

# Community NEWS



SPRING 2018

## It's the Council, Sophie, but not as you know it!



## Introducing your new MyStAlbans District Account

**X** We're investing in new digital technology to give you easy access to lots of secure, personalised Council services online.

Sign up for your account and...

- ✓ Get customised information for you, your home and your neighbourhood
- ✓ Go paperless, pay Council Tax, see your bill and check your balance
- ✓ Tell us about waste and recycling issues
- ✓ Easily report fly-tipping, litter, anti-social behaviour and noise
- ✓ Apply for parking permits
- ✓ Sign up for Council updates
- ✓ Access housing services

Signing up for your account is easy. Just go to [www.stalbans.gov.uk/mystalbans](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/mystalbans). More services are being added all the time.

SEE CENTRE PAGES

## Your Council Tax Explained



## Make a difference in your community

**X** Community Central helps local groups and charities link up with people keen to make a difference through volunteering.

They host regular volunteer advice sessions at the Beech House in St Peters Street, St Albans, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Drop in between 9.30am and 3pm to find out more. Volunteering can be organised to fit around work and family. Further info at [www.communitycentral.org.uk](http://www.communitycentral.org.uk) ([volunteering@communitycentral.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@communitycentral.org.uk); 01727 814644).

Community News is published by St Albans City & District Council  
[www.stalbans.gov.uk](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk)





## CCTV - helping to tackle crime

**✘ A CCTV operator monitoring surveillance screens in St Albans recently helped police to locate a man suspected of stealing from cash machines.**

CCTV has also helped catch three men this year who had allegedly just committed a robbery. Other successes involve a man suspected of stealing from a church charity box, shoplifters, a man tampering with a cash machine and a drunk driver.

The team deals with an average of 13 incidents a day. They have close relationships with the police, and an excellent knowledge of the area so when a suspect is on the move, they can follow them.

## Crime detection focus for 2018

**✘ The Community Safety Partnership involves all the key local agencies dealing with crime and keeping people safe.**

Their priorities for the coming year have recently been published (see: [www.stalbans.gov.uk/communitysafety](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/communitysafety)).

The focus in 2018 is on tackling drug dealing, fly-tipping, fraud, burglary and car crime. They will also be helping support people with complex mental health problems.



Picture: Lucy Worsley (left) presents the Sandford Award for excellence in heritage education to Liz Gloyne and Eleanor Payne.

## Top award for museum team

**✘ St Albans museum staff have been presented with a national award for their outstanding schools programme by BBC TV presenter Lucy Worsley.**

Verulamium Museum, was given the Sandford Award for the excellence of its heritage education. Other winners this year include the British Motor Museum in Warwickshire, Jane Austen's House Museum in Hampshire and Leeds Castle in Kent.

See [www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk](http://www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk) for details of the museum's schools learning programmes.

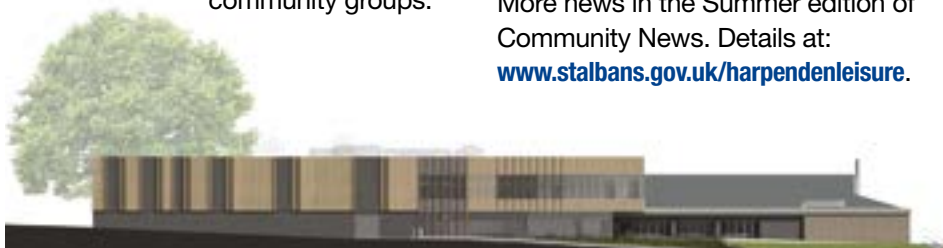
## Harpenden – leisure update



**✘ Plans to develop new leisure and cultural centres in Harpenden continue, following extensive consultation with residents and community groups.**

Thanks to everyone who took part.

The chosen designs have gone forward as part of a planning application submitted in January. More news in the Summer edition of Community News. Details at: [www.stalbans.gov.uk/harpendenleisure](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/harpendenleisure).



## HERTS BIG WEEKEND

Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th March 2018

### Herts Big Weekend

**✘** During English Tourism Week, Hertfordshire residents get the chance to enjoy an amazing day out for FREE as part of the Herts Big Weekend! See [www.hertsbigweekend.co.uk](http://www.hertsbigweekend.co.uk) for details.

# WHAT'S ON

## at the museum

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

[www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk](http://www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk) 01727 751810

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Museum entry charge for all non-residents.

### Easter at the museum

#### Crafts in the Colonnade

Mon 2, Tues 3, Mon 9, Tues 10 April, 2 - 4pm  
(last entry 3.40pm) £1.50. Age 3+.

Drop-in craft activity inspired by the museum's collections.



#### Meet Queen Boudicca

Thurs 5 April, 2pm and 3pm. Free.

Meet the Queen of the Iceni tribe, who led a revolt against the Romans here at Verulamium.

#### Family Fridays

Fri 6 & Fri 13 April. 11am - 1pm (last entry 12.40pm). £2.50. Age 3 - 12.

Drop-in craft and learning session. Handle artefacts and make a souvenir to take home.

#### Meet a Roman soldier

Sun 8 April, 2.30 & 3.30pm. Free.

Discover what life was like as a Roman soldier at Verulamium during the Boudican revolt!

#### Tots Tales

Wed 11 April, 10.30 - 11.30am, 11.45am - 12.45pm, and 1.30 - 2.30pm. £3. Age 2 - 4.

Join us for a story, craft activity and a museum hunt. Please book in advance.

#### Museum Explorers

Thurs 5 & Thurs 12 April, all day. Free. Age 2+.

Borrow items from our explorer kit to investigate the museum. What will you discover?

### Foxcroft – new playground



**Foxcroft open space in St Albans is the latest playground in the District to get a makeover. New play equipment has been installed to get the playground ready for fun and games this spring.**

Thanks to everyone who helped shape the plans. And thanks to Veolia's Community Grants Scheme for the top up funding needed to complete this new playground. Awesome!

### New Museum – latest



From contemporary art and blockbuster touring exhibitions, to local history highlights, the new St Albans Museum and Gallery has headline grabbing plans for its inaugural year.

A dynamic programme of events is planned for the new museum when it opens this summer at the former Town Hall in St Albans.

In addition to an exhibition curated by the Hayward Gallery and another of national importance from the Victoria and Albert Museum, the museum will produce several in-house exhibitions. These range from a celebration of the printing heritage in

St Albans to the history of squatting.

Permanent displays exploring our local history will take pride of place. These will tell the story of our development from the pre-Roman era through to modern times.

The museum is taking advance bookings for private hire (weddings, parties, conferences, events, etc).

For more details, please email [museumbookings@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:museumbookings@stalbans.gov.uk).

# Your Council Tax explained

## Your total bill includes Council Tax for:

- Herts County Council • St Albans City and District Council
- Herts Police and Crime Commissioner • Town and Parish Councils

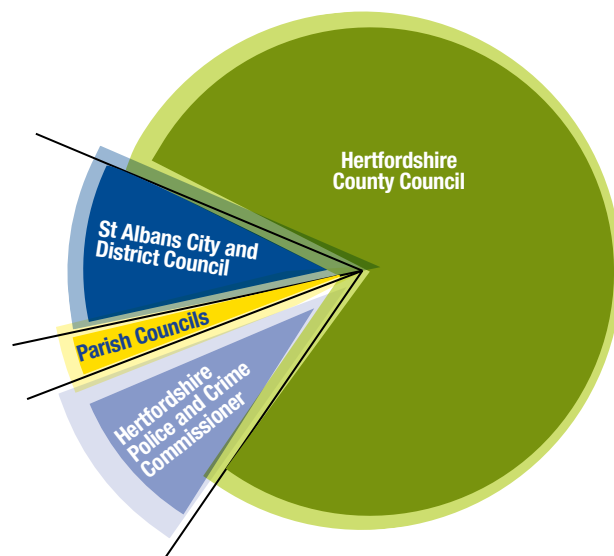
## For every £1 you pay in Council Tax

Hertfordshire County Council will get **78p** Total **£81.4m**

St Albans City and District Council will get **10p** Total **£10.7m**

Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner will get **9p** Total **£10.1m**

Parish Councils will get **3p** Total **£2.7m**



On average, you will pay just **£3.32 a week** for all the services provided by your District Council including:

- Refuse and recycling services
- Parks, play areas, sports activities
- Street cleaning
- Markets
- Tackling crime and nuisances like fly-tipping, noise and dog mess
- Special events and festivals
- Museums
- Elections
- Town planning
- Parking control
- Housing and benefit advice
- Sustainability initiatives
- Food, health and safety inspectors

Our work is focused on achieving four key results for the District:

- A thriving community
- A great place to live and work
- A vibrant economy
- A cost effective council

For details of our five year work plan, including our priority projects for the coming year, see [www.stalbans.gov.uk/corporateplan](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/corporateplan).

## How Council Tax is calculated

The Council's funding comes from a number of sources including Council Tax. The Council's gross expenditure of £30.2m is the main determinant of the level of Council Tax after allowing for expected income.

Expenditure and Income Summary	2017/18		2018/19	
	£m	Council Tax Band (D) £	£m	Council Tax Band (D) £
St Albans City and District Council budget expenditure	£29.1m	£475.92	£28.9m	£468.68
PLUS contribution to reserves	£0.8m	£12.79	£1.3m	£20.82
<b>Total Gross Expenditure for Council Activities</b>	<b>£29.9m</b>	<b>£488.71</b>	<b>£30.2m</b>	<b>£489.50</b>
LESS income from fees, charges, sales, rent, grants	-£13.9m	-£227.09	-£15.4m	-£249.95
<b>St Albans City &amp; District Council net budget</b>	<b>£16.0m</b>	<b>£261.62</b>	<b>£14.8m</b>	<b>£239.55</b>
<b>LESS funding from elsewhere</b>				
Central Government	-£5.4m	-£88.39	-£3.7m	-£61.10
Balance transferred from Collection Fund	-£0.2m	-£3.27	-£0.4m	-£5.68
<b>Total funding from elsewhere</b>	<b>-£5.6m</b>	<b>-£91.66</b>	<b>-£4.1m</b>	<b>-£66.78</b>
<b>Council Tax – St Albans City &amp; District Council</b>	<b>£10.4m</b>	<b>£169.96</b>	<b>£10.7m</b>	<b>£172.77</b>
<b>PLUS</b>				
Parish Precepts	£2.6m	£42.06	£2.7m	£43.03
Hertfordshire County Council Precept	£76.2m	£1,245.83	£81.4m	£1,320.46
Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	£9.3m	£152.00	£10.1m	£164.00
<b>Total Council Tax</b>	<b>£98.5m</b>	<b>£1,609.85</b>	<b>£104.9m</b>	<b>£1,700.26<sup>†</sup></b>

<sup>†</sup> The charge will vary between areas. See box on page 5.

# What you pay

PARISH	BAND	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
St Albans City		£1,114.59	£1,300.35	£1,486.11	£1,671.88	£2,043.41	£2,414.94	£2,786.47	£3,343.76
Colney Heath		£1,140.86	£1,331.00	£1,521.14	£1,711.29	£2,091.58	£2,471.86	£2,852.15	£3,422.58
Harpenden Town		£1,146.70	£1,337.82	£1,528.93	£1,720.05	£2,102.28	£2,484.52	£2,866.75	£3,440.10
Harpenden Rural		£1,103.85	£1,287.82	£1,471.79	£1,655.77	£2,023.72	£2,391.67	£2,759.62	£3,311.54
London Colney		£1,146.49	£1,337.55	£1,528.64	£1,719.72	£2,101.89	£2,484.04	£2,866.21	£3,439.44
Redbourn		£1,163.20	£1,357.06	£1,550.93	£1,744.80	£2,132.54	£2,520.26	£2,908.00	£3,489.60
St Michael		£1,103.97	£1,287.96	£1,471.95	£1,655.95	£2,023.94	£2,391.93	£2,759.92	£3,311.90
St Stephen		£1,145.41	£1,336.29	£1,527.20	£1,718.10	£2,099.91	£2,481.70	£2,863.51	£3,436.20
Sandridge		£1,139.93	£1,329.91	£1,519.90	£1,709.89	£2,089.87	£2,469.84	£2,849.82	£3,419.78
Wheathampstead		£1,154.75	£1,347.20	£1,539.66	£1,732.12	£2,117.04	£2,501.95	£2,886.87	£3,464.24

## % Change from last year\*

PARISH	St Albans City & District Council	Special Expenses (see box at bottom of page)	Hertfordshire County Council*	Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner	Town & Parish Councils
St Albans City	1%	10.0%	2.99% +3%*	7.89%	-
Colney Heath	1%	-	2.99% +3%*	7.89%	1.13%
Harpenden Town	1%	1.0%	2.99% +3%*	7.89%	0.00%
Harpenden Rural	1%	-	2.99% +3%*	7.89%	-6.88%
London Colney	1%	1.0%	2.99% +3%*	7.89%	3.45%
Redbourn	1%	1.0%	2.99% +3%*	7.89%	2.15%
St Michael	1%	-	2.99% +3%*	7.89%	-0.43%
St Stephen	1%	1.0%	2.99% +3%*	7.89%	4.83%
Sandridge	1%	1.0%	2.99% +3%*	7.89%	4.38%
Wheathampstead	1%	1.0%	2.99% +3%*	7.89%	4.23%

The County Council precept includes a levy on behalf of Lee Valley Regional Park Authority and the Environment Agency. Details of the levy are available on their website [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk).

\*For adult social care authorities, council tax bills show two percentage changes: one for the part of the overall change attributable to the adult social care precept (3.00%), and one for the part attributable to general expenditure (2.99%). The percentage changes are both applied to the full 2017/18 council tax for the County Council. Information about spending by the County Council is available at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax); or by emailing [contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk), telephoning 0300 123 4040 or by writing to Hertfordshire County Council, PO Box 153, Stevenage, Herts, SG1 2GH.

Further information about Council Tax and how it is calculated is available at [www.stalbans.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/counciltax)



### Charges, and why they vary between areas

St Albans City and District Council also collects Council Tax on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Town and Parish Councils in the District.

The actual charge for each band varies from area to area. This is because certain services are provided by the District Council in some areas, but by the Town or Parish Council in others.

District, Town and Parish Councils all make different charges (known as special expenses or precepts). The amount you pay depends on where you live. For a more detailed explanation, please visit [www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-tax/calculate.aspx](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-tax/calculate.aspx).

# Green matters



## New on-the-spot fines for fly-tippers

 **Five local fly-tippers have been issued with Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) since new 'on-the-spot' fines were introduced last year.**

All of the people involved admitted the offence and paid the fines at the discounted rate of £300 given for early payments. The full rate is £400.

One offender was caught after dumping a bicycle, wash basket and a bag of discarded fabrics in the Ashley ward of St Albans.


Two of the other offences were carried out in Clarence ward and one each in London Colney and Marshalswick North.

FPNs can be issued by authorised

Council officers for small-scale fly-tipping. Larger fines are in place for more serious offences, with maximum fines of £50,000 and prison terms of up to five years. You are responsible for what happens to your waste even after it has left your premises. So, take your waste to a local authority disposal site (domestic waste), or if you are using a waste carrier, make absolutely sure they are registered with the Environment Agency.

Our Special Refuse Collection Service costs £45 for up to 6 items (e.g., fridge, cooker, bulky furniture). It's free for people on certain benefits. See our website for details.

## How much does your neighbourhood recycle?

 Research undertaken between July and September last year, gives estimates (see table) of recycling levels in each of the District's 20 wards.


Recycling %	Green waste omitted*	Overall recycling rate (including green waste)
Marshalswick North	56	69
Cunningham	53	69
Harpenden South	52	68
Harpenden East	52	68
Clarence	51	64
Ashley	51	67
Sandridge	51	66
Colney Heath	51	67
Harpenden North	50	64
Harpenden West	49	66
Park Street	48	63
Marshalswick South	47	63
St Peters	44	51
Batchwood	43	59
Sopwell	43	57
Verulam	42	60
Redbourn	42	63
St Stephen	40	60
Wheathampstead	40	58
London Colney	39	53

\*Flats don't have green waste collections, and some areas have more flats than others. The figures in green, therefore, show a better like for like comparison.



## Free compost!

**Sunday 25 March, from 7am (until stocks run out). Veolia Depot, Ronsons Way, St Albans**

 Once again, to say thank you for all your recycling efforts, we are offering residents free garden compost. This is a DIY event, so please bring your own bags (max 5 per car), and a spade. It's always popular, so best to get there early.

Across the District, research suggests that nearly 40% of what is being thrown in the rubbish bin each week could be recycled. The biggest proportion of this is food waste (26%).

The Council is on a mission to make the District a top recycling area. We need everyone to get involved. Some people are telling us that they are able to recycle over 90% of their waste, so we know it's possible. Thank you to everyone who is recycling, for all your efforts!

# Need more information?



21-29 April Energy | Food | Waste | Transport | Natural Habitats

# Sustainable St Albans Week

The theme for this year's award-winning Sustainable St Albans Week launch event is 'Our Planet, Our Future: Talks to Inspire Action'. Over the week, thousands of people will take part in litter picks, nature walks, talks, tours, films, local food events, play activities, repair workshops, and lots more. New this year is a young people's photo competition with cash prizes, and a Know How Festival on Sunday 29 April where you can learn practical skills. Most events are free – some need booking. Details at [www.sustainablestalbens.org](http://www.sustainablestalbens.org).

## Be an EGGSCLENT Easter recycler

### Easter egg packaging

Please be sure to recycle all packaging. Cardboard (flattened) goes in your paper and card box, plastics and foil go in your black recycling bin (or communal facilities in some flats).

### Food waste

WHAT CAN YOU PUT IN YOUR FOOD WASTE CADDY?	
 <b>YES PLEASE</b>	Tea bags and coffee grounds
	Plate scrapings and leftovers
	Meat and fish (raw and cooked including bones)
	Fruit and vegetables (raw and cooked including peelings)
 <b>NO THANKS</b>	Liquids
	Nappies
	Plastic (including black bags) other than carrier bags used as caddy liners



We tend to see more food waste around Easter time, and we're keen to make sure as much as possible is recycled. Please compost it yourself, or put it in your food waste caddy for our weekly food waste collection.

You can wrap food waste in paper, biodegradable caddy liners, or even old plastic bags (not black – we need to be able to spot them). The contents are taken to a special facility where all wrapping is removed using big hooks. Then micro-organisms break food waste down quickly to form a bio-fertiliser. By-products from the process are used to generate renewable energy.

## Bank holiday waste collections

Crews will be making their usual waste and recycling collections on Good Friday (30 March).

However, they won't be working on Bank Holiday Monday (2 April). Collections that week will be one day later than usual, with Monday's collections on Tuesday, Tuesday's collections on Wednesday, and so on. Crews will work on Saturday 7 April to catch up.

## Tree watering – can you help?

Young, recently planted trees are most at risk of dying during dry spells as their roots are less well developed.


If you live near such trees, and want to help, a gentle soaking from one watering can per day during dry weather, will make a big difference. Using waste water is greener. Thank you for helping.

## County Council tips

A reminder that local Household Waste and Recycling Centres are run by Hertfordshire County Council, and not the District Council. For enquiries about the tips at Ronsons Way (St Albans), Dark Lane (Harpenden), and Waterdale (Bricket Wood) please contact [wasteaware@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wasteaware@hertfordshire.gov.uk) (0300 123 4051).



## Your Shopmobility needs you!

 Shopmobility on the ground floor at Drovers Way Car Park is run by volunteers. They help people with limited mobility get around by lending them scooters or wheelchairs for the day. It's a great place to volunteer, with lovely people doing great work for our community.


If you enjoy meeting and helping people, it could be for you. It's a great opportunity to learn new skills and gain experience in (for example) customer service, administration, social media, marketing, stock management, and charity operations.

Details from [alison.glennie@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:alison.glennie@stalbans.gov.uk), or call the Shopmobility Office for a chat (01727 819339).



## Recently moved home?

Don't miss out on your chance to vote.


 District Council elections take place on 3 May. The deadline for applications to register to vote is Tuesday 17 April (via [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)).

The deadline for new postal vote applications is 5pm on Wednesday 18 April. For new proxy vote applications (where someone votes on your behalf) the deadline is 5pm on Wednesday 25 April. You can print forms at [www.yourvotematters.co.uk](http://www.yourvotematters.co.uk).

See further information on registration and voting at [www.stalbans.gov.uk/elections](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/elections) (01727 819294).



## Get fzzzzzle this Spring!

 2018 is Hertfordshire's Year of Physical Activity! Lots of activities are on offer to help make getting fit fun. March is Young People month, with activities particularly tailored for younger residents. April's focus is on older adults, and May is all about walking! Check out the website: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/HertsYOPA18](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/HertsYOPA18).



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@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk) **Email:** [contactus@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:wastemanagementservices@stalbans.gov.uk), 01727 809019

**Council Tax:** [counciltax@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:counciltax@stalbans.gov.uk), 01727 819204/819205

**Benefits:** [benefits@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@stalbans.gov.uk), 01727 819220

**Planning:** [planning@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.disabledgo.com) for information about access to local facilities.

**All Other Enquiries:** 01727 866100

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 **Facebook:** Recycle for St Albans District