

Community NEWS



SPECIAL EDITION 2020



IT'S HERE

Harpenden Leisure Centre to open in the New Year EARLY BIRD MEMBERSHIP OFFERS AVAILABLE!

Harpenden's fantastic multi-million-pound leisure centre is set to open its doors on Monday 4 January.

The superb new facility, on the edge of Rothamsted Park, boasts a main swimming pool, a learner pool, a state-of-the-art gym, sports hall, exercise studios, sauna, steam room and café.

You can join up today by taking advantage of an early bird membership offer to celebrate the event.

Leisure contractors 1Life, which manages the centre on behalf of St Albans City and District Council, is offering unlimited swim, gym and exercise classes for an incredible £29.99 a month.

To sign up to this amazing deal, please go to the Harpenden Leisure Centre website on www.1life.co.uk/Harpenden-Leisure-centre.

All facilities except the pools are scheduled to open on 4 January

with the pools opening a week later. This phased approach is to ensure a smooth transition.

Please note, though, that there is a chance the opening dates may have to be pushed back if the Government's COVID-19 guidance changes.

The centre is intended to serve residents in Harpenden, Redbourn, Wheathampstead and surrounding villages.

It is the fourth new multi-sports centre that the Council has delivered in the District in the past few years, the others being Batchwood and Westminster Lodge, St Albans, and Cotlandswick, London Colney.

The Council is also creating a new Harpenden Cultural Centre on the site of the old sports centre in Rothamsted Park. For details about that, see page 2.

So, join in the fun, get fit for 2021 – and sign up to membership of the leisure centre today!



1Life
Live more. Live well.

Community News is published by **St Albans City & District Council**

www.stalbans.gov.uk



WHAT'S INSIDE

Harpenden Leisure Centre will open its doors on Monday 4 January – and here is the amazing fitness offering that the two-storey building has inside:

- A 25-metre long swimming pool.
- A brand-new learner pool, 17.5 metres long.
- An 80-station state-of-the-art gym and fitness rig with views overlooking the park.
- Two fitness studios.
- A spin studio.
- A sports hall for badminton, gymnastics and trampolining.
- A steam room and sauna.
- A café and seating area.
- A new changing village.

Among the many activities on offer are children's swimming lessons and dance classes.



Pictures: From top left clockwise, the main swimming pool, the gym as it may look, the changing village, an exercise studio, the spin studio and the learner pool.



Access

The new leisure centre has been built with accessibility as one of the guiding principles.

The building has been equipped with a disabled toilet and shower room, a lift to the first floor and ramps for wheelchair users and the less able.

New Cultural Centre

The Council is also creating a new Cultural Centre to replace ageing Harpenden Public Halls.

The centre is being named after one of the town's most famous residents, comedy legend Eric Morecambe, and its centrepiece will be a 511-seat theatre.

It will also include two function rooms, an exhibition space, bars

on two floors and a coffee shop with views across the park.

The theatre will be able to host major touring productions of nationally acclaimed entertainment shows as well as those of local theatre groups.

Building work is well advanced with the Cultural Centre scheduled to open by the late spring of 2021.

FROM THIS



TO THIS



An ambitious project to create the new Harpenden leisure and cultural centres fit for the 21st Century is costing the Council around £20 million.

The exciting new developments will provide residents with important outlets for healthy living and creative arts.

Harpenden's new leisure centre has been built on the site of the town's former swimming pool building that had reached the end of its life.

The plans were drawn up after extensive consultation with residents

and a wide range of community groups such as sports clubs.

Feedback was carefully analysed and some alterations were made to the original designs as a result.

The most significant of these changes was a larger learner pool than had been initially envisaged.

Detailed proposals for landscaping to complement the parkland setting were included in the planning application.

Builder Willmott Dixon was then appointed as the construction

contractor. The company has had long experience of working with the Council, having built the St Albans Museum + Gallery.

Work began in early 2020 with the old swimming pool building being demolished and the new leisure centre constructed around a refurbished main pool.

Willmott Dixon was able to maintain social distancing among its workforce during the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the construction suffered few delays.

Sustainability

Around 10,000 cubic metres of subsoil were excavated during the construction of the new centre.

It was originally planned to remove the material from the park by a fleet of trucks and take it to a landfill site.

This would have involved 1,400 lorry journeys to and from the site with consequent noise, air pollution and potential traffic congestion.

To avoid this, an eco-friendly initiative was devised to retain the spoil in Rothamsted Park.

Environmental tests confirmed it was free of asbestos or other contaminants and suitable for reuse.

Planning permission was then obtained to use the material to level and contour a nearby events area.





Opening Hours

Monday to Friday – 7am to 8pm

Saturday and Sunday – 8am to 2pm



Café

Local firm Gusto Catering will run the cafe which is to be called Monty's and will serve a delicious range of food and drink to suit all tastes.

Contact Details

Harpenden Leisure Centre is located at:
Rothamsted Park, Harpenden, Hertfordshire. AL5 2HU

For general enquiries, please email:
GMHarpenden@1Life.co.uk.

For membership enquiries, email:
membership@1Life.co.uk.

Facebook, Twitter, Website

Keep up to date with all the latest leisure centre news, offers and activities.

We are on Facebook
www.facebook.com/HarpendenLC1Life/.

And on Twitter
www.twitter.com/harpendenlc.

You can also find all the key information on the leisure centre's website on www.1life.co.uk/Harpenden-Leisure-centre.

Car Park

Users of the leisure centre are encouraged to use green transport such as cycling, walking or buses. The centre has ample secure cycling racks.

However, if you are driving to the centre, there is a 92-space Council car park right beside it on Amenbury Lane.



Have your say... welcome anything you want to say about our services.

We hope you enjoy reading Community News. If you can spare a moment, please email communications@stalbans.gov.uk and let us know your views on this edition.

St Albans City & District Council,
Civic Centre, St Peter's Street, St Albans, Herts. AL1 3LD

Website: www.stalbans.gov.uk **Email:** contactus@stalbans.gov.uk

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