

# WALK A DAY IN MY SHOES



'Working with professionals (Dave and Pete) was a great experience. I hope to have a chance to learn more about photography from them in the future. This project should have been out there a long time ago to raise awareness of homelessness. The more people know about it, the better. Being part of the Squatlife project makes me feel great. I feel very privileged.'

**Kirsty (Herts Young Homeless)**

# CARDBOARD CITIZENS RESIDENCY

Have you or someone you know had experience of homelessness in St Albans? Ahead of their upcoming residency on 16 - 27 July, acclaimed theatre company, Cardboard Citizens would like to give you the chance to share your story, learn acting skills and earn a PEARL qualification. No previous experience is required.



Please come along to our taster day on 12th July at the Jubilee Centre, Catherine Street, St Albans, AL3 5BU. Sessions will run every two hours 10am, 12pm and 2pm.

To find out more email [mark@cardboardcitizens.org.uk](mailto:mark@cardboardcitizens.org.uk)

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT ANY OF OUR PARTNER HOMELESS CHARITIES, THAT WOULD BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. THEY RELY HEAVILY ON CHARITABLE DONATIONS TO CONTINUE THEIR VALUABLE WORK WITH THE HOMELESS:**

- Herts Young Homeless** [www.hyh.org.uk](http://www.hyh.org.uk) E: [livelife@hyh.org.uk](mailto:livelife@hyh.org.uk)
- Open Door** [www.hightownha.org.uk](http://www.hightownha.org.uk) E: [opendoorstalbans@hightownha.org.uk](mailto:opendoorstalbans@hightownha.org.uk)
- Centre 33** [www.centre33.org](http://www.centre33.org) E: [information@centre33.org](mailto:information@centre33.org)
- Emmaus** [www.emmaus.org.uk/hertfordshire](http://www.emmaus.org.uk/hertfordshire)  
E: [community@emmausstalbans.eu](mailto:community@emmausstalbans.eu)

# ST ALBANS ARTS TEAM

St Albans Arts Team would like to thank all our partners, for their support, advice, and guidance. It has been an amazing and deeply humbling experience.

In particular we would like to thank:



Funding raised by  
**The National Lottery**  
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



**1Life**  
Live more. Live well.



John Rantell

Rose Gooding

And most importantly Dave Kotula, as without his vast collection of stunning 'Squatlife' images and stories, we wouldn't have had a project!

**'BETTER SQUAT THAN LET HOMES ROT'**

Tweet us @saasharts  
Follow us on [facebook.com/stalbanssquatlife](https://www.facebook.com/stalbanssquatlife)  
E: [saarts@1life.co.uk](mailto:saarts@1life.co.uk)

# SQUATLIFE

## THE LIVES AND HISTORY OF ST. ALBANS UNDERCLASS THROUGH A LENS



**DAVE KOTULA**  
BIOGRAPHY

Dave Kotula was born in St Albans City Hospital in 1965. He grew up in a council house in Manor Rd, London Colney, and went to school in the village. He's the youngest of three children.

Dave has a mixed Ukrainian/Polish and English heritage. His father, Wasyl, was an ethnic Ukrainian who grew up in a village called Rownia in South East Poland. Wasyl's family were torn apart during WWII. After spending time as a forced labourer (aged 16), he managed to escape and join the allied forces. Wasyl arrived as a refugee in England, in 1946. He never saw his homeland or family again. Dave's mother, Joyce, grew up in Barnet and had close family connections to St Albans and Hertfordshire.

Dave's early passion for photography was inspired by his grandfather's many photographs, coupled with his interest in recording the social history of ordinary people around him.

In the 80s he was involved with radical politics from the Miners' Strike to the Anti-Poll Tax protests. After visiting his first squat in Gombards, he realised that taking direct action could allow you to live a freer life. He lived in several squats across St Albans from 1986-1992. The most significant being Lattimore Road.

Dave's favourite camera was a 35mm Pentax SFX SLR. The great lens and innovative built in auto-focus, enabled him to take his trademark pictures; quick, naturalistic and showing real life. His film of choice was B&W Ilford XP1.



The pictures taken in the squats of St Albans form the cornerstone of his 80s work. These images of a forgotten era are treasured by the people in them, even though they are often looking back on their difficult pasts. This exhibition is an opportunity for Dave to show their stories in a positive and human light.

In the early 90s he left the insecurities of squatting behind. He met his wife, Antoinette, and moved to Luton where they have brought up their two children. Dave currently works at a university in London.

May 2018



# SQUATLIFE

30 JUNE - 26 AUGUST  
2018



Funding raised by  
**The National Lottery**  
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund





# SQUATLIFE

## SUMMER PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

St Albans Arts Team and its partners proudly present an exciting community arts and heritage programme funded by the National Lottery and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Squatlife is a thought-provoking project, which explores the often hidden issues of squatting and homelessness using photography, film and the performing arts. The project highlights historical and contemporary responses to homelessness and gives an insight into this previously under-researched aspect of local history. It involves people from across the community, including those who have experienced homelessness, as well as volunteers. The programme will culminate in the first community-focused exhibition to be shown at the new St Albans Museum + Gallery which opens this summer.

## ST ALBANS FILM FESTIVAL

### FILM: HECTOR (15)

**Saturday 30 June**

**Doors Open** 7.30pm  
**Film Screening** 8pm

Directed by Jake Gavin, Certificate 15. 87mins

**Location:** Metro Bank, 77 St Peter's St, St Albans, AL1 3ED

**Cost:** FREE, tickets can be booked on Eventbrite

As part of the St Albans Film Festival and in collaboration with St Albans Arts Team and Metro Bank, we proudly present Hector, a portrait of an invisible man and an authentic account of homelessness within contemporary Britain. Hector McAdam is a powerful character study and an insight into the lives of those on the margins. The



film takes a warm but unflinching look at the realities of homelessness on the move, through a tale of alienation and heart-warming reconciliation.

\*PAY WHAT YOU CAN EVENT

## SQUATLIFE EXHIBITION

**Saturday 14 July - Sunday 26 August**

**Location:** St Albans Museum + Gallery, Market Place, St Peters Street, St Albans, AL3 5DJ

**Opening times:** Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday 12pm - 5pm

**Cost:** FREE Event

A thought-provoking and challenging exhibition inspired by Dave Kotula's photographs of

squatted premises in St Albans in the 1980s. This collection of iconic images illustrates a period in history and a culture that has almost completely gone and has rarely been documented.

The treatment of paupers in St Albans over the centuries features alongside the contemporary images of squatters. The display, by members of St Albans & Hertfordshire Architectural & Archaeological Society, illustrates the often harsh treatment meted out to those punished simply for being poor and homeless. This will be the first community-focused exhibition at the new St Albans Museum + Gallery.



The Squatlife project has been made possible with funding from an award from the Heritage Lottery Fund and generous donations from Rumball Sedgwick Estate Agents, St Albans Museums and Galleries Trust and 1Life.



## WALK A DAY IN MY SHOES PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

**Saturday 14 July to Sunday 26 August**

**Location:** Tied to the railings - Wax House Gate, Sumpter Yard and St Albans City Centre

**Opening times:** 24hrs

**Cost:** FREE Event

To coincide with the Squatlife exhibition inside the museum, this poignant collection of photographs, of those currently homeless, will be tied to railings around St Albans Cathedral and the City Centre. Herts Young Homeless, assisted by professional photographer Pete Stevens, record their daily lives with images, using a visual voice to provide an insight into life on the streets or sofa surfing.



## CARDBOARD CITIZENS TRESPASSERS WELCOME

**Friday 27 July 2018**

**Location:** Abbey Theatre, Westminster Lodge, St Albans, AL1 2DL

**Opening times:** 7:30pm

**Cost:** FREE, tickets can be booked at the Abbey Theatre box office or website

\*PAY WHAT YOU CAN EVENT

After a two week residency working with nationally acclaimed Cardboard Citizens, actors from the local homeless community tell their stories in this thought provoking Forum Theatre production. Forum Theatre includes an interaction section in which the audience will have the opportunity to 'stop' the performance to discuss things the characters could do to lead to a different outcome and encourage debate.

## SQUATLIFE - ST ALBANS CITY CENTRE WALK: WAIFS, VAGABONDS & WORKHOUSES

**Sunday 29 July**

**Location:** City Centre walk (starting West End of Cathedral)

**Starting:** 2.30 - 4.00pm

**Cost:** FREE event

Join St Albans tour guide, Elizabeth Eastwood, at the West End of St Albans Cathedral, where the walk starts, and collect your map. This walk will include the House of Correction, Raynshaw's Almshouses and the former slums. Elizabeth weaves a fascinating, historical and poignant story of the homeless, which forms part of the Squatlife Exhibition.



\*PAY WHAT YOU CAN EVENT

## SQUATLIFE - CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS HOME SWEET HOME

**Wednesday 1 and Saturday 11 August**

**Location:** St Albans Museum + Gallery, Market Place, St Peters Street, St Albans, AL3 5DJ

**Opening times:** 2.00 - 4.30pm

**Cost:** FREE Family workshop suitable for under 12s. Children to be accompanied by an adult

What are the elements needed to create a home? What would you use if you were homeless to make a dwelling offering warmth and protection? Join Rose from the St Albans Arts Team as she explores these questions, and using felt, make a cosy shelter to take home, or create a community!

## HUFF PUFF BLOW YOUR HOUSE DOWN

**Saturday 4 and Wednesday 8 August**

**Location:** St Albans Museum + Gallery, Market Place, St Peters Street, St Albans, AL3 5DJ

**Opening times:** 2.00 - 4.30pm

**Cost:** FREE family story and workshop suitable for under 8s. Children to be accompanied by an adult

This is the story of The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig. Sounds familiar, but it has a twist! Sit down and listen to the story of what happens to the three little wolves. Can they make a shelter that is indestructible? The big bad pig will use any method to destroy their home! Using paper straws, we will try to construct a home that won't collapse or be blown down. Make one to take home or add to the St Albans street of paper straws.

\* A 'pay what you can' donation will be collected on the door.

Money collected will go to four local Homeless Charities: Open Door, Centre 33, Emmaus and Herts Young Homeless.