

# Cultural Forum

# Newsletter

May 2025



P3823 - Stevenage Museum  
Playground at Leaves Spring 1956

## Overview

**This month we met at Stevenage Museum, with agenda items from Rosa Chalfen and Jo Ward**

Rosa is the Policy and Community Engagement Officer at the University of Hertfordshire's Heritage Hub. This was her first Cultural Forum, so welcome Rosa! Rosa shared some of the work taking place at the Heritage Hub, along with some available funding - read on to find out more...

Jo Ward from the museum shared more about plans for Stevenage at 80. Stevenage was designated the first new town on 11th November 1946, making next year the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The museum is planning a project looking at Growing Up in Stevenage. The project will look to capture memories of childhood in Stevenage through oral history and photography. Watch this space to find out more as the project develops!

## Upcoming Events

**Kidzone, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

**Event Island - FREE**

Enjoy some singing, dancing and games!

**Half Term at Stevenage Museum,  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

Blast off for a week of fun activities that are out of this world!! Booking using ArtTickets, or contact the museum for more information.

**New Town Taskforce, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>  
May, 5pm - 7pm**

**Stevenage Holiday Inn, St. George's Way,  
Stevenage SG1 1HS**

The Taskforce are keen to understand the legacy of original post-war New Towns like Stevenage by hearing from those who live, work, and invest there. This will help shape their final report, to be published in July 2025.

**Stevenage Day, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> of June**

**King George V playing fields**

**Innovate, Explore, Inspire: STEM for the Future!**

**Stevenage Festival**

**Main festival runs from Thursday 19th to  
Saturday 28th of June 2025**

Brochure linked below for more information on events, venues and how to book.

## The University of Hertfordshire Heritage Hub Heritage Co-Production Award

The University of Hertfordshire has been awarded over £1.7m from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to accelerate the impact of the University's world-leading research. This funding can be used for partnership projects between community groups, local authorities, and others and academics from the University. Projects will need to align with academic specialisms, so get in touch to find out more.

Link to more information: [Project funding opportunities](#) | [Heritage Hub](#)

Follow the Heritage Hub on [LinkedIn](#) and Instagram (@uh\_heritagehub)



## Stevenage Festival

**Main festival runs from Thursday 19th of June to Saturday 28th of June 2025.**

The Festival takes place in June and features 10 days of performances at the Gordon Craig plus other events around the town! Many thanks to everyone who has sent their events for us to include: together, we do a good job showcasing Stevenage as a place where the arts are thriving!

The full programme can be seen now on the website [here](#). Although our advertising is mainly online these days, there will be some physical brochures available if anyone likes to have these to display – let us know. If anyone has any events taking place in June that we don't already know about then we can always add them to the website and Facebook page, to help amplify your own messages.

[Rock in the Park](#) will take place as part of Stevenage Day 2025 on Sunday 8 June.

Contact [info@stevenage-festival.co.uk](mailto:info@stevenage-festival.co.uk)



## Junction 7 Creatives Update

The 2025 Urban Arts Festival took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May and was another roaring success! The event had lots going on, including spray painting workshops, music, skateboarding and more.

J7C is continuing on with the Only Connect project, painting more communications cabinets around the town. Keep an eye out for more amazing pieces from local artists!

J7C have also been selected to work on one of the underpasses, and will be undertaking community engagement as part of this. See below for more information about the project and the other artists involved.

You may have noticed Junction 7 is taking some time to remodel - watch out for the new sign! They are hoping to reopen towards the end of the month with an exhibition of artwork made as part of the community engagement undertaken for the Bus Interchange Sculpture Commission.

Finally - a very happy birthday!  
Junction 7 turned four on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May - 4 years of community, connection and creativity! We are looking forward to seeing what amazing things will come from Junction 7 in the future!



## COMING SOON

The next set of urban artworks are set to be installed across Stevenage in various underpasses this summer.

As part of a collaboration between Stevenage Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council, and funded by the Stevenage Development Board through the Towns Fund, the summer programme of urban artworks will see nine underpasses transformed, to encourage more walking and cycling throughout the town.

See below to discover the 📍 underpass locations, 💬 design theme and 🎨 chosen artists for each location as well as a look at the images of artworks that these artists have completed in other towns!



📍 Martins Way/Hitchin Road Underpass Wingwalls  
💬 Colour  
🎨 Carl Cashman: ART



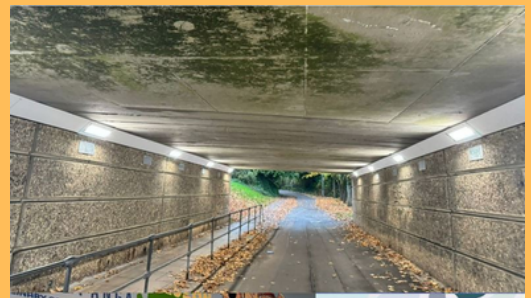
📍 Silam Road  
💬 Sports, leisure and play  
🎨 Mr Christa



📍 Fairlands Way/Lytton Way West  
💬 Pride  
🎨 Junction 7 Creatives



📍 Fairlands Way/Lytton Way East  
💬 Women in Stevenage  
🎨 Molly Hankinson Studio



📍 Fairlands Way/Lytton Way South West  
💬 Cultural and ethnic diversity  
🎨 Pacifico Designs and MurWalls



📍 Dewpond Close  
💬 Remembrance  
  
and  
  
📍 ICL  
💬 Six Hills History  
🎨 @itaewon\_artist





Find out more about what's going on in the town centre here! If you'd rather a physical copy, these are available around the town, and from the Museum.

[Link to Brochure](#)

See here for other community events taking place in Stevenage

[Link to Community Flyers](#)

Take a look at what's going on at the Museum over the summer in our new What's On. If anything catches your eye, you can book directly with the museum using our ArtTickets.

[Link to What's On](#)

[Link to ArtTickets](#)



### **Creative Ingredients - Royal Ballet Opera**

Christina Anderson, Inclusion Leader and Specialist Leader in Cultural Education Woolenwick Infant & Nursery School, recently took part in research with the Royal Ballet Opera earlier this year exploring the creative ingredients needed to allow creative and cultural learning to thrive.

[The Report can be accessed here](#)

Christina has since taken part in the follow up research, exploring the stories of change through change and choice. The report will be shared when available.



## **Next Meeting: Wednesday September 10th Venue TBC**

Please email Sam Daisley, Museum and Cultural Development Officer at SBC, if you have a suggestion of venue, if you would like to add something to the agenda, or if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

[samantha.daisley@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:samantha.daisley@stevenage.gov.uk)

The Cultural Forum meets once a quarter to discuss artistic and cultural events and activities taking place around Stevenage. The Forum is open to anyone with an interest or investment in the art and culture around Stevenage.