# COMPLUSY St Albans City & District Council SPRING 2015

# SIZZLING SUMMER EVENTS



Are you registered to vote? SEE PAGE 6

# Universal Credit

From May, new benefit claimants in the District, who would otherwise be eligible for Job Seeker's Allowance, will be invited to apply for Universal Credit.

Universal Credit is a single payment to help people who are out of work or on a low income. It will be replacing a range of benefits for working age people, including Job Seekers Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and Working Tax Credit / Child Tax Credit.

We are working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to help manage this change.

For more information please see www.gov.uk/universal-credit or telephone the Universal Credit helpline on 0345 600 0723.

# E-BILLING and easier ways to pay

From 1 April, a new service will be available for residents and businesses to view and manage their Council Tax and Business Rate accounts on-line. There will also be an option to receive paperless bills.

Details about this new service and how to register are available at: www.stalbans.gov.uk/onlineservices. You can also make payments like Council Tax online at www.stalbans.gov.uk, via your bank, at the Post Office, or at any shop showing the Pay Zone sign. There is also an automated payment line – call 0161 785 3880.

Your Council Tax Explained



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





March **Mayor's Pride Awards** 26 March, 6.30pm get your free ticket

There are 8 award categories at this year's Mayor's Pride Awards. To book your free tickets to the gala evening at the Alban Arena call 01727 844488.

April

**Play in the Parks** Play in the Parks is an Easter and summer holiday play

scheme for children aged 3-12.

Our team of play leaders co-ordinate fun and active sessions in 15 parks across the District. Children can turn up and join in FREE of charge. For more information please visit: www.stalbans.gov.uk/playintheparks, or contact: alex.varran@1life.co.uk, 01727 819531, @stasporthealth.

Mav

St Albans Film Festival

St Albans International Film Festival is back for its 3rd Year! This year's theme is 'Space' so look out for exciting sci-fi related film events happening around the City. The festival box office opens at St Albans Town Hall from mid April. For tickets and event info see: www.stalbansfilmfestival.com.

June

St Albans Half Marathon **Sunday 14 June** 

If you have a charity close to your heart, why not run to raise money. Choose the Half Marathon, the Walking Half Marathon, the 5k Race, or the 1.5 mile Children's Fun Run. See: www.stalbanshalfmarathon. co.uk for information, or contact stalbanshalf@1life.co.uk, 01727 819327.

### **The Alban Weekend** Saturday 20 June

Don't miss St Albans Cathedral's spectacular Alban Pilgrimage, a celebration of the life of Saint Alban, featuring giant puppets. The procession starts from St Peter's Church, St Peter's Street, at 11am, going through the City Centre to St Albans Cathedral.

### Sunday 21 June

The City comes alive for superb street entertainment, music, merriment and delicious food from noon to 6pm. See all the latest details nearer the date at www.enjoystalbans.com.



There's lots of interest nationally in the Magna Carta in this 800th anniversary year of the sealing of the Great Charter at Runnymede. But what you may not know is that St Albans Cathedral is where the Barons first met in 1213, to demand new rights.

# Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Events

Saturday 13 June

Magna Carta is the foundation of our legal system and the constitutions of many other countries.

**Medieval Lives and Liberties** 

An exhibition about Magna Carta and the everyday lives of people living in St Albans in Medieval times. Town Hall, Market Place, St Albans (13 - 26 June).

**Re-enactment of Victorian Trials** At the Town Hall, from 10am - 12pm.

**Prison Education, An Historical View** History on Trial, 2 - 3.30pm, Town Hall. A debate chaired by Danny Shaw

(BBC), featuring Dr Rosalind Crone (Open University) and Rod Clarke (Prisoner's Education Trust). Tickets from the Museum of St Albans and the Tourist Information Centre, £7.

**Open Court at the Crown Court,** Bricket Road, St Albans - Mock trials through the ages, displays, events and much more (10am - 3pm).

Exhibition and trails - At the Cathedral.

See www.enjoystalbans.com for details nearer the date, or call 01727 864511.

# What's on at the museums

Museum of St Albans, 9a Hatfield Rd, St Albans, AL1 3RR. 01727 819340. Verulamium Museum. St Michaels St. St Albans. AL3 4SW. 01727 751810.

www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk Please note: children must be accompanied by an adult



#### Ancient Egypt Lives for Ever

Until Sun 17 May. Museum of St Albans. Free. Daily lives of Egyptians from the times of the Pharaohs, including preparations for the afterlife and mummies.

### Events (March – June)

### **Weekend Gallery Talks**

St Albans Town Guides offer free gallery talks on three weekends out of four. Verulamium Museum, 3-3.30pm. See website for details.

### Reminiscence at the Museum of St Albans

Tues 24 Mar, 28 Apr, 2 - 3pm. Free. Tea and chat about the past.

### The Meaning of Art in Ancient Egypt

Sat 28 Mar, 1 - 2pm. £8 (£7 for Friends). Dr Campbell Price, curator of Egypt and Sudan at Manchester Museum, explores ancient and modern attitudes to Egyptian art.

### **Story Time Sessions for the under 7s**

3 - 4pm, Museum of St Albans. £1 (Free to members of the St Albans Children's Book Group).

*Sun 29 Mar.* 'Dustbin Dad' and other David Bently stories.

Sun 26 Apr. Joyce and Polly Dunbar stories. Sun 31 May 'Wimpy Shrimpy' and other Matt Buckingham stories.

**Sun 28 June** 'Sunny's Smile' and other Leigh Hodgkinson stories. Plus activities and Children's Book Award voting.



## Make Your Own Roman Keyring

Tues 7 & Thurs 9 Apr. Verulamium Museum. £1.50 (Museum entry charge for nonresidents). Drop in craft activity for ages 3 - 11.

### **Tots Tales**

Wed 8 Apr, 13 May

& 10 June. 11am - 12pm & 1.30 - 2.30pm. Museum of St Albans. £1. Story, craft and museum hunt. Suitable for ages 2 - 4.

### Clothes for a Pear-Shaped King: The Dress Sense of Tutankhamun

Thurs 9 Apr, 1 - 2pm. Museum of St Albans. £8 (£7 for Friends). Rosalind Janssen, Lecturer in Education at the UCL Institute of Education and previously a curator in UCL's Petrie Museum, on Tutankhamun's wardrobe.

### **Gruesome Gods**

Mon 13 Apr, 10.30am - 12.30pm. Museum of St Albans. £6 (£5 for Young Friends). Stories about amazing Egyptian gods. Make a card game. Suitable for ages 6 - 11. Book in advance - 01727 819340.

### **Moving Gladiator Pictures**

Tues 14 & Thurs 16 Apr, 2 - 4pm, Verulamium Museum. £1 (Museum entry charge for non-residents). Create an exciting picture of a Roman arena complete with moving gladiators! Suitable for ages 3 - 11.

#### **Fabulous Pharaohs**

Wed 15 Apr, 10.30am - 12.30pm. Museum of St Albans. £6 (£5 for Young Friends). Unlock the identity of a mystery pharaoh in the Museum hunt. Make an Egyptian mask. Book in advance - 01727 819340.

#### **Soul Houses**

Thurs 16 Apr, 10.30am - 12.30pm, Museum of St Albans. £6 (£5 for Young Friends). Make a brilliant clay model of an Egyptian soul house complete with items for the afterlife. Book in advance - 01727 819340.

### **Archaeology Apprentices**

Sun 19 Apr, 2 - 4pm. Verulamium Museum. Free (Museum entry charge for non-residents). Are you good at investigating? Object reconstruction. Suitable for ages 5-11.

#### **Lives of the Pharaohs**

Sat 25 Apr, 1 - 2pm. Museum of St Albans. £8 (£7 for Friends). A talk on domestic lives of the Pharaohs by Gary Shaw, a doctor of Egyptology and author of The Egyptian Myths: a Guide to the Ancients' Gods and Legends.

### **Egyptian Mummies & Modern Science**

Sat 2 May, 1 - 2pm. Museum of St Albans. £8 (£7 for Friends). Prof. Rosalie David on how and why the ancient Egyptians mummified their dead and what we can learn from modern science.



### The Secrets of Tutankhamun's Tomb

Sun 10 May, 2 - 5pm. Museum of St Albans. Free. Step back in time to 1922 to meet archaeologist Howard Carter.

### **Travelling Artists in Egypt**

Sat 16 May, 1 - 2pm. Museum of St Albans. £8 (£7 for Friends) Marcel Maree (British Museum).

#### **House in the Park**

Sun 24 May, Sun 21 June, 3 - 3.30pm. Free. starts: Verulamium Museum. Guided walk to the hypocaust in Verulamium Park.

### **Pesky Pirates**

Tues 26 May, 10.30am - 12.30pm. Museum of St Albans. £6 (£5 for Young Friends). What was it really like to be a pirate? Make an exciting board game. Book in advance - 01727 819340.

### **Badge Making**

Tues 26 and Thurs 28 May, 2 - 4pm. £1 (Museum entry charge for non-residents). Verulamium Museum. Design a badge of your favourite Roman object. Suitable for ages 3 - 11.

#### **Adventures with a Magical Coin**

Wed 27 May, 10.30am - 12.30pm, Museum of St Albans. £6 (£5 for Young Friends). Story about Susan and her travels into Greek mythology. Lots of fun museum challenges. Book in advance - 01727 819340.

### **Meet Queen Boudicca**

Sun 31 May, 2 - 4.30pm, Verulamium Museum. Free (Museum entry charge for non-residents). Story telling sessions by Boudicca at 2.30 and 3.30pm.



# Your Council Tax explained

St Albans City and District Council's element of the Council Tax is frozen for the seventh year running.

### For every £1 you pay in Council Tax

Hertfordshire County Council gets 76p Total £67.9m St Albans City & District Council gets 11p Total £10m

Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner gets 10p Total £8.8m

Parish Councils get 3p Total £2.3m

On average, you pay just £3.24 a week for all the services provided by your **District Council including:** 

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



# **Council Commitments**

- Protecting the vulnerable and delivering for families
- Planning for the future
- Developing business and the visitor economy
- Delivering cultural, sports, leisure and heritage facilities
- Enabling and delivering transport improvements
- Keeping the District clean, green, healthy and safe
- Ensuring value for money and outstanding customer service

## low Council Tax is calculated

The Council's funding comes from a number of sources including Council Tax. The Council's gross expenditure of £26.5m is the main determinant of the level of Council Tax, after allowing for expected income. 2014/15 2015/16

Revenue Expenditure and Income Summary	Net Expenditure <b>£m</b>	Council Tax Band (D) £	Net Expenditure <b>£m</b>	Council Tax Band (D) £
St Albans City & District budget before fees, charges, sales, rent PLUS contribution to reserves	£26.0m £1.0m	£439.81 £16.37	£25.7m £0.8m	£431.55 £13.12
Total Gross Expenditure for Council Activities	£27.0m	£456.18	£26.5m	£444.67
LESS income from fees, charges, sales, rent, grants	-£12.0m	-£203.27	-£12.2m	-£204.67
St Albans City & District Council net budget	£15.0m	£252.91	£14.3m	£240.00
LESS funding from elsewhere				
Central Government Balance transferred from Collection Fund	-£4.9m -£0.1m	-£84.29 -£0.34	-£4.2m -£0.1m	-£69.90 -£1.82
Total funding from elsewhere	-£5.0m	-£84.63	-£4.3m	-£71.72
Council Tax – St Albans City & District Council	£10.0m	£168.28	£10.0m	£168.28
PLUS				
Parish Precepts Hertfordshire County Council Precept Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	£2.3m £66.2m £8.7m	£38.69 £1,118.83 £147.82	£2.35m £67.9m £8.8m	£39.49 £1,141.09 £147.82
Total Council Tax	£87.2m	£1,473.62	£89.05m	£1,496.68

### Your total bill includes Council Tax for:

• Herts County Council (HCC) • Herts Police & Crime Commissioner (HP&CC) • St Albans City & District Council (SACDC) • Town and Parish Councils

PARISH	A	B	C	D	Е	F	G	Н	% Change from last year
St Albans City	£979.94	£1,143.25	£1,306.58	£1,469.90	£1,796.55	£2,123.19	£2,449.84	£2,939.80	SACDC 0.00% HCC 1.99% HP&CC 0.00% PARISH N/A
Colney Heath	£1,007.94	£1,175.92	£1,343.92	£1,511.90	£1,847.88	£2,183.86	£2,519.84	£3,023.80	SACDC -0.81% HCC 1.99% HP&CC 0.00% PARISH 1.03%
Harpenden Town	£1,011.01	£1,179.50	£1,348.01	£1,516.51	£1,853.52	£2,190.52	£2,527.52	£3,033.02	SACDC 0.00% HCC 1.99% HP&CC 0.00% PARISH 0.00%
Harpenden Rural	£971.78	£1,133.73	£1,295.70	£1,457.66	£1,781.59	£2,105.51	£2,429.44	£2,915.32	SACDC -0.81% HCC 1.99% HP&CC 0.00% PARISH 4.79%
<b>London Colney</b>	£1,010.44	£1,178.85	£1,347.26	£1,515.66	£1,852.47	£2,189.29	£2,526.10	£3,031.32	SACDC 0.37% HCC 1.99% HP&CC 0.00% PARISH 0.45%
Redbourn	£1,024.13	£1,194.82	£1,365.51	£1,536.20	£1,877.58	£2,218.96	£2,560.33	£3,072.41	SACDC -0.54% HCC 1.99% HP&CC 0.00% PARISH 17.66%
St Michael	£966.86	£1,127.99	£1,289.14	£1,450.28	£1,772.57	£2,094.85	£2,417.14	£2,900.56	SACDC -0.81% HCC 1.99% HP&CC 0.00% PARISH -1.50%
St Stephen	£1,007.36	£1,175.25	£1,343.15	£1,511.04	£1,846.83	£2,182.62	£2,518.40	£3,022.08	SACDC -0.23% HCC 1.99% HP&CC 0.00% PARISH 1.99%
Sandridge	£1,003.32	£1,170.54	£1,337.76	£1,504.98	£1,839.42	£2,173.87	£2,508.30	£3,009.96	SACDC -0.07% HCC 1.99% HP&CC 0.00% PARISH 4.23%
Wheathampstead	£1,015.42	£1,184.64	£1,353.89	£1,523.12	£1,861.60	£2,200.06	£2,538.54	£3,046.24	SACDC 0.00% HCC 1.99% HP&CC 0.00% PARISH 2.00%

The HCC precept includes a levy on behalf of Lee Valley Regional Park Authority and on behalf of the Environment Agency. Details of the levy are available on their website www.hertsdirect.org.

# Town and Parish Council spending

2014/1	5 Town	ጼF	Parish (	Council 9	Spendina
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### 2015/16 Town & Parish Council Spending

				Cost per Band				Cost per Band
TOWN / PARISH	Leisure	Other	Total	D Property	Leisure	Other	Total	D Property
Colney Heath	£60.3k	£109.8k	£170.10k	£72.11	£60.4k	£110.8k	£171.20k	£72.85
Harpenden Town	£417.6K	£493.4K	£911.00k	£67.52	£410.1K	£502.8K	£912.90k	£67.52
Harpenden Rural			£4.05k	£17.76			£4.10k	£18.61
<b>London Colney</b>	£92.4k	£130.9k	£223.30k	£68.65	£134.5k	£92.9k	£227.40k	£68.96
Redbourn	£57.5k	£115.1k	£172.60k	£75.49	£138.2k	£64.9k	£203.10k	£88.82
St Michael			£3.10k	£11.40			£3.10k	£11.23
St Stephen	£195.2k	£187.6k	£382.80k	£62.21	£191.5k	£199.4k	£390.90k	£63.45
Sandridge	£77.6k	£134.9k	£212.50k	£45.91	£81.8k	£142.4k	£224.20k	£47.85
Wheathampstead	£78.0k	£130.2k	£208.20k	£72.86	£79.0k	£133.6k	£212.60k	£74.32

# Statement of budget changes in St Albans City & District Council's estimated expenditure between 2014/15 and 2015/16

2014/15 Net Budget	£m	<b>£m</b> £10.0m
Increases:		
Reduction in Government support	£0.8m	
Service improvements and changes	£0.5m	
Revenue cost of capital programme	£0.1m	
Inflation	£0.5m	
Total increases	£1.9m	
Less reductions:		
Efficiencies and savings	-£1.2m	
Increase in New Homes Bonus Grant	-£0.7m	
Total reductions	-£1.9m	
2015/16 Net Budget		£10.0m

# Charges, and why they vary between areas

St Albans City & 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/counciltax, or telephone 01727 819204.

www.stalbans.gov.uk 5



# New museum and art gallery fundraising

The fundraising campaign for the new museum and gallery at the Town Hall is in full swing. There are various ways to be recognised as a donor. Contact the team at stalbanstrust@hotmail.co.uk, 01727 751830. More info at www.renaissancestalbans.org.uk

# Are you registered to vote?

The UK Parliamentary, District and Parish elections take place on Thursday 7 May 2015.

If you recently moved home and are not yet registered to vote, or if you've received a letter inviting you to register again, please do so now. The deadline is Monday 20 April 2015. If you have received a letter and all your details are correct, there is no need to contact us.

Registration can be done online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote, or by contacting the Electoral Services team (details below). If you are not

registered, you may lose your right to have your say in who represents you.

If you wish to vote by post (deadline 5pm, 21 April) or proxy (deadline 5pm, 28 April), please contact the team at elections@ stalbans.gov.uk (01727 819294).

For postal and proxy vote application forms see: www.aboutmyvote.co.uk.

For further information on registration and voting please visit www.stalbans.gov.uk/elections

# **PTNERS**

### Keep your neighbourhood safe

If you see, or hear about, anything of concern, such as criminal damage, please report it immediately.

Don't wait until the morning. Please call the Police on 101 with as much detail as possible.

# **Changes to** grass verge maintenance

**Until last year, Hertfordshire** County Council (HCC) used the services of the District Council to maintain local verges through our grounds maintenance contract.

This year, services such as grass verge and rural hedgerow cutting, and weed spraying on roads and footpaths, are being managed directly by the County Council. If needed, you can contact HCC at www.hertsdirect.org, herts.direct@hertfordshire.gov.uk, 0300 1234 047.

Note: We have been asked by a resident to publish a reminder to keep your hedges trimmed. It's important for pedestrian, wheelchair and pushchair access and so that vehicle drivers and cyclists have a clear view.



Sunday 22 March, from 7am, Amey Depot, Ronsons Way, St Albans (until stocks run out).

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 it's best to get there early!

## Safety priorities

**St Albans City and District Community Safety Partnership** is made up of the District and County Councils, fire and rescue service, police, probation services, health agencies and services for young people. They all work together locally to keep people safe and well.

The Partnership has recently published its proposed priorities for the year. These include prevention and reduction of crime, drug and alcohol misuse and anti-social behaviour. To find out more and have your say on the priorities for 2015/16 visit www.stalbans.gov. uk/communitysafety.

# GREEN ISSUES

We now take cardboard

# Communal flats - what can I recycle?

For recycling arrangements for other types of homes, see page 8.

### Paper and flattened cardboard

(No unflattened cardboard, plastic wrapping or Tretra Pak please.



### Plastics, cans and foil

(Please wash and squash. No plastic wrapping or plastic bags please.)



### Glass bottles and jars

(No drinking glasses, light bulbs, spectacles, plate glass, or Pyrex/other heat treated glass please.)



Please separate your recycling as shown here, and place in the communal recycling bins. So that we can recycle your waste, it's important that the right items go in the right bins.

### **Household Waste Recycling Centres**

- Dark Lane, Harpenden. 10am 6pm. Closed Thurs, Fri.
- Ronsons Way, St Albans. 8am 4pm (6pm on Sats) (winter); 10am 6pm (summer). Closed Tues, Wed.
- Waterdale, A405, Bricket Wood. 10am 6pm. Closed Thurs, Fri.

These sites are run by Hertfordshire County Council. www.wasteaware.org.uk

# Recycle your food waste, yoghurt pots and food trays!

The results of recent research with over 7,000 residents shows that 98% say they use the recycling service all or most of the time.

However, the survey also revealed that there is low participation for recycling of some materials. For example, only 42% put yoghurt pots, and 38% microwave food trays, in their recycling boxes. Half of respondents do not recycle their food waste.

The research results are being used to help improve the service and help boost recycling to our target of

50%, so we still have some way to go.

Thanks for all your efforts to recycle as much as possible. Food waste recycling is not yet available at communal flats. For all other households, however, please put your food waste in your green wheelie bin (or bag in some areas) to be composted. Some people use our small caddies before transferring their waste to their green bin. Other people put their large food caddies out to be emptied. Please use a caddy liner, or wrap the food

paper bags or kitchen towel to keep your bin clean.

Currently, up to 90% of food waste is going to landfill. Food waste is heavy and expensive to send to landfill (nearly £100 a tonne), so a big effort with this will be a huge help.

You can order additional recycling boxes via our website. You can have up to five boxes for free. Extras cost £3 each. We will empty as many as you can fill! Please separate your waste as shown above and on page 8.



www.stalbans.gov.uk 7

# What can I recycle?

There are separate arrangements for communal flats - see overleaf.



- www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling
- wastemanagementservices@stalbans.gov.uk
- 01727 819285
- @StAlbansCouncil





### Glass bottles and jars (No broken glass please. No drinking glasses, light bulbs, spectacles, plate glass, or Pyrex/ other heat treated glass please.)





### **Easter waste and recycling** collection dates

A reminder that crews will be out as usual on Good Friday (3 April).

Please put your bins and boxes out as normal by 7am. Crews will not be working on Easter Monday (6 April). Collections that week will take place one day later than usual, with Monday's collections on Tuesday, Tuesday's collections on Wednesday, and so on. Crews will work on Saturday 11 April to catch up.

### Jobs at the Council

Naturally, like all councils, we're facing challenges. But as a goahead Council, our approach is firmly positive, entrepreneurial and forwardlooking. To see the latest Council jobs and watch our video about what it's like to work with us go to www.stalbans. gov.uk/jobs-and-careers.



**My Council Services App** 



Now on Twitter @StAlbansCouncil



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 or call 01727 819572 and let us know your views.

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

**Extended opening hours during busy Council Tax & Benefits period:** 16-18 Mar, 8.30am-6pm open for telephone enquiries. 23, 30 Mar & 7 Apr open for walk-in enquiries until 6pm.

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

**Housing Repairs: 01727 819256** Refuse & Recycling: 01727 819285\* Council Tax: 01727 819204/819205 Benefits: 01727 819220 Cleaner District Hotline: 01727 819598\* **All Other Enquiries:** 01727 866100

\*Until 5pm on Fridays

**Harpenden Town Council Information Point** Town Hall, Leyton Road, Harpenden

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

**Telephone:** 01582 768278

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.