

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM ACROSS THE BOROUGH



Welwyn
Hatfield

Danesbury
Fernery, Welwyn

INSIDE: Your Pull-Out-and-Keep Waste & Recycling Calendar | Spring & Summer Activities | 2026 One Welwyn Hatfield Community Award Winners



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WELWYN
HATFIELD



Welcome from the Leader and Deputy Leader

Welcome to the spring edition of ONE Magazine.

As we start our roles of Leader and Deputy Leader of the new Joint Administration, our focus continues to be to put the Welwyn Hatfield community at the heart of everything that we do, and we are delighted to share some of our highlights from across the borough with you.

Following on from the success of last summer's events, we continued to provide free activities throughout October half term and Christmas. Our pantomime *Cinderella* was our most successful pantomime ever and we would like to thank everyone who booked tickets and enjoyed the show. Look out for a sneak peak of what Campus West has to offer this year on page 20.

As we go to print, we will once again celebrate our local community heroes at our third ONE Welwyn Hatfield Community Awards. Congratulations to everyone involved. You can read about our extraordinary winners on page 14.

The two task forces that have been established dedicated to our town centres and neighbourhoods have continued to build on previous achievements. Our town centres continue to thrive with regular markets and events taking place in Hatfield, as well as the council sponsoring a number of BID events in Welwyn Garden City (page 5). We are continuing to take action on climate change (pages 6 & 7) and we held engagement sessions for our new Local Plan which will be looking ahead to 2043 (page 3).

Finally, don't forget to keep your pull-out waste collection calendar on pages 10 and 11.

Thank you for being part of our community and together, let's make 2026 a great year.

Rose Grewal,
Leader of the Council

Sandreni Bonfante,
Deputy Leader of the Council

COUNCIL UPDATES FROM AROUND THE BOROUGH



1 We have been working with residents in **Briars Wood**, Hatfield and **Heronswood Road** and **Haynes Close**, Welwyn Garden City to improve and enhance communal spaces. The works which included new footpaths and benches, new bike stands and the installation of herb-filled planters are part of the pilot areas that are being improved under our **Nicer Neighbourhoods** initiative.



2 We have improved home energy efficiency across the borough. Since April 2023, over **230 properties** were retrofitted, resulting in an average annual energy bill saving of **£421 per household**. Further works are underway as part of an additional **£6.4million Government grant** that is being match-funded by the council and will see a further 600 homes retrofitted.



3 The **Knife Angel's** visit to Welwyn Garden City in October was a great success. Working in partnership with Hertfordshire Constabulary, we delivered a month-long programme of intensive **anti-violence youth engagement** events to mark the visit. Hertfordshire Constabulary recruited over a thousand young people as **Anti-Violence Ambassadors** who are helping them to continue to promote anti-violence.



4 In November, a new initiative was launched allowing residents to borrow tools and useful household items instead of buying them, helping them to save money and protect the planet. **Borrow It!** – a service run by community benefit society **Things in Common Ltd** – opened a **Sharing Station** in the Howard Centre, Welwyn Garden City with the aid of a **£15,000 WelHat Community Grant** provided by the council.



5 Over 17,000 people came to see our pantomime *Cinderella* and the adult version *Sinderella*, making it our most popular pantomime ever. See the outside back cover for information on this year's pantomime, *Dick Whittington*.



6 As part of our commitment to meeting the needs and aspirations of older people living in the borough, a **refurbishment programme** is underway at **five of our sheltered housing schemes**. The first three schemes have been completed. The Mayor and Cabinet Members visited the Chilton Green scheme to view the works, which included new internal walls, new lighting and a new communal kitchen.

Polling station changes

**POLLING
STATION**



There will be changes to three polling stations in the borough's Local Elections in May due to the unavailability of some of our usual venues.



OLD POLLING STATION

Woodhall Community Centre
Mill Green Road, Welwyn Garden City,
AL7 3XD (Polling District BBB)

Digswell Village Church
Warren Way, Digswell, Welwyn,
AL6 0DH (Polling District ABB)

Ludwick Family Club
Hall Grove, Welwyn Garden City,
AL7 4PH (Polling District BDA)

NEW POLLING STATION

Trinity Hall
141 Woodhall Lane, Welwyn Garden
City, AL7 3TP

Digswell Tennis Club
Digswell Park Road, Welwyn,
AL6 0DA

Douglas Tilbe House
Hall Grove, Welwyn Garden City,
AL7 4PH

For forthcoming elections all poll cards will reflect these changes. There may be other changes to polling stations. These changes will be advertised on the council's website.



2026-27 Budget

The council budget for April 2026 to March 2027 was approved by Full Council on 6 February.

We have shared more information on the 2026-27 budget on our website.

Our Local Plan.

Consultation on new Local Plan for Welwyn Hatfield

The Local Plan is the council's main planning document which sets out how homes, jobs, infrastructure, green spaces and transport will be planned and delivered up to 2043 and beyond.

An up-to-date Local Plan helps us shape development in the public interest and respond to housing, infrastructure and climate challenges.

Building on the Early Engagement activities that took place in late 2024, since February 2026 we have been consulting on a new Local

Plan for our borough to give residents and other key stakeholders an opportunity to shape the Plan before it is developed in more detail.

The consultation will close on 26th March 2026 so there's still time for residents, businesses and organisations to sign up to the council's Local Plan consultation portal welwynhatfieldlocalplan.commonplace.is and have their say.

Signing up will also ensure you receive updates as the Local Plan progresses and information on events and engagement opportunities.



The little idea that changed cat holidays

When Welwyn resident Abi Purser opened a tiny, beautifully designed cat hotel in her back garden, she wasn't trying to reinvent pet care. She simply wanted somewhere she'd be proud to leave her own cats: private suites, quiet routines and genuine one-to-one attention.

Word spread. What began in Welwyn became Longcroft Luxury Cat Hotels – now 30 boutique hotels across the UK, with Welwyn Hatfield as its original home.

Longcroft's approach is simple: keep stress low and standards high. Every suite has a climate-controlled bedroom with soft bedding and an adjoining outdoor-in play area that's fully enclosed for safety yet filled with daylight, fresh air and birdsong. Privacy films between suites keeps harmony between guests – a detail that makes a big difference to feline stress. The result? Happier guests, better appetites and calmer homecomings.

The impact is local too. As Longcroft has grown, owner-led hotels have created new flexible career paths, and supplier work around the borough - from trades and fit-out to photography and pet services. Training, mentoring and quality checks circulate through the network, keeping expertise close to where it started.

Spring is when many families plan their summer travel - and when first-time cat hotel customers feel most nervous. Longcroft invites residents to book a chat to explain the calm environment and talk through routines, diets and updates.

From one Welwyn Garden City based business to a trusted nationwide brand, Abi's business has benefitted from the co-working facilities at the HatTech Business Centre in Hatfield. Longcroft shows how thoughtful design - and neighbourly care - can travel far while keeping its heart in Welwyn Hatfield.

If you have ever dreamt of looking after cats and love the idea of having your own Longcroft hotel, get in touch on info@longcroftcat hotel.co.uk

Former Welwyn opera star uses business skills

A former opera star turned businesswoman from Welwyn has been using her experience on the stage as a springboard to help others communicate effectively in the business world.

Susan Heaton-Wright retired from opera in 2003 to focus on raising her son, before going on to found, run and eventually sell a successful musical entertainment business. Since 2007, Susan has run Superstar Communicator, helping professionals worldwide to develop spoken communication skills, with credibility and influence - and all from her office space in the HatTech Business Centre in Hatfield.

Susan hosted one of the business centre's networking events in 2023, after which she chose to base herself there, joining with a HatTech Silver Co-working Membership as a recipient of grant money secured by the council from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund. Susan has since remained as a co-working member.

The team at HatTech is hoping to engage Susan to deliver some training in 2026, passing on her experience of recognising and training people to fulfil their potential, what she calls 'The Maestro Effect'. Her own journey performing for esteemed conductors such as Simon Rattle CBE was thanks to being encouraged to bring forward the best version of herself.

"I've been a teacher in Kenya and India, an opera singer, and now I've found my calling in the business world – helping professional organisations and individuals communicate with credibility and influence in their conversations," explained Susan.

Watch Susan's talk: 'The Maestro Effect – How to Unlock Brilliance in Others' at TEDx Talks on YouTube by scanning the below QR code.

Contact HatTech Business Centre at info@businesscentres.org.uk or go to hattech.org.uk





Hatfield Town Centre Events

This year, we will be once again running a series of events in the spring and summer in White Lion Square and the newly refurbished Market Place.

Many of the events are free and run alongside the Hatfield Markets. The free events are funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), a Government initiative supporting town centre investment and local businesses. Plans are also well under way for this year's Hatfield Community Fair in July.

More information on some of the events coming up this year can be found on page 8. And remember, there's up to three hours of free parking at The Common Multi-Storey Car Park.



Hatfield Markets

General Market

Hatfield's General Market is more than just a shopping destination, it's a vibrant experience! Every Wednesday and Saturday, the stretch of road between White Lion Square and Asda transforms into a bustling hub filled with a diverse array of stalls. Whether you're searching for fresh produce, unique collectibles or simply a delightful day out, there's something for everyone.

Farmers Market

The Farmers Market is on the first Saturday of every month in White Lion Square and features local farmers offering fresh produce.

Both markets take place from 8am – 3pm.

MEET OUR MARKET TRADERS:



Ornela's Congolese Food

Ornela Mambueni has had her market stall in Hatfield Town Centre for three years now, and the business is thriving.

Her Congolese street food brings an exotic vibe to Hatfield Market every Wednesday and Saturday, with her big sellers being beef, jerk chicken and donuts. "I couldn't come to the market without those!" she says, acknowledging the popularity of those dishes, particularly with her regulars.

Ornela is at the market all year round, come rain or shine, setting up by 9.30am to get ready for the lunchtime rush that starts around 11am. She is then cooking and serving from her stall opposite Poundstretcher until 5pm.

Hatfield-born Ornela comes from a family of great cooks, and having studied catering and food hygiene, she realised she could put her culinary talents to use in what is now a booming business.

"I would love to expand," says Ornela, and she has plans to add other markets to her week in the future. But for now, she's more than happy to concentrate on bringing her speciality dishes to the people of Welwyn Hatfield.

NELLA'S FOOD!!
Fried Rice £3.50
Jollof Rice - £3.50



WGC Town Centre Markets & Events

The Welwyn Garden City BID have once again organised exciting events for the spring and summer including the Vegan Market, Street Food Heroes and World Food Festival.

Details of all this year's events, some of which are sponsored by the council, can be found on page 8.



Borrow It! to save money and the planet

A new initiative in Welwyn Garden City is helping residents to save money and protect the planet by borrowing tools and useful household items instead of buying them.

Borrow It! – a service run by community benefit society Things in Common Ltd – has opened a Sharing Station in the Howard Centre with the aid of a £15,000 WelHat Community Grant provided by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.

The station, which is in the centre's first floor car park by the exit from the South Mall, loans out high-quality DIY tools and household essentials such as drills, pressure washers, trimmers, sewing machines and more. Known as a 'library of things', this reduces waste, conserves valuable resources and helps households keep more money in their pockets.

You can sign up for a small monthly subscription, or borrow for free if you're a social housing tenant or in receipt of means-tested benefits. Find out more at www.borrowit.org

Chats for Change

We are hosting climate cafes to bring communities together and inspire local environmental action.

Our **Climate Hub: Chats for Change** initiative is designed to help people share their ideas on how to live more sustainably and protect our borough from the impact of climate change.

The first event took place in January at **St John's Community Cafe** in Highview, Hatfield, where residents enjoyed refreshments and got tips on how to be more energy efficient, travel more sustainably, enhance local nature, recycle their waste, and get involved in local climate action.

A survey carried out by the council revealed many residents are concerned

about climate change and would like to do more to protect the environment. **Chats for Change** provide a place for residents to share their concerns with like-minded people and help each other to switch to more sustainable ways of living. The initiative is particularly designed to target groups who are more vulnerable to periods of extreme heat and other climate impacts.

The next **Chat for Change** session will take place during **Great Big Green Week**, 6-14 June. Follow our social media channels and see our website for updates.



Free energy-saving home upgrades available

Free energy-saving home upgrades that could save you money on your bills are available to claim in Welwyn Hatfield.

We have been awarded £1.5million from the Government's Warm Homes Local Grant scheme to fund improvements like insulation, double glazing and heat pumps. If your household is eligible, you could receive up to £30,000 of fully funded upgrades.

For eligibility and application information, visit one.welhat.gov.uk and search 'Warm Homes Local Grant'. Alternatively, email bhbh@nef.org.uk or call 0800 107 0044.



Climate Action Success

In December, we celebrated the success of ten schools, community groups and parish councils, which have each been awarded £500 through our £5,000 Climate Action Small Grants programme.

The grants were created to help community organisations deliver practical, small-scale initiatives that support local climate action. Last year's response was strong, with 21 applications submitted, and we were delighted to recognise ten successful projects that demonstrated clear, deliverable benefits for the environment and the community.

The ten successful projects were:

- Welwyn St Mary's Primary School's renovation of the pond in the school nature reserve.
- North Mymms Parish Council's installation of bike racks at Gobions Open Space.
- Panshanger Primary School's bespoke bug hotel and bird houses for the community garden.
- St John's Primary School in Digswell's LED lighting upgrade and hi-vis jackets to promote safe cycling and walking.
- Oaklands Primary School's Let's Get Litter Wise recycling, composting and litter-reduction programme.

- Barn Close Preschool's Pollinators and Plants project to attract pollinating insects to the school garden through new planting.
- Applecroft School's installation of bike racks.
- Woolmer Green Parish Council's installation of LED lighting in the village hall.
- Templewood School Gardening Club's pond renovation and rainwater harvesting initiative.
- Tenterfield Nursery School's Making Snack Time Sustainable by reducing waste and promoting reuse and recycling.

These projects span themes such as biodiversity, energy saving, sustainable transport, waste reduction and water conservation – reflecting the community's creativity and commitment to climate action.

Climate Action Small Grants support the council's wider environmental goals. Having declared a climate emergency in 2019, the council aims to be net zero as an organisation by 2030, with a target for the wider borough to reach net zero by 2050. The grants are designed to help meet the borough-wide target by helping community organisations to implement sustainable projects.



Pilot launched to tackle fly-tipping and littering

We have partnered with environmental enforcement contractor, Kingdom Local Authority Support (LAS), to tackle environmental crime such as fly-tipping and littering.

From December, Kingdom LAS officers have been supporting council officers and the council's waste management contractor, FCC, to tackle fly-tipping and littering in Welwyn Hatfield as part of a 12-month pilot scheme. Five Kingdom LAS officers are covering the

full borough, focusing largely on prevention of fly-tipping, engaging residents and the wider public in order to change behaviours through education and, where proportionate and appropriate, issuing enforcement notices including the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices.

Kingdom's officers offer a visible, uniformed presence designed to provide reassurance to the public, residents and businesses. They serve not only as a deterrent to potential offenders but also provide immediate support and intervention where incidents do occur.



WHAT'S ON



21 March
Hatfield Town Centre

Spring Fair

Celebrating the arrival of spring with fun games for all the family!

From 1 April
Stanborough Park

Holiday Club Paddle & activity full days

Enjoy full days of fun with water sports, team games, scavenger hunts, raft building and more! All equipment, including wetsuits and buoyancy aids, is provided.

4 April
Hatfield Town Centre

Easter Eggstravaganza

A family fun day, with easter egg hunt, an easter bunny, arts & crafts and games.

Second Thursday of the month | April to August
Welwyn GC Town Centre

Street Food Heroes

Enjoy street food, music and drinks in the heart of Welwyn Garden City town centre.

18 April
Hatfield Town Centre
Romanian Spring Festival

Celebrate Romanian culture, taste traditional food and enjoy entertainment.



2 May
Hatfield Town Centre
May Day

A family event with music, Morris Dancers, market stalls and face painting.

7 – 11 May
Hatfield House
Living Crafts

Hundreds of talented craft makers offering exquisite contemporary and traditional crafts for sale. Plus, hands-on workshops, demonstrations, live jazz and brass bands, and food and drink. For further information, visit www.livingcrafts.co.uk

9 & 10 May
Welwyn GC Town Centre
World Food Festival

A weekend of cuisines, performances and tastes from all around the globe.

23 May
Hatfield Town Centre
Polish Festival

Enjoy Polish culture, traditional food and entertainment.

6 June
Hatfield Town Centre
Circus Skills

A fun, hands-on session where you can try juggling, plate-spinning and other classic circus skills.

7 – 15 June
Throughout Welwyn Hatfield
Great Big Green Week

The UK's biggest celebration of community action on climate and nature brings local groups together to run sustainability and conservation-focused events. Borough events will be listed on the ONE Welwyn Hatfield website events page closer to the time.

Hatfield Town Centre
General Market
Every Wednesday and Saturday. A lively mix of stalls selling fresh produce, unique finds, and everyday essentials.

8 – 14 June
Throughout Welwyn Hatfield
Men's Mental Health Week

A national campaign dedicated to supporting men's wellbeing, with activities, classes and awareness events highlighting the impact of mental health and the importance of speaking out and seeking help.

4 July
Hatfield Town Centre
Get Active, Be Healthy
A fun-filled day of sports, games, and healthy living tips for everyone!

18 July
Welwyn Roman Baths
Herts Archaeology Fair

This event, in partnership with Welwyn Archaeology Society, will welcome stallholders from all relevant local archaeological groups, museums and societies, and will include talks.

18 July
Hatfield Town Centre
May The FUN Be With You
A Star Wars-themed event packed with activities, characters and fun for fans of all ages.

28 July
Hatfield Town Centre
Hatfield Community Fair

Connect with organisations, charities, and community groups providing a wide range of support services. Plus, enjoy a fun-filled day packed with free activities for all ages.

1 August
Hatfield Town Centre
Summer Fun
A fun-filled day of free family entertainment.

Welwyn GC Town Centre
General Market
First and third Saturday of each month. Local and national traders selling a wide range of produce, gifts, crafts and much more.

Hatfield Town Centre
Farmers Market
First Saturday of each month. Local, seasonal produce and handmade goods sold direct by the growers and makers.

8 August
Welwyn GC Town Centre
Dinomania Day

Something ROARsome is coming, with prehistoric shows, roaming dinosaurs, interactive museums, and hands-on fun for curious explorers of all ages.

15 August
Hatfield Town Centre
Hatfield Carnival
Get ready to party with a burst of music, dance, and African and Caribbean flavours in the town.

5 September
Hatfield Town Centre
Playground Party
Fun-filled event with games and family-friendly activities.

19 September
Hatfield Town Centre
A Whale's Story – Call for Change
Step inside the belly of a Giant Inflatable Whale, explore the depths of the ocean, meet amazing sea creatures, and discover how we all can make a difference to our world.



To find out more, scan the QR code or visit onewelhat.gov.uk/discover



BIG SUMMER

Save the date for BIG Summer – Welwyn Hatfield's summer programme of fun returns from 27 July to 16 August.

Across the borough, a wide range of free activities will be available for children, teenagers and families to enjoy. Whether you're planning a fun family day out or looking to try something new over the summer holidays, there will be something for everyone.

Full activity listings and event details will be published on the ONE Welwyn Hatfield events calendar closer to the time.

We are also inviting organisations to become BIG Summer partners and showcase their summer activities as part of the campaign.

To find out more, register your activity, or for updates on the events calendar, visit one.welhat.gov.uk/bigsummer



THIS GIRL CAN

This Girl Can returns to Welwyn Hatfield from 15 to 21 June, offering a wide range of sport and physical activity sessions across the borough.

Part of Sport England's national This Girl Can campaign, the week aims to encourage women and girls of all ages and abilities to get

active in a supportive and welcoming environment. A variety of free sessions will be available, with full details published on the ONE Welwyn Hatfield events page nearer the time. For more information about the campaign, visit one.welhat.gov.uk/thisgirlcan



GET INVOLVED!

Are you a sports, dance or physical activity provider who would like to be part of the This Girl Can week in Welwyn Hatfield? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch via the provider form at one.welhat.gov.uk/ThisGirlCan

Your waste collection calendar for the next year

Black boxes are for your black rubbish bin and food caddy.

Blue boxes are for your blue-lidded recycling bin, food caddy and brown compost bin (for those that subscribe to the garden waste service).

Look for your collection day and then follow across the month to see which dates your bins are collected.

The red framed columns show the changed dates for bank holidays etc, for example what would be the Monday 4 May collection will be on Tuesday 5 instead.



MY COLLECTION DAY IS:

South Welwyn Hatfield collection

APRIL 2026					
Mon		Tue 7	13	20	27
Tue		Wed 8	14	21	28
Wed	1	Thu 9	15	22	29
Thu	2	Fri 10	16	23	30
Fri	3	Sat 11	17	24	
MAY 2026					
Mon		Tue 5	11	18	Tue 26
Tue		Wed 6	12	19	Wed 27
Wed		Thu 7	13	20	Thu 28
Thu		Fri 8	14	21	Fri 29
Fri	1	Sat 9	15	22	Sat 30
JUNE 2026					
Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
JULY 2026					
Mon		6	13	20	27
Tue		7	14	21	28
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	31
AUGUST 2026					
Mon	3	10	17	24	Tue 1 Sep
Tue	4	11	18	25	
Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thu	6	13	20	27	
Fri	7	14	21	28	
SEPTEMBER 2026					
Mon		7	14	21	28
Tue	Wed 2	8	15	22	29
Wed	Thu 3	9	16	23	30
Thu	Fri 4	10	17	24	
Fri	Sat 5	11	18	25	
OCTOBER 2026					
Mon		5	12	19	26
Tue		6	13	20	27
Wed		7	14	21	28
Thu	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	30
NOVEMBER 2026					
Mon	2	9	16	23	30
Tue	3	10	17	24	
Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thu	5	12	19	26	
Fri	6	13	20	27	
DECEMBER 2026					
Mon		7	14	21	Wed 30
Tue	1	8	15	22	Thu 31
Wed	2	9	16	23	Mon 4 Jan
Thu	3	10	17	24	Tue 5 Jan
Fri	4	11	18	Tue 29	
JANUARY 2027					
Mon		Thu 7	Wed 13	Tue 19	25
Tue		Fri 8	Thu 14	Wed 20	26
Wed		Sat 9	Fri 15	Thu 21	27
Thu		Mon 11	Sat 16	Fri 22	28
Fri	Wed 6	Tue 12	Mon 18	Sat 23	29
FEBRUARY 2027					
Mon	1	8	15	22	
Tue	2	9	16	23	
Wed	3	10	17	24	
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
MARCH 2027					
Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	

Checking your collection day, bank holidays and service disruption

You can check if your collection is North (Blue) or South (Red) and your next collection dates by visiting www.welhat.gov.uk

You can also find up-to-date information on general disruption, service changes following adverse weather conditions, as well as service changes and bank holiday arrangements.



Your waste collection calendar for the next year

Black boxes are for your black rubbish bin and food caddy.

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Look for your collection day and then follow across the month to see which dates your bins are collected.

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MY COLLECTION DAY IS:

North Welwyn Hatfield collection

APRIL 2026					
Mon		Tue 7	13	20	27
Tue		Wed 8	14	21	28
Wed	1	Thu 9	15	22	29
Thu	2	Fri 10	16	23	30
Fri	3	Sat 11	17	24	
MAY 2026					
Mon		Tue 5	11	18	Tue 26
Tue		Wed 6	12	19	Wed 27
Wed		Thu 7	13	20	Thu 28
Thu		Fri 8	14	21	Fri 29
Fri	1	Sat 9	15	22	Sat 30
JUNE 2026					
Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
JULY 2026					
Mon		6	13	20	27
Tue		7	14	21	28
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	31
AUGUST 2026					
Mon	3	10	17	24	Tue 1 Sep
Tue	4	11	18	25	
Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thu	6	13	20	27	
Fri	7	14	21	28	
SEPTEMBER 2026					
Mon		7	14	21	28
Tue	Wed 2	8	15	22	29
Wed	Thu 3	9	16	23	30
Thu	Fri 4	10	17	24	
Fri	Sat 5	11	18	25	
OCTOBER 2026					
Mon		5	12	19	26
Tue		6	13	20	27
Wed		7	14	21	28
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Fri	2	9	16	23	30
NOVEMBER 2026					
Mon	2	9	16	23	30
Tue	3	10	17	24	
Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thu	5	12	19	26	
Fri	6	13	20	27	
DECEMBER 2026					
Mon		7	14	21	Wed 30
Tue	1	8	15	22	Thu 31
Wed	2	9	16	23	Mon 4 Jan
Thu	3	10	17	24	Tue 5 Jan
Fri	4	11	18	Tue 29	
JANUARY 2027					
Mon		Thu 6	Wed 13	Tue 19	25
Tue		Fri 8	Thu 14	Wed 20	26
Wed		Sat 9	Fri 15	Thu 21	27
Thu		Mon 11	Sat 16	Fri 22	28
Fri	Wed 6	Tue 12	Mon 18	Sat 23	29
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Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	

Checking your collection day, bank holidays and service disruption

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A message from Chief Inspector Pete Frost



Spring has arrived and the constabulary is once again running an annual crime prevention campaign to help residents make their homes, gardens and outbuildings more secure.

Burglaries and thefts from gardens often increase at this time of year as the weather turns milder. People tend to buy new garden equipment, start DIY projects or splash out on barbecues etc, meaning there's a lot of valuable stuff in gardens and sheds. Here are some of our top tips:

- Always lock your shed, preferably with two 'hasp and staple' locks (one near the top and one near the bottom of the door) or use an alarmed padlock.
- Secure your rear garden by locking entry gates with a padlock.

Burglars can use garden tools to break in, so make sure you securely lock away any tools after use.

- Ensure boundary fences are

secure and in good condition. Spiky plants along garden boundaries are good additional deterrents.

Our work to ensure the Knife Angel leaves a legacy continues and it's worth a reminder that the warmer weather means more people about, and sometimes an increase in thefts and robberies. If you're out and about enjoying the spring weather, don't have your valuables on display and be mindful of your surroundings. If you travel by bike, make sure you use a good lock and register your bike online at **bikeregister.com** to help us trace it if it does get stolen.

For more crime prevention advice take a look on our website at **herts.police.uk/crimeprevention**

Domestic abuse

Domestic abuse is any kind of violence or abuse between partners or family members.

Examples include:

- Physical or sexual abuse.
- Violent or threatening behaviour.
- Controlling behaviour: acts designed to make a person dependent by isolating them, exploiting resources, and regulating everyday conduct.
- Coercive behaviour: assault, threats, and intimidation used to harm or frighten victims.
- Economic abuse: interfering with an individual's access to economic resources, limiting independence and safety.
- Psychological, emotional, or other abuse.

Domestic abuse isn't limited to intimate partners. Sometimes, families can collectively abuse a

victim. It's also possible for a victim to experience abuse from different family members. Even an older child can take on the role of an abuser and physically harm a parent.

Whether it's a one-time incident or a long-standing pattern, it's never too late to seek assistance. If you're altering your behaviour out of fear, recognise that you're being abused. Remember, abuse can affect anyone, regardless of social background, age, gender, religion, sexuality, or ethnicity.

If you are a victim of domestic abuse, or you know someone who is, then please get help now. You can speak to the Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline by emailing **kim@mailpurple.org** or calling freephone **08 088 088 088** between 9am-9pm Monday to Friday, or 9am-4pm on weekends, or call the 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline, freephone **0808 2000 247**, or visit their website for more information **www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk**

We're close at hand when you need us.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, you can call us for support options.

Call **freephone 08 088 088 088** or email in strictest confidence to: **kim@mailpurple.org**

We are here to listen:
9am-9pm Monday to Friday 9am-4pm Weekends

@HertsDomesticAbuseHelpline
 @hdahelp

www.hertsdomesticabusehelpline.org



Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith

Welwyn Hatfield is a diverse Borough. In Welwyn Hatfield, many religions are working together through dialogue and cooperation, breaking down the barriers of division, as most faith communities have so much in common.

Every year, to celebrate Inter Faith Week, our diverse communities come together for a Shared Supper, which is held at the Focolare Centre. This, and many other events, highlight the importance of fruitful and meaningful collaboration,

which strengthen our communities. Every month, the Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith, established in 2004, organises a talk on different religions and subjects. They also visit schools, where they talk about faith dialogue and understanding.

Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith has recently signed a Covenant, which was signed by a number of Faith Leaders. This strongly shows a commitment of respect to each others' faiths and cultures.

Visit www.interfaithwh.com for more information.

Friends of Danesbury Fernery

The Friends of Danesbury Fernery (FoDF) are a dedicated volunteer group committed to restoring and maintaining Danesbury Nature Reserve and The Fernery, ensuring these beautiful spaces can be enjoyed by the local community and visitors alike.

Danesbury Nature Reserve, located in Welwyn, is historic parkland once linked to Danesbury House. It features rare grassland, now scarce in the county, alongside a wide variety of flowering plants that support insects and birds. Its mature trees provide valuable habitats for wildlife, including bats, owls, fungi, and insects, making it a haven for nature enthusiasts. Last summer, Danesbury Park was awarded Gold in the Historic Parks and Gardens category in the Anglia in Bloom competition, a testament to the care and dedication that goes into maintaining this special space.

Volunteers play a vital role in keeping the reserve thriving. Tasks include

gardening and maintenance such as weeding, planting, and mowing, as well as managing the parkland through scrub clearing, removing unwanted saplings, and keeping paths and fence lines clear. No previous experience is needed – just enthusiasm, a willingness to get outdoors, and a love of nature.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer and making a real difference in your local community, please contact the FoDF Chairperson at chairman@danburyferner.org.uk or visit www.danesburyferner.org.uk for more information.





Community Awards



The third annual ONE Welwyn Hatfield Community Awards took place on 26 February, with 14 awards presented to local heroes!

The awards highlighted and celebrated inspirational people, sports clubs, community organisations and businesses in our borough, recognising their achievements.

The categories for the awards, and their winners, were:

- **Mayor's Civic Award** | Lisa Hill
- **Welwyn Hatfield Award for All** | Hatfield Food Bank
- **Young Volunteer** | Abigail Haxhiu
- **Voluntary and Community Sector** | Red Kite Rape & Sexual Assault Services
- **Local Business of the Year** | Mill Green Golf Club
- **Health and Wellbeing Champion** | JP Coaching
- **Volunteer of the Year** | Francis Higgins
- **Community Culture Award** | Knife Angel Project Team
- **Positive Change** | Paul C Sorrell
- **Young Sportsperson** | Hazel Spitzer
- **Public Service Hero** | Anthony Appadoo
- **Climate Champion** | Beverley Ashcroft
- **Community Sports Club** | Platypus Swimming Club
- **Inspirational Young Person** | Wiktoria Jurczak

Over 160 nominations – made by resident local sports clubs and youth organisations – were whittled down to a shortlist in each category, with the winners decided by panels of judges that included local community leaders and councillors.

The awards night was hosted by magician extraordinaire Michael J Fitch, and featured a live performance from Miss Jones.

Congratulations to all the shortlisted nominees and winners, and thank you to all our sponsors: Novus Property Solutions, Highview, CWG, Better, Krinkles UK, Liberata, Gracelands, Morgan Sindall Property Services, Mulalley, Press and Starkey, and Capsticks.

The Mayor's chosen charity

This year, the Mayor's chosen charity has been the local Welwyn Hatfield branch of Parkinson's UK.

Parkinson's is a complex brain condition that gets worse over time. It's the fastest growing neurological condition in the world, affecting 153,000 people in the UK. It has more than 40 symptoms,

from tremor and pain to anxiety, and there is currently no cure.

The Mayor, Councillor Lynn Chesterman OBE, has been raising funds for Parkinson's UK at special events and activities. This year, Parkinson's Day is on Saturday 11 April 2026. If you would like to donate to the Mayor's Appeal, visit welhat.gov.uk and search 'Mayor's Charity'.



Father's Day memorial service at Oak Hill

This year, Oak Hill will be holding a Father's Day Memorial Service on Saturday 20 June 2026.

The service is open to the public and is an opportunity to honour and celebrate the lives of fathers and father figures who are no

longer with us, but who remain in our hearts and memories. Further information will be available on the council's website and social media channels.





WHBC ranked #1 nationally for website accessibility

We are proud to announce that our website has been ranked 1st out of 349 UK council websites for accessibility in the latest SiteMorse Index.

The SiteMorse Index is the independent benchmark used to assess and rank public and private sector websites. It enables organisations to compare their digital capability with peers, evaluating key areas such as user experience,

search engine optimisation (SEO), functionality and performance.

This top-ranking highlights our strong commitment to digital inclusion, ensuring that our online services are accessible, user-friendly, and designed for everyone –

including residents with visual, auditory, cognitive, or motor impairments. Whether paying Council Tax, reporting an issue, or accessing support, it's essential that every resident can navigate the website with ease.

GROW YOUR BUSINESS

If you're a local business looking for new premises, both WelTech in Welwyn Garden City and HatTech in Hatfield currently have space to welcome you into their centres.



Each Business Centre provides an ideal working environment for companies of all sizes, with on-site parking for licensees and their visitors.

At WelTech, you will have an ID Access Card that allows you access to the centre 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. There is a staffed reception, post room services, meeting room, free broadband, Equalities Act compliant facilities. To relax and take a break there is a comfortable indoor lounge and an outdoor picnic area with a pergola, lighting and seating.

HatTech offers a variety of membership options to suit your business needs, providing flexible workspace, a serviced reception, postal services together with an extensive co-working suite, a meeting room, business lounge, kitchens, collaboration bar, games area and an outdoor Wellbeing Garden.

To register for our networking events please email info@businesscentres.org.uk



For further information on our business centres:

HatTech
Business Centre
info@businesscentres.org.uk
01707 623623

WelTech
Business Centre
info@businesscentres.org.uk
01707 336969

Working for Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

Welwyn Hatfield is a fantastic place to live and work, with our community at the heart of everything we do.

We offer a wide range of roles for enthusiastic and dynamic people who thrive in a fast-paced, evolving environment. If you're passionate about making a difference and shaping services that matter, we'd love to hear from you. We offer a warm welcome, alongside the support and encouragement to help you grow and develop your career.

Find out more at careers.welhat.gov.uk



Healthy hub

Welwyn Hatfield



The Healthy Hub offers free health and wellbeing support.

Visit one of our pop-up clinics listed below or explore the online directory to find trusted local services for mental health, addiction, sexual health, weight management, and more.

- Weds 25 March | 1.30pm-3.30pm
Job Centre, Town Centre, Hatfield
- Tues 7 April | 11am-1pm
Hatfield Swimming Centre, Lemsford Road
- Weds 8 April | 11am-1pm
St Johns Café, Bishops Rise, Hatfield
- Thur 9 April | 10.30am-12.30pm Birchwood
Leisure Centre, Hatfield
- Tues 14 April | 11am-1pm
Jimmy Macs at The Hive, Hatfield
- Thur 16 April | 10.30am-12.30pm
Friendship House, Wellfield Close, Hatfield
- Tues 21 April | 11am-1pm
Campus West, Welwyn Garden City
- Weds 22 April | 1.30pm-3.30pm
Job Centre, Town Centre, Hatfield

For more help or support from the Healthy Hub team, call us on **07810 153909**, email us at **healthyhub@welhat.gov.uk** or visit the website **one.welhat.gov.uk/healthy-hub**

Free vapes to help you quit smoking

Free vaping products are available to help people give up smoking through the 'Swap to Stop' scheme.

Switching to vaping is one of the most effective ways to quit: It is 95 % safer than smoking, as it contains far fewer disease-causing toxins than cigarettes. Swap to Stop provides vouchers which can be used to get a free vaping starter kit and oils.

Contact our Healthy Hub team to obtain your vouchers.

Call **07810 153909** or email **healthyhub@welhat.gov.uk**

Visit **hertfordshire.gov.uk/smoking**



Simpler recycling

Recycling food waste is key to achieving a greener borough and this March, the council is introducing weekly food waste collections to some flats across the borough.

New kitchen caddies and food bins have been delivered to some flats as part of the Government's **Simpler Recycling** legislation. The new service will start from 30 March.

This new service will support us to:

- Improve our recycling rate.
- Reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.
- Recycle more food waste into renewable energy and fertiliser.

Find out more at **www.welhat.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling**



Residents to have say on new parish council

Residents will have an opportunity to share their views on the creation of a new parish council for Welwyn Garden City, with a consultation expected to launch in May, subject to approval by Full Council. Further information on the consultation, which is called a Community Governance Review, will be shared on the council's website and social media channels nearer the time.

The online portal for all your council payment needs

Managing your payments online couldn't be easier with the Your Council Tax online portal. All you need to do is set up a secure online account.

Customers can now use an online portal to securely access Council Tax, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support and Business Rates services online. You can view and make payments, make a new Housing Benefit claim, set up a direct debit or update your details from your phone, tablet, laptop, or PC.

It also means you can make changes to your account anytime, anywhere, without needing to call the customer services team. Plus, if you request paperless billing, you are helping the council to reduce printing and postage costs, minimise waste and help the environment.

Setting up an online account on the Your Council Tax portal only takes a few minutes. To find out more visit **www.welhat.gov.uk** and search 'My Account'.



Estate Management Scheme

Welwyn Garden City is a special place, and we know preserving the unique appeal of the town is a priority for residents.

The Estate Management Scheme (EMS) was introduced in 1973 to enhance the town's amenities and values while guiding redevelopment to protect Welwyn Garden City's unique character.

The EMS plays a vital role in preserving the original Garden City principles. Many neighbourhoods follow precise design rules that create harmony and consistency – for example, landscaped front gardens with traditional hedgerows provide symmetry and soften the appearance of streets, contributing

to the town's distinctive look. Features like white-framed windows on street-facing elevations, though subtle, are key to maintaining a cohesive streetscape and preventing changes that could disrupt the area's overall character.

Homeowners in the EMS area must seek consent for most external changes to their homes or gardens. Common requests include new or expanded driveways; our design guidance encourages retaining green landscaping and avoiding excessive removal of hedges or planting. Window alterations are also frequent, and replacements should match the original style, especially on street-facing sides where white frames help preserve visual consistency.

Our dedicated EMS team offers pre-application advice and supports residents throughout the process. They also help resolve breaches of the scheme. As a landlord, the council is subject to the EMS and works with Housing Services to ensure that improvements to council homes respect and enhance the area's special character.

If you are a resident in the EMS area of Welwyn Garden City and have questions about the scheme or would like advice on a proposal, please contact the council on **01707 357000** or at **ems@welhat.gov.uk**

For more information about the EMS and to view the design guide, which is used to help determine applications, please visit **www.welhat.gov.uk/ems**



New law strengthens renters' rights

Private renters will soon benefit from stronger protections as major changes come into force from 1 May 2026 under the Renters' Rights Act.

The new law will abolish most 'no-fault' evictions, meaning landlords must give a valid legal reason to end a tenancy. All existing and new tenancies will move to open-ended periodic agreements, giving renters more stability and flexibility.

Rent increases will be limited to once per year, with safeguards allowing tenants to challenge unfair rises.

From 1 May 2026, landlords will also be banned from rental bidding, prevented from asking for more than one month's rent

upfront, and prohibited from discriminating against tenants with children or those receiving benefits. Tenants will gain a new right to request a pet, which landlords must consider reasonably.

Further reforms arriving from late 2026 will introduce a national landlord and property database and a Private Rented Sector Ombudsman, making it easier to resolve disputes and increasing transparency across the sector.

Find out more at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/renters-rights-act-2025-implementation-roadmap



www.welhat.gov.ukcontact-whc@welhat.gov.uk**01707 357000**

Which council does what?

Getting in touch with the right people, the first time, makes life that bit easier. To help, here are some of the things that we, the borough council, can deal with, and what **Hertfordshire County Council** takes care of.

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

- Waste and recycling collections
- Fly-tipping, litter and graffiti
- Allotments, woodlands and green spaces
- Anti-social behaviour
- Council car parks
- CCTV
- Council tax
- Council housing
- Homelessness
- Cemetery services
- Benefits
- Hackney carriages
- Public health and protection (air and noise pollution, food inspections, health and safety at work, licensing)
- Town centre events
- Planning

**WELWYN
HATFIELD**www.welhat.gov.uk

Hertfordshire County Council

- Highways and transportation – including street lights, traffic lights, potholes, gritting and road repairs
- Household Waste Recycling Centres (tip/dump)
- Adult and children's social care
- School admissions, free school meals and transport
- Children's centres
- Fostering and adoption
- Disability support services
- Disabled parking (blue badges)
- Libraries
- Trading Standards
- Fire and rescue

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

Other useful numbers

Citizens Advice (Hatfield)
03444 111 444

Dementia Support Services
0333 150 3456

Domestic Violence/Abuse Line
08 088 088 088

Electricity Loss of Supply
0800 7838 838

Energy Efficiency Advice Centre
0800 512 012
(free advice on energy efficiency & grants)

Floodline (Environment Agency)
0345 988 1188

Gas Emergencies
0800 111 999

Hertfordshire Building Control
01438 879 990

Hertfordshire Police
101
(all areas for non-emergencies)

HertsHelp
0300 123 4044

Housing Ombudsman
0300 111 3000

Local Government Ombudsman
0300 061 0614

NSPCC: Childline
0800 1111

NSPCC Helpline
0808 800 5000

NHS non-emergency
111
(24-hour healthcare advice)

Pest Control – Dial-a-Pest
03444 828 334

RSPCA
0300 1234 999
(24-hour service for reporting mistreated, injured or distressed animals)

Samaritans
116 123

Women's Refuge and Advice
01707 373743

Thames Water
0800 980 8800
(sewerage problems, blocked main drains)

Water Emergencies (Affinity)
0345 357 2407

Leakspotters (Affinity)
0800 376 5325



[facebook.com/
welwynhatfield](https://facebook.com/welwynhatfield)



[@WelHatCouncil](https://twitter.com/WelHatCouncil)

Sadly, some of our colleagues are experiencing an increase in abusive phone calls and interactions with members of the public. We understand you may be worried or frustrated when you speak with us, but please be respectful to our staff and contractors.

DISCOVER WELWYN HATFIELD

From fascinating heritage sites to entertainment venues, Welwyn Hatfield is full of places to explore, enjoy and experience. Whether uncovering local history, trying something new or simply looking for a great day out, our borough has something for everyone, right on your doorstep.

To find out more, visit onewelhat.gov.uk/discover



Mill Green Watermill and Museum

Step back in time at Mill Green Watermill and Museum, Hatfield's beautifully restored 18th century working watermill on the River Lea. Watch the mill in action, meet the friendly Miller and discover the ancient craft of milling. The museum also runs Mini Millers, a fun, hands-on play session for under 5s themed around milling, baking, and farming. Plus, with general admission including a

guided tour every Friday and Sunday, there's plenty for families to enjoy while exploring the history and culture of the local area.

Find out more at millgreenmuseum.co.uk

Roman Baths, Welwyn

The Roman Baths is a great day out for the whole family. Discover Welwyn's historic past with the remains of our ancient Roman Bathhouse and find out more about the people who lived there, with lots of hands-on activities suitable for all ages.

Regular visit days and children's activities will run throughout school holidays. Please check our website for details, including opening dates and times.

Find out more at welwynromanbaths.co.uk



Discover UH Arts + Culture

UH Arts + Culture is the University of Hertfordshire's public arts centre, delivering an ambitious and varied cultural programme for local communities and visitors from across the region.



With a strong focus on creativity and participation, the programme spans visual arts, design, music, media and live performance, offering inspiring experiences in welcoming and accessible settings.

Across University campuses and venues in Hatfield and St Albans, UH Arts + Culture presents a vibrant year-round programme of exhibitions, performances and events. The arts centre is also home to the University's resident orchestra, the de Havilland Philharmonic, and cares for the University's accredited

Art Collection, including the impressive outdoor Sculpture Walk, which is open to the public.

Many events are free and open to all, with a strong emphasis on enriching the cultural life and wellbeing of local audiences. From hands-on workshops and family activities to community-focused events, UH Arts + Culture creates spaces where people can discover something new, connect with others and feel inspired by creativity.

Explore the current programme and book events at www.uharts.co.uk



Multiplex quality, independent feel

Welwyn Garden City's independent 3-screen cinema at Campus West screens new releases on their national release dates, alongside blockbusters, family films and a diverse range of arthouse, biopic and documentary films.

Enjoy exclusive offers like **£7 Big Screen Saver** tickets (Mon-Thurs until 5pm), **Films for a Fiver**, **Parent and Baby** screenings and **SEND** screenings.

Plus, the free **Zebra membership** provides up to **50% off** tickets and activities, including **Roller City**, **Soft Play**, and **Humphrey's Café Lounge**.



EVENT CINEMA @ Campus West

Experience world-class theatre and art exhibitions at cinema prices with live broadcasts from award-winning West End and international productions. Enjoy close-up views of stage sets, stunning costumes, and exclusive cast interviews. Visit our website for the full lineup.

Enjoy an additional **15% off** with **Zebra** discount membership!



7 December 2026 to 3 January 2027

BOOK NOW for our 2026 Panto!

Step into a world of magic, mischief and happily-ever-afters with this year's enchanting pantomime!

Follow Dick Whittington as he travels to London in search of fortune, armed with nothing but his wits and the hope that the streets are paved with gold. With the help of his clever cat and a little bit of luck, can he rise from rags to riches?

Packed with dazzling costumes, toe-tapping songs, and plenty of laugh-out-loud moments, this panto favourite is a

sparkling festive treat for the whole family!

Tickets for **Dick Whittington** are now on sale, along with its cheekier adult version, **Dick Whittington Unzipped**. And don't forget, with the Campus West Pantomime, you can 'Book Now Pay Later' by visiting the website campuswest.co.uk



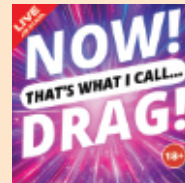
LIVE ON STAGE

From side-splitting comedy to captivating children's shows, there's something for everybody. Visit the Campus West website for the full calendar and to buy tickets.



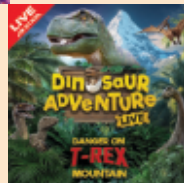
WEST SIDE JAZZ
First Weds of every month

MADE IN TENNESSEE
Fri 20 Mar



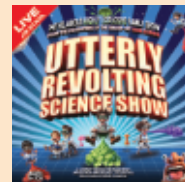
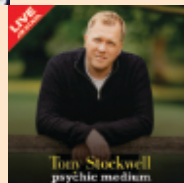
NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL DRAG
Sat 28 Mar

DINOSAUR ADVENTURE LIVE
Mon 30 Mar



TOTTENHAM LEGENDS
Thur 7 May

TONY STOCKWELL
Wed 20 May



UTTERLY REVOLTING SCIENCE SHOW
Thur 28 May

THE THREE BILLY GOATS GRUFF
Fri 29 May



FIVE MISTAKES THAT CHANGED HISTORY
Sat 19 Sept