

discover

Welwyn Garden City



WELWYN GARDEN CITY

OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE
2023

wonderfulwgc.co.uk



WONDERFUL
WELWYN GARDEN CITY



WELCOME TO WELWYN GARDEN CITY

A TRUE MARRIAGE OF TOWN AND COUNTRY

With its wide tree lined avenues, large green spaces and rich heritage, Welwyn Garden City offers the best of both worlds: a tranquil escape to the countryside and a lively centre brimming with restaurants and shops to enjoy time with family and friends.

Just 25 minutes from London in vibrant central Hertfordshire, you will find culture and history, excellent sport and leisure facilities, beautiful countryside, and great transport links.

Welwyn Garden City, founded by Ebenezer Howard a hundred years ago, is one of only two garden cities in the country. Its vibrant town centre combines beautiful floral displays, award-winning parks and great shops and restaurants.

There is so much to explore! Check out the highlights on pages 8-11 to plan your itinerary.

Be at one with nature and explore the parks and green open spaces. See the town come to life at our signature events; travel the globe at the World Food Festival, enjoy a unique cinema experience at Screen on the Green, go back in time in style at the WGC Vintage Festival and experience the magic of Christmas at the stunning Christmas Lights Trail.

There is a fabulous choice of restaurants, pubs and independent coffee shops. And why not treat yourself to a bit of retail therapy? Browse high street brands in The Howard Centre and the curated range of products in John Lewis & Partners, and enjoy some of the fabulous independent shops.

Enjoy your time in Wonderful Welwyn Garden City!

This guide has been put together by the Wonderful Welwyn Garden City BID wonderfulwgc.co.uk

 [wonderfulwgc](https://www.facebook.com/wonderfulwgc)  [wonderful_wgc](https://www.instagram.com/wonderful_wgc)



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MORE





A DAY IN THE GARDEN CITY

Arriving in the Garden City is always a wonderful experience. By road you can enjoy the beautiful vistas of Parkway, the grand avenue which you'll approach from the A1/M25 to the south. From the north you'll cross the iconic White Bridge giving you a stunning view of Parkway across The Campus.

By train you'll arrive right inside The Howard Centre where we recommend grabbing a drink at Starbucks to admire an elevated view of the Garden City. A stroll down Howardsgate will reveal the stunning statue of the town's founder Ebenezer Howard, created in 2020 by Ben Twiston-Davies to celebrate the town's centenary.

Just across Parkway you'll find the Coronation Fountain.

If shopping is your thing, you are spoilt for choice, with big names in The Howard Centre and John Lewis & Partners as well as some lovely independent shops. Choose brunch from a great range of restaurants and cafés such as Bebo, Megan's and Côte.

Dinner in town is a trip around the world. Choose your favourite cuisine, we will certainly have it! If stylish Thai is your thing visit the Giggling Squid. For authentic Indian, we have The Neem Tree and Red Indian. Share a fantastic range of Turkish meze at Misya Meze Grill or enjoy the taste of the Mediterranean at Gräs.

Catch one of the latest releases at the cinema in Campus West or a play at the historic Barn Theatre.

Finish off your evening in one of the town's pubs which are steeped in history. The Two Willows offers a great array of beers and cocktails and live sports and music.

The Doctors Tonic has a great outdoor patio and live music. If you are into craft beer, Bedtime Beers is here for you, pairing the spirit of good drinking with food that tingles your taste buds for one delicious experience.

FAMILY FUN

There are many activities in and around town to enjoy with your family:

- Roller City
- Soft Play City
- Splashlands
- Vertigo Adventures
- Stanborough Lakes
- Gosling Ski Slope and Trampoline Park
- Geek Retreat



Photo: Danny Loo



DISCOVER THE GARDEN CITY

A bit of history...

Who was Sir Ebenezer Howard OBE?

Ebenezer Howard was a visionary and believed that nature was important to healthy living. He founded the international garden city movement and created garden cities which were a perfect 'marriage of town and country' - a concept that seems more relevant now than ever before.

Welwyn Garden City is considered to be the finest example of the 140 garden cities across the world. Many garden city principles are still used in modern town planning.



Photo: Paul Hillary

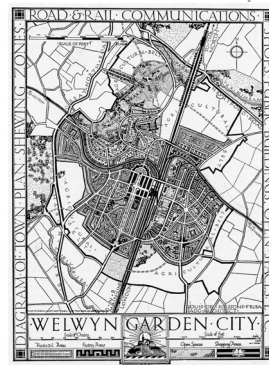
WGC HERITAGE TRUST DIGITAL TRAILS

Find out more about the fascinating history of the town via the digital trails - see p 10.



A CITY OR A TOWN?

You could easily be confused because of its name, but Welwyn Garden City is very much a town, not a city. Louis de Soissons was the town's architect who interpreted Ebenezer Howard's vision. You can see a full size version of the plan next to the bus station.



He also designed distinctive kiosks to mark the Festival of Britain in 1951. They have been fully restored by the WGC Civic Society. Visit them on Howardsgate and read more about the fascinating history of the town.



THE ROYAL CONNECTION

Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II opened the QEII hospital in 1963, the first ever purpose built hospital for the newly founded NHS.



To mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 a fountain was erected on Parkway. The fountain is still one of the most iconic images of the town. Winter of 1963 was so cold the water in the fountain froze!

BRITISH FILM AND WELWYN GARDEN CITY

Welwyn Film Studios opened in 1928. Famous films made there include The 39 Steps (1935) and Brighton Rock (1947).

Today the town and surrounding landmarks such as Hatfield House, Brocket Hall and the old Shredded Wheat Factory are still used for many films and tv shows including World's End, Batman, Tomb Raider, Fast and Furious and The Crown.



EXPLORE

HIGHLIGHTS OF WELWYN GARDEN CITY



1 Coronation Fountain

Arguably the town's most iconic feature in the centre of Parkway, the fountain was designed to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and is the only working fountain of its type in England.

2 John Lewis

Originally Welwyn Stores which was established nearly 100 years ago, is still today the most important shopping destination in the town.



3 The Campus and Anniversary Gardens

Two of the most iconic formal gardens right in the heart of Welwyn Garden City town centre.



4 Splashlands

Splashlands features a paddling river meandering through the splash pad water play area. It is surrounded by a nautical-themed adventure playground with a large pirate ship and a variety of play equipment for children of all ages. It is open during the summer and it's FREE.



5 Sherrardspark Wood

Sherrardspark Wood is an ancient woodland popular with dog walkers, joggers, cyclists, and horse riders alike, and is also a valuable site for its wildlife.



6 Campus West


Looking for a fun day out? Campus West is a great destination offering an independent cinema, roller skating rink, soft play, live theatre venue and food & drink - all under one roof.

EXPLORE

HIGHLIGHTS OF WELWYN GARDEN CITY



Photo: Chrystalla Karvelia



7 Centenary Walk
A beautiful 20.20km circular walk through the countryside surrounding Welwyn Garden City, created to celebrate the town's centenary in 2020.

10 Stanborough Lakes
Enjoy a visit to beautiful Stanborough Park on the outskirts of the town. The two lakes offer a range of water sports like rowing or paddle boarding, or why not just rent a pedalo and enjoy the view?



8 Christmas Lights Trail
Discover the magic of Christmas in Welwyn Garden City as the town is illuminated from November and throughout December with our wonderful light installations across the town centre – simply download the LoyalFree app to get the trail.



11 Howard Centre
The shopping centre at the heart of Welwyn Garden City is named after the town's founder Ebenezer Howard. With big name brands and refreshment stops you'll find everything you need.

9 Heritage trails
Discover Welwyn Garden City's fascinating history through our digital heritage trails. The trail starts from Waterstones on Howardsgate. Look for the QR code in the window.



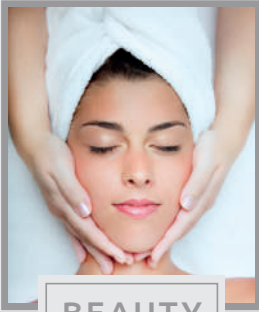
12 Food and Craft Market
Local & national traders selling a wide range of produce, gifts, crafts and much more. Hot and fresh food stalls from a selection of local producers as well as guest food stalls. First and third Saturday of each month.

all about me

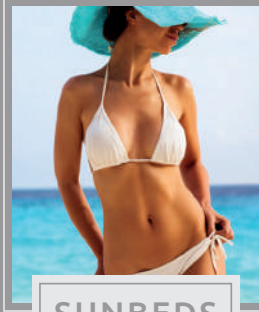
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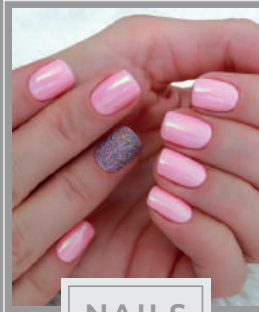
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WELWYN GARDEN CITY GOLF CLUB



Founded in 1923, Welwyn Garden City Golf Club is situated just outside the town centre and just a short drive from junction 6 of the A1M. Our classic parkland course is renowned for its undulating tree-lined fairways, fair and true greens and fantastic drainage, allowing year round play.

A VARIETY OF MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

01707 325243

DAVID@WGC GC.CO.UK | WWW.WGC GC.CO.UK
MANNICOTTS, HIGH OAKS RD, WELWYN GARDEN CITY AL8 7BP

SHOPPING AND MARKETS



Welwyn Garden City offers a wonderful mix of national brands, quirky independents, and great charity shops with plenty of parking and accessible routes.

John Lewis is the town's most iconic store, originally Welwyn Stores which opened in 1921 and offers home furnishings & accessories, electronics, fashion & beauty. Why not indulge in a free personal styling service, private sessions for both men and women. Simply book online ahead of your visit johnlewis.co.uk



Why not visit **The Howard Centre** for your favourite brands? **H&M** is always a great fashion choice for all generations. Upgrade your activewear at **Validate** and choose your lifestyle clothing and accessories with sustainable options at **Fat Face**.



Independent specialists feature across the town. **Natural Health** and its team of experts can guide you through their comprehensive range of products to support your healthy lifestyle.

Lamberts Flower Company is filled with beautiful flowers and plants together with decorative items for home styling and amazing gifts including Jellycat toys.

Godshaw Jewellers is one of the longest standing businesses in the town, established in 1947. The family business provides a warm welcome and the highest level of customer care.

If you're looking for a healthy and sustainable way to get around town, **Kinetic Cycles** have a huge range of bikes and experienced staff to help choose the perfect bike for you.

Take a break from all that shopping at **Coffee Lab** where the expert baristas brew their own blends from a variety of countries, perfected at their own Bionic Bull Roastery.

Markets

Welwyn Garden City's food and craft market takes place on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of most months and offers an amazing range of fresh local produce, gifts, crafts and much more.

wgcmarket.co.uk



Love pre-loved?

Visit Wonderful Welwyn Garden's charity shops brimming with high quality products at bargain prices whilst raising money for a good cause.

For full details of the charity shop trail and special offers across the town, search LoyalFree on the iOS and Google Play store and download the app.

EATING OUT

YOUR GUIDE TO EATING OUT IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY



MEGAN'S

35 - 37 Howardsgate
01707 957 151
megans.co.uk



CÔTE

1 - 3 Howardsgate
01707 246 122
cote.co.uk



DOCTORS TONIC

Church Road
01707 338 174
greeneking-pubs.co.uk



GIGGLING SQUID

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01707 248 599
gigglingsquid.com



CAFÉ TRIO

15 Wigmores South
01707 322 121
cafetrio.co.uk



MISYA

67 Parkway
01707 690 410
misyawelwyngardencity.co.uk



NEEM TREE

4 Fretherne Road
01707 333 253
neemtreerestaurant.com



POSTINO LOUNGE

17 - 19 Howardsgate
01707 328 429
thelounges.co.uk



RED INDIAN

49 Wigmores North
01707 333 993
redindianrestaurant.co.uk



PIZZA EXPRESS

40 Howardsgate
01707 334 231
pizzaexpress.com



TWO WILLOWS

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craft-pubs.co.uk



GRÄS RESTAURANT

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Open Saturdays 10am-4pm
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millgreenmuseum.co.uk/roman-baths



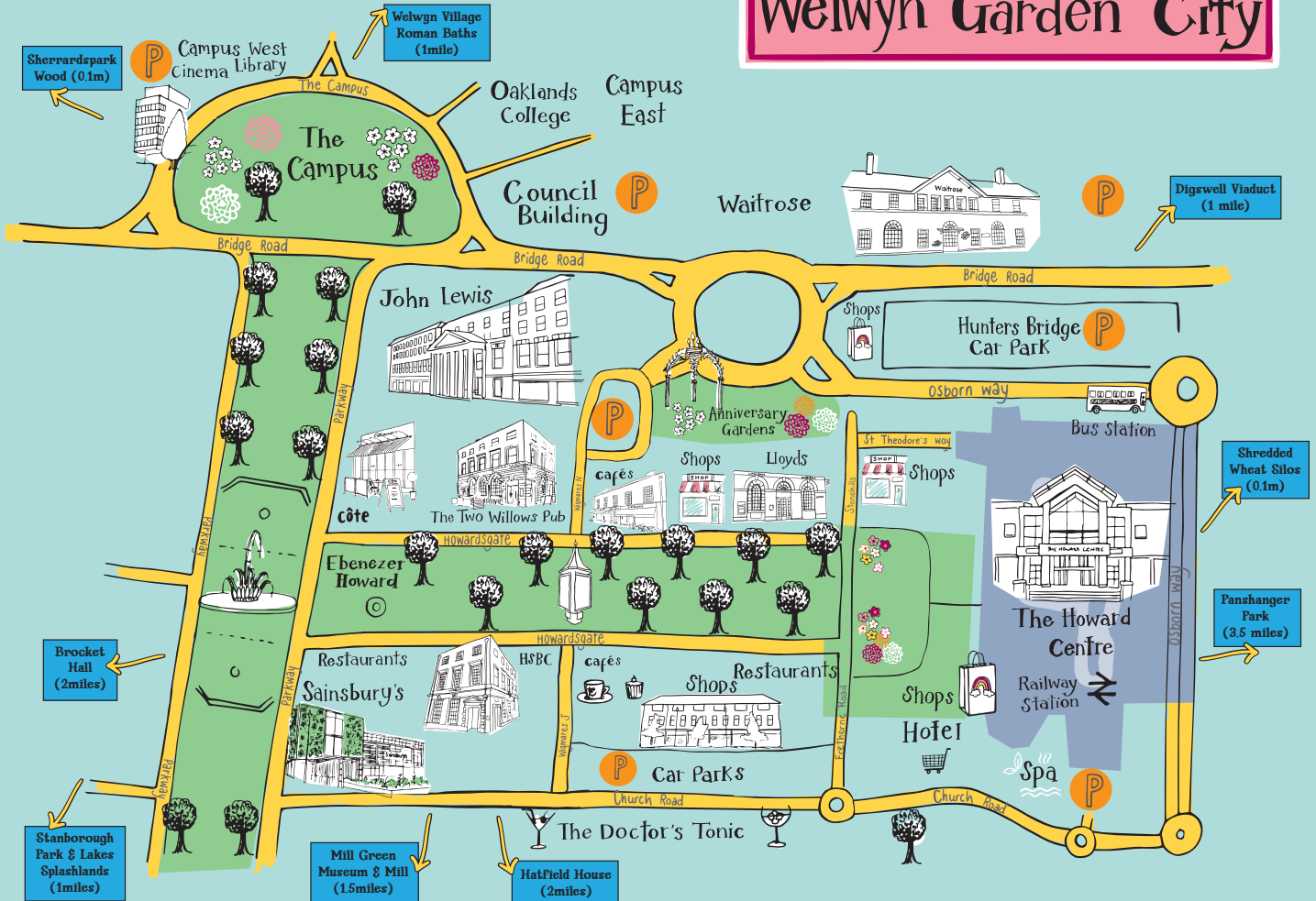
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Map designed by
Hannah Session

WONDERFUL
WELWYN GARDEN CITY

WHAT'S ON

SIGNATURE EVENTS WHICH ARE EXCLUSIVE TO WELWYN GARDEN CITY



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TRAIL - Nov-Dec

Christmas is a magical time in Welwyn Garden City. Where can you see a giant dog sitting on top of a present, an enormous reindeer crashing into the Howard Centre or a hot air balloon capturing your imagination? Now imagine it all on your Insta Stories! There's a reason WGC has been named 'The Home of Christmas Lights'. Discover the magical illuminations from November until New Year's Day. Share your pics #WGCXmasLights



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS EVENTS - November

Kick-start the festive season with the Christmas Lights Event. Festive fun for the entire family to enjoy with street entertainment, arts and crafts, fun fair and live performances.

wonderfulwgc.co.uk  [wonderfulwgc](https://www.facebook.com/wonderfulwgc)  [wonderful_wgc](https://www.instagram.com/wonderful_wgc)



WORLD FOOD FESTIVAL - May

From Mexican to Malaysian, Brazilian to Bangladeshi, the World Food Festival serves up a perfect recipe to entice your taste buds while enjoying vibrant live music from the World Music Stage.



WGC VINTAGE FESTIVAL - June

Join us as we turn back the clocks for a weekend in June in Welwyn Garden City. Over 70 of the finest internationally acclaimed musicians, singers, DJs, dance performers and instructors as well as vintage enthusiasts from all over the world, descend into our town. Admire the vintage and classic cars, vintage fashion and stalls and entertainment for all the family.



SCREEN ON THE GREEN - August

Combine your love for movies and the outdoor spaces at our FREE Screen On The Green event.



REGULAR EVENTS IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY TOWN CENTRE

Keep an eye on our website for regular events including the food and craft market, vegan markets, seasonal trails and more.



FLORAL DISPLAYS

See Wonderful Welwyn Garden City town centre in full bloom with our award winning floral displays. The colourful displays are great for wildlife and help create a stunning backdrop for wonderful pictures.

To keep up to date with what is happening in Wonderful WGC town centre please visit:

 wonderfulwgc  wonderful_wgc



SCAN TO DISCOVER MORE

wonderfulwgc.co.uk



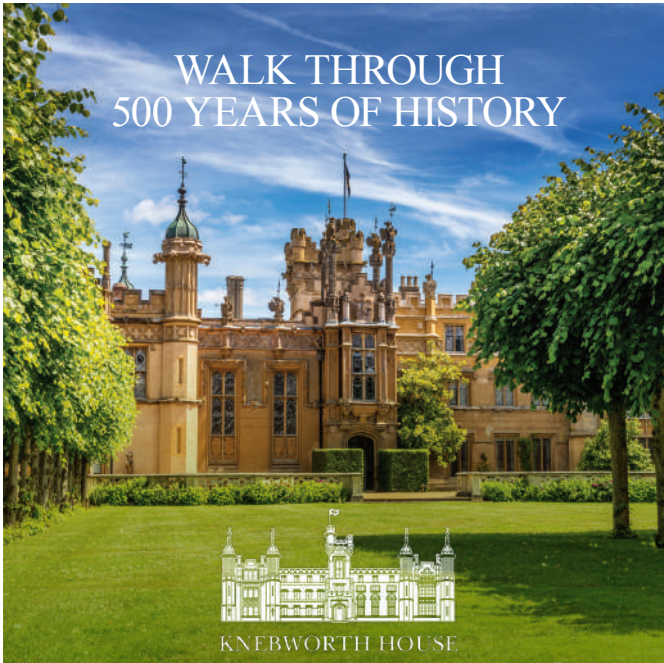
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Illustration by Hilly

WALK THE WALK

ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY

Welwyn Garden City was designed a hundred years ago as 'a town for healthy living' and the town still lives up to its original vision.

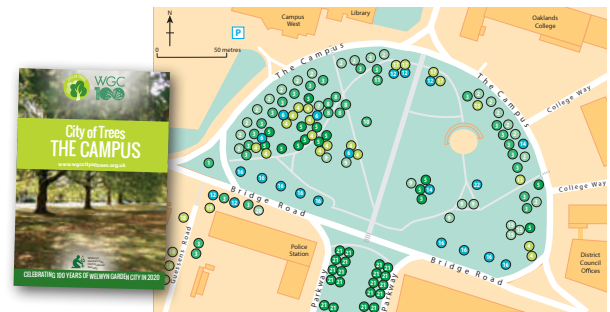
Enjoy a wide array of wonderful walks from the town centre. Cross The Campus where you will spot the Centenary Woodland Garden, and beyond to immerse yourself in the forest of Sherrardspark Wood.

Welwyn Garden City Centenary Circular Walk

Are you up to the challenge? The 20.20km circular walk will take you through woods, lakes, a disused railway line and beautiful sights including Digswell Viaduct and Bocket Hall. Download the full guide at hertfordshire.gov.uk/walking



CITY OF TREES



Did you know that there are over 19,000 trees in Welwyn Garden City? Try to spot some of them by downloading the free map made by the WGC Horticultural Society to celebrate the town's centenary. wgccityoftrees.org.uk

WE'RE DOG FRIENDLY!

Can you imagine shopping for the perfect mug with your Pug? Finding a Christmas sweater with your Setter? Looking fab with your Lab? Shopping is always more fun with a (furry) friend! In Welwyn Garden City you can enjoy shopping, brunching and even staying in the town centre's hotel with your canine companion.

We have created a trail with a map of all the dog friendly places in the town. Just download the LoyalFree app and have a mooch with your pooch.

Some of the dog friendly places in town

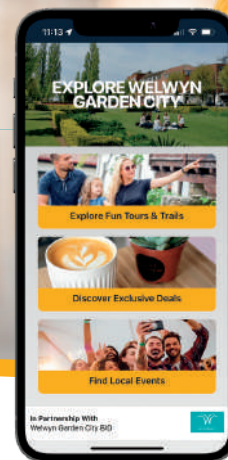
-  John Lewis and Partners
-  Postino Lounge
-  The Two Willows
-  Megan's
-  Travelodge
-  Caffé Nero
-  Coffee Lab
-  Kinetic Cycles

Milo

The Natural Health dog



EXPLORE WELWYN GARDEN CITY



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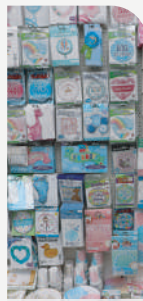
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springtimenurseries.co.uk

EXPLORE

You don't have to travel far from Welwyn Garden City to find yourself in historical stately homes, picturesque villages and tranquil lakes.



BROCKET HALL

One of England's finest stately homes with the renowned Auberge du Lac riverside restaurant, Grade 1 listed accommodation at Melbourne Lodge and home to The Melbourne Club.



OLD HATFIELD

Old Hatfield retains its historic feel and dates back to the Saxon era. It was a popular stopover for travellers heading north from London, including Charles Dickens who set a scene for Oliver Twist in the Eight Bells pub.



THE AYOTS

The Ayots are a collection of small villages just west of Welwyn. George Bernard Shaw lived in Ayot St Lawrence, at Shaw's Corner, and the house is open to the public as a National Trust property.



WELWYN VILLAGE

Not to be confused with Welwyn Garden City, Welwyn Village is a destination in itself. There is great range of countryside pubs such as The Wellington, The White Horse and the Rose and Crown.



HATFIELD HOUSE

Enjoy a house steeped in over 400 years of history, with gardens offering 40 acres of tranquillity. Built by Robert Cecil, in the grounds where Queen Elizabeth I spent much of her childhood, Hatfield House is home to centuries of historical treasures collected by the Cecil family.



ROMAN BATHS

Step back in time 1,800 years to discover the fascinating remains of this ancient Roman Bathhouse in Welwyn Village. Open every Saturday 10am - 4pm and every weekday afternoon 1pm - 4pm during school holidays.

STANBOROUGH PARK AND LAKES

Only a 25 minute walk from the town centre and train, Stanborough Park is home to the Water Sports Centre on the South Lake. Enjoy amazing views from the 30ft viewpoint in Vertigo Adventures!



Photo: Chrystalla Karvela



THE WATERMILL, MILL GREEN

Hatfield's 18th Century restored working watermill on the River Lea is a great day out for all the family. See the mill in action, enjoy the museum exhibits or grab one of their famous cream teas.

ARRIVE

TO WELWYN GARDEN CITY

■ BY ROAD

Just 20 minutes from Harpenden and St. Albans
16 minutes from Hertford
and 22 minutes from Hitchin

■ BY RAIL

Just 25 minutes train ride
from London King's Cross
and only 51 minutes
from Cambridge.

■ BY BUS

653 from St Albans
and Hatfield.

324 and 724 from
Hertford and Ware.

206, 401, 403 circular
routes in Welwyn Garden City.

301, 302 from St Albans.

■ BY AIR

Easily accessible by rail
and road from London
airports.

■ ACCESSIBILITY

Download the AccessAble
app to find your best
accessible ways around
town. [accessable.co.uk](https://www.accessable.co.uk)

With many thanks to our Wonderful Welwyn Garden City
photographer Zoe Cooper [zoocooperphotography.co.uk](https://www.zoocooperphotography.co.uk)

**William
Lawrence**

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www.wla.agency

All information correct at time of printing.

STAY

IN WELWYN GARDEN CITY

■ HOTELS

Welwyn Garden City

Best Western Homestead Court

Homestead Lane, AL7 4LX

Travelodge

Gate House, Fretherne Rd, AL8 6RD

Portfolio Apartments

Empire House, Time Square,
Bessemer Road, AL7 1FY

The View

Old Hens Lane, AL7 2ED

Pear Tree Inn

Hollybush Ln, AL7 4JJ

Premier Inn

Stanborough Rd, AL8 6DQ

Brocket Hall

Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7XH

Welwyn Village

The White Hart

2 Prospect Place, AL6 9EN

The Wellington

High Street, AL6 9LZ

The Chequers Inn

6 London Rd, Woolmer Green,
SG3 6JP

Tewin Bury Farm Hotel

AL6 0JB

A little further afield:

Hatfield

- The Comet
- Mercure
- The Mills

Stevenage

- Holiday Inn
- Ibis
- Novotel

St Albans

- Sopwell House
- St Michael's Manor
- Premier Inn



DISCOVER
THE BEST OF
TOWN AND
COUNTRY IN
WELWYN
GARDEN CITY

Just
25 mins
train ride from
London King's
Cross or just
off M25/A1

EXPLORE | DISCOVER | CELEBRATE | ENJOY
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