

## Stevenage Consolidated Charities

Stevenage Consolidated Charities is the charity (Registration number 206448) that owns the Hellard Almshouses and Stevenage Bath House in Church Lane, Stevenage.

The land on which the current Almshouses and Bath House stand was given to the Rector of Stevenage, Stephen Hellard, in 1483. At some time before 1501 the Rector had a house built 'for the habitation of 3 poor folk' from Stevenage. On his death in 1506 the Almshouse Trust came into operation.

A more detailed history may be found on our website at [www.almshouses.btik.com](http://www.almshouses.btik.com).



## Contact Information

### *For Group Visits:*

Group Visits can be organised by arrangement with Stevenage Museum. For an education pack for key stage 1 & 2 or to arrange a visit please contact the Museum.

Contact details are:  
Stevenage Museum,  
St George's Way,  
Stevenage,  
SG1 1XX

Telephone:  
**01438 218881**

Fax:  
**01438 218882**

Email:  
**[museum@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:museum@stevenage.gov.uk)**  
for general enquiries including events booking and to join the mailing list.

and

**[museum.education@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:museum.education@stevenage.gov.uk)**  
for services for schools.

Website:  
**[www.stevenage.gov.uk/museum](http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/museum)**

### *For Public Open Days:*

Bath House Open Days are organised by volunteers from the Stevenage Society for Local History. See our website for more details and dates, or telephone Stevenage Museum.

Website: **[www.almshouses.btik.com](http://www.almshouses.btik.com)**



Copyright Stevenage Museum

Design by [www.martinandjones.co.uk](http://www.martinandjones.co.uk)

## Why Not Visit Stevenage Bath House?



Line drawing by John Amess



## Stevenage Bath House

Stevenage Bath House opened in January 1913. In the early 1900s few Stevenage homes had bathrooms. People would have used instead a tin bath filled with hot water heated on a coal fire or in a copper (a large vessel) heated on the kitchen range. Keeping clean was difficult, yet vital for the good health of the town's residents. Until they closed in about 1960, the baths were used by a wide variety of people including some from as far away as Graveley, as well as ESA factory workers, soldiers billeted in the town during World War One and Two and builders working on Stevenage New Town.

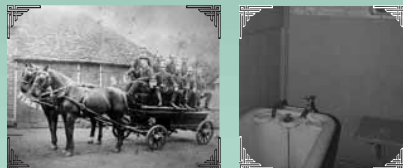


## Bath House Origins

The building was originally constructed in 1835 to house the town's fire engine.

In 1911 a new steam-powered engine was ordered for the town. The new engine was, however, too tall to be housed in the 1835 fire engine house.

In 1912 Stevenage Urban District Council decided to convert the old fire engine house in Church Lane into a public bath house containing four baths, for use by the people of Stevenage.



## Visiting The Bath House

Although the Bath House has been closed for many years, the fixtures and fittings you can see today remain much as they were left in around 1960. There are four cubicles, each with the original bath and fittings. The coal heater and gas-powered water heater are still in situ as are the gas lamps and the hot water controls to each bath which were operated by the attendant.

In 2008 a grant funded project enabled:

- ▶ substantial renovation and conservation of the building and its contents.
- ▶ recording oral histories of previous users of the bath house.
- ▶ development of displays now housed in the Bath House and which include the oral histories.
- ▶ production of education packs for key stage 1 and 2 for use by school groups who are able to visit the Bath House and Stevenage Museum.
- ▶ development of a website and advertising materials.

The project was funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund, The Follett Trust, Stevenage Community Trust and Stevenage Consolidated Charities with additional help from members of the Stevenage Society for Local History, Stevenage Museum and Stevenage Consolidated Charities. Our thanks to all who funded and who helped make this project possible.

