



HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

1st July 2026



Rock at the Castle 2026

Get ready to Rock the Castle at the hugely popular, not-to-be-missed, **FREE** event of the summer, returning to Hertford Castle on **Sunday 2nd August**. Gates open at **11.30am**, with live music from **12 noon until 7.30pm**, with an incredible line-up of local talent.

Set within the spectacular grounds of Hertford Castle, performances by local musicians will span across multiple stages, featuring a wide range of music genres. Following its popularity last year, the Island Stage DJ line-up will return for 2026, showcasing rap and dance acts, alongside a dynamic programme of emerging and established local talent.

The main lawn will host an inclusive area to provide space for individuals with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Across the site, organisers are continuing to build on the event's reputation for showcasing local music and providing opportunities for both new and returning performers. With something for everyone, Rock at the Castle promises to be another unforgettable summer celebration, right in the heart of Hertford.

Rock at the Castle's Fund-Raising Charity

Although Rock at the Castle is a **FREE** event, this year's selected charity, **Home-Start Hertfordshire**, will be fundraising at the gates. The charity was chosen by Councillors from the many applications made to Hertford Town Council.



Home-Start Hertfordshire is an award-winning local charity that provides volunteer-led emotional and practical support to families with young children across the county. By offering one-to-one home visiting and family groups, the charity helps parents facing challenges such as poor mental health, isolation and postnatal depression, giving children the best possible start in life.

Funds raised at Rock at the Castle will contribute towards the charity's core family support, including recruiting and training volunteers and safeguarding.

Liz Le Coze, Funding and Events Manager at Home-Start Hertfordshire shared:

"We are absolutely delighted to have been selected as beneficiary charity for Rock at the Castle 2026. Being rooted in the local community, we know just how important it is to have opportunities like this to bring everyone together - and indeed how loved this event is! Rock at the Castle gives us the chance to spread the word about who we are and the services we offer for local families - and a much-needed opportunity to raise funds for our cause. We are so grateful and cannot wait for the 2nd August, to celebrate everything and everyone local!"

Home-Start Hertfordshire will have a stand at Rock at the Castle where visitors can find out more about the charity, its services and how to get involved.

Councillor Ann Woodward, Chair of the Development and Leisure Committee, commented:

"Over 20 years and still going strong, Rock at the Castle is the most spectacular highlight of Hertford's calendar of events. This year's event is shaping up to be our biggest and best yet and Hertford Town Council can't wait to welcome residents and visitors to enjoy live music over three stages, all within the beautiful grounds of Hertford Castle. We are delighted that Home-Start Hertfordshire have been selected as the event beneficiary and know that the people of Hertford will be as generous as always, donating to this most worthy of causes that does so much for families locally".

The Line-Up

Visitors can enjoy a dynamic line-up with three stages set across three different areas of the Hertford Castle grounds, including high-energy bands on the Main Stage, electrifying dance and rap acts on the Island Stage and intimate acoustic sets on the Garden Stage.

<u>Main Stage</u>	
12.00 – 12.20	Never Too Late (Apollo Audio Band)
12.25 – 12.45	Seven Car Pile Up (Apollo Audio Band)
1.00 – 1.20	FO1
1.25 – 1.45	Amber Lilly
1.50 – 2.10	Dan Thomas & The Altogether
2.20 – 2.40	Strtles
2.40 – 2.45	The Mayor of Hertford Welcome
3.00 – 3.20	HDOS - We Will Rock You Cast
3.35 – 4.00	Neil Gowans & The Winos
4.15 – 4.40	The Fishmongers
4.55 – 5.20	The Hardcore Hippies
5.35 – 6.00	The Real McKoys
6.15 -6.45	Steve Young & The Real Time Players
7.00 - FINISH	The Bleedin' Business

<u>Island Stage</u>	<u>Garden Stage</u>
12.30 – 12.50	12.15 - 12.30
12.50 - 1.10	12.35 - 12.55
1.15 – 1.45	1.00 - 1.15
1.45 - 2.30	1.20 - 1.40
2.30 – 3.15	1.45 - 2.00
3.15 – 4.00	2.05 - 2.25
4.00 – 4.45	2.30 - 2.50
4.45 - 5.35	2.55 - 3.15
5.35 - 6.30	3.20 - 3.40
	3.45 - 4.05
	4.10 - 4.30
	4.35 - 4.55
	5.00 - 5.20
	5.25 – 6.00

Please note the line-up is subject to change

Our Sponsors

Hertford Town Council wishes to express its appreciation to McMullen’s Brewery and Duffield Harrison for their generous sponsorship of Rock at the Castle 2026.

Tom McMullen commented: *“We’re proud to be back supporting Rock at the Castle for another year - Hertford’s incredible celebration of live music and community spirit, right in the heart of town. There’s nothing quite like seeing the castle grounds come alive again for a great cause and an even better time. Investing in Hertford’s people, beer and pubs for nearly 200 years, we’re committed to keeping the town’s vibrant culture alive - one pint and one performance at a time!”*



David White commented: *“We are very excited to sponsor this year’s Rock at the Castle. Hertford is lucky to have this incredible venue to host such special events, and we can’t wait to see the community come together once more to support Hertford’s musical talent and have an absolutely brilliant time. It is always such a thoroughly enjoyable day. Many thanks to Hertford Town Council and their Events Team for all their hard work organising it.”*



Notes to Editors:

Programme subject to change. For updates, please see: <https://www.hertford.gov.uk/events-listings/rock-at-the-castle-5/>

This event is part of Hertford Town Council's long tradition of providing free community events in the Castle Grounds. All event listings can be found at: www.hertford.gov.uk/events-listings or see updates on Facebook and Instagram at [@hertfordtowncouncil](https://www.instagram.com/hertfordtowncouncil).

Alcohol Policy: Licensed bars will be onsite serving alcohol from 12.00pm with last orders at 7.15pm. No alcohol purchased onsite will be allowed out of the grounds. Visitors are limited to bringing **no more than four cans of beer/cider/pre-mixed drinks or one bottle of wine** (750ml max) per person, on entry into the premises. No glass will be allowed on site; therefore any bottled wine or drinks will be decanted on entry. There will be a bag search in operation.

For further information, please contact Annalisa Yeowell on 01992 552885 or annalisa.yeowell@hertford.gov.uk