

Harpenden Lions Club Highland Gathering

Rothamsted Park, Harpenden, AL5 2LX

Sunday 14 July 2024 - 10:30am to 5pm

Highland Gathering Programme



Marching Pipe Bands; Highland Dancing; Highland Games; Haggis Hurling; Ferret Racing; Dog & Duck Show; Live Music; Stage Performances; Children's Races; Archery; Climbing Wall; Go Karts; Stalls; Food; Bar

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Congratulations to the Harpenden Lions Club
on another fantastic Highland Gathering!



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Harpenden Lions Club Highland Gathering 2024

This year marks the 28th Highland Gathering hosted by the Harpenden Lions Club CIO. A very warm welcome to those who have travelled to be with us.

The Highland Gathering has been a regular event in Harpenden since 1996 and is the largest Highland Games in the UK outside of Scotland. We are very proud of our achievements over the years, and you will be pleased to see the event returning to the main area within Rothamsted Park. The popularity and scope of the event grow each year and we believe that the wide range of Scottish themed events appeals to the whole family.

As usual, we will be offering fantastic **Pipe Bands** from across England to entertain us. We have the Highland Games, which includes the ever-popular **Heavy Events**, Caber tossing and throwing of the Haggis! There are special shows including Dog and Duck, Ferret Racing, and the ever-popular Scout Cannon Races and Children's Races. In between the magnificent Pipe Bands, a Choir, Jazz band, Dancers and Ukelele band will be performing on the main stage, while a Highland Dancing Competition will take place on the small stage.

As you walk around the event, pay a visit to our **Food Court** and **Food Terrace**, where you will find a great selection of eateries and a licensed bar where you can quench your thirst. Our **Tea-Tent** will also provide you with delicious sandwiches, cakes, and a wide range of soft drinks. Something for everyone, as I am sure you will find out!

We must remember that this event holds a more serious theme as we support several important charities. This year, we are supporting **Young Lives vs Cancer**, an incredible charity that provides help and support for children and young people with a cancer diagnosis. **The Harpenden Lions Club CIO Life Skills Programme** helps the educational and personal development needs of the young people at schools in Harpenden and the surrounding areas. In previous years we have been able to provide grants to the tune of £15,000 with the proceeds of the event and your support today is very much appreciated – thank you!

The success of the Harpenden Lions Highland Gathering depends entirely on the support of the local community. A great many months in the planning, supported by individuals and local businesses, and the **Harpenden Town Council**, which ensures that the event can continue, and provide a real community day out for our guests from far and wide.

We would like to thank our major sponsors for this year's event, **Taylor Walton Solicitors**, **J P Wealth Management**, **Hamptons Estate Agents** and **Ut Fibre**. Also, we thank our advertisers and stall holders for their continued support.

On behalf of the Harpenden Lions Club CIO, I hope you have a fantastic and hopefully, sunny day out.

Lion James Penn,
President, Harpenden Lions Club CIO 2024-2025

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Heidi Mathers

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Phil Richards

Alka Cashyap

James Cadzow

Nigel Douglas

Ray Vassie

David James

St Albans Lions Club

District 105A Zone H Lions Clubs

Names are believed correct at time of printing – our apologies for any errors or omissions



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your local community, have fun and
make new friends

Harpenden Lions Club support local charities and organisations with manpower and fundraising eg: Crisis, AT Society, Marie Curie, Poppy appeal, Mencap, Carers in Hertfordshire, Life skills projects in local schools.

The club runs the Highland Gathering, assists individuals, help with local tree planting, litter picking, and Christmas tree removal service.

Interested?

To learn more Contact us and discuss
how you can get involved via our
website for an informal chat
harpenden-lions.co.uk



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The Pipe Bands



Harpenden Pipes and Drums

www.harpendenpipeband.co.uk/



The Harpenden Pipe Band was formed by Bob Renwick in 1997 with only 5 Pipers, 2 side Drummers and a Bass Drummer, and very quickly rose to become a significant presence in the area. Harpenden Pipe Band originally wore Hamilton tartan kilts prior to purchasing the present tartan, Ancient MacInnes. In 1998, the band made its debut at the Harpenden Highland Gathering. By 1999 more members had joined and by 2000 the band had grown substantially. More importantly some junior members had joined,

ensuring the bands longer term future. The present Pipe Major, Stephen Marshall leads the band in the same tradition, with a strong sense of direction, and an almost obsessive(!) passion for achieving a crystal clear, sharp sound. Harpenden Pipe Band members enjoy playing a variety of styles, switching frequently from traditional marches, through to more "contemporary" styles:

Bedford Pipe Band

<https://www.facebook.com/erugus/185981081491151>

The Bedford Pipe Band was formed in October 1993 by Donald Reid, the current Pipe Major, following requests from several people to be taught piping. In the early days there were no drummers and all that we were really doing was to learn the basics on the practice charter using the College of Piping tutor. In 1994 a meeting was held to adopt a constitution for the formal formation of Bedford Pipe Band. Interestingly it was about this time that it was learnt that there had been an earlier Bedford Pipe Band, formed just after the Second World War by pipers returning from active service. With the kind permission of Struan Robertson, chief of the Clan Donnachaidh, the band wears the Red Robertson tartan.



Epping Forest Pipe Band

<https://www.facebook.com/EppingForestPipeBand>



The Epping Forest Pipe Band is a Highland bagpipe and drum band, with very strong family values and traditions, where everyone is welcomed. Since 1974, it has been entertaining and performing, at international galas and on national television, as well as for parades, charity events and local community occasions. However, it is more than just a pipe band: it is a friendly, family-orientated group of like-minded people, where loyalty and lasting friendships are built between our members, new and old. Many of the members have been together for years, inviting

relatives and friends to join. Some past performance highlights include tours of Poland, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland and Denmark, as well as high profile events in London's Hyde Park, at the Royal Albert Hall and for the London 2012 Olympic Torch celebrations. The band wears the Red MacGregor tartan.

The Pipe Bands



Milton Keynes Pipe Band

www.mkpb.net/

Since its beginnings in 1972, Milton Keynes Pipe Band have been entertaining audiences and promoting the playing of bagpipes and drums in the new city of Milton Keynes, which itself was only designated five years earlier in 1967. The band wears the Ancient MacPherson tartan and presently consist of 11 pipers and 3 drummers. We're a Grade 4 pipe band who have been at the forefront of piping and drumming in and around the city of Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire since 1972. The band plays at numerous gala days, fairs, and other events each year and we're always keen to hear from learners, or experienced players interested in joining us.



Nene Valley Pipe Band

www.instagram.com/nenevalleypipeband/



Nene Valley Pipe Band is based in Northampton and was formed in 1986, under the original name of Carlsberg Tettley Pipe Band, by former Manager Michael McDonald and Ian Campbell, with the help from Ron Harrop who became the Pipe Major. Ron had spent over 15 years with the Gordon Highlanders rising to the rank of Pipe Major. Over the years the band has competed at various competitions from solo's to mini bands. The band changed their name to Nene Valley pipe band in the 2011 and is now under the leadership of Pipe Major Mick Murray and has continued to grow in strength over the years. The bands aim is to have

fun while promoting piping and drumming and to encourage people to enjoy the music.

City of Norwich Pipe Band

<https://www.norwichpipeband.net/>

Whether it is a prestigious formal event such as the Royal Norfolk Show Ball, the spectacle of the massed pipes and drums at the Colchester Military Tournament and Berlin Tattoo, or one of the many locally organised popular events throughout East Anglia, the City of Norwich Pipe Band has been delighting audiences for over 41 years. Formed in 1978 by two pipers Norman Bald and Sid George and a drummer, Andrew Stillie. The band was originally known as Norwich and District Pipe Band wearing the New Caledonia Tartan. Since 1997 the band has worn the Prince Charles Edward Stewart tartan.





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The Heavy Events

These events, which are also known as Highland Games, will take place in the main arena.

Putting the Stone

Every Highland Gathering had its own unique stone which might vary in weight between 16lb and 28lb (7.3kg and 12.7kg). The stone is putted with one hand only from the neck. A run, glide or spin not exceeding 7ft 6ins (2.3m) is allowed up to the trig (stop board) which is a length of wood 4ft 6ins (1.4m) long and six inches (15cm) high.



Weight Over the Bar



The weight is a steel or lead weight, attached to a metal circular handle. The weight is thrown one-handed over a bar set at increasing heights above the thrower. The thrower has three attempts for each successive height. Places are determined by maximum height reached with the fewest misses. The size of the weight varies with the competition class. Advanced male athletes throw a 56lb (25.5kg) weight, female athletes throw a 28lb (12.7kg) weight and male master class or senior athletes throw a 42lb (19kg) weight.

Weight for Distance – 28lb & 56lb

Said to be one of the most graceful of heavyweight events, there are two standard weights - the 28lb (2 stone, or 12.7kg) and the 56lb (4 stone, or 25.5kg). The weight consists of a 28lb/56lb ball/block, chain and handle, the overall length of which must not exceed 18 inches (45.7cm). The Harpenden hammer weighs 24lb (10.9kg). In simple terms the thrower grasps the weight in one hand, spins round and throws it as far as possible. More accurately, the thrower has a distance of nine feet (2.75m) behind the trig (stop board) from which to throw the weight. Grasping the weight and facing the trig, he swings the weight to the side and then behind him. He's now ready to start his throw which consists of three turns, gathering momentum on each. On the third, and at exactly the right moment, he heaves the weight as far as he can. The thrower stands with his back to the trig, swings the hammer round his head to gather momentum and then releases it over his shoulder.



Tossing the Sheaf



The sheaf toss is a traditional Scottish agricultural sport event originally contested at country fairs. A pitchfork is used to hurl a hessian bag stuffed with straw over a horizontal bar above the competitor's head. Typical weight for the bag is 16 pounds (about 7 kg). Three chances are given to each competitor to cleanly go over the bar, without touching it. After all challengers have made their attempts, the bar is raised, and all successful competitors move on to the new height. This continues until all but one athlete is eliminated.

Tossing The Caber



The dimensions of a caber can vary enormously but the norm is about 150lb (68kg), 18 ft (5.5m) long and about 9 in (23cm) thick at one end, tapering to about 5 in (13cm) at the other. Contrary to popular belief, it is not thrown for distance but for style. The judge will set the caber on its end with the thickest portion in the air. The athlete rests it against his shoulder and, clasping his arms around it, lifts it up off the ground whilst keeping it perfectly balanced. When he's achieved that, he will give it a quick flick up and move his hands under the narrow end. He's now ready to throw it.

The competition is judged using an imaginary clock-face on the ground in front of the thrower with him facing the 12 o'clock position. The clock-face keeps pace with him as he runs. When he has reached the desired speed, he will stop abruptly and heave the caber up so that its heavy end lands in the middle of the clock and the whole caber turns right over, ending up with the narrow end pointing exactly towards 12 o'clock.

Hurling the Haggis



Modern haggis throwing or hurling is judged on the basis of distance and accuracy of the hurl. A split or burst haggis is immediately disqualified, as the haggis must be fit to eat after landing. The sport requires subtle technique rather than brute force, as the hurl must result in a gentle landing to keep the haggis skin intact.

There is a World Haggis Hurling Championship. Plans to use a fake haggis in a hurling competition at a Highland festival in Melbourne have split the purists from those who are fearful of the mess a high-speed impacting may cause.

The haggis should be of traditional construction, consisting of a tender boiled sheep's heart, lung and liver with spices, onions, suet and oatmeal and stock stuffed in a sheep's paunch, boiled for three hours. At the time of hurling the haggis should be cooled and inspected to ensure no firming agents have been applied. Rules dictate that the haggis must be packed tight and secure, with no extra "skin" or "flap". The sporting haggis weighs 500 grams, with a maximum diameter of 18 cm and length of 22 cm. An allowance of ± 30 grams is given, and this weight is used in both junior and middle weight events.

At the Harpenden Highland Gathering we use a traditional haggis but, in the interest of good hygiene and to prevent splitting and spillage on impact, it is wrapped in plastic and frozen prior to the competition.

The Haggis Hurling Competition is open to all – both children and adults are encouraged to take part! Please register at the Announcers' tent no later than 14:30 hrs.



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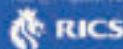
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Other Entertainment

The Highland Gathering isn't just about Scottish Dancing, Bagpipes and Caber Tossing! We also have lots of other entertainment for your enjoyment!



Dog and Duck Show (main arena)

<https://www.dogandduckshow.co.uk/>



Stuart Barnes was the original creator of the highly popular **Dog and Duck** show that now tours the UK countryside shows in the summer season. Stuart has travelled to over 100 countries working with wildlife, and his passion for dogs has enabled him to gain an incredible understanding of everything about them and their behaviours. In the Dog and Duck Show countryside shows and corporate events, Stuart and his amazing team use both trained and untrained sheep dogs to herd ducks and sheep, amusing and educating the audience about common dog behaviour issues and about how these can be resolved.

Wild in the Country Ferret Racing (small arena)

<http://wildinthecountrytd.co.uk>



Wild in the Country is a family run company successfully delivering spectacular ferret racing events to shows and festivals across the whole of the UK. For over 10 years they have been travelling around the country racing ferrets. Ferret racing provides quirky and lively entertainment, and is led by Malachy de Lacy, an experienced ferret handler. With Malachy's years of experience to hand, audiences find our show not only greatly entertaining, but educational too. The chatter and quick wit of genial compere, Malachy de Lacy, quickly gathers and holds an audience. His interactive banter both informs and engages the budding throng. Look for the feller in the Trilby hat... .. chatting!



Scouts Cannon Races and Tug-of-War (running track)



Harpenden Scout troops will compete against each other to dismantle and transport the parts of a cannon through an obstacle course, before returning

to the start, reassembling and "firing" the cannon. The races will be run as heats, followed by a final between the two leading teams. There will also be a Tug-of-War challenge for Scouts, Cadets and other young persons who would like to take part.



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The Children's Races (running track)



The Highland Gathering will provide an opportunity for younger visitors to participate in several sporting activities based on the running track adjacent to the Main Arena. The Cockermouth School PTA has run these races at the Highland Gathering for many years and ensures that all children compete against others of a similar age. Events include Running, Three-Legged, and Egg & Spoon races and have in the past included Welly Throwing. All children have the opportunity to win stickers and sweets.

Competitors should register their names and pay £1 each at the Sports Gazebo at the end of the Running Track (from 11:00 onwards).

Children can also take part in the Haggis Hurling Competition!
(Register at the Announcers' Tent before 14:30 hrs)

Pepperstock Archers – Have a Go

<https://www.facebook.com/PepperstockArchers>



Pepperstock Archers will offer Highland Gathering visitors an opportunity to 'Have a Go' at archery, throughout the day. They will offer some basic tuition to help those who have not tried archery before to learn the basics and get the most out of their turn.



The Clover Singing Club (main stage)

www.cloversingingclub.com

We are a relaxed and friendly not-for-profit club for women of any age (there is no upper limit!) to meet and socialise through weekly, daytime singing sessions, with an emphasis on the health benefits of singing and having a good time - we laugh a lot! We have end of term lunches, go on trips together, and sing at community events or care homes. Excess funds are donated to local charities - to date this is well over £2500! We are affiliated to the Harpenden Trust's Wellbeing Hub, as well as supporters of its new intergenerational Choir. There are 100 members across our two clubs - in Wheathampstead and Harpenden - and newcomers are always welcome. No auditions and you don't have to read music, first session is free! Contact Charlotte Vickerstaff on cloversingingclub@gmail.com or see www.cloversingingclub.com.



Southdown Jazz Collective (main stage)

<https://southdownjazz.net/>



Southdown Jazz Collective is a strong and diverse network of accomplished jazz musicians, instrumentalists and singers alike, from the St Albans District area. Founded in 2023, their vision is to bring joy and connection to the people through the medium of music. This is their second year in a row at the Highland Gathering. Delighted to be put on the main stage this year, they plan to unleash some extra jazzy, funky and bluesy energy to get everyone up on their feet, in a way that adds to the tradition of this unique local event. They are best-known for the monthly jazz jam they organise in Harpenden (more details at <https://southdownjazz.net>). Between them, they have an impressive musical CV, including performances at festivals around the country (including Glastonbury), West End musicals, work with the BBC and multiple high-quality studio and live recording projects.

The Dance Studio (main stage)

<https://www.thedancestudioherts.co.uk/>

The Dance Studio has been established for more than 35 years and is a highly respected school with approximately 450 pupils attending classes in Ballet, Tap, Modern, Contemporary, Acrobatic Arts & Jazz Dance throughout Harpenden and St Albans. The Dance Studio is dedicated to bringing out the best in every child, whether the aim is to improve coordination, to gain confidence and grace, to learn the joy of movement, or to train for a career in dance. Many past pupils have attended high profile Associate Programmes, Summer Schools and have gone on to study at top performing Arts Colleges.



Students have appeared in West End Productions, Pantomimes and dance with the renowned English Youth Ballet & National Youth Ballet Companies. ISTD exams are held termly, and all our students perform in our bi-annual school show, which is staged to a professional standard. There are also numerous opportunities for performing in local events. Come and join and experience all the Studio has to offer.

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Reverbs Ukelele Band (main stage)

The Reverbs are a dynamic and versatile ukelele band who play around the Beds, Herts and Greater London areas covering pop, rock, folk and jazz, as well as their own material, appealing to all age groups, and several of the band live in the Harpenden area. The band members play ukeleles, bass, keyboards, violin, clarinet, mandolin and flutes and of course, all players are harmony singers. The band has 13 players in total although not all play every event, the band have many years' experience of live performance and are a mix of professional and semi-professional musicians. The Kimpton Folk Festival recently described them as "quite simply, entertainment personified". Contact details: raypetry001@gmail.com



The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society - Herts and Borders Branch (small arena)



Keep fit, have fun - Dance Scottish with us! We will be putting on displays in the small arena this afternoon. There will also be opportunities for you to try it for yourself. Come and see us, whether simply to watch, ask questions or join in. You don't need to go far to find a Scottish Country Dance Group in Hertfordshire: you can dance every night of the week and all over Hertfordshire including Harpenden, St. Albans, Watford, Berkhamsted, Welwyn Garden City, Pottery Bar, Hertford, Bishop's Stortford and Letchworth. To find out more about Scottish Country Dancing in Hertfordshire please visit our website www.rcdsherts.org or email rcdsherts@gmail.com

Programme of Events – 2024

	Small Stage	Running Track	Main Arena	Main Stage	Small Arena	Band Circle	
	The Highland Gathering Event Opens at 10:30						
11:00							11:00
11:15	Highland Dancing Comp.		Dog and Duck Show		Ferret Racing		11:15
11:30							11:30
11:45							11:45
12:00	Entry of Massed Bands and Opening Ceremony						12:00
12:15	(Main Arena)						12:15
12:30	Highland Dancing Competition			Clover Singing Club			12:30
12:45		Scouts Cannon Races	Highland Games Stone Putt 28lb Weight Throw Weight over the Bar 56lb Weight Throw Caber Toss		RSCDS*		12:45
13:00							13:00
13:15							13:15
13:30		Children's Races (Registration at Gazebo adjacent to Running Track)		Southdown Jazz Collective	Ferret Racing		13:30
13:45							13:45
14:00							14:00
14:15							14:15
14:30						Ferret Racing	14:30
14:45				Haggis Hurling (Register at Announcers' Tent)	Dance Studio		14:45
15:00		Scouts Cannon Race					15:00
15:15							15:15
15:30					RSCDS*	15:30	
15:45	Scouts Tug of War		Dog and Duck Show	Reverbs Ukulele Band		15:45	
16:00						16:00	
16:15						16:15	
16:30	Massed Bands March-in and Closing Ceremony						16:30
16:45	(Main Arena)						16:45
17:00	X						17:00

Children's Races start on the Running Track at 13:30

The Highland Gathering Raffle Draw will take place at 16:00

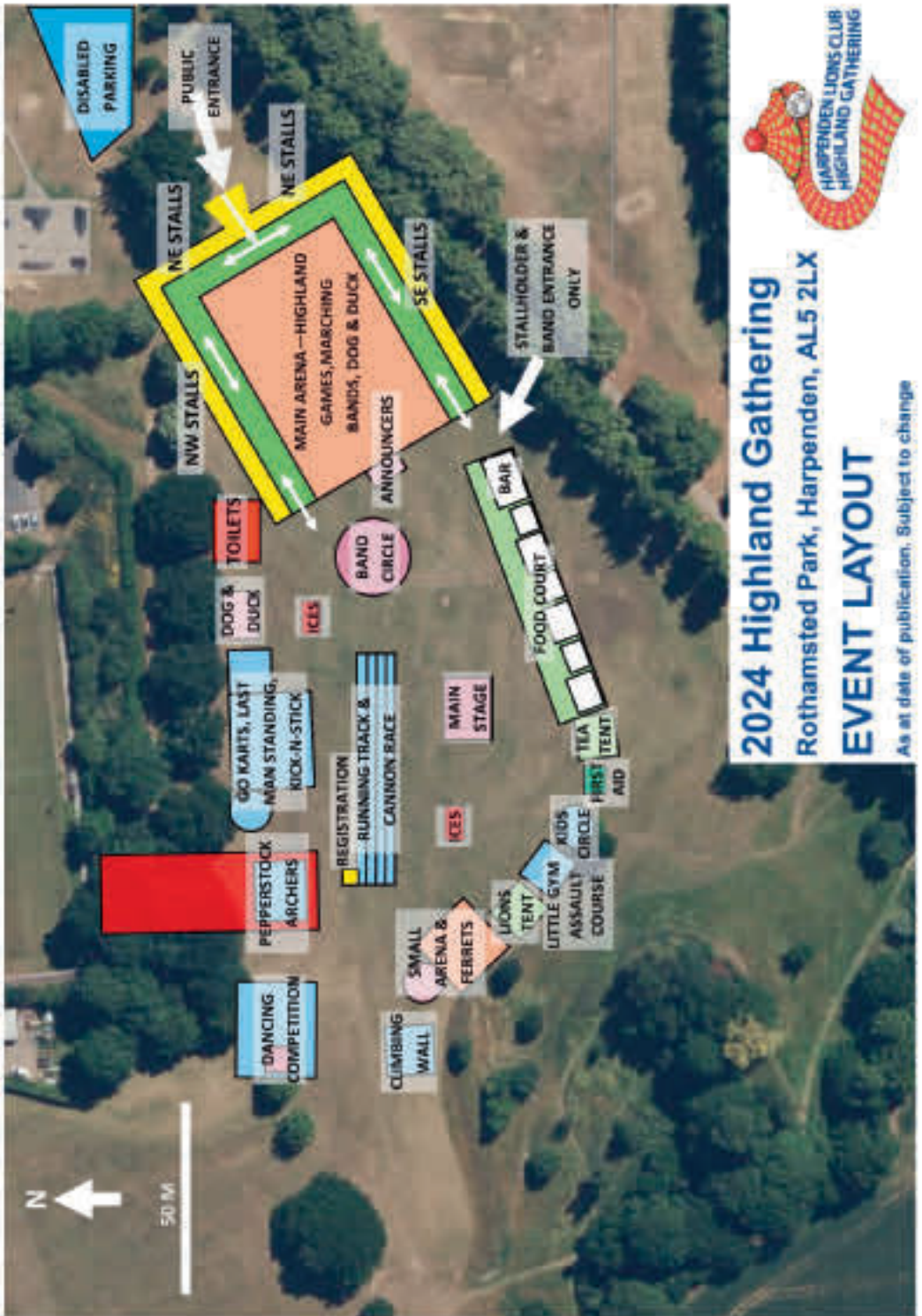
***RSCDS Herts and Borders Scottish Dancing Displays**

The Haggis Hurling Competition is open to children and adults (prior registration is required)

Displays and timings may be subject to change

Attractions available throughout the day include the Climbing Wall, Go Karts, Last Man Standing, Kick n Stick, Teacup Ride, 'Have a Go' Archery, Kids Circle, Craft, Market and Charity Stalls, Displays, Music, Food and Drink Stalls and Bars

Please see the event layout map opposite for locations of events and attractions



2024 Highland Gathering

Rothamsted Park, Harpenden, AL5 2LX

EVENT LAYOUT

As at date of publication. Subject to change



2024 Highland Gathering Beneficiary

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Our Young Lives vs Cancer Social Worker supported a long stay request of 6 months at Paul's House, a 15min walk from GOSH, and we all moved there. The memories we have there are precious. Paul's house became our home from home and we will be forever grateful. We left Paul's House after 166 nights. Because of this support we are out enjoying life to the full!

In addition, in Hertfordshire, we helped 129 families in the last year. We gave 92 grants value £16,680 to help ease money worries.

Kim.Mangelshot@younglivesvscancer.org.uk

Find out more about how we help children, young people & families face cancer

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Young Lives vs Cancer is an operating name of CLIC Sargent Cancer Care for Children. A registered charity in England and Wales (1107328) and in Scotland (SC039657). Also operating in Northern Ireland. Registered office: 4th Floor, Whitefriars, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 2NT.



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Highland Dancing

Highland Dancing is regarded as one of the most sophisticated forms of national dancing in the world. The standard highland dances traditionally featured in competitions are: the Highland Fling, Sword Dance, Seann Triubhas, Strathspey, and the Highland Reel or Reel of Tulloch.

Fling, Sword Dance, Seann Triubhas, Strathspey, and the Highland Reel or Reel of Tulloch.

The Highland Fling is probably the most famous of Scottish dances. Thought to have originated about 1790, legend has it that an old shepherd was giving chanter lessons to his grandson when he saw a stag rearing and wheeling in the near distance. The dance is performed on the same spot throughout because the clansmen of old danced on their targe (leather-covered, studded shield).

The Sword Dance is said to have originated in 1054 when King Malcolm Canmore clashed in battle near Dunsinane with one of Macbeth's chiefs. Having slain his opponent, Malcolm crossed his claymore with that of his opponent to make the sign of the cross and danced in exultation over them.

The Seann Triubhas (pronounced shawn trews) is said to reflect the Highlander's desire to shake off the hated Sassenach trousers that Scots were forced to wear when the kilt was prohibited after the 1745 rebellion.

The Reel of Tulloch originated in the northeast village of Tulloch one winter morning long ago when the minister was late. The assembled congregation, waiting outside the church, stamped their feet and clapped their hands to keep warm and as someone began to whistle a Highland air, the movements developed into a lively dance.

Scottish National Dancing

Scottish dancing-masters would enliven their entertainment by introducing different styles of dance. The further we look back into history, the closer the resemblance we find between Scotland and Ireland.

A "Scoto-Irish" style of dancing was in fashion in the 1790s. In Irish dancing, the footwork for solo jigs, reels and hornpipes is quick and neat, the body is held rigid from the waist up, and arm movements are absent. Hebridean Solo Dances were originally composed in the 19th Century by Ewen MacLachan who had studied dancing in France. He was very interested in ballet and gained a good knowledge of that style of dancing. This can be seen in some of his dances which also demonstrate his considerable knowledge of Highland dancing. MacLachan gave his dances the names of the Scottish tunes he used.

Scottish Country Dancing

Whilst "Reeling" and "Ceilidh" styles of dancing have been popular in Scotland for centuries and would fit the description of typical folk dancing, Scottish Country Dancing is unique to Scotland. It was performed by all members of society in village halls and ballrooms, and the dancers dressed up for these occasions often in evening dress. Today, the Reels, Jigs and Strathspeys of Scottish Country Dancing are performed and enjoyed all over the world. As in the past, the social character of this form of dancing is strongly emphasised.

Highland Dancing Competition and Displays

There will be Highland Dancing displays in the small arena, courtesy of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS), Herts and Borders Branch, with the audience encouraged to join in!

A Highland Dancing Competition, organised by Heidi Mathers, will take place on the small stage, throughout the day. Come and watch the talented young dancers competing to be judged the best!



Highland Gathering

Everywhere things are happening, we know there is so much to watch with the pipe bands, Scottish dancing, arena events and displays but why not visit our stallholders who have so much to offer! Many return year on year so look out for your favourites as well as [exciting and innovative offerings from new stallholders](#).



As you enter the Gathering you will see the main arena straight in front of you. This is surrounded by many of the stalls. You can buy yummy cupcakes, and sweets, candy floss and food snacks. In the Scots area –stalls with a Scottish theme, including clothing and crafts, kiln wearing, Clan gathering – can be found.



In the Market and Charity stall section you will find lots of things to buy, games to play and stories for children. Our main beneficiaries in 2024 are Young Lives vs Cancer and Lions Charities including our Life Skills programme for local schools so come and see their stalls and learn more about them.

Also look out for the many local charities and volunteer groups that have attractions to entice you. Find out what they do for our community and how you could help. In the ever growing Craft Market area you can find arts and crafts, environmentally created goods, funky goods, pottery jewellery, cards and clothes. In the main arena try throwing the haggis, young and old (sign up at the announcer's tent). Or watch the Highland games and Pipe Bands. Watch the ferret racing, the dog and duck show or the Scouts doing their cannon races.



Younger children can enjoy the children's assault course or playing in the Kids Circle or take part in the running races. At the top of the park have a ride in the go-karts, climb a wall, try last man standing, take a teacup ride. Or TRY Archery.



When it's time for a break, check out the bars and choice of food outlets in the Food Court and Food Terrace. And watch the bands on the main stage or the Scottish dancing completions. There's something for everyone!

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Crafty Devils	Paul Henry Kilts
Crystal Buddha	Pepperstock Archers
Cupcakes & Cookies	RSPB
Dance Dimension	Scarbella Designs
Dave's Sticks	Soul Food
Expedition Nomads Coffee	Squirrel Images
Fish & Chips	The Doughnut Company
Friends of Herts Young	Old Chapel Fudge Co.
Homeless	The Little Gym
Fun-Games	The Pancake Bar
Go-Kart Party	The Royal British Legion
Hamptons	The Tea Cup Ride
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The list of stalls and franchises as at date of publication



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Harpenden Lions Club Highland Gathering

Background and History

Described as a 'fun day out with a Scottish flavour for the whole family' the Gathering is Harpenden Lions Club's largest annual fundraising event. It raises thousands of pounds annually for local, national and international charities and good causes.

St. Albans and Mid-Herts Caledonian Society organised the first of the local Highland Games which took place on 22 June 1946 at Beech Hyde Farm, Wheathampstead. It was held as a fundraising event to assist Scottish engineers who had been working in aircraft factories including De Havilland in Hatfield during the Second World War. On 1 June 1949, further Games were held in Clarence Park, St. Albans. From 1950 onwards the Games were held in Rothamsted Park, Harpenden, where the natural bowl-shaped area proved ideal for the staging of the event. Typically, they started at about 10:30am, with solo piping and dancing. By midday, spectators would spread picnics on the grass. No doubt a few drams, pints (and cups!) were downed in the process. The official part of the Games was opened in the early afternoon by the Chieftain, usually the head of a Clan.

There were many attractions on the programme, including the 'heavy' events, such as the Highland Stone, throwing the weights and hammers, and tossing the caber and the sheaf, many of which will be seen this year. These were followed by the pipe bands giving displays individually and in massed formation. A newspaper article referring to the early days mentions 'picking up the inevitable beer cans and other rubbish - no matter how many or how large were the rubbish skips provided - dismantling the platforms and removing the picket fencing which had not always been a sufficient deterrent to the determined gatecrasher'. Nothing changes – ask any member of the Lions Club or the local youth organisations without whose support the event would not be possible!

The Games flourished in this established format until 1972. From 1973 Rothamsted Park was not available. Alternative venues in Hertford and Letchworth were found for the following two years, but after that the Games ceased.

The first of the modern games, organised by Harpenden Lions Club, took place on June 22 1996, at Harpenden Rugby Club. The following year they relocated back to their traditional home in Rothamsted Park. The Harpenden Highland Gathering is now one of the largest Gatherings outside Scotland and raises thousands of pounds for charitable purposes every year. Many charities set up stalls and displays to raise awareness of their work and attract donations. Since 1996 the event has taken place on an annual basis and gone from strength to strength. Even the disappointing weather of 2012 failed to stop the Gathering, which despite the understandable fall in attendance, still raised over £12,000 for the beneficiaries, although in 2020 the coronavirus pandemic did force cancellation. The Highland Gathering returned in 2021 - the 25th event since its revival by Harpenden Lions Club.

What makes the Harpenden Highland Gathering such a special occasion? Spectacular pipe band displays, dance, traditional games and the sounds of the bagpipes – both traditional and in rock music - set the scene for the day, but there is much more. In recent years, visitors have enjoyed thrilling falconry demonstrations, historical re-enactments, the entertaining sight of experienced sheepdogs herding geese and ducklings, ferret racing and scouts and scouts races! Introduced in 2017, the 'Hurling the Haggis' event has become a great success. Every year there are plenty of events for children, including novelty track events, a climbing wall, Go-Karts and other attractions. There is a wide selection of stalls offering refreshments, and many others selling craft and novelty items.

2024 Highland Gathering Beneficiary:

Harpenden Lions Charities



Harpenden Lions Club CIO is a Registered Charity (No. 1198970).

Our **Life Skills Programme** raises and donates money to local mainstream and special needs schools, supporting them in delivering the Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education curriculum.

Children learn important non-academic social and interpersonal skills enabling them to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and become responsible adults. Life Skills education includes drug and alcohol awareness, healthy and safe lifestyle choices, assertiveness, resisting peer pressure, social responsibility and managing personal finances.



The funding helps schools to acquire the latest teaching resources and employ the most effective teaching methods to engage children in the learning process. The Programme has been running for over 30 years and has donated £300,000 towards our children's futures. Each year 9,500 children benefit from the support.

See: <https://www.harpenden-lions.co.uk/life-skills>

Other Lions Charities and Good Causes

The Club supports many other charities and good causes, at local, national and international level. The help provided can be financial or through volunteering.

Funds are raised through many different activities, including the Highland Gathering, our annual Easter Eggs Raffle in local pubs and other establishments, Race Nights, Treasure Hunts, the Lions second hand bookshop in Hemel Hempstead and charity collections. Funding is provided both to organisations and to needy individuals. Charities and other organisations that have received donations from Harpenden Lions Club in recent times include

Lions Clubs International Fund Tonga and Ukraine Appeals
MND (Motor Neurone Disease Association)
Heathlands School for the Deaf (Minibus Appeal)
St. Albans & District and Salvation Army Foodbanks
DILLIE Foundation (suicide awareness and prevention)
Comfort Cases UK (for young people in Foster Care)
Emmaus St Albans (working together to end homelessness)

Willow Foundation
Youth Talk
Samaritans
NSPCC
Herts Welcomes Refugees

See also: <https://www.harpenden-lions.co.uk/services>

WHERE THERE'S A NEED
THERE'S A LION

The Harpenden Lions Club Highland Gathering Raffle

Lots of great prizes including these themed hampers!



Scottish Hamper

Harpenden Hamper

Gardening Hamper

Beauty Hamper

Children's Arts and Crafts Hamper

Tickets £1



Available from the Raffle Stall - all proceeds go
to our Highland Gathering Charities

2024 Highland Gathering Organisers



Chairman

Events

Finance

Health & Safety

Heavy Events

Legal

Logistics and Franchises

Manpower and Security

Market Stalls

Event Layout

Pipe Bands

PR, Facebook & website

Programme Design & Production

Programme Distribution

Ticket Sales

Raffle

Show Announcers

Signage

Advertising & Sponsorship

Lion Mohan Cashyap

Jonathan Cox and Lion Howard Birch

Lion James Penn

Lions Nick Eckford and John Powell

James Cadzow

Lion Mike Kelly

Lions Mohan Cashyap, John Powell, Nick Eckford, David Shall, Jenny Vestal

Lion Mohan Cashyap

Lions John Powell and David Shall

Lion David Cowan

Jonathan Cox

Lions Guy Kenyon, Jenny Vestal, David Shall, Nigel Marriott

Lion David Cowan

Lion Mark Deacon

Lion Mark Deacon

Alka Cashyap and Partners and Friends of Harpenden Lions Club

Katie Briers and Rod Williamson

Russell King and Lions David Cowan and Mike Kelly

Lions David Shall, Mohan Cashyap, Dave Price, James Penn, Julian David

Andrew Godden, Charles Pocock, Mark Deacon, Guy Kenyon

HOW TO FIND US, WHERE TO PARK!

The Highland Gathering is held in Rothamsted Park, Leyton Road, Harpenden - a few minutes walk along Station Road from Harpenden Railway Station. Use postcode AL5 2LX for satnavs.

Driving from the North or from the M1 motorway J10

Exit the M1 at Junction 10 and take the A1081 to Harpenden (approx. 4.5 miles). Proceed along the High Street to the end of the town, straight across the mini roundabout at The Harpenden Arms. At the next roundabout, go straight across passing The Silver Cup on the right. Within 50 yards turn left into the car park.

Driving from the South (Note: left turn only at entrance to car park)

Proceed through St. Albans and take the A1081 to Harpenden (approx. 4 miles). Reverse direction at the Silver Cup roundabout, to enter the car park on your left.

OR If coming from M1 J9 proceed south along the A5183 until you reach the Redbourn roundabout where you take the first exit up the hill towards Harpenden. At the next roundabout take the first exit, then change direction at the Silver Cup roundabout, as above.

Station Car Park

ThamesLink /

Free car parking is also available at Harpenden Station, courtesy of Thameslink (no need to display a ticket). Please use the town-side car park (entrance before railway bridge).

Disabled Parking

Limited spaces are available inside the park (see Event Layout). The gate attendants will direct you. Please clearly display your blue badge.

If there are no free spaces left, the driver should drop you off at the gate in Leyton Road and park in the main car park.



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