

## Wheathampstead Community Library



In 2014 Hertfordshire County Council produced a document 'Inspiring Libraries' setting in place a system of 'tiered' libraries and planning for both austerity and the building of a small number of new libraries. As a small village library, Wheathampstead was designated as 'Tier Three' which could continue to exist only if it were run by volunteers.

Determined not to lose their library, at that time situated in the Memorial Hall building, a small management group formed and at a Public Meeting in April 2017 45 volunteers were recruited. Over the next year they all learned how to run the village library which became fully volunteer-run from April 2018.

Support from Herts Libraries continued through professional advice, supplying books and paying for the facilities. Herts CC commissioned the building of a new library, co-located with the village Fire Station on land owned by the County Council. In July 2019 Wheathampstead Community Library moved into its new modern premises and expanded its work to become a significant volunteer-led community resource. Shortly after this, Herts Library Service was 'outsourced' to a new Public Mutual Organisation 'Libraries for Life' which continues to provide the necessary support.