

“St Albans Visitor Welcome” training session



The redevelopment of the new museum coincides with another big project underway in St Albans to raise the profile of the city and district.

A £7million project is underway at the Cathedral too.

It will create:

- A brand new Welcome Centre for visitors

- A new Learning Centre for children and adults

- A new interpretation scheme telling the story of St Alban and the Cathedral's unique role in British history

- Improved visitor facilities and access

- A host of events and activities for all ages to enjoy

Activities already underway – Welcome Centre opens summer 2019

Volunteer session

- St Albans Museum + Gallery
with Volunteer Coordinator Julia Good
and Curator Sarah Keeling
- The Cathedral's *Alban, Britain's First Saint* project
with Laura Bloom, Visitor Services Officer
- Tourism in St Albans City & District
with Catherine Newley, Audience Development Manager
- 'The City That Went Uphill' with Curator Sarah Keeling

This project has seen the development of the Town Hall into a new museum and gallery. The project is being funded through the redevelopment of the former museum site to create 10 houses, along with a major grant from Heritage Lottery Fund of 2.8m and £1.7m that has to be raised by the museum and galleries trust. This has been years in the planning but work started in earnest in 2016.



St Albans Museum and Gallery, a new cultural space at the centre of St Albans.

St Albans Museum + Gallery

- £7.75m project including
£2.8m from Heritage Lottery Fund,
£3.25m from St Albans City & District Council
+ £1.7m to be fundraised by 2020
- Museum of St Albans closed in September 2015
- Construction started on site early 2016

 renaissance: St Albans
your new museum and gallery at the heart of the city

 **UH**
galleries

 Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

 heritage
lottery fund

 **St Albans**
City & District Council

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Our vision for programming



Our 5 core principles:

- Be entertaining
- Be specialist
- Be sociable
- Be provoking
- Be entrepreneurial

What are our objectives?

- 200,000 visitors a year
- A permanent timeline of St Albans history
- At least 6 temporary exhibitions a year (of which 3 will be major headline exhibitions)
- Linking up the heritage of St Albans across its many sites of interest
- A programme of events and activities to appeal to a wide range of audiences
- Beyond our 'core' visitors, we want to attract specific target audiences:
 - families with children
 - young people
 - people with disabilities
 - communities recognised as being from areas of deprivation within the district



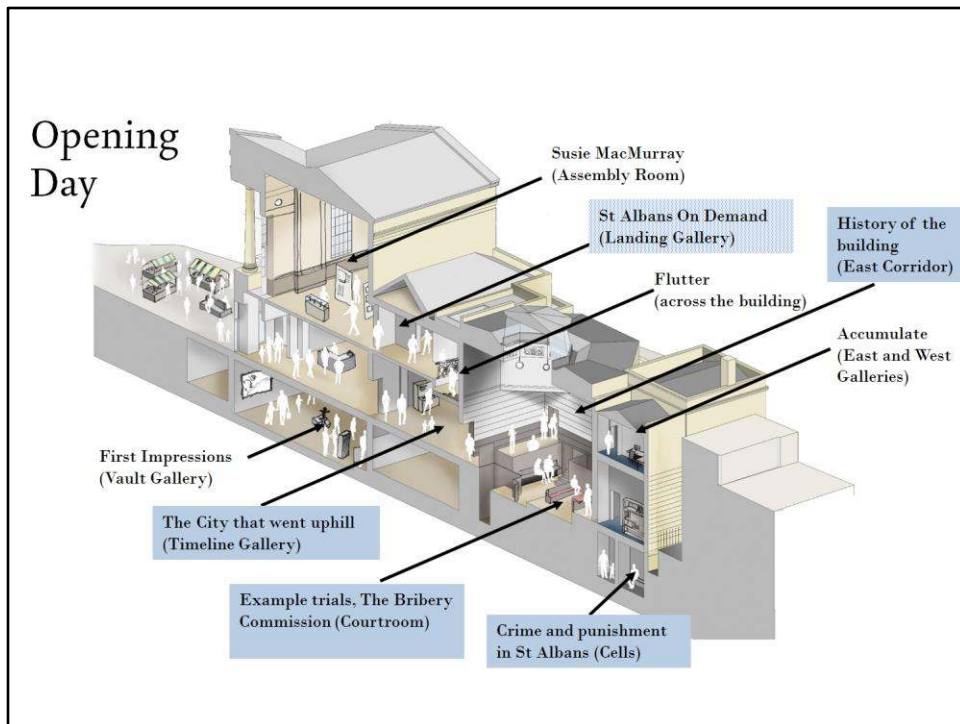
With the restoration and further additions, the Town Hall has been given a new lease of life. The beautiful historic spaces, such as the octagonal courtroom and prison cells, have now been fully restored and preserved for future generations. Glazed links have been added to the first floor enabling visitors to walk around the entire building and to take in wonderful views of the City. A new temperature-controlled and secure basement gallery has been hand excavated under the building to house national touring exhibitions and contemporary art shows. The ground floor has also been renovated to accommodate a learning studio, visitor information point, gift shop and café.

When our visitors enter the building, they'll be greeted by a welcome desk, which will also function as a visitor information point. In this space, there will be a shop and a café servery. The shop is being run in partnership with the British Museum and the café is being run by a company called Leafi (who have lots of experience of working with cultural institutions, including the Foundling Museum and Turner Contemporary).

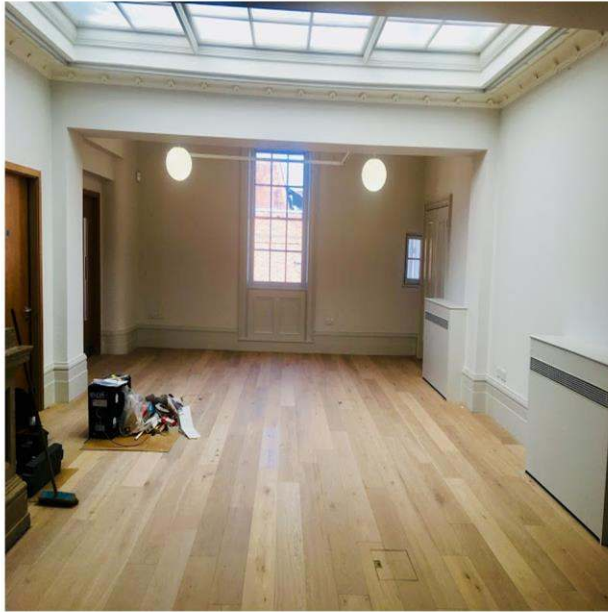


Courtroom Café

The historic courtroom has been restored to its former glory and will form part of the café seating.



At the heart of the new museum, permanent displays will tell the story of the District's development from the pre-Roman era through to modern times. The story starts as far back as 110,000 BC - when hunter-gatherers first arrived in Britain and features Roman treasures and evidence of Boudicca's revolt in the City. Visitors will be able to learn more about St Albans' fascinating role at the start of the War of the Roses. They will see how the City played a part in the lives of Sir Francis Bacon, Sarah Churchill Duchess of Marlborough, and the Ryder Cup founder and ex-Mayor, Samuel Ryder. More recent local figures will also feature in displays, including Stephen Hawking, Stanley Kubrick and Jim Rodford.



Landing
gallery

On the first floor, we have several new gallery spaces that have been created from former offices and the landing has been opened up to create more space.

St Albans on Demand



On the landing, we will have a semi permanent display of objects relating to St Albans stories. This will help us celebrate and commemorate relevant anniversaries and be more reactive to current events – for example on opening we will have Jim Rodford's guitar (of The Zombies) and a ball dress worn for a dance in the Assembly Room.



Assembly Room

The Assembly Room has been spruced up and is ready for a whole range of events, including venue hire and exhibitions.



Contemporary art installations: Susie MacMurray

8 June – 5 August 2018

We are working with an artist called Susie MacMurray to create an installation in this space (our very own Turbine Hall!)

Artist Susie MacMurray will also exhibit a range of sculptures, including a specially-commissioned installation located in the Assembly Room which will act as a backdrop to her work. With a reputation for poetic interventions in historic spaces, MacMurray will showcase artworks made with surprising materials and raise questions about the relationship between place and people.

Accumulate – 3 artists in residence

8 June – 8 July 2018

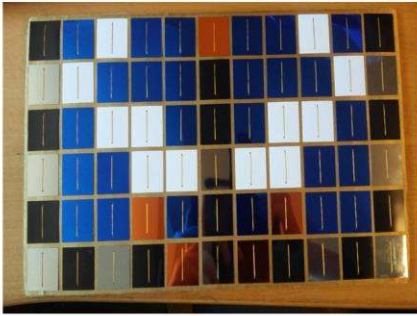


In our changing exhibition galleries, we are going to have a mix of exhibitions, some visual art, some museum-led, some a mix of the two. We have been supporting artist residencies while the museum has been closed and their work, responding to our collections, will be on display when we reopen.

Working in partnership with UH Arts, the University of Hertfordshire's arts and cultural programme, St Albans Museum + Gallery will also host a range of immersive art installations and displays. Responding to the intriguing history and collections of the museum, Lyndall Phelps, Abi Spendlove and Katie Gillam-Hull will present *Accumulate* - a key opening exhibition. This exhibition of artworks and interventions created over three years will shine a light on the hidden elements of the museum collection.

Flutter by Lyndall Phelps, artist in residence

8 June – 5 August 2018



Inspired by a former part of our Natural History Collection – artwork inspired by these butterflies.



Constructing the new Weston Gallery

One of the biggest changes to the building has been the creation of a basement gallery – this was excavated by hand and is one of the reasons the construction period was so crucial and has taken the time it has.



This will feature 3 major exhibitions a year, sometimes art and sometimes object led.

First Impressions

8 June – 12 August 2018



Taking pride of place within the newly-created basement gallery, the museum will celebrate the fascinating printing heritage of St Albans in its opening flagship exhibition, *First Impressions*. This exhibition will explore the rich history of a vital industry both locally and nationally, charting the development of printing techniques, technologies, and typographic design through the centuries.

This free exhibition will show visitors the national, and sometimes international, impact of the City's printmaking heritage. In 1479, St Albans became home to the third printing press in the country, aiding the spread of enlightenment and knowledge by supplying the University of Cambridge with its texts. During the 1920s and 30s, St Albans-based Dangerfield Printing Company provided London Transport with its now iconic posters. Later, during the Second World War, Gibbs and Bamforth joined the war effort and printed fake Daily Telegraph newspapers as propaganda.

Events and activities



Alongside the exhibitions, there is a varied programme of events – from family holiday activities to workshops and talks for adults and new Museum Lates – evening opening focused around specific themes with activities (and drinks!).



Later in 2018, Hayward Gallery Touring will curate *Hand Drawn, Action Packed*; an exhibition bringing together ten major international artists whose practice explores the infinite possibilities of drawing. This exhibition will open at St Albans Museum + Gallery, before touring throughout the UK. Artists featured include Marcel Dzama, Marcel van Eeden, Inci Eviner, Yun Fei Ji, William Kentridge, Nalini Malani, Otobong Nkanga, Raymond Pettibon, Amy Sillman and Rinus Van de Velde.

The V&A Museum of Childhood's major exhibition *Game Plan: Board Games Rediscovered* will also be shown at St Albans Museum + Gallery later this year. This blockbuster exhibition will celebrate the joy, excitement and occasional frustration of playing board games.