

Community NEWS




AUTUMN 2017



Photos: Stephanie Belton



St Albans Food & Drink Festival 27 September to 7 October

 **St Albans Food and Drink Festival showcases the fantastic range of food, drink and produce available locally.**

With so many excellent eateries and delightful drinking holes, the Festival is a great opportunity to try something new or different.

A highlight is the St Albans Street 'Feastival' on Sunday 1 October from noon until 6pm. St Peter's Street will be closed for a day of delicious food and drink, music, entertainment, cookery demonstrations and lots of family fun.

The Festival kicks off with the outstanding CAMRA Beer and Cider Festival, which runs from 27 to 30 September at the Alban Arena.

More information at www.enjoystalbens.com/foodanddrink – look out for the festival brochure too.



Photo: Stephanie Belton



Photo: Ren Belton

Uncover Roman secrets on page 4



Win tickets to our Ready Steady cookery demo – See page 2



Community News is published by St Albans City & District Council
www.stalbens.gov.uk



ST ALBANS CHRISTMAS MARKET 2017

25 NOV - 23 DEC

Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri: 11am -6pm • Thur: 11am -8pm
Saturday & Sunday: 10am -6pm

IN THE STUNNING GROUNDS OF ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL

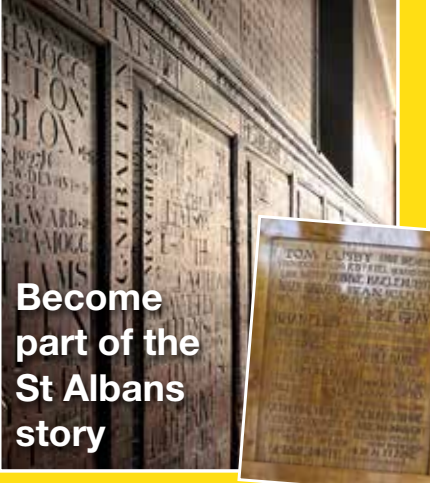
Bags of Christmas magic • Visit Santa's Grotto
• Great food, chalets, music and merriment

For more info: www.enjoystalbans.com

St Albans
City & District Council

Also, bag a bargain at **ST ALBANS CHARTER MARKET** Wednesdays, Saturdays and every day from 18-24 December

Magical Launch & Christmas Lights Switch-On Sunday 26th Nov



Become part of the St Albans story

Charity registration no. 1051868

A Christmas gift for someone special?

For a £250 donation, have your name, or that of a loved one, engraved on limited edition oak panels at the new Museum and Art Gallery, opening next Spring.

The magnificent panels are part of the £7.75 million Town Hall conversion project led by local charity* St Albans Museums and Galleries Trust. Many of the donations are being made as gifts to children and grandchildren, others in memory of loved ones.

Make your donation before Friday 15 December and the Trust will send you confirmation to present as a gift.

See www.honoursboard.org.uk or contact georgina.bawden@stalbansmgtrust.org.uk (01727 296148).



Older People's Day

Wednesday 11 October, Alban Arena, 10am – 1pm

Our special event offers information about local services, groups, hobbies, interests and staying fit, of particular relevance to older residents. Drop in for free tea, cake and entertainment, and find out about all the interesting things going on locally.

Win cookery demo tickets!

Ready Steady St Albans is a fast-paced cooking event where talented top local chefs, and young trainees, demonstrate, prepare and share samples of seasonal delicacies. The event, on Wednesday 4 October at Poggenpohl in London Road, is part of St Albans Food and Drink Festival.

We have two tickets to give away to a lucky winner. To enter our prize draw, please email your name and telephone number to communications@stalbans.gov.uk, with the header Food and Drink Festival Competition, by noon on Wed 27 Sept.



www.enjoystalbans.com/foodanddrink



WHAT'S ON

The Museum of St Albans is now closed while we develop the new museum and gallery at the Town Hall.

at the museum



Heritage Open Days

Saturday 9 September, 12 – 4pm

Heritage Open Days weekend! Free entry for all at Verulamium Museum. Listen to a talk on sexuality in the ancient world, and help create a giant rainbow mural inspired by our shell mosaic.



A Curious Conversation @ Culture in Cottonmill

Saturday 7 October, 10.30am – 4pm

St Julian's Church, 3 Abbot's Avenue, AL1 2HY
Visit our mobile museum exhibition! A Curious Conversation features objects from the Museum's collection including archaeology, art and natural and social history, plus new pieces of artwork from artist Lyndall Phelps.

Verulamium Museum, St Michael's Street, St Albans, AL3 4SW.

www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk 01727 751810

Museum entry charge for non-residents.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

During half term

Meet a Roman soldier at Verulamium Museum

Saturday 21 October, 2pm and 3pm

Discover what life was like as a Roman Soldier in Verulamium during the Boudican revolt!



Roman Paper Engineering

Wednesday 25 October

Bookable session: 10.30am – 12.30pm. £6. Limited spaces – please book (01727 751810).

Family drop in session: 1.30 – 4pm.
Work with illustrator and paper engineer John O'Leary to create Roman themed masterpieces! In the morning, make your own art to take home. In the afternoon help to create a giant three dimensional artwork!




Mosaic workshop for adults at Verulamium Museum

Saturday 25 November, 10am – 4pm

Make a mosaic pot or board using glass, ceramic and stone tiles with designer Audrey Montet. £75 including materials and refreshments. Limited spaces – book in advance (01727 751810).



Budding professional?

 St Albans City of Expertise professional services group promotes careers in the professional services – including banking, accountancy, legal services, intellectual property, and chartered surveying. If you have a budding professional in the family, why not go along to the City of Expertise careers event at Barclays Bank on St Peter's Street on 1 November starting at 5:30pm. There's loads of information on offer about careers in these sectors, led by local companies. www.cityofexpertise.com

More Roman secrets uncovered

 The map of the Roman city has had to be redrawn after making a series of surprising discoveries.

Recent work to re-lay a gas pipe in Verulamium Park – site of the 3rd largest city in Roman Britain – allowed archaeologists a rare opportunity to look underground.

Where it was once thought a crossroads lay, compelling evidence of a wealthy Roman's town house has been found, possibly featuring mosaic flooring.

One corner of the city wall was also discovered. Since 2013, lots of new information about ancient Verulamium has emerged following geophysical survey work by the Community Archeology Geophysics Group. More in a future issue of Community News.




Wheathampstead site

Also, an ancient burial site in Wheathampstead, unearthed in 2002 (images below), has been listed as one of the UK's most significant finds in the last 20 years. Objects found there date back to the second century AD.

Leading experts in Celtic, Roman, Medieval and early modern archaeology compiled the list which was published recently by The Telegraph newspaper group.



Parking shop moves online

 For parking permits, visitor vouchers, and everything parking related, the place to go is now www.stalbans.gov.uk/parking. If you're not a computer user, staff at the six public libraries in the District, and at the Civic Centre, are happy to help you use one.

To report inconsiderate parking, please call 01727 845283. If you provide details of the vehicle and location, an officer will investigate.



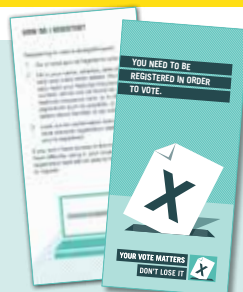
Do it online!

 More and more of your Council business can now be done online. Report a missed recycling collection, pay a bill, tell us you've moved, renew your parking permit, request council home repairs, and much more, all at www.stalbans.gov.uk.


The latest innovation is 'Where I live'. Click on the tab, top right on our homepage, type in a postcode, and get public services information tailored just for you.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT



Registered to vote?

 The annual household canvass to update the electoral register is underway. Each residential property in the District has been sent a Household Enquiry Form. If you have not yet replied, please do so to ensure your details are included in the register of electors.

You can register online, return your form in the post, or use our free phone or text service (standard network rates apply). See the form for details. For elections information see: www.stalbans.gov.uk/elections.



**Fire door
keep shut**

Flats – fire safety

If you live in a flat, it's a good idea to check your doors meet fire regulations. Besides their heavy duty nature, fire doors are self-closing. Sometimes people put in new doors, or modify fire doors so they don't close automatically. By doing so, you could be putting yourself and your neighbours at risk if there is a fire. Also, you may not be complying with the terms of your insurance, which means insurers may not pay out if there is a fire! There is lots of helpful fire safety guidance on the [gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website. Just enter 'fire safety' in the search box.

ParksHerts Love Herts Parks? Get the app!

With over a hundred flagship parks across Hertfordshire, why not put your walking boots on and get exploring this autumn! There's a new app to help you. Find your perfect park with ParksHerts. Select filters based on what's important to you, e.g. walking, cycling and running



Terror threat – don't worry, don't delay, just act!

We can all play our part in keeping everyone safe from terrorism.

Police are calling on people to act on their instincts to help prevent atrocities taking place in the UK and overseas.

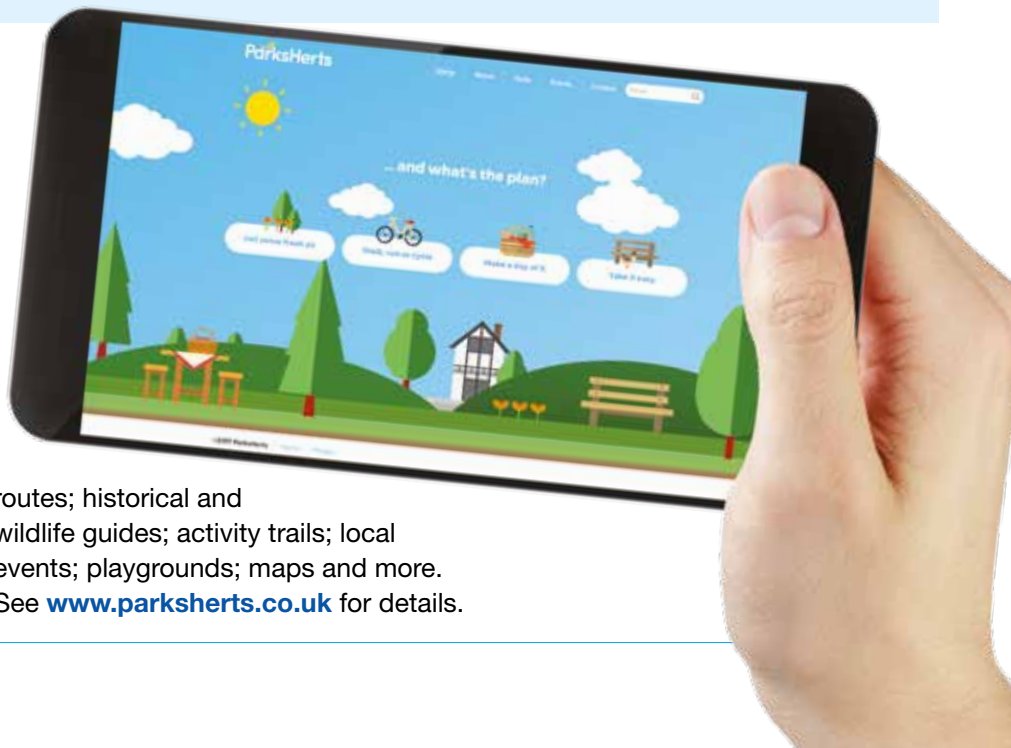
The public already contribute intelligence to around a third of the most serious terrorism investigations. If you see or hear something of concern, have the confidence to take action. Don't be concerned about wasting police time or getting someone into trouble. Don't worry, don't delay, just act.

You can report suspicious activity (including online material) to the police by calling confidentially on **0800 789 321** or see: www.gov.uk/ACT for more information.



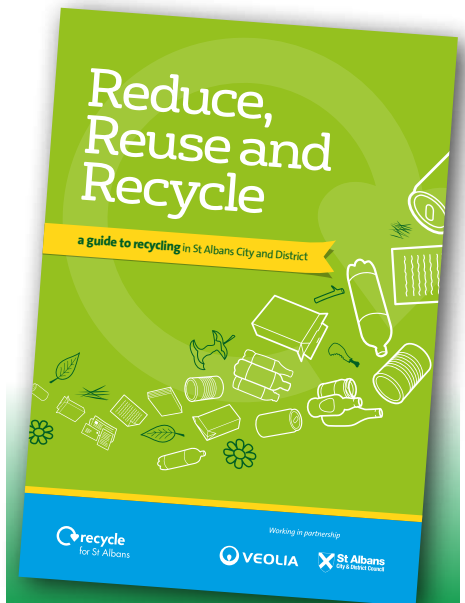
Abusive relationship?

To speak to a friendly person who can offer help, please call (freephone) **08 088 088 088**. The Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline is a confidential service open to anyone affected by domestic abuse: victims, survivors, family, friends, and professionals. The first step is to talk. Details at: www.hertsdomesticabusehelpline.org.



routes; historical and wildlife guides; activity trails; local events; playgrounds; maps and more. See www.parksherts.co.uk for details.

GREEN ISSUES



New recycling leaflet

being delivered to local homes in September, October and November. Look out for yours!

Veolia's recycling centre in action

 A group of residents recently visited Veolia's Materials Recycling Facility in Rainham, Essex.

Veolia staff separate the materials collected into different types (e.g. plastics, cardboard, glass and metal). First they take out anything obvious that shouldn't be there, such as plastic bags, by hand. Then air jets and magnets sort the remaining recycling into

different types, ready to be made into new things.

Local resident Mandy Thompson said: "I for one will be more conscious about my recycling. Doing the tour showed how important it is for us, the public, to be vigilant with our sorting."

If you'd like to sign up for a future tour, email wastemanagementservices@stalbens.gov.uk.




Recycling talk?

 To book a talk on recycling for your local community group, school, or club, please email wastemanagementservices@stalbens.gov.uk.

Your responsibilities...

when it comes to waste

 **Most people do a great job of following the guidance on waste and recycling. Here's a quick reminder.**

Please...

- **Separate** your recycling, putting the right items into the right bin or box. See www.stalbans.gov.uk/recycling for details.
- Put your bins and boxes out by **7am** on your collection day (but no earlier than the night before).
- Put out your waste and recycling bins and boxes on your **property boundary**, so they are clearly



visible and can be reached from the road. Please don't block the pavement!

- **Help keep the streets tidy** by putting your bins and boxes away by midday on the day following your collection.



- **Close wheelie bin lids flat**, to prevent litter and so they can be attached safely to the lifting mechanism on the collection lorries. This is really important.
- **Don't put out excess waste** for collection. Your waste bin is for normal household waste, and (if you recycle as requested)


has lots of capacity for a typical sized family. If for any reason you have excess home waste, please take it to one of the three Household Waste Recycling Centres in the District (details at www.stalbans.gov.uk/recycling). We have larger bins for bigger families, and special services such as nappy collections (free), and bulky waste services (free for some people in receipt of benefits). We can't take additional waste. This is one of those things that we're super strict about. We'd hate to have to prosecute you for fly-tipping!

- Let us know if we've **missed your bin** within two working days and we'll sort it out. The vehicles have special technology recording whether bins are put out at the time of collection.

Thanks for your help!



Cleaner streets

 **Streets are inspected each month using nationally recognised standards. Each street is graded from A, the standard expected immediately after cleaning, to D for streets heavily affected by litter or detritus.**

Under our Veolia contract acceptable levels of street cleanliness, of either Grade A or B, are expected for 95% of sites, for both litter and detritus.

To report cases where you think street cleansing standards are not being met, please contact wastemanagementservices@stalbans.gov.uk (01727 809019).




Did you know?

Herts County Council cuts the grass verges in St Albans District. It also does everything highways related including repairing potholes, and weeding pavements. There is a handy reporting tool on their website, so you can keep track of what's happening if you report an issue. See www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/faultreporting.

Stickers are also being placed on all local on-street litter bins with details for reporting issues.

Civic Centre – a hub for info and advice

 At the Civic Centre in St Albans, you'll find lots of advice, information and guidance on offer from all these local organisations.

See www.stalbanshub.org.uk for details of each organisation's opening times or call 01727 866100.



Information, Advice & Guidance



citizens advice St Albans District




ST ALBANS MARKET
Value • Variety • Atmosphere

Bag a bargain every Wednesday and Saturday

visit www.enjoystalbans.com for more information

 your local market

Home extension? Loft conversion?


You will require building regulations approval. The Council is here to help you. Contact our expert team for a free consultation and quotation for building regulation fees.

-  www.stalbans.gov.uk/buildingcontrol
-  buildingcontrol@stalbands.gov.uk
-  01727 819218



A job at the Council?



 To see our latest vacancies, and watch videos about what it's like to work with us, see www.stalbans.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers. Are you looking for a flexible way to work? Why not register as a casual worker? See our website for details. The Council was recently shortlisted as Senior Leadership Team of the Year in this year's Municipal Journal Awards.



My Council Services App



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@stalbands.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@stalbands.gov.uk

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

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

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

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

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

Alternative formats: If you want to receive this newsletter in an alternative format, such as Braille, or in another language, 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