

We're here to support and help you look after your physical and mental health during this difficult time.



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Christmas Events

Christmas will probably look very different The Secret Garden. The Abbey Theatre is this year for most of us, but there are still festive events going on in the District that from the 19-30 December. This show will be you can access online or in a safe and socially available to see socially distanced in the theatre distanced way. Keep an eye on the Enjoy St Albans website to find out the most up to on the website: Web link date information about local events, including festive markets. Web Link

Communities 1st is planning a Virtual Advent Calendar for the month of December. This will be a short uplifting video every day from the 1-24 December, available to view on their Youtube channel. YouTube Video

St Albans Charter Market. Every Saturday and Wednesday the St Albans Charter Market takes place in St Peter's Street and Market Place, St Albans. Additionally, the Christmas Charter Market will be on every day from Monday 14 to Thursday 24 December, with special add-on 'fringe markets' in the High Street, George Street and Heritage Close St Albans.

putting on a production of The Secret Garden or via online livestreaming. You can book tickets

Jingle Bell Walk. Join the Jingle Bell Walk in Harpenden and have great fun finding all the clues on a Covid safe scavenger hunt! Find more information here: Web Link

Christmas Trail across Wheathampstead. Follow the Christmas Trail across Wheathampstead and spot the Christmas carol songs! Check out the trail here: Web Link

St Marys Church in Redbourn are offering free Christmas Hampers to those who would really benefit this year. To find our more or to donate visit our website. Web Link

Vaccination Centre Volunteers

We're recruiting for the following roles to We're endeavouring to deliver some festive support the vaccination centres that will shortly projects to bring joy to people this Christmas, be set up across Hertfordshire, West Essex, especially those who have suffered any kind of Luton, Bedford and Milton Keynes. hardship due to the pandemic. Not just the elderly and isolated but families who have had **Post-vaccination Observation Support and** a hard time, people living with long term health conditions or disabilities and others who will be Post-vaccination observation and first aid support alone and feeling the lack of contact most acutely.

Basic Life Support

in the post-vaccination area inside the pod.

We are in the process of arranging Festive **Volunteer Steward** Window Visits in St Albans, Hertsmere, Welwyn Ushering and Patient Flow. Patient flow Hatfield and Broxbourne. Volunteers will be management across the site. Parking attendance going out to visit people isolated at home to support have a friendly, socially distanced chat, give a small gift and share some Christmas Cheer. We **Volunteer Patient Advocate Volunteer** need people who are willing to help our project Answering patient queries and address any team with the many complex associated logistics. concerns about the vaccination in the waiting Email volunteering@communities1st.org.uk

area.

Front of House Volunteer We'll also be arranging some friendly phone calls to those who will be feeling lonely over the Initial patient health check and patient check-in either in the car park or front desk. traditionally family and friends focussed days of Christmas and New Year.

Email: Volunteer@communities1st.org.uk or sign up via our website Web Link

Local Community Support We have just launched our Virtual Variety Advent Calendar, extremely talented volunteers have Our support for local charities and community recorded a range of short entertaining acts to organisations remains available. If your group bring a smile at this difficult time. These are needs help at this time please do get in touch. being uploaded each day onto our Youtube We hold weekly virtual coffee mornings for Channel so do tune in and catch those. We're organisations Thursdays at 10am. We also have hoping these will be shared far and wide for a weekly virtual lunchtime catch up for anybody people to enjoy, we'll certainly look to share who volunteers or wishes to volunteer from the these with people on phones and tablets when we do our festive window visits. local area every Thursday 12:30pm. To book on to either of these free sessions visit our website In addition to this we will be recording a and click "What's On" Web Link

range of festive bedtime stories for children/ We most certainly are hard at work here and I'm families. These too will be available for a sure you'll agree some of this is really relevant to limited time on our Youtube channel but via the readership of the newsletter. I'd be happy for a special link due to our licensing limitations. you to remove some of the finer detail around Anyone who wishes to receive these or find covid response volunteering to include some of out how to tune in to the festive stories can this which is a more urgent need right now. Email: help@communities1st.org.uk

Volunteering

Christmas Projects

We'll be distributing some lovely, heart-warming, positive messages/stories to those who have suffered this year in the form of Christmas Cards and letters written by local school children from around the county.



Resolutions

stop bad habits and start good ones, but this doesn't always last past the first few weeks! With the help of our Healthy Hub partners, we've put together some handy tips and resources for staying motivated and getting help to reach your goals.

- Think about what you would be proud to have achieved by the end of the year.
- Break your goal down into several smaller Read more about our Healthy Hub partners to goals.
- Don't let perfection stop you from getting started.
- Get a friend to join you in your goal to keep you motivated.
- Be kind to yourself.

And perhaps most importantly...

Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Everyone knows that January is the time to There is lots of help available to you, no matter what your New Year's resolution is.

> Your GP will be able to give you advice regarding weight loss, exercise, and smoking which is tailored to your needs, and there may be referrals they can make to other services.

> Hertfordshire County Council runs a Stop Smoking Service, offering non-judgemental support and advice.

> find out the help that is available to you. Web Link





Getting Fit & Healthy

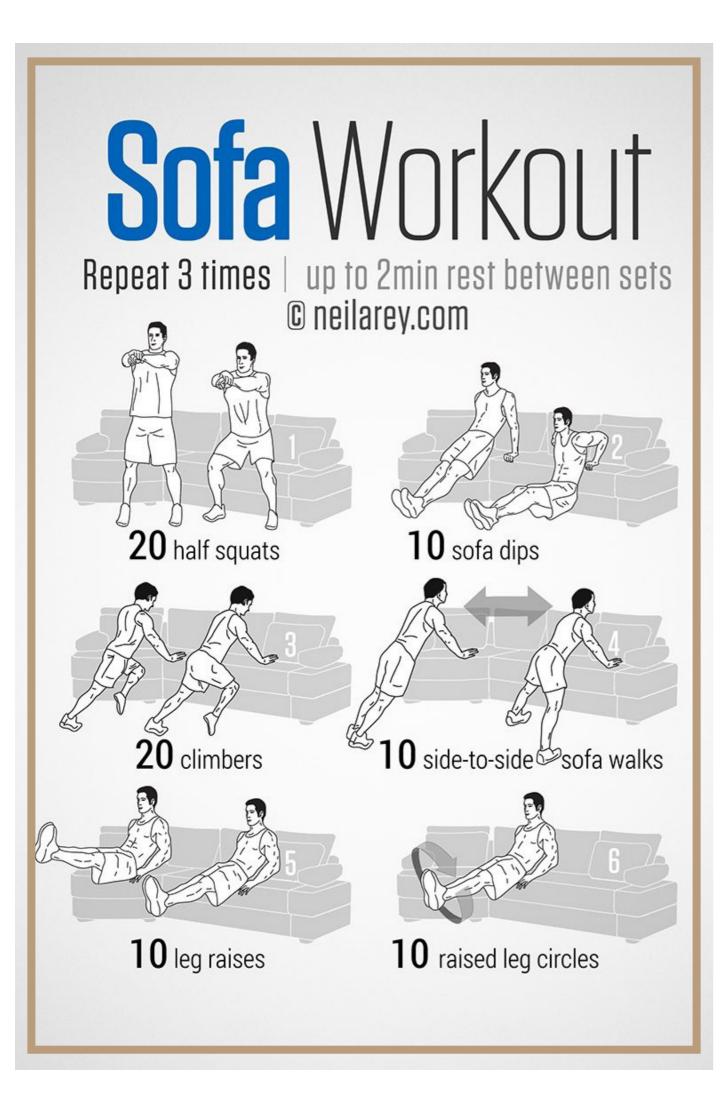
Getting fit is a classic New Year's Resolution NHS. The NHS has easy, fun and free exercise for a reason! With support from our partners programme that you can download and do at in the Healthy Hub, there are lots of ways you home. These include Couch to 5K - Web Link can make this resolution a reality. and Strength and Flex - Web Link

Watford FC's Shape Up programme educates **NHS.** The NHS also has a collection of gymmen to develop a healthy relationship with free workouts if you are looking for a cheap and food and change unhealthy behaviours and easy way to get fit this winter. A great example is the sofa workout below. Web Link habits that cause weight gain. The programme engages men in a fun and effective way and uses group exercise and sport to improve fitness and support weight loss. Web Link

Beezee Bodies provide healthy lifestyle and weight management advice to families and individuals in the district. Their physical programmes have been moved online so you can start getting fit from the comfort of your home. Web Link

Sport England The website has tips, advice and guidance on how to keep or get active in and around your home. Web Link







Healthy Eating

If you are feeling bad about your diet over the festive period, why not make positive changes to what you eat in the New Year?

There are lots of recipes out there to help you make easy, affordable changes to your diet. Why not try some recipes from our Healthy Hub partners BeeZee Bodies: Web Link

For example this Healthier Toad in the Hole for some winter comfort food: Web Link

Perhaps you'd like to be a bit adventurous with your Christmas desserts. Why not try some vegan and non-dairy coconut and strawberry ice cream to add to the feast? Web Link

The NHS Change4Life website has lots of great recipes and inspiration for meals the whole family will enjoy. Web Link

If you are looking for culinary inspiration for the festive season, **BBC Good Food** has a variety of recipes for using up your Christmas leftovers. Web Link





Mental Health

Christmas can be a difficult period, even more **Corona Virus Mental Health Tips** so because it's meant to be the most wonderful time of the year. If you are struggling, please remember that you are not alone and there is Work Place Mental Health Tips help and support available for you. If you need some help this winter, please get in touch with some of these organisations.

Herts Help can provide support in a crisis, and they will be able to signpost you to specialist The Ollie Foundation provide confidential services that deal with your problem. You can call them on 0300 123 4044 or visit their worried about a young person visit the website website: Web Link

Mind In Mid Herts work to ensure the people of Hertfordshire's mental health is supported and respected so that nobody has to face a mental health problem alone.

health They support positive mental working across three themes: prevention, social support and recovery.

Mind Website: Web Link

Website: Web Link

website: <u>Web Link</u>

There is also lots of mental health support available for young people in the district.

help and advice to young people and anyone for details: Web Link







Addictions

If you or someone you know is struggling with Gamcare Offer free, confidential and nonaddictions or dependency, please get in touch judgemental treatment services for individuals with one of our partners listed below. They will impacted by their own or someone else's provide non-judgemental, confidential and free gambling. They are able to provide treatment advice and assistance. over the phone and online. Web Link

The Living Room saves and transforms lives by providing people and their families with the opportunity to attend community-based rehabilitation treatment and support, to help them break free from the generational cycle of addiction. They treat all addictions and are accessible to all. Web Link

Herts County Council's Smokefree service provides free, confidential and non-judgemental advice and support to everyone on stopping smoking. Web Link





Local Schemes Responding To Covid-19 —

No matter where you are within the district, Park Street & How Wood there is help available to you during the second **Twinsco home deliveries** lockdown and beyond. These local schemes 01727 874455 / 07843 330174 provide support to residents.

Colney Heath Community Support Group Web Link

Harpenden Cares Web Link

Redbourn Care Group Web Link

St Stephen Parish **Bricket Wood Neighbourhood Assistance:** Email: help@bricketwood.org Telephone: 01727 260963.

Sparshott home deliveries Email: info@sparshott-fruiterers.co.uk Telephone: 01923 674896 / 661167

Chiswell Green Post Office home deliveries Telephone: 01727 854803

Park Street Resident Association are distributing food parcels, for more info check out our website: Web Link

If you are in crisis, please know you are not alone, and there is help available to you. Web Link



Help For The Whole Family This Winter -

At the Healthy Hub we have lots of partners The Alzheimer's Society has compiled a few who can offer guidance and support for the tips to help you make the most out of the festive season while supporting someone with whole family. dementia. Web Link

Thrive Young Person's Clinic offers evening appointments for young people registered Age UK Hertfordshire is an independent local with a GP in St Albans or Harpenden. It is a charity working to alleviate loneliness and confidential service, where you can be seen with isolation, tackle poverty and build resilience in or without your parents. The GPs are specially the community for older people in Hertfordshire. trained to work with young people and can Web Link provide support and advice with any physical, mental or sexual health matter. Web Link Hertfordshire Asian Woman's Association

Hertfordshire Practical Parenting supports parents and carers of children aged 12+ to access relevant services via volunteer advocates. It is currently running a telephone service as well as online sessions. Web Link

Youth Talk is committed to helping and InspireAll Family Centre provides support to supporting young people in the District. They families and children, health clinics, as well as can offer confidential counselling to help you tailored CV & interview skills help. Web Link make sense of your thoughts and feelings. Web Link

Carers in Hertfordshire provides free advice, Thrive Young Person's Clinic offers evening information and support to unpaid carers people looking after someone who is elderly, appointments for young people registered disabled, has a physical or mental illness or who with a GP in St Albans or Harpenden. It is a misuses drugs or alcohol. They support carers of confidential service, where you can be seen with all ages - children and adults - if they live, work or without your parents. The GPs are specially or care in Hertfordshire. Web Link trained to work with young people and can provide support and advice with any physical, St Albans Women's Outreach Anyone can be mental or sexual health matter. Web Link

a victim of domestic abuse. SAHWR provide Young Minds provides support to young people services for men and women that are person centred and holistic ensuring the needs and and their parents. They provide a YoungMinds wishes of the service user are at the centre of Crisis Messenger, for free 24/7 support across their work. You can call the referral line on **0330** the UK if you are experiencing a mental health **102 5811** or visit their website. Web Link crisis. Web Link

works to support women to reach their maximum potential as individuals within the community. It runs events, workshops and projects for women from all cultural and racial backgrounds. Web Link



Keep Warm This Winter -

It's important to keep warm over the winter Top Tips For Keeping Warm This Winter months. We've compiled a few tips for some ways you can keep your home warm, increase 1. Read your meter regularly to make sure energy efficiency and save money.

Small Acts of Kindness. One of our Healthy Hub partners is Small Acts of Kindness. They distribute practical gifts and information that 3. Shop around for energy suppliers to get reduce the negative impact that feeling lonely and isolated can have on older people's physical and mental wellbeing, sending out over 5,000 Warm in Winter Gift Bags each winter. They are distributed free of charge to older people aged over 55 across Hertfordshire. Web Link



- your bills are accurate and up to date
- 2. Install a Smart Meter
- a better deal
- 4. Insulate your home there may be financial assistance available to help you
- 5. Check if you're eligible for any benefits such as the Winter Fuel Payment

Click on the links to find further information and advice.

Energy Efficiency: Web Link Yes Energy Solutions: Web Link Simple Energy Advice: Web Link



Money Management

Winter can be the most difficult time of the StepChange provide free, confidential and expert debt advice and money guidance. year when it comes to managing your money. Web Link Christmas presents, increased heating bills, plus this year the added pressure of the coronavirus pandemic - many people may be struggling this winter. Luckily there is free advice available to help you take control of your finances.

The St Albans Credit Union helps local people save and borrow at affordable rates of interest. Don't fall victim to scammers this winter. There are no external shareholders – members If something sounds too good to be true, own the credit union and share any dividend. it probably is. Web Link

There has been an increase in Covid-19 related The Citizens Advice Bureau can offer scams in recent months. Check the websites expert advice to help you get on top of your below to find out more about how to spot finances, as well as resources such as budget scams and how to protect yourself and your calculators and sample letters to creditors. loved ones. You can also report anonymously Web Link on the Crimestoppers website.

The Shaw Trust are a national charity providing employment opportunities, skills development, training, and health and wellbeing services as well as promoting inclusion and independence for those with disabilities and barriers to work. Web Link

Protecting yourself from scams

Crimestoppers website: Web Link

Action Fruad Police website: Web Link

Friends Against Scams website: Web Link



Bored In Lock-Down -

Being stuck at home for the time being might be the perfect opportunity to try new things, learn some new skills or take up a hobby.

Communities 1st has put together a list of ideas and inspiration to keep the whole family entertained this winter. This includes online games, virtual museum tours and free colouring books. Web Link

The Open University provides a huge range of free courses which can be completed online in your own time. Click the link below to see what's on offer. Web Link

Oaklands run a wide range of courses in areas such as brickwork, carpentry, pottery, cookery, British Sign Language and English as a Second Language. It may be able to provide financial assistance for their courses if you are on low income. Web Link





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Hub Partners

Citizens Advice

Gives advice and support to everyone about everything. Whether you are struggling to pay We focus on providing much needed practical bills, need to claim welfare benefits, have been support to anyone who requires help during laid off by your employer, are experiencing the these challenging times. breakdown of your relationship or are worried about getting refunds for booked events, we We recognise that whilst COVID-19 may affect have lots of staff and volunteers working from everyone, there are some people who are at home to help you during COVID-19. There are greater risk than others. Our team of volunteers lots of ways to get our help.

Call Citizens Advice St Albans on 01727 • Shopping 811118 between 10am - 4pm Mon - Thurs • Collection of prescriptions & 10-1 Friday. We'll take your details, and an • Dog walking/Pet sitting adviser will call you back.

Visit our local website Web Link for local • Or a friendly conversation if you're feeling webchat and email advice

Visit the national Citizens Advice, website for To access support: online advice or to chat online to an adviser

Call Hertfordshire Adviceline, on 03444 111 Website: Web Link 444, or 03000 3300 650 from a mobile.

line on 0800 1448444

Call Citizens Advice consumer helpline on **0808** 223 1133, for advice on consumer issues (e.g. issues related to products or services you've purchased).

Herts Help

Herts Help provides a free helpline to give you the support and advice you need in difficult times. They will make sure you get the help you need by directing you to specialist support services that can give you confidential and anonymous advice.

They can help with a huge range of issues, including homelessness, finding the right care, help to manage at home, and staying safe from coronavirus. Web Link

Communities 1st Compassionate Community **Connector Programme**

can help you with:

- Signposting you to other services
- Walking Buddy
- lonely.

Telephone: 020 8207 5115 Email: help@communities1st.org.uk

If you would like to volunteer, there are many Get help with a new claim for Universal Credit opportunities (socially distanced of course) that by calling the Universal Credit Help to Claim you can get involved in. Roles from call handlers, to drivers, digital champions, befrienders, project facilitators, welfare check/survey callers, face mask makers and handyperson assistants.

> To volunteer visit our website Web Link or email: volunteer@communities1st.org.uk and one of our friendly volunteers will give you a call to discuss the opportunity(ies) you might be interested in.



The Thrive Young Persons Clinic

The Thrive Young Persons Clinic is a service that Stop Smoking Provides free, confidential offers confidential afternoon appointments for and non-judgemental advice and support to young people registered with a GP in St Albans everyone on stopping smoking. or Harpenden where support and advice can be given on any physical, mental or sexual health To book an appointment, please call: 0800 389 3998 or 01442 435 071 matter.

The clinic is currently held at Parkbury House Surgery in St Albans on Thursday afternoons from 3.30 - 7pm.

The Living Room saves and transforms lives To book an appointment, please contact by providing people and their families with your own GP and ask to make an afternoon the opportunity to attend community-based appointment for the young person's clinic. rehabilitation treatment and support, to help them break free from the generational cycle of **Small Acts of Kindness** addiction.

Small Acts of Kindness' aim is that every older For an appointment Telephone: person feels warm in their home and connected 0300 365 0304 (local rate) to their community. It sources and distribute Email: enquiries@livingroomherts.org practical gifts and information that reduce Website: Web Link the negative impact that feeling lonely and isolated can have on older people's physical Carers in Hertfordshire and mental wellbeing, sending out over 5,000 Warm in Winter Gift Bags each winter. They are distributed free of charge to older people aged over 55 across Hertfordshire.

Telephone: 01923 372717

Email: info@smallactsofkindness.co.uk Visit: Web Link Facebook: Facebook Link **Twitter: Twitter Link** Instagram: Instagram Link

GamCare

GamCare Offers free, confidential and nonjudgemental treatment services for individuals Hertfordshire Practical Parenting Programme impacted by their own or someone else's supporting parents and carers of children aged 12+ to access relevant services via volunteer gambling. advocates.

Telephone: 0143 848 7003 Email: hertfordshire@gamcare.org.uk Website: Web Link

Hub Partners

Stop Smoking

Website: Web Link

The Living Room

Carers in Hertfordshire provides advice, information and support to unpaid carers people looking after someone who is elderly, disabled, has a physical or mental illness or who misuses drugs or alcohol. They provide an opportunity to talk through your caring role and help you access support, advice and information, at a time that is right for you

Telephone: 01992 58 69 69 Website: Web Link

Hertfordshire Practical Parenting Programme

Please phone for an appointment: Telephone: 01992 638000 Website: Web Link

Hub Partners

InspireAll's Family Support Service

support to families, with children 0 - 11 years. encouraged to save, and these savings provide Their offer includes universal support such as funds from which loans to members are made. Stay & Play sessions, Rhyme Time and a range Free life insurance is provided on loans (subject of public health services such as breastfeeding to conditions). support and healthy eating as well as 1:1 support and group work for families.

Telephone: 0300 123 7572 Email: stalbans.fcsenquiries@inspireall.com Website: Web Link Facebook: Facebook Link Instagram: Instagram Link

St Albans Women's Outreach

St Albans Women's Outreach offers information and advice to men and women who may be struggling to make difficult relationship **Telephone: 01452 717262** decisions and support them in making informed choices about their future.

Website: Web Link Telephone: 03301 025 811 or Email referrals@saferplaces.co.uk.

Shaw Trust

Shaw Trust provides employment opportunities, skills development, training, and health and wellbeing services as well as promoting inclusion and independence for those with disabilities and barriers to work.

Website: Web Link Email Self-referral@shaw-trust.org.uk. Telephone: 0800 389 0082

Client can also contact their local Job Centre Plus who will complete the referral for them.

St Albans District Credit Union

InspireAll's Family Support Service offers St Albans District Credit Union Members are

Telephone: 01727 859135 Email: office@stalbanscreditunion.co.uk Website: Web Link

BeeZee Bodies

BeeZee Bodies is a child weight management service that work with young people aged 5 to 15 years. We offer free 14-week programmes that provide a mixture of nutritional education and physical activity.

Email: info@beezeebodies.co.uk Website: Web Link

Shape Up

Shape Up is running more of it's amazing FREE men's only 12-week weight lost courses open to all Hertfordshire residents from January onwards!

Courses will be run via Zoom in the afternoon and the evening to suit the needs of the participants.

For further information Website: Web Link or email Rhys.Ratcliffe@watfordfc.com

Emmaus

Emmaus offers accommodation, meals, and support for formerly homeless people in return for 40 hours volunteering for our social enterprise.

Email: community.herts@emmaus.org.uk Telephone: 01727 817 294 Visit: Web Link

Mind in Mid Herts

Mind in Mid Herts works with people to prevent Age UK Hertfordshire is an independent local them from developing mental health problems charity working to alleviate loneliness and as well as supporting people who recover and isolation, tackle poverty and build resilience in the community for older people in Hertfordshire prevent relapse. who need our help.

Self referral link here: Web Link

CBT based courses and workshops called 'living well' can be booked here: Web Link Email admin@mindinmidherts.org.uk Website: Web Link

The OLLIE Foundation

The OLLIE Foundation provides suicide awareness, intervention and prevention training, community in St Albans District. plus Mental Health First Aid, Goal setting and IHEART training. OLLIE empowers people Telephone: 07401 079970 or 07480 934282 (including parents, teachers and professionals) For enquiries and to pre-book an appointment. to support young people, ensuring no one feels Email: hawaherts@gmail.com that suicide is their only option. Website: Web Link

Email: contactus@theolliefoundation.org Telephone: 07715 311891 Website: Web Link

Youth Talk

to 13-25 year olds who live, work or attend school/college in the District of St Albans (Harpenden, London Colney, Redbourn, St Albans, Sandridge and Wheathampstead).

We work on a self-referral only basis. Email: info@youthtalk.org.uk Telephone: 01727 868684 Website: Web Link

Hub Partners

Age UK Hertfordshire

Telephone: 0300 345 3446 Email: Info@ageukherts.org.uk Website: Web Link

Hertfordshire Asians Women's Association

Hertfordshire Asians Women's Association provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice and guidance to BME

Oaklands College

Oaklands College offers Initial information and advice on full-time and part-time courses. They also run adult courses such as cooking, bookkeeping, health and social care, and many Youth Talk offers a counselling service available more! To find out about their courses,

Visit: Web Link Telephone: 01727 737000 Email: info@oaklands.ac.uk



Contact Us:

Email: Healthy.Hub@stalbans.gov.uk

Website: <u>Web Link</u>

Check Out St Albans Healthy Hub Facebook Page

Facebook Link





Colouring Fun

