

Community NEWS



AUTUMN 2018



LOOK-OUT FOR YOUR MUSEUM LEAFLET!

A leaflet detailing an exciting sponsorship offer for the new St Albans Museum + Gallery should be delivered with this edition of your Community News.

For what's on at the Museum see page 3

ST ALBANS FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL 2018: WED 26 SEPT – MON 8 OCT

Around 15,000 people are expected to attend the climax to this year's Food and Drink Festival... the St Albans Festival.

The fun family event will take place in the City Centre on Sunday 30 September from noon until 6pm – and everyone is welcome to attend.

St Peter's Street will be closed to traffic to allow for around 75 stalls showcasing a mouthwatering sample of the District's food and drink offerings.

This will range from takeaway snacks to craft beers, cheeses, organic meats, cakes and baking products.

Among other attractions – many of them free - are cookery demonstrations, children's activities, live music and pop-up restaurants.

The annual Food and Drink Festival is now in its second decade and starts on Wednesday 26 September with the internationally-renowned CAMRA beer and cider festival at the Alban Arena.

A host of events, including wine tastings and cookery workshops, will take place with a full programme available on the website www.enjoystalbans.com/foodanddrink

The Festival will close on Monday 8 October when the winners of the St Albans Food and Drink Awards 2018 will be announced.

These include awards for the District's favourite restaurant, café, pub, bar, food producer and – new for this year – the best hot beverage provider.

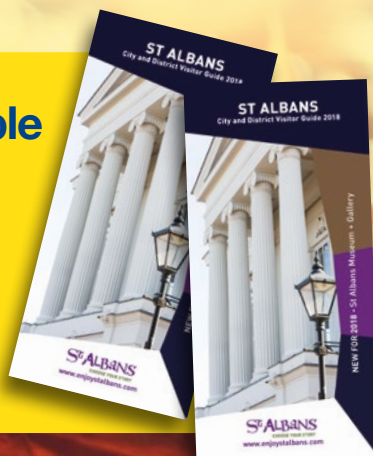
The 13-day Festival is organised by the Council with the help of a steering group.



Visitor Guide Available

Discover what to see and do in and around St Albans with our annual visitor guide.

View or download it at www.enjoystalbans.com, or pick up a copy at one of the Visitor Information Points.



Community News is published by St Albans City & District Council

www.stalbans.gov.uk



Christmas Market: bigger, better and a new venue



This year's Christmas Market is set to be bigger and better than ever – with a new venue, new management and more to do and see.

The Market – the sixth to be held – will move from Vintry Garden by the Cathedral to the Events Meadow in Verulamium Park, opposite Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre.

It will become part of the Meraki Christmas Festival – a mini-winter

wonderland produced by the organisers of an annual summer music festival.

The Market will boast dozens of stalls selling a vast range of novelty gifts and seasonal products.

Among the additional attractions of the Meraki event will be a spectacular Santa's grotto with virtual reality sleigh ride, an ice bar, funfair, theatre and music venue, cinema and bandstand.

The Market will launch on Friday 30 November and run until Saturday 22 December, opening every day apart from Mondays.

The new location will offer improved access and visibility, with the possibility of opening until 11pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. It is also proposed to provide more spaces for socialising with friends and enjoying the unique atmosphere.



Older People's Day

Older People's Day returns again to the Alban Arena on Wednesday 17th October from 10am to 1pm.

Join us for a fun and informative day with tea, cake and entertainment, and find out about all the things going on locally of particular relevance to older residents.

This lively, free event offers information about local services, volunteering, groups, hobbies and staying fit and safe in older age.

Houses of Multiple Occupation: Licence Change

Tenants, landlords, and neighbours are urged to alert the Council to shared rental properties.

From Monday 1 October, all houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) rented to five or more unrelated people must have an HMO licence issued by the Council.

Landlords seeking a licence will need to demonstrate that the property meets national safety standards. The law change is designed to ensure such properties are safe to live in and of a good standard.

Any landlord renting out an HMO without a licence will be committing an offence, punishable by a fine. If you want to report an HMO that could need a licence, you can let the Council know by contacting privatesectorhousing@stalbens.gov.uk or **01727 819 355**.

Christmas Lights Switch On

Stars from this year's Alban Arena pantomime will be out in force to help switch on the St Albans Christmas lights on Sunday 18 November.

St Peter's Street will be closed to traffic for the annual event which will include food and drink stalls, funfair rides, Santa's grotto and other attractions from noon until 6pm.

This year's pantomime is a production of Cinderella starring Rachel Stevens of S Club 7, CBeebies' Mr Bloom, Ben Faulks, and comedian Bob Golding.

For more details see: www.alban-arena.co.uk

WHAT'S ON at the museums

St Albans Museum + Gallery, St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL3 5DJ
Verulamium Museum, St Michael's Street, St Albans, AL3 4SW

St Albans Museum + Gallery

Along with a vibrant programme of events, St Albans Museum + Gallery hosts an array of changing displays. Make sure to visit regularly to catch all these must-see exhibitions.

Spotlight talks

Every Wednesday at 1pm

Drop into the museum during lunchtime each Wednesday to discover more about the fascinating building, artefacts and displays at St Albans Museum + Gallery. Cost: free.

A County at War, Life on the Home Front in Hertfordshire.

27 Oct - 15 Nov 2018

Made from photographs supplied by local museums and the public, this film highlights the unsung heroes of the Home Front in Hertfordshire. Cost: free.

Family craft day

Friday 2 November

Drop in on Friday during school half-term to explore the symbolism of poppies and enjoy hands-on creating and crafting with our drop-in activities. Cost: £2 per child.

Your country needs you... but?

24 October 2018

Explore history where it happened in an evening talk looking at the people who were involved in the First World War military tribunals that took place in the former Town Hall. Cost: £10.

Museum Late

Thursday 4 October

Explore the museum after hours and enjoy a jam-packed evening of activities and performances, all exploring the theme of food and drink. Cost: £8

Lasting Peace?

Until 25 November 2018

Shortly after Armistice Day in 1918, St Albans created unique street memorials to the soldiers who didn't come back. This exhibition explores how the way we remember the First World War has changed from those early memorials to our centenary commemorations today. Cost: free.



St Albans Legacy

27 October – 15 November 2018

Following a multi-media art competition for secondary school students, *St Albans Legacy* will showcase the artworks and creative responses of local pupils to the First World War. Also on display will be a world map illustrating where soldiers from St Albans were posted in 1918. Cost: free.

Museum Minis

Last Tuesday of every month
at 10:30am and 1pm

Looking for a way to keep little ones occupied? Join us in the morning or afternoon for a fun-filled hour including a story, craft activity and a museum hunt. Cost: £3.

The Big Draw!

Wednesday 31 October

Come and take part in the world's biggest drawing festival! For little ones and big kids alike, get creative and give drawing a go as we explore the theme of 'play'. Cost: free.

Hand Drawn Action Packed

Until 11 November 2018

Curated by Hayward Gallery Touring, *Hand Drawn Action Packed* brings together 10 international artists exploring drawing as an art form and reveals the medium's infinite possibilities. The exhibition, which has never been seen before, opens at St Albans Museum + Gallery before touring throughout the UK. Cost: free.

Verulamium Museum

Tots Tales

11 October and 8 November

Join us for a story, craft activity and a museum hunt at Verulamium Museum inspired by *Funny Bones* on 11th October and *Hairy Maclary* on 8th November. Suitable for children aged 2 – 4 years, accompanied by an adult. Cost: £3.

Mosaic Workshop with Audrey Montet

Saturday 10 November

Inspired by the wonderful mosaics in St Albans Museums' collection, create your own mosaic to take home with professional mosaicist, Audrey Montet. Cost: £85.

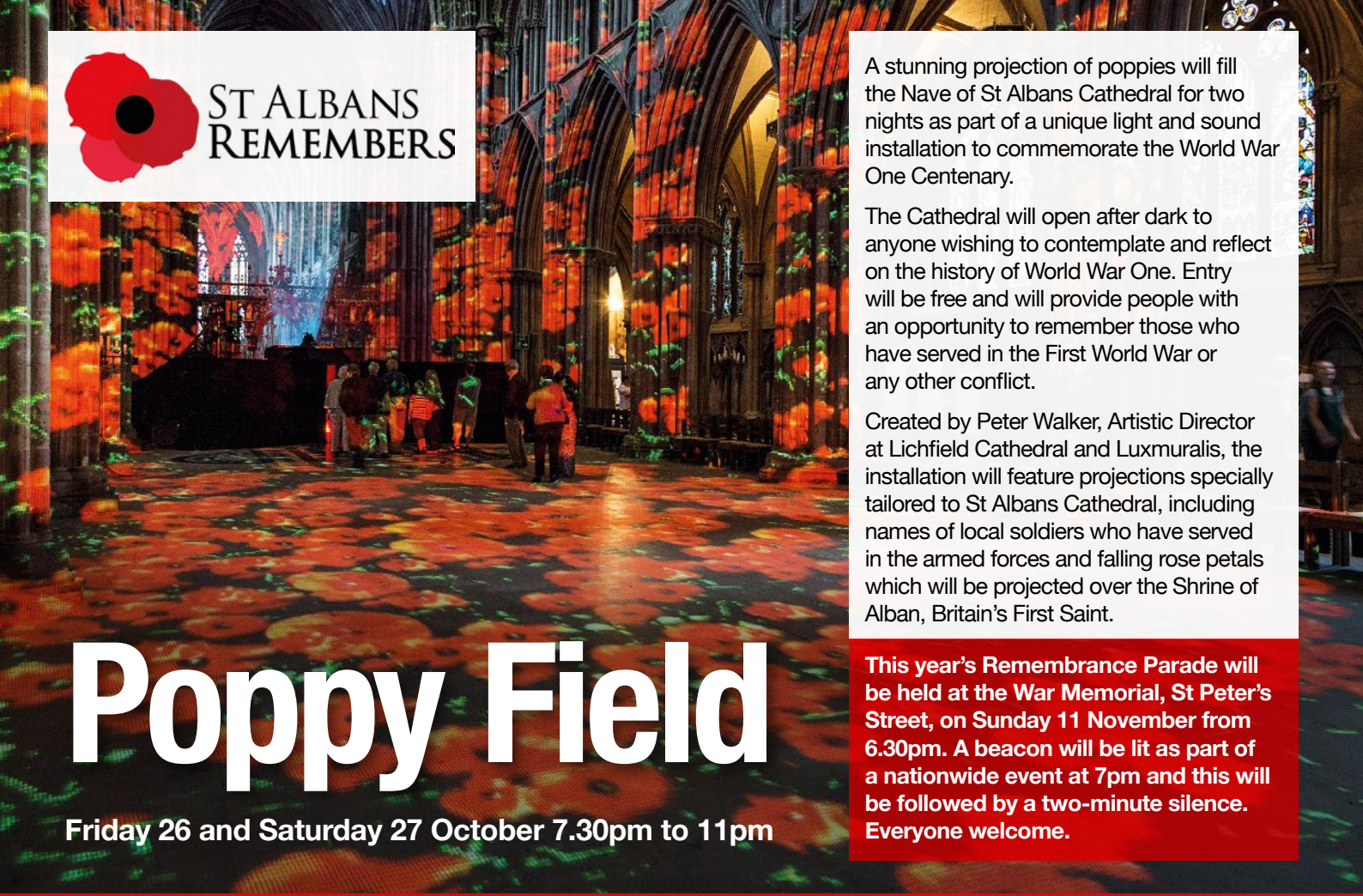
Museum Oak Panels

LAST CHANCE

It's the final call to have your name, or that of a loved one, carved on the Oak Panels Honours Boards at the new St Albans Museum + Gallery. The appeal will be closing soon, so please apply now. See the leaflet delivered alongside this edition of *Community News* for details. Or go to: www.stalbansdonate.org.uk



ST ALBANS
REMEMBERS



Poppy Field

Friday 26 and Saturday 27 October 7.30pm to 11pm

A stunning projection of poppies will fill the Nave of St Albans Cathedral for two nights as part of a unique light and sound installation to commemorate the World War One Centenary.

The Cathedral will open after dark to anyone wishing to contemplate and reflect on the history of World War One. Entry will be free and will provide people with an opportunity to remember those who have served in the First World War or any other conflict.

Created by Peter Walker, Artistic Director at Lichfield Cathedral and Luxmuralis, the installation will feature projections specially tailored to St Albans Cathedral, including names of local soldiers who have served in the armed forces and falling rose petals which will be projected over the Shrine of Alban, Britain's First Saint.

This year's Remembrance Parade will be held at the War Memorial, St Peter's Street, on Sunday 11 November from 6.30pm. A beacon will be lit as part of a nationwide event at 7pm and this will be followed by a two-minute silence. Everyone welcome.

Holding a Remembrance Event?

Let us know if you are holding a local Remembrance event and we'll put the details on the St Albans Remembers pages on www.enjoystalbens.co.uk

St Albans Remembers is a space to publicise events held to commemorate Remembrance Sunday 2018 and the WW1 Centenary.

Please make any submissions to the website by 19 October to ensure it can appear by 1 November.



General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

As you may be aware, the data protection rules changed on 25 May 2018. The GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 give you more say over what an organisation can do with your personal information. This includes details like your name, address, date of birth, email, financial and medical information, as well as your opinions and views. We may ask you to share certain personal information with us when you ask for a service. Our privacy notice tells you what we will do with the information you provide, who we will share it with and when we will delete it.

You will receive a privacy notice when you provide us with information for the first time, for example, when you complete an application for benefits or register for the MyStAlbans account. Under these new rules you also have additional rights in respect of your personal information. The Council's website has more details about information rights, the Council's Data Protection policy and our privacy notices. If you have any questions about personal data issues, you can contact our GDPR team at gdpr@stalbens.gov.uk, or telephone 01727 866100.

Have you responded to your Household Enquiry Form?

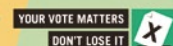
The annual household canvass is underway and every household within the District has been sent a Household Enquiry Form. It's important to respond to the form to ensure you're registered to vote.

If you have just moved into a new property, you will need to register to be able to vote. The registration process is easy and can be done online by visiting www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. If you do not have access to the internet, a paper application form will be sent to you upon request.

More information about the annual voter registration canvass and future elections is available at www.stalbens.gov.uk/elections

Look out for a form checking
who's registered to vote
at your address

Make sure you respond
by the deadline.



First major delivery of Council homes for 30 years

The first large-scale development of new Council homes in St Albans for 30 years has been opened by the Mayor of St Albans City and District, Councillor Rosemary Farmer.

Twenty-five affordable houses have been built in the Batchwood area and made available for rent to people on the Council's Housing Register.

The homes are a mix of one, two and three bedroom properties and are at three different locations. They were built on three Council-owned garage sites that were no longer fit for purpose.

The development is part of an ambitious multi-million regeneration project the Council has been working on since 2013 to turn disused sites into affordable homes.

Work to construct a further 23 homes on two sites in Sandridge is due to be finished later this year.

Over the past five years the Council has developed 34 affordable homes at seven of its other garage sites in partnership with a number of local housing associations.



Sign up to your

MyStAlbans

District Account

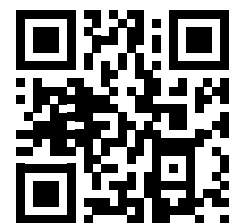
Signing up to your MyStAlbans District Account has never been easier with the launch of a QR code that you can use with your mobile phone.

If you register you can get customised information from the Council about you, your home and your neighbourhood. You can also use it to pay Council Tax, or see your bill and check your balance.

And you can tell us about waste and recycling issues and report things like litter at the click of a button.

What's more, you can apply for parking permits and, if you're a council tenant, get lots of your housing services online.

More services are being added all the time. It's easy to sign up. Just go to www.stalbans.gov.uk/mystalbans. If you're new to computers, or need a bit of help, Computer Friendly is offering short courses to get you started online – see www.computerfriendlystalbans.org.uk (or ask a friend to download their brochure), email courses@cfsta.org, or call 020 3239 1559.



Have your say about our Council Tax Support Scheme

Council Tax Support helps people on a low income to pay their Council Tax. The Council is considering changing its scheme from April 2019 and would like your views.

We are proposing changing the way we calculate Council Tax Support for people who are also claiming Universal Credit.

We would like to introduce a 'banded income' scheme for claimants in receipt of Universal Credit. This would mean the amount of help a claimant would receive towards their Council Tax would be determined by what 'band' their earned income for that month falls into. Small changes in a claimant's earnings wouldn't necessarily mean

that their Council Tax Support would change.

Under our current scheme a Universal Credit claimant can get many letters from us and a new Council Tax bill whenever their earnings change, even if the change is very small. We believe a banded scheme will be easier for claimants to understand. It should also reduce our administration costs, but it's not expected to reduce the amount of help residents currently receive overall.

For more details, please visit www.stalbans.gov.uk/housing/benefits

You can submit your views on this proposal by e-mailing CTSFeedback@stalban.gov.uk

Barriers To Work

The City of Expertise – a group of professional services firms from the District - published their report on what could hinder local businesses from growing.

Among the challenges identified are skills gaps in areas such as IT and marketing as well as regulatory changes.

The full report is available to download on: <https://cityofexpertise.com/barrierstogrowthsurvey2018>



Domestic Abuse

This is defined as an incident of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged over 16 who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

The abuse can encompass the following behaviours:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

The Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline is a confidential free phone line open Monday – Friday 9am to 9pm and weekends from 9am to 4pm.

If you, or someone you know, is being abused call **08 088 088 088** to get free help and advice on the options you can take. Further help is available at www.hertssunflower.org

Is it True Love if someone you're supposed to trust...

- Calls you names?
- Hurts you?
- Forces you to do things you don't want to do?
- Controls who you see, where you go, what you wear?



Abuse can happen in lots of ways and in all kinds of relationships. It doesn't matter how old you are or who you are. It's never okay and there are people you can talk to in confidence.

Visit www.hertssunflower.org

In an emergency - if someone is in danger - always ring 999.
Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline 08 088 088 088
(9am to 9pm, Mon to Fri & 9am-4pm Sat/Sun)

Modern Slavery

Modern slavery is the illegal exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain. Victims are often trapped in servitude which they were deceived or coerced into and feel they cannot leave.



Signs of various types of slavery and exploitation are often hidden making it hard to recognise potential victims. Victims can be any age, gender or ethnicity or nationality.

Some common signs to look out for – is the person in possession of their legal documents? Does the person have old or serious untreated injuries? Does the person look malnourished or unkempt? Does the person appear withdrawn? Or frightened and unable

to answer questions? Is the person afraid of the authorities?

The Council has trained its frontline staff and other professionals to help raise awareness, spot the signs and increase confidence in reporting modern slavery.

If you come across anyone you believe could be a victim or a business you think might be using forced labour, call the helpline on **08000 121 700**.

Knife Crime

The Police, Council, schools and colleges are working together as part of a long term plan in response to knife crime.

Some young people say that they carry a knife for protection or to make them feel safer, even though they wouldn't think of using it. However, research has shown that you're actually more likely to become a victim of crime if you're carrying a knife. The penalties for carrying one are also severe.

Knife crime has truly devastating consequences for families and local communities and we need to change young people's attitudes so they are not tempted to carry a knife in the first place. Therefore we are urging all parents to talk to their children about the permanent consequences of knife crime.

For more information, see: www.knifefree.co.uk

Focus on Green Issues

Recycling rate hits 60% annual target

Thanks to residents' recycling efforts, the District's annual recycling target has been reached for the first time.

The recycling rate hit 60.3 per cent for the 12 months ending May 2018, up from 59 per cent for the corresponding period last year.

This follows recycling service improvements, including the launch of a weekly food waste collection in 2016.

Previously, food accounted for one third of landfill waste, now it has fallen to 26 per cent.

Help reduce the amount of food sent to landfill even further by just buying what you need, using up scraps and recycling any leftovers.

Preparing your home for winter

We may still be enjoying mild weather but it won't be long before temperatures drop again.

Now is the time to start thinking about preparing your home for winter. Is your home insulated? Is your boiler working? Are you having trouble paying your bills?

Herts Warmer Homes is a District and County Council partnership project that provides support to people who are vulnerable to the cold. This may be because of age, ill health, disability, low income or because there are young children in the home. We don't want anyone to be left out in the cold.

Contact Herts Help and ask for Herts Warmer Homes: **0300 123 4044**.



Green Ring

To request repairs and report problems on the Green Ring Walking and Cycling route, please send an email to contactus@stalbans.gov.uk

Mental Health: We're here to help!

Are you feeling worried, anxious or depressed? The Wellbeing Clinic is here to help. The Clinic can help with issues relating to money, housing, family, relationships, poor mental health and many more.

We can also connect you with your community. Whether it's arts, volunteering, sport, or a mixture of these, we are here to help get you in to the right opportunity.

Find us at Citizens Advice St Albans District, Civic Centre, St Peters Street, AL1 3JE. The Wellbeing Clinic is open every Tuesday 1pm-4pm.

Let's #SCRAPflytipping

Help us reduce fly tipping by disposing of your waste responsibly.

Everyone has a legal duty of care to make sure their waste is disposed of correctly. If your waste is fly tipped by you or someone else on your behalf, you can be prosecuted and fined.

To avoid this, follow the S.C.R.A.P. flytipping checklist at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/flytipping

Make sure you use a registered waste carrier to collect your excess rubbish and obtain a receipt.

You can find a registered waste carrier on the Environment Agency's website or call **03708 506 506**.

Fly tipping is a crime
If **YOU** dump waste in Hertfordshire **YOU** will be prosecuted




Let's **S.C.R.A.P.** fly tipping



David Lloyd
Police and Crime
Commissioner
for Hertfordshire

Civic Centre – a hub for info and advice

 These groups are all active at a hub at the Civic Centre, St Albans.

For details:
www.stalbanshub.org.uk
or 01727-866100.



Information,
Advice &
Guidance



citizens
advice St Albans
District



St Albans District
Credit Union

St Albans
Women's
Outreach

HAWA



Have your say on the Local Plan

The population is growing. Where will people live? Where will they work?

The Council has published its draft Local Plan for consultation. Once agreed and adopted, the Local Plan will show what can be built, and where, up to 2036. To have your say, and let us know if we've got the Local Plan right, take part in our consultation which continues until Wednesday 17 October.

See our video and take part online at www.stalbans.gov.uk/LocalPlan2018
Information is also available at libraries and District, Town and Parish Council offices.



Have your say... we welcome anything you want to say about our services.

We hope you enjoy reading Community News. If you can spare a moment, please email communications@stalbans.gov.uk and let us know your views and what else you want us to include.

St Albans City & District Council, Civic Centre, St Peter's Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 3JE
Website: www.stalbans.gov.uk **Email:** contactus@stalbans.gov.uk

Customer Service Centre opening hours: Mon-Thurs 8.45am-5pm, Fri 8.45am-4.30pm

Refuse & Recycling: wastemanagementservices@stalbans.gov.uk, 01727 809019

Council Tax: counciltax@stalbans.gov.uk, 01727 819204/819205

Benefits: benefits@stalbans.gov.uk, 01727 819220

Planning: planning@stalbans.gov.uk, 01727 866100

Alternative formats: If you want to receive this newsletter in an alternative format, such as Braille, please call 01727 819572.

See www.disabledgo.com for information about access to local facilities.

All Other Enquiries: 01727 866100

 **Twitter:** @StAlbansCouncil

 **Facebook:** St Albans Council

 **Facebook:** Recycle for St Albans District