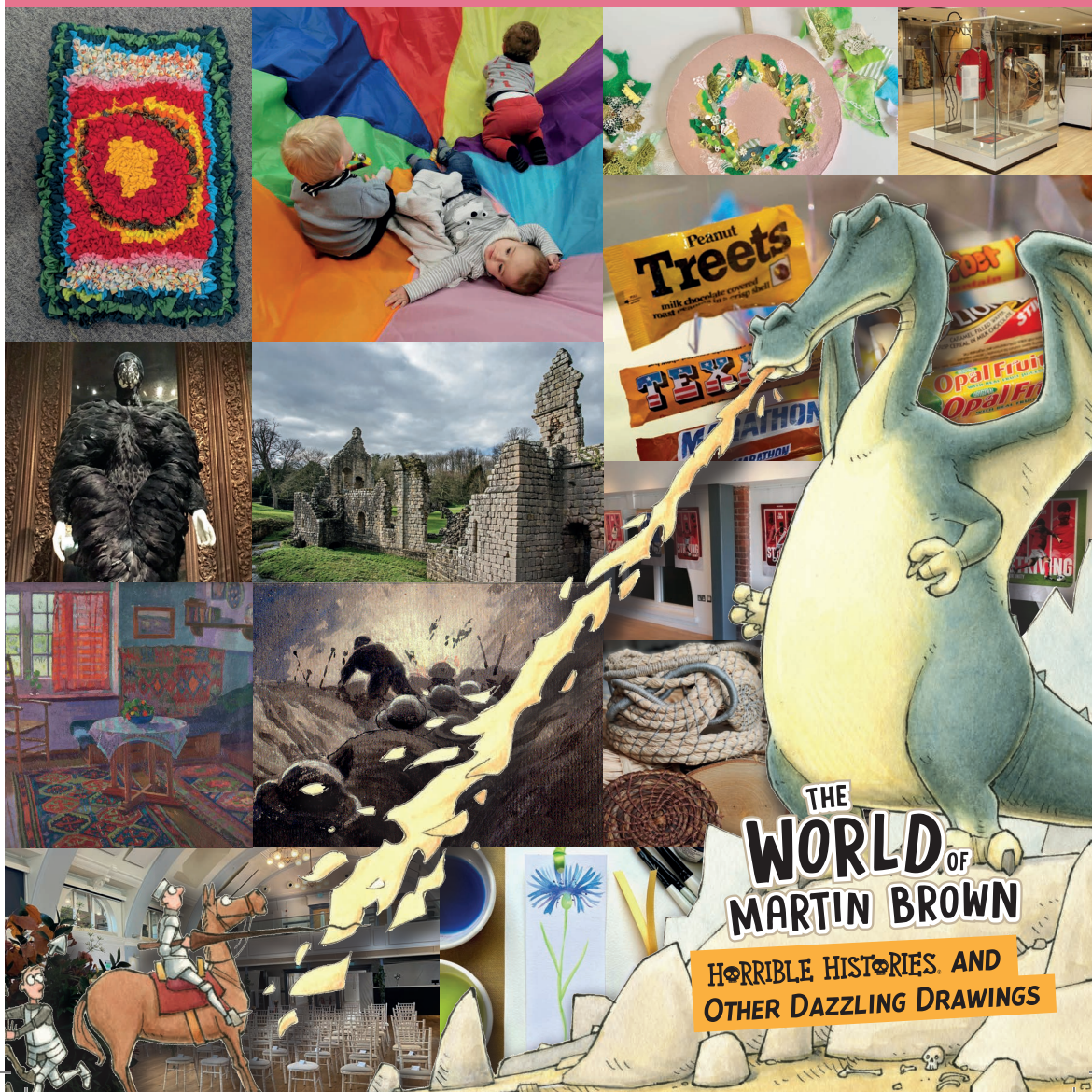


What's on

at North Herts Museum and Hitchin Town Hall

September – December 2025





Curator talks

£7 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.



9 September 7.30pm

Land Beneath the Waves: Local Landscape and Nearby Nature

In this illustrated talk based on her nature memoir *Land Beneath the Waves*, Nic will take you on a journey through Hitchin's wild places, snickets, fields and natural history, considering some of the changes our chalk landscape has seen over the centuries.

Guest speaker: Nic Wilson.

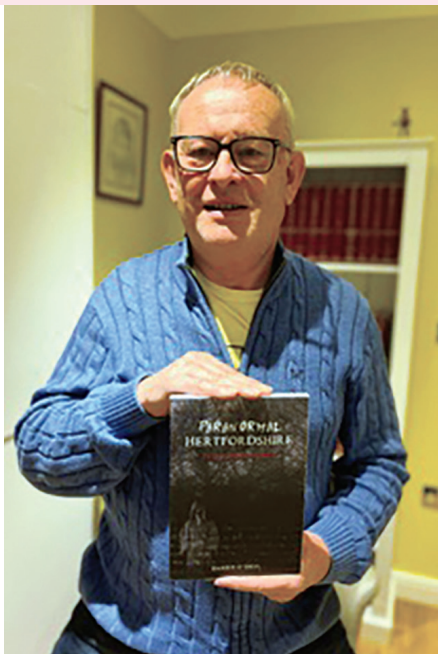
29 October 7.30pm

Ghosts of North Hertfordshire

Right in time for Halloween, author and paranormal historian, Damien Odell, will be joining us to talk about local ghosts and tell us spooky stories.

This talk is based on his new book about Hertfordshire ghosts. He'll be looking at North Hertfordshire in particular, starting at Royston and moving down through Baldock and Letchworth, then on to Hitchin. Maybe some haunted villages, such as Ashwell, Rushden and Weston, will make an appearance.

Guest speaker: Damien Odell.
Author of *Paranormal Hertfordshire*





11 November 12pm

Echoes of the First World War: stories told through objects at North Hertfordshire Museum

Our museum service holds hundreds of items related to the First World War. This talk will look at a wide range of stories from that time, all told through objects held by our museum.

Talk by: Matt Platt



21 November 12pm

Darkness from light: the origins of Gothic literature

The enlightenment bred reason, rationality and the Gothic, a literary genre steeped in darkness.

This talk will look at the inception of the Gothic in the context of the French Revolution, societal anxieties and cultural fashions. It will look at Horace Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto* (1764) as the first Gothic novel, before considering other early examples, including works by Anne Radcliffe, Charlotte Dacre and Matthew Lewis.

Guest speaker: Kaja Franck.
Lecturer, University of Hertfordshire

27 November 7.30pm

Transforming Monsters: How the literature of terror still speaks to us today

In 1974, Angela Carter, the 'high sorceress' of English literature, declared: "We live in gothic times".

Each decade since, Gothic academics and social commentators alike have continued to find validity in this statement. But what is contemporary Gothic?

This talk will build on ideas from the previous talk 'Darkness from light: the origins of Gothic literature'. However

you do not need to have attended that talk to enjoy this one.

Guest speaker: Kaja Franck.
Lecturer, University of Hertfordshire





The Roman Empire from Caesar to collapse – £7.50 each



If you like Roman gossip or just love listening to our curator, Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews, then this series of talks is for you! In March he began delving into the lives of the emperors throughout the ages.

The Heraclian Dynasty (‘the seventh century’)

17 September 7.30pm

Heraclius I rose against Phocas in 610 and established one of the empire’s longest lasting dynasties. It had the misfortune to see the rise of the Arab states after the foundation of Islam, losing the Levant and North Africa to them, and the transformation of the Empire from an urban dominated Late Antique society to a medieval agrarian state resembling the kingdoms that were becoming the norm across Europe. Like so many Roman dynasties, it fell with the execution of its last member, Justinian II in 711.

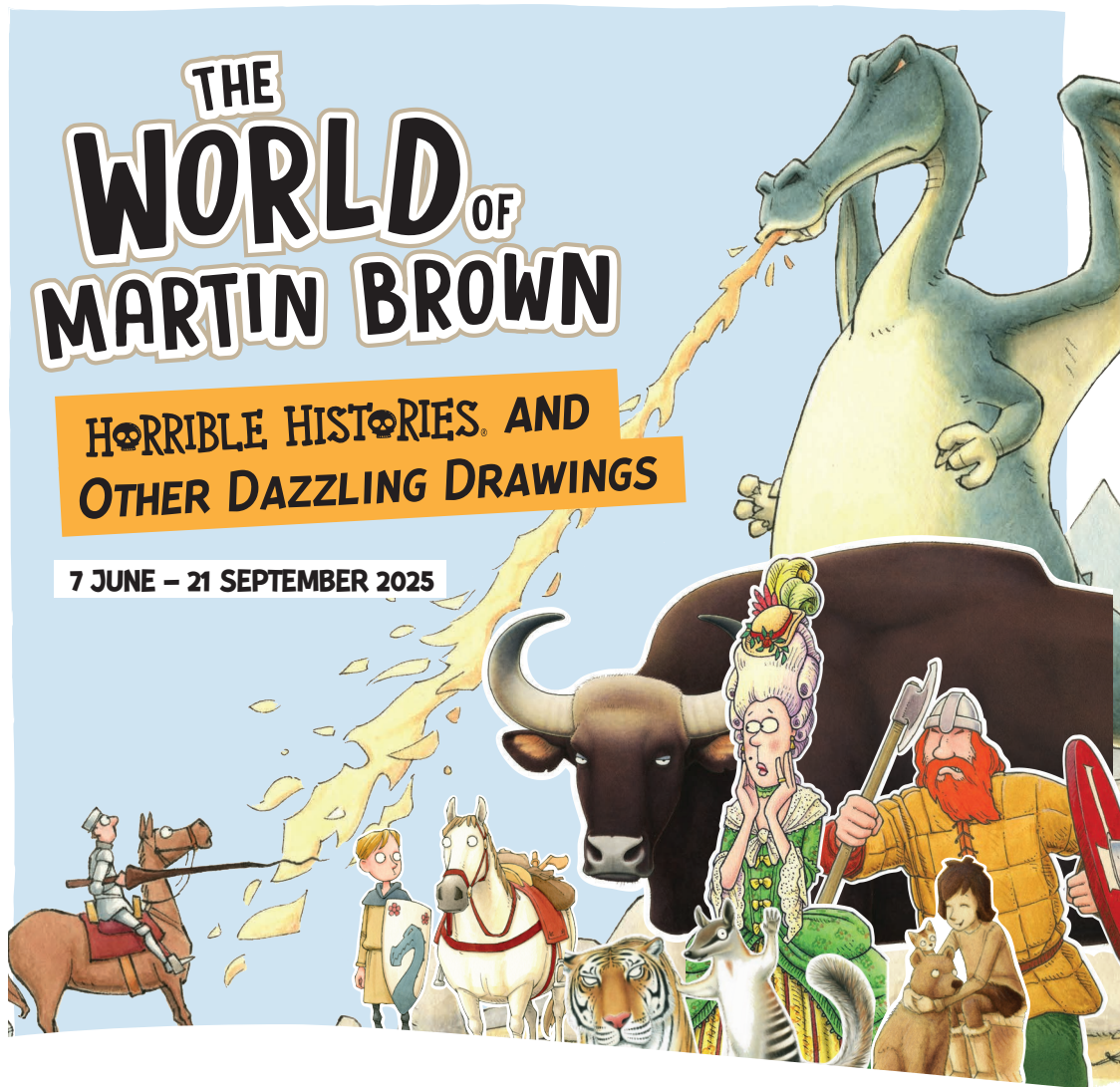
Aftermath: from the Isaurian Dynasty to the fall of the Empire 15 October 7.30pm

The history of the Empire from Leo III to Constantine XI, AD 717-1453, is often seen as one of long, inevitable decline. This is far from true: there were periods of considerable success and resurgence, but the Crusaders’ sack of Constantinople in 1204 was the beginning of the end. However, the Ottoman conqueror of Constantinople, Mehmet II, saw himself as the successor emperor, a claim recognised by the Patriarch of Constantinople and the Ming Emperors of China; the rulers of Moscow from Ivan III Vasilyevich, husband of Constantine XI’s niece, also claimed the title.

THE WORLD OF MARTIN BROWN

HORRIBLE HISTORIES AND
OTHER DAZZLING DRAWINGS

7 JUNE – 21 SEPTEMBER 2025



7 June - 21 September

**The World of Martin Brown:
Horrible Histories and other dazzling drawings**

**A FREE EXHIBITION FOR
ALL THE FAMILY**

Martin Brown has been illustrating Horrible Histories since 1993, working alongside author Terry Deary. The series has become one of the best-loved children's book series ever published and has inspired TV shows, stage productions and a feature film. Explore an inspirational array of Horrible Histories drawings and other art by Martin, and try your hand at cartooning using Martin's tricks and techniques.



seven stories
The National Centre for Children's Books



Horrible Histories® books are published by Scholastic Ltd. Horrible Histories is a trademark of Scholastic Inc. and is used under authorisation. All rights reserved. Illustration © Martin Brown. The World of Martin Brown: Horrible Histories and Other Dazzling Drawings is an exhibition from Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children's Books, developed by the South West Heritage Trust in collaboration with Martin Brown and Events of Wonder.



Upcoming exhibitions FREE admission



4 October - 30 November

William Ratcliffe and Spencer Gore - works from the North Herts Collection

This attractive exhibition gives visitors an opportunity to see some of the many William Ratcliffe oils and watercolours owned by the museum, as well as three Gore oil paintings.

Both were founder members of the influential Camden Town Group in the years before the First World War.



14 December – 15 March 2026

I Grew Up 80s

An entire generation has a chance to wallow in nostalgia with the fantastic free-to-visit exhibition, **I Grew Up 80s** (as seen on BBC Breakfast).

Take a trip back in time and explore the cultural landscape of 1980s Britain through the eyes of a child – revisiting the colourful vibrancy and innovation that defined the decade. From Betamax to BMX, Dirty Dancing to Donkey Kong, the Thompson Twins to Transformers; not forgetting our Troll Trail.

I Grew Up 80s is a lovingly curated time capsule of over 200 treasures showcasing the youthful exuberance of this much-loved decade.





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 2025 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

7 October 10 - 11am

(12 spaces) - £10.50 pp

Exhibition Curator Tour

Get an exclusive tour of our attractive exhibition 'William Ratcliffe and Spencer Gore - works from the North Herts Collection'.

An opportunity to see some of the many William Ratcliffe oils and watercolours, as well as the three Gore oil paintings, with insight from expert Ros Allwood.

Picture: *William Ratcliffe, The Warped Table, 1921.*



18 & 19 October

£135 pp

The Osteoarchaeological Project

Interested in learning more about human remains or need to practice your osteology skills?

North Hertfordshire Museum is hosting a weekend human remains workshop to understand health in Roman and early Medieval England.

Classes are limited to twelve students to ensure maximum access to remains.

Term-time only



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 5 - 12 year olds
Parental supervision required

North Hertfordshire Museum,
Brand Street, HITCHIN, Herts SG5 1JE

www.northhertsmuseum.org



Family events



Toddlers

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



20 September 10.45am & 11.45am

Smeds and Smoos by Julia Donaldson

4 October 10.45am, 11.45am & 12.45pm

Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson

8 November 10.45am, 11.45am & 12.45pm

The Tiger who came to Tea by Judith Kerr

6 December 10.45am, 11.45am & 12.45pm

Stickman by Julia Donaldson



Christmas holidays and half term craft activities



Half term 27 October - 31 October

Christmas Holidays 22 December - 2 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.

Half-term



30 October

11 - 11.45am or 1.30 - 2.15pm £10 per child

Spooktacular Halloween Crafting

Join us for some frightfully fun crafting in this creative Halloween workshop perfect for families with children aged 4 - 11 years.

We'll be weaving creepy cobwebs and magical webs in threads before you bring your spooky scene to life.



31 October

10.45 - 11.30am or 11.45 - 12.30pm
£6 per child. Suitable for ages 5+

Make a Halloween Lantern

Make a Halloween lantern with a flickering, spooky glow.

Let your imagination and cutting skills run wild with witches and spider silhouettes

Cost includes battery powered tea light.

Christmas holidays



23 November

11.20am - 12.10pm & 12.30 - 1.20pm
£10 per child. Tutor: Yoshie Allan

'Christmas Tree' - fabric collage workshop

Collage on a mini Christmas tree with festive fabrics! Fabric collage on pre-made air-dry clay.



20 December

11 - 11.45am or 1.30 - 2.15pm
£10 per child. Tutor: Lucy Sugden

Festive Weaving Fun for Families

Get into the Christmas spirit with this creative weaving workshop designed for the family!

Use a seasonal mix of ribbons, wools and fabrics to design your very own festive woven decoration. Add star, tree and snowflake shapes to make a cheerful decoration to hang at home.

Creative workshops



3 or 18 September 7 - 9pm
£29 per person. Tutor: Beth Fairchild

Concrete Casting Workshop

Discover how to work with concrete; cast a unique mini-vessel in a silicone mould and experiment with lots of different pigments to create a one-of-a-kind piece.



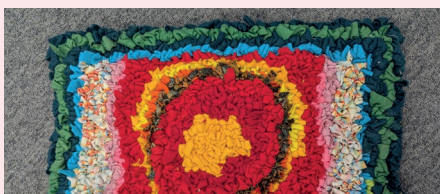
12 September

10.45am - 12.45pm
£30 per person. Tutor: Yvette Jordan

Kingfisher - acrylic ink workshop

Capture the vivid colours of a vibrant kingfisher on a willow branch using acrylic inks.

You'll walk away from this inspiring class with a work of art, a bookmark and some new skills!



23 September - 14 October

7 - 9pm. Tutor: Cas Sanders.
£80 per person.

Rag Rugs - 4 week course

Spend some time learning this simple craft, making a rug to your own design and connecting with like-minded ruggers. You'll be following in the footsteps of Bloomsbury artists, and our wartime ancestors, who made do and mended to create artistic masterpieces.



24 September 7 - 9pm

Tutor: Yoshie Allan. £30 per person

'In Autumn' fabric collage workshop

Celebrate the beauty of autumn by creating a stunning animal silhouette collage with fabric pieces in rich seasonal colours!



1 - 22 October 7 - 9pm

Tutor: Kim Raymont. £99 per person

Discover Linocut - 4 week course

Each week of this course, you will learn how to use linocut tools to explore the possibilities of print.

The tutor, Kim, will offer you new inspiration, guiding your journey and building your skills in the exciting world of printmaking.



29 October 11am - 1.30pm

£35 per person. Tutor: Sally Taylor

Playing with watercolour workshop

Perfect for a beginner or someone wishing to brush up on their skills, this workshop will explore how watercolours work, the different techniques available and how to create a painting.

Learn about materials and equipment, the colour wheel, composition and finally create your own landscape!



10 October 11am - 3pm

Tutor: Hazel Godfrey. £55 per person

Coiled Baskets - make a lovely basket on a natural wood base

This workshop will introduce you to the relaxing and rhythmic technique of simple coiled basketry.

Beginning with a slice of natural wood you'll use seagrass, raffia, waxed threads and polished linen to make a small basketry form in your own creative style. Suitable for beginners!



6 November 11am - 1pm

£25 per person. Tutor: Lucy Sugden

Weave your own woven poppy brooch

Make a beautiful handwoven poppy brooch full of colour and texture.

Not all poppies are red, choose from a selection of coloured yarns to weave your flower. This workshop is a lovely way to explore slow, mindful making while learning a new textile skill.



12 November 7 - 9pm

Tutor: Yoshie Allan. £30 per person

'Christmas Wreath' fabric collage workshop

Let's get creative! Make a beautiful Christmas wreath using colourful and textured fabric collage on a canvas.

With step-by-step guidance and easy-to-use templates, this workshop is perfect for all skill levels. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned crafter, you'll enjoy this festive, easy-going evening.



21 November 10.45am - 12.45pm

Tutor: Yvette Jordan. £30 per person

Robin - acrylic ink workshop

A cheerful little robin perched on an oak branch is the delightful subject of this cosy acrylic ink workshop.

You'll walk away from this inspiring class with a work of art, a bookmark and some new skills!



27 November 11am - 3.30pm

Tutor: Hazel Godfrey £65 per person

Sustainable Christmas Tree - willow weaving workshop

Make this contemporary-looking willow Christmas Tree, complete with its own star!

This tree will be approximately 1m tall x 35cm in diameter. Similar to a small plant support, it is made much more decorative by the use of many spiral coils and added festive decorations.



13 December 11am - 2pm

Tutor: Hazel Godfrey £45 per person

Swedish Stars - willow weaving workshop

Learn to make some beautiful Swedish stars from willow.

These Scandi-style stars have eight points and look fantastic in single or contrasting willow colours. Displayed in a window or decorating the front door, big Swedish stars make a real festive statement.

Museum café

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

**Halloween
Afternoon
Teas**
31 Oct - 1 Nov

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



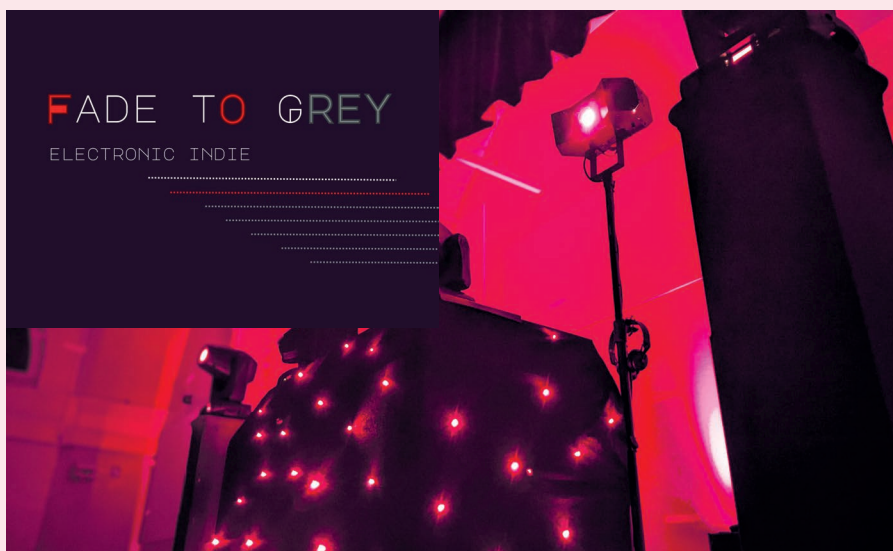
19 September

8pm - 1am. £11 per person (over 18s only)

80s vs 90s Disco

Our popular 80s vs 90s Disco is back once again to battle it out! Party all night long to classic anthems from some of music's best decades.

Get out your crimpers, put on your fire-safe shell suit and come down to the Town Hall for a night of dancing!



14 November

8pm - 1am £11 per person (over 18s only)

Fade to Grey- Electronic Indie Night

Spinning synth-soaked anthems from Depeche Mode, New Order, Yazoo, Eurythmics, Human League, Pet Shop Boys — plus deep cuts you forgot you loved.

DJing by Lee of LifeBeats.

Music DJ

Games

Fancy dress
welcome



25 October 12 - 2pm & 3 - 5pm

Kids 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.

£7 per child. Suitable for under 12s and under 1s go free.

Adults and under 1s must have an accompanying ticket, children must be supervised at all times.



HITCHIN TOWN HALL

A vibrant, cartoon-style illustration for a children's Christmas disco. At the top center is Santa Claus, smiling with his arms outstretched. Below him is a small, decorated Christmas tree with a yellow star on top. Four children are depicted around the tree: a girl on the left with dark hair and a green headband, a boy on the right with a red hat and yellow scarf, a boy at the bottom left with a yellow hat and orange scarf, and a girl at the bottom right with a pink hat and glasses. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds and falling snow. At the bottom, there are several wrapped Christmas gifts with yellow ribbons. The title 'Kids Christmas Disco' is written in large, colorful letters (pink, blue, and green) on a white cloud-like shape in the center.

Kids Christmas Disco

14 December 2 - 4pm

Kids 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.

£7 per child. Suitable for under 12s and under 1s go free.

Adults and under 1s must have an accompanying ticket, children must be supervised at all times.

OUR SPACES

at Hitchin Town Hall



LUCAS ROOM

- Up to 65 guests theatre style
- Hybrid meeting technology

MOUNTFORD HALL



- Room capacity of 240
- Projector, conference sound system and wireless microphone
- Licensed bar available

LEARNING CENTRE



- Up to 40 guests theatre style
- AV equipment

TERRACE GALLERY



- Room capacity of 120
- Outside terrace space
- Interesting museum gallery, a great conversation starter

AT A GLANCE



Lucas Room

All rooms have AV
Refreshments and
food available

Fully furnished

For more info and to
contact us:

hitchintownhallevnts.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

Online ticket sales close at 9am on the day of the class.
Please be advised, if you purchase a ticket at the door on the day of the event, there will be a £1 surcharge. Tickets booked in person in advance will not incur a surcharge.



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 - Mixed abilities

£8.50



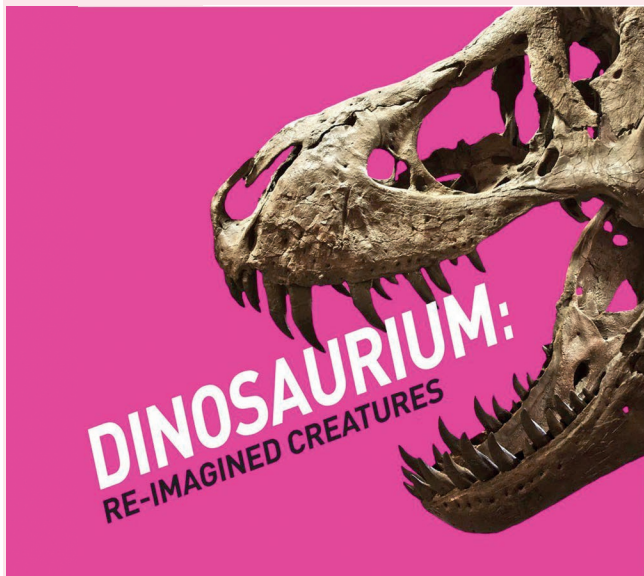
Dance Fit

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 - 11am

£8.50

Coming next year to



28 March – 28 June 2026

Dinosaurium: Reimagined Creatures

This fantastic exhibition explores our relationship with the history of dinosaur discoveries. From ancient fossil finds that inspired legends of dragons, iconic film franchises like Jurassic Park to the latest scientific breakthroughs happening in our area now. Explore fascinating objects and fossils, engaging stories and hands-on activities that will inspire visitors of all ages.

4 July – 20 September 2026

Blood and Bone

Back by popular demand, this family-friendly inflatable sculpture installation was enjoyed by thousands of visitors when it was first shown here back in 2019. The makers, Space Cadets, have taken inspiration from human biology, particularly the cells and organisms inside our bodies. Visitors are invited to explore, listen to and touch a series of exciting installations, including giant breathing tunnels and caves indicative of organs, blood cells and bone.



For more information and to book museum events, visit
www.ticketsource.co.uk/northhertsmuseum or drop into the museum and
 pay at the welcome desk. Doors open 15 minutes before the start of our evening events.
 Spaces are limited, so buy in advance to secure your place.

10% OFF IN CAFÉ FOR DAYTIME WORKSHOPS

**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

Hitchin Town Hall, Brand Street, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1JE

www.hitchintownhallevents.com

hitchintownhall@north-herts.gov.uk

01462 474554

Open Monday to Friday

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 What's on



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