden and displays on the history of Borehamwood.

We are excited to see a new creative space that blends art, nature and community engagement, and look forward to seeing it used by residents and local groups visiting the Community Centre and park.

First Hertsmere Creative Futures programme complete!

Over the October half-term Hertsmere Borough Council, through its dedicated venture Hertsmere Creatives Futures, offered young people aged 11-17 living in Hertsmere the chance to step behind the camera and discover where a career in Film and TV could take them.

Thirty young filmmakers from Hertsmere have celebrated the success of the first programme, a free five-day Film and TV course, which saw them create their own original film and watch it premiere on the big screen at REEL Cinema in Borehamwood.

Feedback from participants and parents has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the success of Hertsmere Creative Futures' first programme in helping young people build confidence, develop new skills, and gain a greater understanding of the wide range of careers available within the Film and TV industry.

From the community



For the second year in a row Bushey Museum and Art Gallery has been awarded Visit England's "Hidden Gem" Award.

Bushey Museum and Art Gallery has been officially named a VisitEngland ‘Hidden Gem’ 2026, a coveted accolade celebrating outstanding, lesser-known visitor attractions across the country.

Tucked in the heart of Bushey, the museum has long been a quiet treasure for lovers of art, culture and local history. Founded in 1993 to protect and promote Bushey’s remarkable artistic heritage, the museum today houses Hertfordshire’s largest public art collection, spanning the 19th and 20th centuries.

Among its highlights is the nationally significant collection dedicated to Sir Hubert von Herkomer RA and his world-renowned Art School, which once drew students from across the globe. Visitors can also explore the Lucy Kemp-Welch Memorial Trust Collection—featuring her acclaimed equine paintings—as well as works from the celebrated Monro Circle of artists.

The VisitEngland assessment, conducted early this year, examined every element of the visitor experience—from arrival and ambience to exhibitions, facilities, staff engagement and overall atmosphere. Accolade nominations are based on assessor observations, assessment scores and both direct and online visitor feedback.



New digital drop-in session at 96 Shenley Road.

Communities 1st host digital support sessions and Creative Cafes across Hertsmere for the local community.

Their creative cafes are for everyone, with drop-in sessions running across the borough Monday to Thursday. Each session is different (so check out their website for details) and a warm welcome and good cup of coffee or tea guaranteed!

Additionally, they run digital support sessions in many community hubs. We want to highlight that there is now a **new drop-in session available at 96 Shenley Road (community hub) every Monday from 11am to 3pm** to help anyone who needs assistance with using a mobile phone, or laptop, or who is trying to understand how to use the internet, send an email and use an app such as the NHS app.

Get Involved



The innocent Big Knit – get knitting for Age UK

Every year, an army of woolly warriors take up their knitting needles and crochet hooks as part of the Innocent Big Knit, in partnership with Age UK.

Every hat knitted raises 30p to help Age UK provide much-needed services and support to older people. If you have some spare yarn and knitting needles or a crochet hook, why not get involved in this grand endeavour?

Read more about how to get involved here: Knit for Charity - The Innocent Big Knit | Age UK

Calling on young designers to create our seasonal card

Young people in Hertsmere aged 11 or under are being asked by Hertsmere Borough Council to use their creativity and talents to produce a striking annual seasonal card.

The council needs a bright and festive design that can used for its for e-cards this year. The designs can show either religious festivals or reflect aspects of the season.

The young artists must be aged 11 or below and live or attend school in the borough. Entries must be received **before Friday 27 November.**

The winner will receive a certificate and a £50 gift voucher. Two runners-up will each receive a certificate and a £25 gift voucher.

A prize-giving ceremony with the Mayor of Hertsmere will take place at the winner's school in early December.

Read more: https://www.hertsmere.gov.uk/news/calling-on-young-designers-to-create-our-seasonal-card

🎁 **Celebrate 5 years of Hertsmere Community Lottery with us** 🎁



This December, the Hertsmere Community Lottery is celebrating its 5th Birthday. Over the past five years, the lottery has helped raise funding for local charities, community groups, sports clubs and other organisations making a real difference across Hertsmere.To celebrate this milestone, we're inviting new organisations to join the lottery as Good Causes and giving them the chance to **win an extra £500.**

Can you help us reach more local organisations?
If you know a local charity, community group, PTA, sports club, faith organisation or other not-for-profit group that could benefit from additional funding, we'd be grateful if you could share this opportunity with them. Any eligible organisation that registers as a Good Cause before 18 December 2026 will be automatically entered into our special Birthday Draw, with one organisation winning £500.

Join our arts and culture community networking group



Do you work in the voluntary and community sector? Does your group focus on creative pursuits? Are you a freelancer working with charities? If so, you're welcome to attend our bi-monthly community networking group.

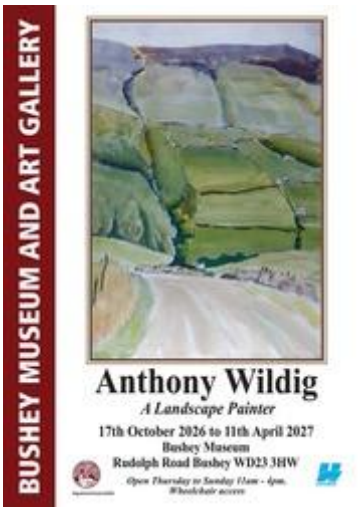
What to expect:

- A space for creatives to gather, engage in discussion, and make connections
- Opportunities to meet individuals who share your interests
- Guest speakers and information-sharing sessions to help you develop your skills and resilience.

Next meeting:
Date: Tuesday 12 January 2027
Time: 5 - 7:30pm
Location: Civic Offices, Borehamwood, WD6 1WA

If you're interested in coming, please email Hannah Oliver

Museum Corner



Bushey Museum and Art Gallery

"Anthony Wildig, A Landscape Painter"

Anthony's work as an antique furniture restorer and cabinet maker has kept him busy. Painting has always been a part of his life and time has shown watercolour to be his preferred medium. An interest in architecture and a love for the wide variety of landscapes found throughout Britain have inspired much of his work. Visits to Cornwall and the Outer Hebrides, both remote and barren places, have had great appeal.

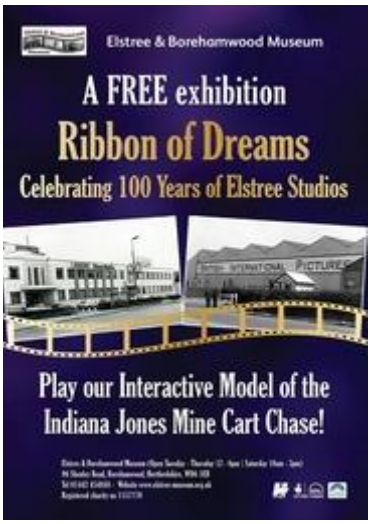
This exhibition will show paintings going back over a period of time – some from the Bushey Museum Trust collection, others on loan – as well as his most recent work.

A selection of his paintings is available for sale, so this will largely be a selling exhibition.

Exhibition dates: 17 October 2026 to April 2027. **Gallery:** Anne Blessley Gallery.

Museum opening hours: Thursday to Sunday, 11am to 4pm.

To find out more, visit: Bushey Museum & Art Gallery



Elstree and Borehamwood Museum

Ribbon of Dreams: Celebrating 100 years of Elstree Studios

Ribbon of Dreams continues into its fourth month with everything you could ever want to know about the film and tv history of Borehamwood at Elstree Studios. Discover the secrets of the studios and play with the interactive model of the Indiana Jones Mine Cart Chase!

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12pm - 6pm and Saturday 10am - 3pm

To find out more, visit: Elstree & Borehamwood Museum



Potters Bar Museum

New exhibition: "Potters Bar's Hall of Fame"

Forty-three people, four centuries, one town. Welcome to Potters Bar's Hall of Fame! Going back to the 17th century, meet the most well-known people who called Potters Bar home for all or part of their lives.

Next history talk: A History of Local War Memories by Mike Allen.

This talk will be followed by Christmas eats and drinks.
Date: Monday 14th December 2026.
Time: 8pm - the talk starts promptly.
Venue: United Reformed Church, 245 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1BZ. Free

parking and refreshments are available. Non-members are welcome. **Admission:** £1 for members, £2 for non-members.

Museum opening hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 2:30pm to 4:30pm, and Saturday, 11am to 1pm.

To find out more, visit: Potters Bar Museum & Potters Bar and District Historical Society

Radlett and District Museum



Display: Playing for Radlett

Sport has long been woven into Radlett life. It has brought people together across generations.

Playing for Radlett explores seven sports: cricket, rugby, tennis, squash, golf, football and bowls. This informative and engaging display tells the stories of the history, events, people and places that enabled Radlett's sporting life to flourish, and invites visitors to share their own memories of Playing for Radlett.

Monthly free children's colouring sessions – first Saturday of the month, 10am to midday. See the website for details.

OPPORTUNITY: Radlett Museum is looking to appoint a new Secretary to the Trustee Board, following the planned retirement of the incumbent in December 2026. Please get in touch if you or someone in your network might be interested in this opportunity.

Museum opening hours: Wednesday and Saturday, 10am to midday.

To find out more, visit: Radlett and District Museum.

Upcoming Events

Looking for more upcoming local events? Check out **Borehamwood Radio**'s Local Events Calendar here: Local Events | Boreham Wood Radio

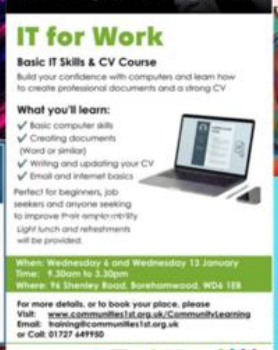
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4-4-2 Together CIC
Play Connect Grow
This Week's Classes
Fun, friends and memories
MONDAY
Together Stay and Play
TUESDAY
Active Explorers
TUESDAY
4-4-2 After Hours
WEDNESDAY
Together Stay and Play
WEDNESDAY
Hartsmere School Partnership
THURSDAY
Little Movers Big Thinkers Baby Group
THURSDAY
Little Hands Busy Bodies
FRIDAY
Legacy Gymnastics
FRIDAY
Together Stay and Play


THE LIVING THEATRE PRESENTS
A CHRISTMAS CAROL
BY CHARLES DICKENS
St Martins Shenley 17th December
Doors open 7pm, 7.30pm Start
www.thelivingtheatrewhitwell.org


HERTS MUSICAL MEMORIES
BOREHAM WOOD SINGING GROUP
VIBRANT SINGING SESSIONS FOR THOSE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA
WHERE?
WHEN?
Wednesdays 11.30 - 1pm
SINGING LEADER: BONNIE GRANT
Charity No: 1176007


4-4-2 Together CIC
PRESENTS
4-4-2 AFTER HOURS
EVERY TUESDAY
5.30pm - 7pm
7pm - 8.30pm


IT for Work
Basic IT Skills & CV Course
Build your confidence with computers and learn how to create professional documents and a strong CV
What you'll learn:
✓ Basic computer skills
✓ Creating documents (Word or similar)
✓ Writing and updating your CV
✓ Email and internet basics
Perfect for beginners, job seekers and anyone seeking to improve their employability.
Light lunch and refreshments will be provided.
When: Wednesday 6 and Wednesday 13 January
Time: 9.30am to 3.30pm
Where: 96 Shenley Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1EB
For more details, or to book your place, please
Visit: www.communities1st.org.uk/CommunityLearning
Email: training@communities1st.org.uk
or Call: 01727 649950


JOURNEY THROUGH COLOUR
Paintings by Anupa Shah
Solo Art Exhibition
1ST OCTOBER - 31ST DECEMBER 2026
Radlett Centre
Apthorp Gallery - 1st Floor
1 Aldenham Avenue
Radlett
WD7 8HL
OPEN MON-SAT 10AM-4PM (FREE ADMISSION)


RADLETT & DISTRICT MUSEUM
Volunteering Opportunities
ARE YOU DOING THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD?
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES?
The Radlett & District Museum is looking for volunteers to help with various projects.
e-mail to info@radlettmuseum.com with a short overview of your skills.


Christmas
Sing-Along
Live music, interactive songs, and holiday cheer for everyone!
All are welcome!
Join us for a fun, festive sing-along!
Where: Aberford Park Community Centre, Aberford Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1PN
When: Wednesday 16th December
Time: 10:00am - 11:30am
Let's celebrate the season together!


'A New You' Course
Take charge of your life! Build confidence, feel more in control, more positive about yourself and your future and take steps towards work or a new direction
This free 4-day interactive and engaging course covers:
• Teamwork: Work better with others and feel more confident in a team
• Being assertive: Communicate calmly and clearly in everyday situations
• Stress awareness: Understand stress and simple ways to manage it
• Communication and life skills: Talk about yourself in a way that helps you shine - in interviews or life in general
Light lunch and refreshments will be provided.
Dates: Mon 21, Tue 22, Mon 28 & Tue 29 June 2027
Time: 10am to 3pm
Venue: 96 Shenley Road, Borehamwood, WD6 1EB
For more details, or to book your place, please
Visit: www.communities1st.org.uk/CommunityLearning
Email: training@communities1st.org.uk
or Call: 01727 649950

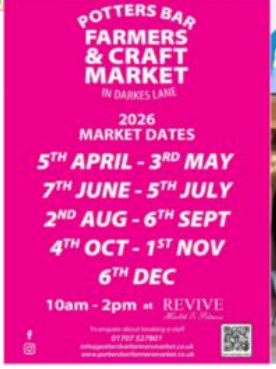

We Move, She Moves
Golden Dance
Golden Dance is a one hour dance-based fitness class that combines dance and Burlesque routines with cardio fitness. The cardio brings your heart rate up and burns calories.
Please wear comfortable and supportive clothing.
Just £5 per session.
Wednesdays, 2:30pm-3:30pm
Maxwell Park Community Centre, WD6 1JJ


The Friends
An Evening Out in The Afternoon
EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON IN BOREHAMWOOD
From 2.00 to 4.30pm
DIFFERENT LIVE ENTERTAINER EVERY WEEK
Singalongs and Games
6 Wonderful Raffle Prizes Every Week
Snacks and Cold Drinks
Tea, Coffee and Cakes
Run By Volunteers, people who care
Carers Just £3
Supporting our Seniors, the Isolated, the Disabled, People living with Dementia,
Where Are We?
MAXWELL PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE, MAXWELL ROAD, BOREHAMWOOD, WD6 1JJ
NEED Transport?
Over 20 years Of Giving To The Community
£20 Entrance, Includes The Event and Minibus
£14 for independent travellers
Contact Details: tel: 01923 289890
Email: info@friendsofcarehomes.com
www.friendsofcarehomes.com
Facebook


Storytime
Oakmere Library
Thursdays 11.00 - 11.30
Join in with stories & rhymes - ideal for children aged 2-5 years
This activity is free, donations welcome


SightLife
Visually Impaired Support Groups in Hertfordshire
Join us at our Potters Bar group meetings for a warm cuppa, delicious cake and a chance to chat, connect and make new friends!
Where: Wyllyotts Theatre Café, Wyllyotts Place, Potters Bar, EN6 2HZ
When: First Thursday of Each Month
Time: 11am to 1pm
We warmly welcome new volunteers!
Contact Us:
Office@hertsvisionloss.org.uk
01707 329680


LEGO
Club for children
Radlett Library
First Thursday of the month
4:45 - 5:45
Drop in - no need to book
£4.40 per session
Suitable for children ages 5 - 12
Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult
#HertsLibraryLEGO


POTTERS BAR
FARMERS & CRAFT MARKET
IN DARKES LANE
2026
MARKET DATES
5TH APRIL - 3RD MAY
7TH JUNE - 5TH JULY
2ND AUG - 6TH SEPT
4TH OCT - 1ST NOV
6TH DEC
10am - 2pm at REVIVE


THE WELLINGTON WDS
WEDNESDAY NIGHT QUIZ NIGHT
£2pp Cash price for the winning team
8pm