

Community NEWS



SPRING 2019



MUSEUM + GALLERY HOSTS BIGGEST EXHIBITION YET!

The new £7.75 million St Albans Museum + Gallery is hosting its biggest exhibition yet – featuring internationally-renowned artist and sculptor Barbara Hepworth.

Hepworth, who died aged 72 in 1975, is one of the few female artists of her time to achieve worldwide prominence.

The exhibition is focused on the years 1948 to 1953 when Hepworth concentrated on capturing the human form across drawing and sculpture.

Meanwhile, the new St Albans Museum + Gallery staff are celebrating visitor numbers that were 63% above target during the first seven months.

More than 195,000 people visited the attraction between its opening in early June last year to the end of December – almost reaching the 12-month target of 200,000.

More details on what is happening at St Albans Museums are on Page 3.

Picture: Barbara Hepworth, Group III (Evocation), 1952, photograph by David Lambert/Rod Tidnam, courtesy of the Pier Arts Centre Collection.



Council Tax

All you need to know about the Council Tax payments for 2019/20 that come into force on 1st April.

Pages 4-5.



Sustainable St Albans

Find out what is happening during an action-packed week of green living events.

Page 7.



Community News is published by St Albans City & District Council

www.stalbans.gov.uk



Your vote is your voice

Register to vote at: gov.uk/register-to-vote

YOUR VOTE MATTERS
DON'T LOSE IT

Make sure you're registered to vote!

St Albans City and District Council and Parish Council elections take place on Thursday 2 May.

If you've recently moved home, make sure you are registered to vote to ensure you can have your say. The deadline is Friday 12 April.

You can register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. For a paper application form, call the Electoral Services Team on 01727 819294.

If you can't make it to the polling station, you can apply to vote by post or appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf. The deadline for postal vote applications is 5pm Monday 15 April and for proxy vote applications, it is 5pm on Wednesday 24 April.

Application forms are available from the Electoral Services Team on 01727 819294 or they can be printed from www.yourvotematters.co.uk

For further information: www.stalbans.gov.uk/elections

ST ALBANS FILM FESTIVAL

St Albans Film Festival Returns

Back for its sixth year, the festival features an open-air cinema in the stunning location of the Abbey Orchard. It runs from Tuesday 25 June to Sunday 7 July with information about the programme and tickets available here: www.stalbansfilmfestival.com

Vintage Market

Have you taken a look at the St Albans Antique and Vintage Market?

This takes place on one Sunday every month in St Peter's Street and features stalls selling a wide range of nostalgic products including jewellery, ornaments, furniture, clothes and comics. Dates for the rest of the year: April 21st, May 19th, June 16th, July 21st, August 18th, September 15th, October 20th, December 1st. More information: www.stalbansantiqueandvintagemarket.com

Watch the Council in action

Many of the Council's key meetings can be watched live on a webcast or viewed later at a time of your choosing.

Planning committees and the monthly meeting of the Cabinet, the Council's executive, as well as the Full Council meeting are all available on the webcast channel.

You can listen to Councillors discuss local issues and make decisions that could affect you.

To see what meetings are coming up and to take a look at the archive, see the webcast section of the Council's website: www.stalbans.gov.uk/webcasts

Enjoy St Albans

Check out the upgraded online guide to the District, packed with information about things to do as well as a What's On section. It is produced in partnership with St Albans BID: www.enjoystalbans.com

Explore **ST ALBANS** Things to do Eat & D

2,000 years of history, 20 minutes from London.

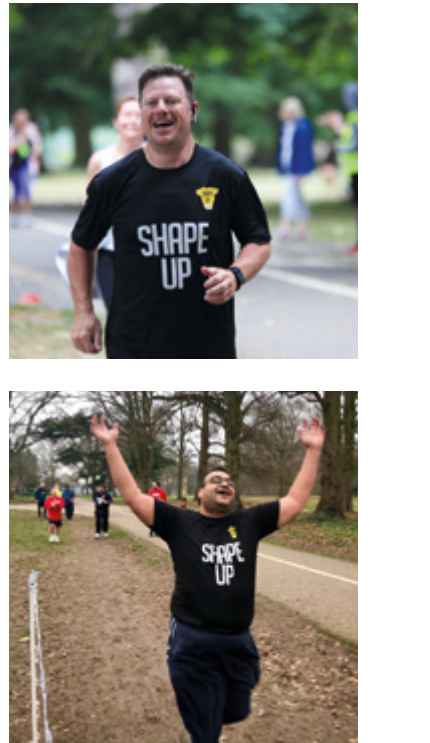
Shape Up

The Shape Up Herts campaign, encouraging men aged between 18 and 65 to use sport to improve their fitness and aid weight loss, is proving so successful that it's about to enter its fifth year.

The programme, supported by the Council, was set up by Watford FC's Community Sport and Education Trust to combat the problem of obesity amongst middle-aged men in Herts.

The focus is on using fun, free sessions of team exercise and sports to help men with a high BMI get fitter. It also encourages men to develop healthier eating habits.

To register for April 2019 courses, go to: www.shapeupherts.com or e-mail rhys.ratcliffe@watfordfc.com



WHAT'S ON at the museums

St Albans Museum + Gallery, St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL1 3DH
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 you visit regularly to catch all these must-see exhibitions.

Barbara Hepworth: artist in society 1948-53

Saturday 23 March – Sunday 8
September, Weston Gallery, Free

This major exhibition explores a short but significant period in the life of one of Britain's most celebrated artists. She found inspiration in the movements of people in Venice's St Mark's Square, dancers in her Cornish studio and medical teams performing operations. This poignant exhibition sheds new light on her career. There are sculptures, drawings and archival material, reuniting works that have not been seen together since they were first created.

In partnership with UHArts.

Check www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk for full details of family friendly events connected with the exhibition.



Wigram's Wanderings

Until Sunday 19 May, Keeper's Galleries, Free
Mayor of St Albans during the 1920s, Edgar Wigram was also a skilled architect and painter. This exhibition explores his love of travel, presenting his explorations of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. From wild Welsh landscapes to archaeological remains further afield, Wigram's wanderings by bicycle in the early 1900s took him to Venice, the Rhine and other destinations.

Picture: Watercolour by Sir Edgar Wigram of Alcala de Henares, © St Albans Museums.

Spotlight Talks

Every Wednesday,
1pm – 1:20pm,
Grand Staircase
Gallery, Free,
drop-in



Pop along during your lunch hour to discover more about the St Albans Museum + Gallery displays. Topics this spring will include notable local people such as Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough, and Samuel Ryder as well as stories of the Town Hall building and talks focusing on our major exhibitions.

St Albans in 2069

Friday 19 April – Monday
22 April, 11am – 4pm, Free,
drop-in

Come and help the Hertfordshire Association of Architects and St Albans Museum + Gallery staff create the St Albans of the future! Use your imagination and LEGO building skills to predict how the City will look in 50 years.

Museum Minis

Last Tuesday of every month,
10.30am – 11.30am and 1.30pm –
2.30pm, Learning Studio, £3.00

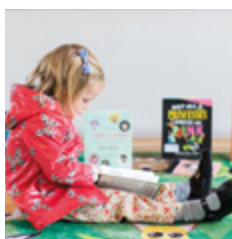
Looking for a way to keep little ones occupied? Join us in the morning or afternoon for a story, craft activity and a museum hunt inspired by a Barbara Hepworth and her work throughout March, April and May. Suitable for children aged 2 – 4 years accompanied by an adult. Please book online at www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk

Town Hall Tour: Mayors, Magistrates & Museums

Friday 29 March, 2:30pm,
Grand Staircase Gallery,
Free but numbers limited;
tickets available from
www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk

In partnership with St Albans Tour Guides. Follow a knowledgeable guide through the newly restored Town Hall building to discover the fascinating functions and features of its historic spaces. From the glittering galas and balls in the Assembly Room to the cells below where prisoners were held.

Verulamium Museum



Tots Tales

Thursday 11
April, and 9 May,
10.30am – 11.30am,
11.45am – 12.45pm
and 1.30pm – 2.30pm,
£3.00 (plus admission)

This traditional festival honouring the Roman god of plenty, Saturn, was the Romans' way of celebrating in style! Take part in crafts inspired by Saturnalia's customs.



Make a Mosaic

Tuesday 16 April, 11am - 1pm
and 2pm - 4pm, Drop-in,
£4.00 (plus admission)

Make your own mosaic inspired by the wonderful patterns in our collection. Work with professional mosaicist, Audrey Montet, in this family event to create a mosaic masterpiece to take home.

Museum Explorers

Available all day
throughout the
Easter holidays, Free
with admission

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

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 **77p Total £84.5m**

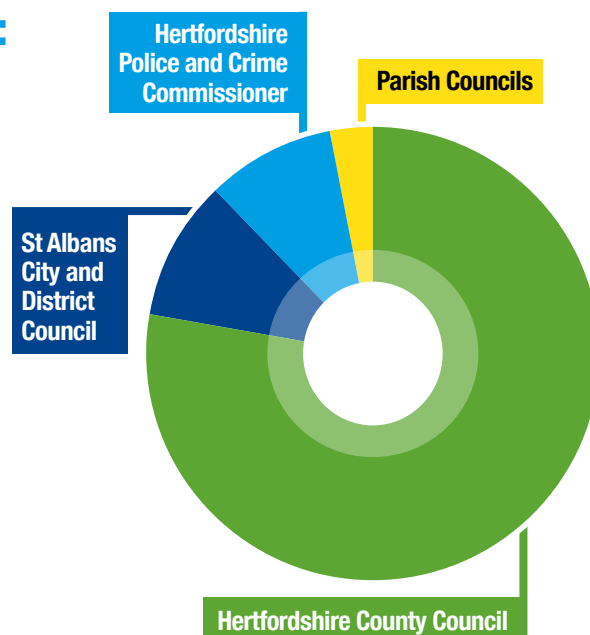
St Albans City and District Council will get **10p Total £11.0m**

Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner will get **11p Total £11.7m**

Parish Councils will get **2p Total £2.7m**

On average, you will pay just £3.40 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
- Planning and enforcement
- 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

How Council Tax is calculated

The Council's funding comes from a number of sources including Council Tax. The Council's gross expenditure of £31.6m is the main determinant of the level of Council Tax after allowing for expected income.

Expenditure and Income Summary	2018/19		2019/20	
	£m	Council Tax Band (D) £	£m	Council Tax Band (D) £
St Albans City and District Council budget expenditure	£30.4m	£493.36	£31.7m	£511.18
LESS contribution from reserves	-£0.2m	-£3.86	-£0.1m	-£1.25
Total Gross Expenditure for Council Activities	£30.2m	£489.50	£31.6m	£509.93
LESS income from fees, charges, sales, rent, grants	-£15.4m	-£249.95	-£16.8m	-£272.22
St Albans City & District Council net budget	£14.8m	£239.55	£14.8m	£237.71
LESS funding from elsewhere				
Central Government and Business Rates	-£3.7m	-£61.10	-£3.6m	-57.60
Balance transferred from Collection Fund	-£0.4m	-£5.68	-£0.2m	-3.22
Total funding from elsewhere	-£4.1m	-£66.78	-£3.8m	-60.82
Council Tax – St Albans City & District Council	£10.7m	£172.77	£11.0m	£176.89
PLUS				
Parish Precepts	£2.7m	£43.03	£2.7m	£43.82
Hertfordshire County Council Precept	£81.4m	£1,320.46	£84.5m	£1,359.94
Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	£10.1m	£164.00	£11.7m	£188.00
Total Council Tax	£104.9m	£1,700.26	£109.9m	£1,768.65[†]

[†] 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		£1,160.02	£1,353.35	£1,546.70	£1,740.03	£2,126.71	£2,513.38	£2,900.05	£3,480.06
Colney Heath		£1,187.42	£1,385.32	£1,583.23	£1,781.13	£2,176.94	£2,572.75	£2,968.55	£3,562.26
Harpenden Town		£1,191.46	£1,390.05	£1,588.63	£1,787.20	£2,184.35	£2,581.52	£2,978.66	£3,574.40
Harpenden Rural		£1,149.31	£1,340.86	£1,532.42	£1,723.97	£2,107.08	£2,490.19	£2,873.28	£3,447.94
London Colney		£1,192.46	£1,391.19	£1,589.94	£1,788.68	£2,186.17	£2,583.65	£2,981.14	£3,577.36
Redbourn		£1,209.11	£1,410.62	£1,612.15	£1,813.66	£2,216.70	£2,619.74	£3,022.77	£3,627.32
St Michael		£1,148.67	£1,340.11	£1,531.56	£1,723.00	£2,105.89	£2,488.78	£2,871.67	£3,446.00
St Stephen		£1,192.50	£1,391.25	£1,590.00	£1,788.75	£2,186.25	£2,583.76	£2,981.25	£3,577.50
Sandridge		£1,186.01	£1,383.68	£1,581.36	£1,779.02	£2,174.36	£2,569.70	£2,965.03	£3,558.04
Wheathampstead		£1,201.67	£1,401.95	£1,602.23	£1,802.51	£2,203.07	£2,603.63	£3,004.18	£3,605.02

% 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	2.25%	3.60%	2.99%	14.63%	-
Colney Heath	2.25%	-	2.99%	14.63%	3.96%
Harpenden Town	2.25%	2.25%	2.99%	14.63%	-
Harpenden Rural	2.25%	-	2.99%	14.63%	7.07%
London Colney	2.25%	2.25%	2.99%	14.63%	2.50%
Redbourn	2.25%	2.25%	2.99%	14.63%	1.77%
St Michael	2.25%	-	2.99%	14.63%	0.73%
St Stephen	2.25%	2.25%	2.99%	14.63%	4.92%
Sandridge	2.25%	2.25%	2.99%	14.63%	3.31%
Wheathampstead	2.25%	2.25%	2.99%	14.63%	3.85%

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.

*Information about spending by the County Council is available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax, or by emailing contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk, telephoning 0300 123 4040, or 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



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



Email Fraud

Computer service fraud is one of the most common in the County. A fraudster phones you at home and claims to be from Microsoft, say, or your internet service provider. They tell you there is a problem with your computer which they can fix for a fee. Remember legitimate companies will never cold call you and ask for remote access to your computer nor will they ask you for your financial details.

- Don't open attachments from unexpected emails.
- If an email asks you to use a link to log in to your online account – do not do this. Fake websites often look just like the real thing.
- Never respond to emails which ask for your financial or personal details.
- Even if a cold caller knows some information about you, this doesn't mean they are genuine.

Priorities

The St Albans Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has set its priorities for 2019/20 to deal with crime and to keep residents safe. The focus will be on reducing burglary and motor vehicle crime and working on issues of local concern such as road safety, rough sleeping and street drinking.

Knife crime, gangs and criminal exploitation will be tackled with cross border partners. The CSP want to assist farmers and local businesses by addressing fly tipping, antisocial behaviour and wildlife crime.

The team will continue to support victims of domestic abuse and their families and has a programme to educate young people about healthy relationships. The CSP will also help those with health and wellbeing problems.

For more information see: www.stalbans.gov.uk/community-and-living/community-safety



House repairs to improve

A new housing repairs contract aims to make major improvements to the service for tenants of St Albans City and District Council.

Morgan Sindall Property Services has been awarded a five-year deal

covering the Council's 4,800 homes following a rigorous tendering process.

The company will now be responsible for essential building work to all the Council's rented flats and houses.

Among other improvements, tenants will be able to report concerns via mobile phone directly to the contractor. This will lead to shorter response times.

Join the St Albans & Harpenden Volunteer Police Cadets



Volunteer Police Cadets

- Interested in police work?
- Aged between 13 and 18?
- Interested in a varied role where you can develop a range of skills, help your local community and have fun?



HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY



f/hertspolice
@StAlbansVPC
www.herts.police.uk/cadets



For further information and an application pack email: stalbanacadets@herts.pnn.police.uk

Get into art

Arts on Prescription offers art courses for adults with mental health issues living in the St Albans District. Participating in an art form can have a positive impact on a person's wellbeing, from building confidence to reducing isolation and learning new skills.



Funded by the St Albans District Health and Wellbeing Partnership, the programme offers people the chance to try out creative writing, visual arts or photography in a safe and friendly group setting.

Sessions cost £2 – £5 each for a 9 week course and referrals can be made through a GP or health worker. Taster sessions are available.

For more information please contact: artsonprescription@1Life.co.uk or call 01727 819303.

Focus on Green Issues



Sustainability Festival 11 May – 1st June

Residents are invited to take part in this award-winning festival with 100-plus events being held in St Albans, Harpenden and other locations across the District.

There will be family-friendly activities and events about environmental sustainability - from talks and tours to films and food, bike-rides and community crafts. You can take your kettle to a repair event, get the kids out on a bike ride or attend a tour of your local food-waste facility – with something on offer for everyone.

On Sunday 19 May, SustFest is taking over St Peter's Street in St Albans.

There will be music, great food and market stalls to promote the green living message.

Why don't you join in and help to build a more sustainable District for generations to come. Over one hundred local organisations – community groups, businesses and schools – are behind these events and activities designed to protect our natural habitats and reduce our carbon footprint. For more information, look out for a programme and visit the website

www.sustainablestalbans.org



Compost Giveaway

Our annual compost giveaway will take place on Sunday 14 April from 7am until stocks last.

You can take away up to five bags of free compost from the Veolia Depot, Ronsons Way, St Albans. AL4 9XR,

This is a do-it-yourself event, so please bring your own bags and shovel.

Changes to garden waste service

Do you struggle with your garden waste and feel you could fill an additional green bin?

If that is the case, then from April, you will be able to take out an annual subscription to have additional garden waste collected.

At the moment, our contractor Veolia is only permitted to pick up one bin per household, but now you can subscribe for them to empty up to three extra green bins. Households not serviced by a green wheeled bin will be able to subscribe to re-usable bags.

To subscribe, use your **MyStAlbans** account (see page 8 for details about this). For more information, see www.stalbans.gov.uk/garden-waste-subscription

Recycling Success

We are on the verge of becoming one of the top ten recycling local authorities in England.

Government figures for the year to the end of March 2018 show the Council has jumped to 13th from 26th in a table of 350 local authorities.

Our annual recycling rate – as measured by weight – increased to 59.5% from the previous year's 57.5%.



Changes to the Civic Centre

A major refurbishment of the Council's main offices – the Civic Centre in St Peter's Street – has been taking place.

This is to allow a new Health and Wellbeing Centre, run by Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust, to be located on the ground and first floor of the building.

There will be a new reception area, and re-modelled customer waiting area, at the entrance.



The Hub - where a number of the Council's partners such as Citizen's Advice have desks – will be opened up to create a more integrated space.

All the work is due to be completed by the summer with residents advised to go online with enquiries whenever possible until then.

MyStAlbans
District Account

More than 5,000 residents have now signed up to MyStAlbans - an online personalised account which gives access to many Council services.

These include customised information about your home and neighbourhood as well as access to bills and balances. You can also use the account to pay Council Tax, report a fly-tip, noise or antisocial behaviour.

The account was recently upgraded to provide more services for housing tenants including the ability to check rent balances and see recent transactions.

More services are being added all the time and it only takes a couple of minutes to sign up. Just go to www.stalbans.gov.uk/mystalbans and follow the instructions.

Join Community Viewpoint

a sounding board for new ideas and service developments

We would like you to join Community Viewpoint – our sounding board to discuss new ideas for improving the District.

We will notify you by email of any consultations we have ongoing with subjects ranging from proposed parking controls to changes to green spaces. You will then be able to tell us your views.

Community Viewpoint is only accessible through the new MyStAlbans account – an online portal that you can sign up to for easy access to Council services.

To sign up for Community Viewpoint, please visit www.stalbans.gov.uk/communityviewpoint or scan the QR image using a smart phone.



New homes delivered

Two developments of much-needed new homes have been completed by the Council in the village of Sandridge.



Picture: The Mayor (left), Cllr Rosemary Farmer, at the opening of Morris Green.

Eight Council flats have been completed at Allen Green and a mix of 15 one and two bedroom flats as well as two and three bedroom houses have been constructed at Morris Green. The homes, on the former site of rarely-used Council garages, have been allocated to applicants from the Council's housing register. The contractor was Willmott Dixon.



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 3LD

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

Telephone: 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.

Twitter: @StAlbansCouncil

Facebook: St Albans Council

Facebook: Recycle for St Albans District