

What's on

at North Herts Museum and Hitchin Town Hall

September – December 2024





Curator talks

£6.50 per person - booking essential

For lunchtime talks, you will receive 10% off in the café on the day of the talk.

Present your ticket/receipt in the café to receive this offer.



10 September 12pm

Sappho: singer/songwriter of the seventh century BC

Sappho was regarded in the Ancient World as one of the greatest poets in the Greek language, second only to Homer, yet almost nothing survives of her work (about 650 lines out of 10,000). How is it that a highly respected writer's work is almost lost to us? What do the tantalising fragments tell us about her concerns, style and talent? And what is her connection with North Hertfordshire?



25 September 7.30pm

Hitchin Priory: home of monks, monkeys and tyrants

Ever wondered about the story of Hitchin Priory?

What we now call Hitchin Priory has its origins in 1317. Find out about what the site has been used for, and all the plants and animals that have called the Priory home in this evening talk from curator Matt Platt!

You'll explore the buildings and its grounds, touching on some of the interesting figures and events that have shaped its history, as well as getting a closer look at some museum objects that help to tell its story.



8 October 12pm

Our top forty

Come along to this lunchtime talk from our curator Ros. She'll throw light on forty fascinating objects from the museum, from the parachute to the polyphon, and you'll learn all about some of the most interesting yet unexpected items we own.



23 October 7.30pm

A nice cup of tea: the history of Britain's favourite beverage

Sit back and relax with a good cuppa, and join us for a talk on all things tea. Discover the global history of one of the most popular drinks on the planet. Such as, what were ornate teabricks used for, and how did you make a drink from them? Enjoy a soothing blend of tasting samples, including black, green and white tea.



5 November 12pm

Echoes of the Second World War: stories told by objects at North Hertfordshire Museum

Our museum service holds hundreds of items related to the Second World War. This talk will look at a wide range of stories from that time, all told through objects. From fighting in the armed forces to enduring air raids, or simply trying to live an ordinary life, how did local people experience and adapt to those traumatic few years?



3 December 12pm

18 December 7.30pm

Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas and Father Christmas: what's the difference?

English people grow up with Father Christmas and soon learn about Santa Claus, the American equivalent. What are the origins of these characters and what has St Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (Turkey) to do with them? This talk explores their history and some surprising local connections.

Talks by guest speakers – £6.50pp - Booking essential



19 September 12pm

‘Evacuation’: the ‘How’ and ‘Why’ - Talk by Vera Grigg

An evacuee discusses her experience of the evacuation of London children, for which extensive planning started as early as 1930, before the start of the Second World War. Was it successful?

Vera was born in Dagenham in 1931 and she twice survived being bombed. She was evacuated with her school to East Dereham in Norfolk during the ‘phoney war’ until her parents brought her home. Vera stayed in Dagenham throughout the war and then went into teaching, both locally and in Inner London. She now lives in Hitchin.



27 November 7.30pm

Opera for everyone - Talk by Madeleine McConnell Smith

Join British soprano, Madeleine McConnell Smith, for a light-hearted evening introducing opera in its different forms over the centuries.

Through an engaging and informative presentation, including live singing from Madeleine herself, she seeks to demystify the world of opera and foster a deeper appreciation for its beauty and complexity.

Madeleine is originally from Letchworth Garden City and has just finished her Masters in Music, specialising in classical vocal performance, at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. She has a wealth of performing experience and alongside this has been a vocal teacher with Hertfordshire Music Service for four years.



Exhibitions FREE admission

Hitchin's

TOY STORY

Designed
in Hitchin...

...Enjoyed
worldwide



13 July – 22 Sept 2024

Hitchin's Toy Story

'Raffo, Pape & Woodward' with their team of inventive designers quietly created and developed product concepts for the children's toy industry from their design studio in Hitchin.

For over 40 years, their designs have been manufactured and sold through major companies like Fisher Price, Tomy, Playskool and Matchbox. Projects include work on brands such as Action Man, Play Doh, and Thomas the Tank Engine.

This family-friendly exhibition, 'Hitchin's Toy Story', features a colourful display of original artworks, videos, production toy samples and prototype models from their portfolio to date.



Upcoming exhibitions **FREE admission**

5 October – 12 January 2025

The Snowman

If you loved Raymond Briggs' classic children's tale, don't miss this special wintery exhibition of 30 original animations cels from the 1982 film, as well as some early editions of *The Snowman*, including a facsimile of the original manuscript. Have your photo taken in front of *The Snowman*, dress up, and share some festive memories.

www.thesnowman.com

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25 January – 30 March 2025

Stuff: Things that make us human

History books used to talk about 'Man the Toolmaker', but we now know that many other animals also make tools. What sets us apart is our relationship with the things we make and use. We can love them, we can't live without them, we use them to show who we are. Humanity's unique behaviour is all based around our stuff. This exhibition draws from all the Museum's collections, from social history to archaeology, from costume to natural history. Expect the unexpected!





Arches Gallery

The Arches display space hosts temporary exhibitions all year round. These exhibitions are formed either from our own collections or from artists and groups who apply to hire the space.

We have an exciting schedule for the rest of 2024 including beautiful displays from some local artists and celebrations of our local history.

If you are a North Herts artist or group and you have an idea for your own display please get in touch via northhertsmuseum@north-herts.gov.uk





General events



2 - 23 October 7 - 9pm - £99

Discover printmaking - 4 week course

Explore different printmaking methods with your tutor, Kim, over four weeks in a friendly and inspiring course designed for beginners.

You'll experiment with monoprint, linocut, and collagraph. While learning these fascinating techniques, you'll create a collection of beautiful work on paper

All materials and refreshments are provided.

Children over 11 are welcome on a booked space with a parent.





14 November 10 - 11am - £10

Museum tour

Join us for an exclusive tour of our galleries. Our Cultural Services Manager, Ros, will discuss the objects on display and highlight our art collection.

With just a small group on each tour, you will get an in-depth look at the history of our district.



4 December 7 - 9pm - £28

Christmas linoprint workshop

Make your own linoprint Christmas cards and gift tags in this welcoming and relaxed workshop. Learn how to use simple tools to design, carve and print your own creations onto beautiful cards. All materials and refreshments are provided. Children over 11 are welcome on a booked space with a parent.

MUSEUM CRAFT CLUB

EVERY THURSDAY
3PM - 4.20PM
IN THE MUSEUM FOYER

£1

**NO NEED TO
BOOK.
JUST
DROP IN**

LEARN ABOUT HISTORY WHILE BEING CREATIVE
DIFFERENT CRAFT ACTIVITY EACH WEEK

Drop in anytime during the session, no need to book
Ask at the welcome desk on arrival
Aimed at children, ages 5 - 12 year olds
Parental supervision required

Term Time Only



Toddlers

£8 per child or £15 for two children - Tickets must be booked in advance
Parents attend for free at the toddlers sessions (max two adults per child).



14 September 10.45am & 11.45am
Where the Wild Things are by Maurice Sendak

19 October 10.45am, 11.45am, 12.45pm
Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson

9 November 10.45am, 11.45am, 12.45pm
The Tiger who came to Tea by Judith Kerr

14 December 10.45am, 11.45am, 12.45pm
Stickman by Julia Donaldson

Family Workshops



30 October

10.45 - 11.45am & 12 - 1pm

Family drumming workshops

Join us for an uplifting hour of music-making with family and friends. No experience necessary and all instruments provided. Led by percussionist and Hertfordshire Music Service tutor Caz Wolfson.

For adults and children (age 7+)

Booking is essential

£5 per person, £18 family of 4



31 October 10.45 & 11.45am

Witch collage

We're getting all magical for Halloween this year and making collages of witches.

Get snipping, ripping, glueing and sticking to create a witchy picture to take home.

Aimed at children 3 - 12 years old.

Booking is essential - £3.50 per child



Christmas holidays and half term craft activities



Half term 28 October - 1 November

Christmas holidays 23 December - 3 January

Join us for kids' craft activities over the school holidays. Free to low cost. Keep an eye on our social media or tickets page for more details.

Museum Christmas opening



Monday 23 December - **Closed**

Christmas Eve - **Closed**

Christmas Day - **Closed**

Boxing Day - **Closed**

Friday 27 December - **Open**

Saturday 28 December - **Open**

Sunday 29 December - **Open**

Monday 30 December - **Closed**

New Year's Eve - **Open**

New Year's Day - **Closed**

Thursday 2 January - **Open**



Museum café

Mon Closed. **Tues – Sat:** 10.30am – 3.30pm. **Sun** 11am – 2pm.



**NEW
MENU**

Tea, Coffee, Soft drinks, Cakes, Scones, Salads, Paninis, Jacket Potatoes...

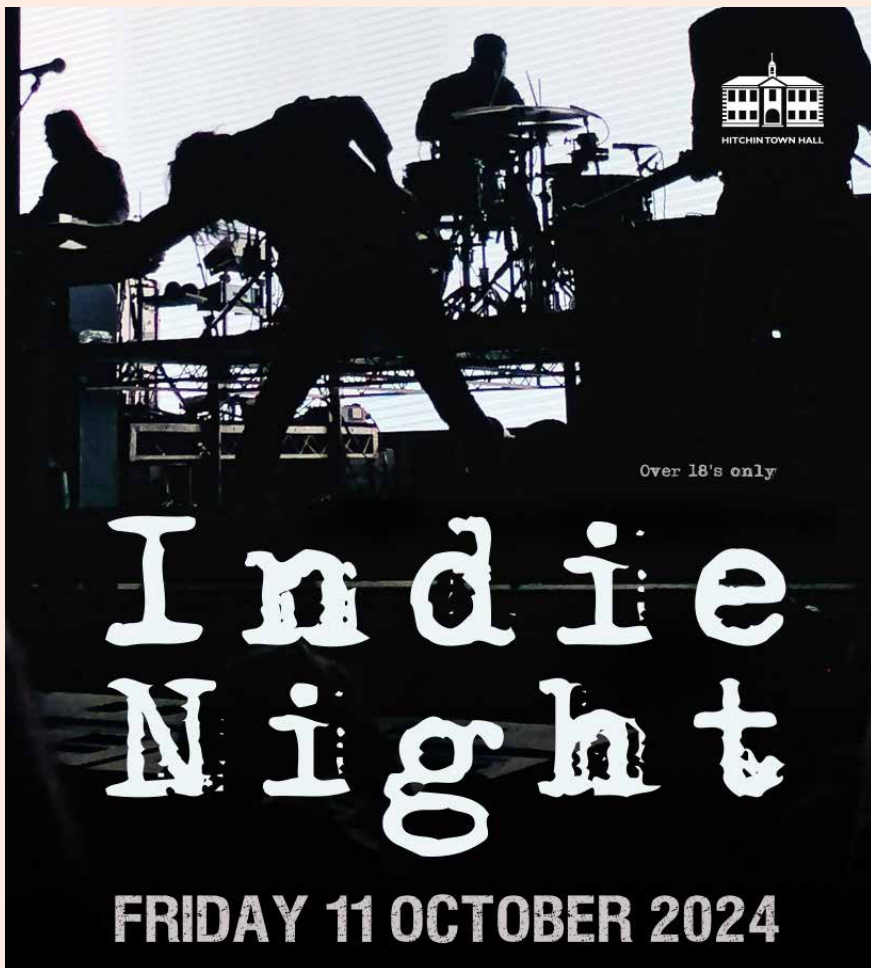


Mon Closed. **Tues – Sat:** 10.30am – 3.30pm. **Sun** 11am – 2pm.



Town Hall events

To book Town Hall events go to our new website at www.hitchintownhallevents.com



11 October

8pm - 1am - £10pp

Indie Night

Get excited for a night full of classic indie hits from every era. Providing a great atmosphere and great music, what's not to love?

Over 18s only.

Kids' Discos

£6.50 per child. Suitable for under 12s and under 1s go free. Adults and under 1s must have an accompanying free ticket, children must be supervised at all times.



26 October

12 - 2pm & 3 - 5pm

Halloween Disco

Calling every little witch, warlock, ghost and ghoul: come along to our wickedly wonderful Halloween Disco!

Prepare your scariest costumes and get stuck into some Halloween themed fun.

22 December

12 - 2pm

Christmas Disco

Put on your Santa hats: our annual snowtastic Christmas Disco is coming back for another year!

Make sure to prepare your dancing feet because we'll be providing an afternoon full of merry music and games.



We put on seasonal kids' discos throughout the year!

Keep an eye on our social media or ticket pages so you don't miss out.

Hitchin Town Hall



Christmas Parties

Join us for an evening filled with festive cheer and entertainment

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Arrival from 6.30pm, close at 1am
- Buffet* • Fully licensed bar • DJ • Casino tables • Photo booth area
- £39.00pp early bird rate for bookings before 1 October 2024
- £43.00pp after 1 October 2024

PARTY DATES DECEMBER 2024:

Friday 6, Thursday 12, Friday 13 and Thursday 19

*Traditional Christmas Dinner Buffet, Vegetarian and Vegan options available to pre-order only.

Please inform us of any dietary requirements before booking.

Contact Hitchin Town Hall before booking, email us at: hitchintownhall@north-herts.gov.uk

OUR SPACES

at Hitchin Town Hall

LUCAS ROOM

- Up to 65 guests theatre style
- Hybrid meeting technology
- £26-£42 per hour

MOUNTFORD HALL



- Room capacity of 250
- Projector, conference sound system and wireless microphone
- Licensed bar available
- £58-£99 per hour

LEARNING CENTRE



- Up to 40 guests theatre style
- AV equipment
- £31-£47 per hour

AT A GLANCE



Lucas Room

All rooms have AV
Refreshments and
food available
Fully furnished

**For more info and
to contact us:**

hitchintownhallevts.com

hitchintownhall@north-herts.gov.uk

01462 474554



HITCHIN TOWN HALL
WEDDINGS
& CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS



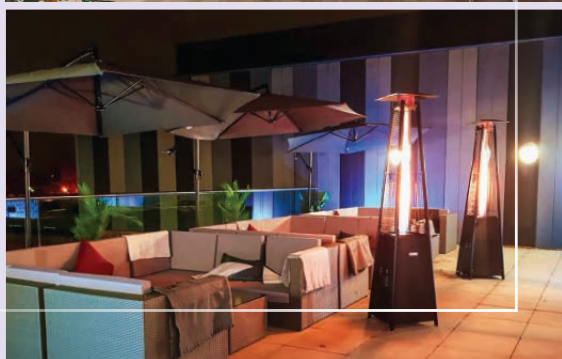
The Mountford Hall, The Lucas Room, and The Terrace Gallery are all licenced for weddings and civil ceremonies.

We offer a range of packages or a bespoke quote so that you can build the day of your dreams.

hitchintownhallevents.com

hitchintownhall@north-herts.gov.uk

01462 474554



Exercise classes



Tai Chi

Tai Chi is a low-impact and gentle exercise that concentrates on correcting posture and breathing, promoting the harmony of mind and body.

Tuesday 10am - Mixed abilities

Tuesday 1.45pm - Beginners

Thursday 12pm - Intermediates

£7.50



Dance Fit

Low-impact up to moderate intensity, Dance Fit is a fun exercise session which can help with building strength, and improving your health and wellbeing.



Every **Monday** and **Wednesday**, 10.30 - 11.30am

£7.50

For more information and to book museum events, visit north-herts-museum.arttickets.org.uk or drop into the museum and pay at the welcome desk. Places are limited so buy in advance to secure your place.

North Hertfordshire Museum & Hitchin Town Hall

**Museum
& exhibition
entry is
FREE**

Find us
 northhertsmuseum
 northhertsmuseum



North Hertfordshire Museum
Brand Street, Hitchin Herts SG5 1JE

Scan for
Tickets 

www.northhertsmuseum.org northhertsmuseum@north-herts.gov.uk 01462 474554

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.30am – 4.30pm, Sunday 11am – 3pm

Please note that the café closes an hour before the museum (3.30pm Tuesday to Saturday and 2pm Sunday).



Hitchin Town Hall, Brand Street, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1HX
www.hitchintownhallevents.com



hitchintownhall@north-herts.gov.uk

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Open Monday to Friday

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What's on



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