

## ARTWORK PRESERVED USING HUMIDITY CONTROL



Set over three floors, the [St Alban's Museum and Gallery](#) shares local, national and world artwork and treasures with its visitors. The collections are displayed in a hand-excavated gallery and surrounded by the Georgian inspired Assembly Room and historic Courthouse. A recent restoration has given the building a fresh lease of life, allowing the museum to provide more open areas and safeguarding both the collection and the building itself for future generations. Part of these renovations was updating the establishment's humidity control system.

Without a close and accurate humidity control system, St Alban's was at risk of artefact and art deterioration through high or low relative humidity between the displays and the surrounding air. A larger-than-expected rate of foot traffic further complicated this protection method and Humidity Solutions was asked to help.

### HIGH FOOT TRAFFIC INCREASES HUMIDITY VARIATION AND RISK OF DAMAGE

St. Alban's museum already had a climate control solution ahead of it's renovation, but found that it failed to reach the RH required to protect artworks and treasures from damage. This former system was investigated by John Barker, managing director at Humidity Solutions. Following analysis, it was found that the former humidity system assumed that the moisture load outside the building was constantly lower than the target humidity of the controlled environment. This was not always the case. Humidity outside the building could fluctuate significantly through seasons and air load. The number of visitors could also have a significant impact reaching the target climate as each visitors causes air exchange through entryways and carries the outdoor conditions with them.

Stable year-round humidity control could only be achieved through an onsite humidifier and dehumidifier to counteract low humidity in winter and high humidity in summer months. Building on the temperature ducted system already in place, Humidity Solutions suggested and supplied a [Vapac LE09D steam humidifier](#) and the [Cotes C30 dehumidifier](#). This is all controlled through the [Neptronic HR020 controller](#), an advanced, user-friendly control system designed for humidifiers and dehumidifiers.

### YEAR ROUND CLOSE CLIMATE CONTROL PROTECTS ART AND HISTORIC BUILDING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

St. Albans Museum and Gallery now enjoys a fully controllable, stable climate all year round, helping to preserve the artefacts housed there as well as the building itself. The gallery hosts a wide range of collections and activities, safe in the knowledge that no matter how popular them prove to be, its artefacts and artwork are securely protected from corrosion and degradation due to humidity.

The St Albans Musieum and Gallery has become a local landmark, displaying a collection of post Roman era Saxon brooches, coins, carved stonework, as well as a collection of Tudor artefacts. The Musuem and Gallery hosts national touring exhibitions as well as those that are locally curated. The galleries include art exhibitions curated by the University of Hertfordshire, and forms an important part of the St. Albans Museums, a collective of museums and historical buildings in the area run by the St Alban's City and District Council.

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We have created a new chapter, after over half a century of somewhat dormant purposes, we have breathed new life into the building and transformed it for new generations to enjoy.

- Annie Brewster, Councillor

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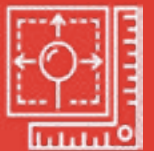
## OVERVIEW



Gallery and Museum



18°C,  
50%RH



16,000m<sup>2</sup>

## BENEFITS

- + 2,000 years of heritage and artwork preserved.
- + Grade 2 listed building.
- + 195,000 visitors within the first 7 months.