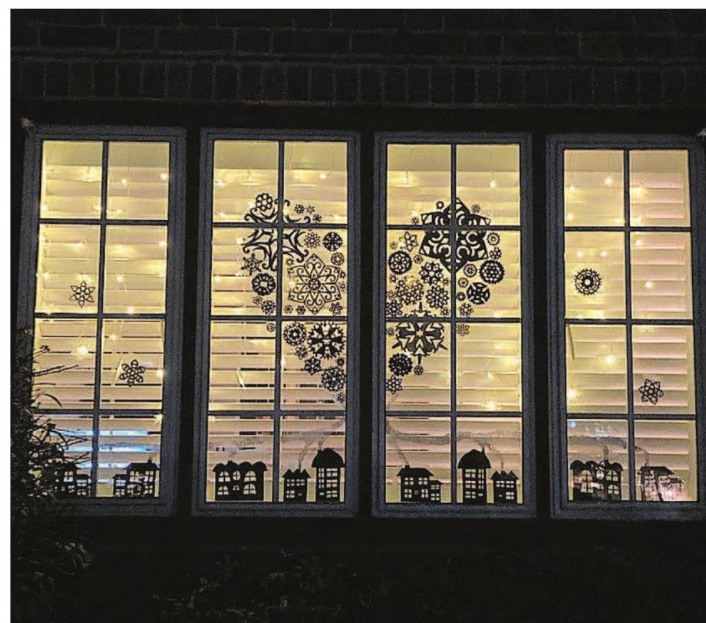




Christmas display in Lea Road, Harpenden.

Picture: PENNY BIRD



Christmas display in Bowers Way, Harpenden.

Picture: LISA LEGRICE

Festive Streets project helps neighbours celebrate our Christmas to spite Covid

Neighbours and community groups across St Albans and Harpenden are creating colourful decorated windows to help residents celebrate Christmas together despite social distancing.

The Festive Streets initiative was organised by Playing Out St Albans District, which is part of Sustainable St Albans. The original Playing Out scheme encouraged children to play outdoors by organising the closure of roads to traffic, but these sessions have been put on

ANNE SUSLAK

Anne.Suslak@archant.co.uk

hold due to COVID-19.

Lesley Flowers, trustee of Sustainable St Albans, said: "Like our Playing Out scheme, this project helps neighbours get to know each other and it seems to have captured people's desire to show their community spirit at this difficult time.

"The idea has been taken up by faith and community groups as well as schools. St Paul's Church,

Trestle Arts Base and Alban City School have created some lovely displays." More than 300 people signed up to take part, with over 60 streets creating decorated windows and then sharing them on social media with the hashtag #FestiveStreets.

Lisa Le Grice, of Bowers Way, Harpenden created a heart-shaped window display from paper snowflakes.

She said, "The 60 snowflakes in the display represent the people on our wonderful street and the love and encouragement neighbours have shown for each other this year."

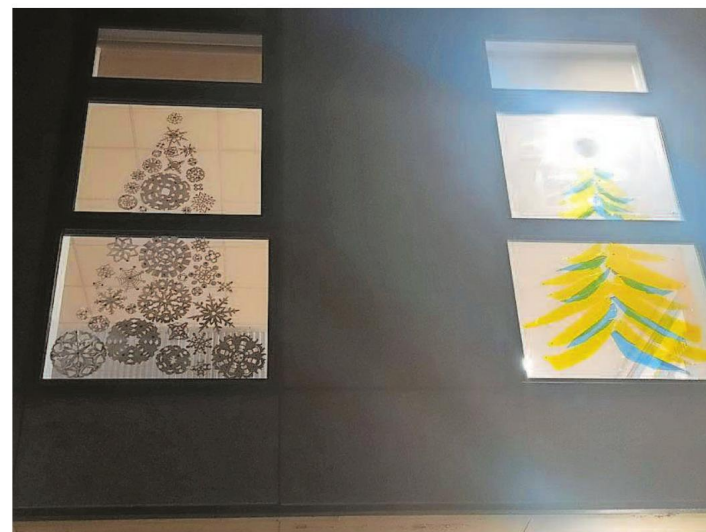
Each Festive Street is run at street level, with neighbours reaching out to nearby houses and inviting them to join in.

Some participating streets are also organising charity donations by collecting food for local foodbanks or setting up online donation pages.

Liz Hunt of Prospect Road, St Albans said: "My neighbour and I are really enjoying organising our Festive Street which will hopefully bring some cheer to the end of such a difficult year.

"We have set up a charity giving page in aid of three St Albans causes: Open Door St Albans, St Albans Action for Homeless and Youth Talk and hope that we can raise funds for these great local organisations"

The initiative is ongoing throughout the festive season, so there is still time to take part. Download an information pack at www.sustainablestalbans.org/playingout



Christmas display at Alban City School. Picture: Alban City School



Christmas display in Bowers Way, Harpenden. P

icture: SUSTAINABLE ST ALBANS



Christmas display in Cavendish Road, Harpenden. Picture: TON AND TANNA