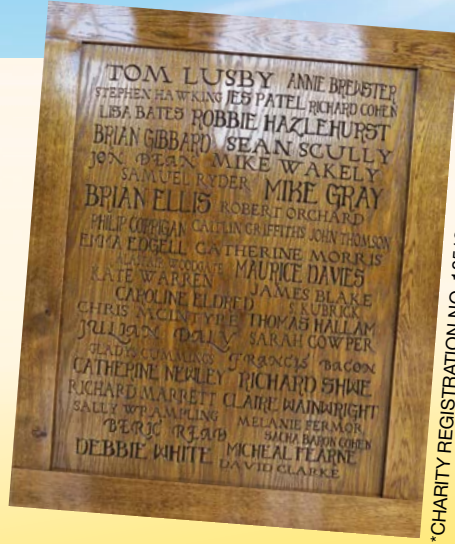


Community NEWS



SUMMER 2016

BECOME PART OF THE ST ALBANS STORY



*CHARITY REGISTRATION NO. 1051868.

What do residents think?



FOR RESULTS OF OUR INDEPENDENT SURVEY SEE PAGE 4

More than £50,000 was raised in the first weeks of an appeal giving people a unique chance to write their name into St Albans' history.

There is still time to join in and have your name engraved on limited edition Honours Boards at the new Museum and Art Gallery.

The magnificent oak panels are part of the £7.75 million project to convert the Town Hall into a state-of-the-art museum and exhibition space.

For a donation of £250, your name, or that of a loved one, will be etched into the oak panels in the Benefactors' Walk of Fame. This corridor will form one of the building's

major walkways, connecting the new Basement Gallery and the Georgian prison cells. The idea was inspired by the courtroom's wooden walls and graffiti left by prisoners.

The fundraising campaign is being spearheaded by local charity, St Albans Museums and Galleries Trust*.

Many of the donations are being made in memory of loved ones or as gifts to children and grandchildren.

Other sponsorship packages and naming opportunities are available for both individuals and companies offering high-profile involvement.

A leaflet, distributed alongside this edition of Community News on behalf of the Trust, gives full details and an application form. Alternatively see www.honoursboard.org.uk, or call 01727 296148.



THE MAGNIFICENT ALBAN WEEKEND, 18 AND 19 JUNE SEE PAGE 2

Courtesy of Building Panoramics



NEW RECYCLING SERVICES COMING SOON

SEE PAGE 6

Community News is published by St Albans City & District Council

www.stalbans.gov.uk

SUMMER FUN



the Sand has a beach bar, deckchairs and a giant screen outside the Town Hall.

We have story-telling and mini performances in the Family Tent in association with **St Albans Literary Festival**. **St Albans Shakespeare Festival** will be performing excerpts from the Bard's plays in pop-up shows throughout the day.

This year's summer of sport is on show in the Sports Arena, including 3v3 football, golf, tennis and more, supported by the **St Albans Half-Marathon**.



There are Vintry Village shopping stalls, in association with **St Albans Christmas Market**, and a mini **Food & Drink Festival** in anticipation of this year's September spectacular. You can also browse pop-up open studios, brought to you by Hertfordshire Visual Arts, while **St Albans Folk Festival** will be leading a mass folkdance at 2pm.

Alban STREET FESTIVAL 2016

June

Alban Weekend

Saturday 18 June – Alban Pilgrimage

Enjoy a wonderful spectacle as giant carnival puppets tell the story of Alban, Britain's first saint. Roman chariots, centurions, lions and roses all take their place in the dramatic procession, leaving St Peter's Church at 11am, through the historic streets to the Cathedral.

Separately, from 12-5pm, outside the Alban Arena, you can have a go at ringing roped church bells with local bell ringers.

Sunday 19 June, 12 - 6pm

Alban Street Festival

This year's Alban Street Festival celebrates everything that is great about our City.

Highlights include a Minecraft Hackathon by Silicon Abbey and Aecom, and a host of mini showcases of the local festivals that take place throughout the year.

St Albans Film Festival's Screen on

For the latest about what's on in the District, see: www.enjoystalban.com

St Albans & Harpenden
**FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL
2016**



Voting for this year's Food and Drink Festival (Sun 25 Sept – Mon 3 Oct) is open from 6 July until 31 August. To see if your favourite foodies are in the running, and to vote, see www.enjoystalban.co.uk/foodanddrink. Follow us on Facebook @StAlbansFoodandDrinkFestival for all the latest news and updates.



MAYOR'S PRIDE awards 2016

Mayor's Pride Award Winners

 **Drum roll please, for the District's 2016 award winners...**

Community Champion of the Year:

John Brown, a charity volunteer for Computer Friendly, Tools for Africa and the Children's Society for 10 years.

Cultural Innovation Award: Catherine Fenton, who created an unusual and challenging art competition for children and adults to promote the UN's World Toilet Day.

Young Person of Distinction: Gabriella Farrugia, who, diagnosed with a rare auto-immune disease at the age of ten, has bravely spoken about her condition and raised money for charity.

Environmental Champion of the Year:

Sustainable St Albans Week, an environmental campaign group raising awareness of important issues in the District.

Community Oriented Business of the Year:

All Saints Studios, a dance, education and performance centre, offering free classes for carers and other groups in need.

Community Project of the Year:

Sustainable St Albans Week, which organised the highly-successful event last November.

Voluntary Sector Award: Sue Holey, an ambassador for Rennie Grove hospice.

Inclusive Communities Award:

St Albans for Refugees (pictured above), a campaign group helping refugees from Syria and other countries.

Mayor's Special Recognition Award:

Hilary Tyrell, for her work for Oxfam and St Albans Friends of Palestine.

For details, including all the finalists, see www.stalban.gov.uk/MayorsPrideAwards.



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

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

www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk 01727 751810

Museum entry charge for non-residents (including for 'Free' events)

Children and Families

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Tots Tales

Wed 8 June, Wed 13 July, Wed 10 August.

1.30-2.30pm. 2-4 years. £2. Story, craft activity and museum hunt.

Story time session for the under 7s

Sun 26 June, Sun 31 July, Sun 21 August.

3-4pm. £2 or free for members of St Albans Children's Book Group. Join us for stories, activities and Red House Children's Book Award voting.

Festival of Archaeology 2016

Special events – part of a national celebration

Ancient Poo – a Surprising Treasure!

Sat 16 July. 1-3pm. Free. Discover what we can learn about people from their archaeological poo! Have a go at dissecting, studying and even making a pretend one of your own! Yuck!

Curious Coins Family Event

Sat 23 July. 2-5pm. £1. Try your hand at metal detecting, identifying coins, and coin rubbing. Stamp a souvenir coin.

Crafty Capers

Thurs and Fri throughout August. 2-4pm. £1.50. Age 3-11. Drop-in holiday craft activities.

Roman Inventions

Sat 6 August. 1-3pm. Free. Can you work out what the amazing Roman mystery household objects were used for?



Put on your Party Face

Sat 20 August. 1-3pm. Free. Help a Roman husband and wife dress up for a party! See a roman make-up kit, and help choose hairstyles and jewellery.

Hertfordshire Heroines: Summer Holiday Activities for 6 – 11 year olds

Mon 15, Tues 16, Wed 17, Mon 22, Tues 23, Weds 24 August. 10.30am-12.30pm and 2-4pm. £6 (£5 for Young Friends). Book in advance at Verulamium Museum, 01727 751810. Each day we'll focus on a different local heroine, combining storytelling and activities, and making something to take away. For details, please see website.



Excavating mosaics.

Adults

Summer Solstice at the Clock Tower

Mon 20 June. 6-10pm. £1. See spectacular views of St Albans in the evening sunshine (hopefully!) on the longest day of the year. Share your photos on Twitter @stalbanmuseums.

Weekend Gallery Talks

Every weekend. 3-3.30pm. Free. Join St Albans Town Guides for gallery talks including the life of Alban, mosaics, the Iron Age, and death and burial. See website for details.

Exhibition: Hertfordshire's Hidden Heroines

Sat 30 July - Mon 29 August. Be inspired by nearly 2000 years of astonishing Hertfordshire women. Stories from modern-day heroines, art work, and family fun.



Summer School Holidays

Our play leaders will be co-ordinating fun and games in parks across the District.

Join in for FREE! Details at www.stalbans.gov.uk/playintheparks or contact alex.varran@1life.co.uk, 01727 819531.



For fabulous, free tennis for all the family this summer, see www.greatbritishtennisweekend.com.


You can also play tennis for free at Verulamium Park on Saturdays between 10-11am. Sessions are run by volunteers as part of the Park Tennis event programme. Register at www.parktennis.org.



For the local beach action this summer, check out Verulamium Park's beach courts. Bookings at: abbeyview@1life.co.uk, 01727 868227.

Reporting back...

Community survey results

 Every two or three years, the Council commissions an independent survey to gauge how people feel about living in the area, and the local services they receive. It helps us to understand how we measure up, and where we need to raise our game.

The latest survey was undertaken by independent firm Opinion Research Services. There were 1,314 responses to surveys sent to 4,000 randomly-selected local households between 23 October and 4 December 2015. Thank you to everyone who participated.

The full survey results are available at www.stalbans.gov.uk/communitysurvey2015.

How residents feel about the local area

Nine out of ten people say they are satisfied with St Albans District as a place to live, with 75% saying they feel they belong to the area. 88% agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together in the District. For black and ethnic minority residents, the figure is 95%.

Asked about community safety issues, only 6% of residents say they have a problem with noisy neighbours or loud parties (2012: 8%). The figure for those concerned about litter is 24% (2012: 21%), and for vandalism, 8% (2012: 12%).

Three out of four residents, think

the police and other agencies are dealing successfully with antisocial behaviour in their neighbourhood.

How residents feel about the Council's services

More than seven out of ten people, 71%, said they were satisfied with "the way the Council runs things". This compares to 70% in 2012, 54% in 2010/11, and 42% in 2008/09.

A growing number of residents, 46%, also say the Council is providing value for money. That compares to 42% in 2012, 37% in 2010/11 and 29% in 2008/09.

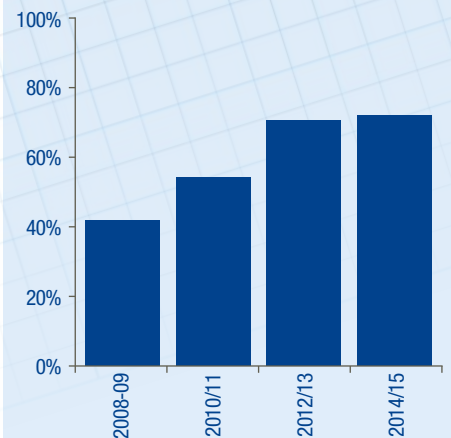
88% of respondents say they are satisfied with parks and open spaces (2012: 91%). For refuse collection the figure is 81% (2012: 78%); for sport and leisure facilities, 66% (2012: 53%); and for street markets, 83% (2012: 81%).

41% said they are satisfied with parking, up from 28% in 2012. Satisfaction figures for housing services, planning and museums were 34% (2012: 29%), 31% (2012: 27%) and 54% (2012: 60%) respectively.

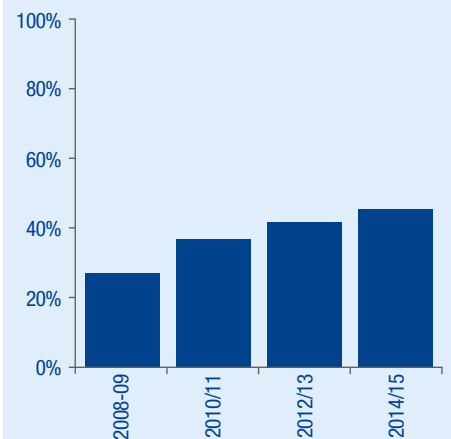
The survey also found 73% of residents feel well informed about the Council's services, up from 67% in 2012. In the past year, 80% had seen a copy of the publication you are reading, Community News. Over half (56%) said they read all or most of it, and over 94% said they find it informative, clearly written and easy to understand.




Satisfaction with Council



Value for money



Shopmobility

 You can find the Shopmobility office on the ground floor of Drivers Way Car Park in St Albans. There is no charge for use of a scooter or wheelchair for the day, though donations are welcome. You can hire a wheelchair for £5 per week.




It's open Monday to Saturday, 9.30am to 4pm (not bank holidays). You can book in advance or drop in. Contact the office on **01727 819339**. It is run by volunteers and more are needed. To volunteer, please contact **Michelle Bostock** at michelle.bostock@stalbins.gov.uk, **01727 836781**.





Need help?

If you don't know where to turn, HertsHelp may have the answer.

 Their friendly advisors are there to point you in the right direction for help with the sorts of things we all have to deal with from time to time. Anything from emotional support and someone to talk to, to getting help to stay independent or warm, and benefits or debt advice. See more at www.hertsdirect.org/hertshelp, or you can email or call them at info@hertshelp.net, 0300 123 4044. It's a free, independent service available to everyone who lives in Hertfordshire.

HOW ARE YOU?

Busy lives can cause us to neglect our health.




Without knowing it, by the time we reach our 40s and 50s many of us have dramatically increased our chances of becoming ill later in life. Eating the wrong food, drinking too much, continuing to smoke despite everything we know, or just not being active enough – it can all add up.

Take the free One You, 'How Are You?' questionnaire to find out the changes needed to improve your health and start feeling better. Your results will provide you with a personalised plan and useful tools to help get you back on the road to being healthy. Visit www.hertsdirect.org/oneyou to find out more and take the quiz.



Fly-tipping – help us convict

 **Most people hate fly-tipping and frown heavily on those who are selfish enough to do it. It's a sad fact though that fly-tipping is on the rise locally.**

What to do if you spot a flytip

- If you see someone dumping waste, please note their vehicle details. A photo can provide the evidence needed for a successful prosecution. But don't approach the person, and don't do anything to put yourself in danger.
- Call the police on 999 if the crime is in progress. The non-emergency number is 101.
- Take photos if you can, but please leave everything untouched.


- To report fly-tipped waste, please contact the Council at a.cleanerdistrict@stalbans.gov.uk, 01727 809019 (new no. from 13 June).

You are responsible for what happens to your waste, even after it has left your premises. If you have waste to dispose of, please take it to a local authority waste site. If you run a business, use a waste carrier registered with the Environment Agency and ask to see their licence.

You can be fined up to £50,000 or go to prison for up to five years if the waste is dumped.

Over the last 3 years the Council and the Police have brought 13 successful prosecutions.


REFERENDUM VOTING

 The European Union Referendum takes place on Thursday 23 June. District polling stations will be open from 7am until 10pm. For a list please see: www.stalbans.gov.uk/elections. If you are already registered to vote, you don't need to re-register for this referendum.

GREEN ISSUES



LOOK OUT for our new recycling service from July

 You will be getting a leaflet through your door shortly to tell you all about our new recycling service being rolled out in July and August.

We are trying to make it as easy and convenient as we can for you to recycle. We hope this will encourage you to recycle as much as possible, and inspire those who don't currently do it, to start.

Gone will be the fortnightly chore of sorting your recycling. You will be able to put your plastic, glass, tins etc., all in your black wheeled bin together – it's bigger and can take more.

There are no changes to the way paper and cardboard, and green waste, are sorted and collected.

We will be delivering a new brown wheeled bin for your non-recyclable waste.

We'll be putting stickers on the bins to remind you what goes where. Fear not, we will be taking away any recycling boxes you no longer want, and putting them to good use.

We are also introducing a brand new **weekly food waste collection**.

About a third of the District's refuse is currently food waste. Each tonne is costing you about £100 in landfill charges, so we think investing in this makes lots of sense.

We're introducing a household collection for batteries, small electrical items and textiles too.

For those living in flats with communal recycling, slightly different arrangements will continue, and some new features are being introduced including a weekly food waste collection.

And if you live in a conservation area where there are special arrangements (bags etc), you'll be catered for. All will be explained in the leaflet.

Thanks very much of all your efforts!

COMING
SOON



RECYCLING IS UP!

 The recycling rate for the St Albans District rose last year to 52.3% – up from 50.7% in 2014.

Analysis suggests this is due to new street cleaning methods and residents developing a better understanding of, and a growing commitment to, recycling. We have been undertaking lots of campaign work, and we think this is contributing too.

One of the Council's priority projects is to recycle 60% or more of the waste we collect. Next month, with our new contractor Veolia, we are introducing an improved recycling service to help get us there – more about this in the adjacent article.

KEEPING OUR CITY, TOWNS AND VILLAGES SPECIAL

Most people reading this article always clear up after their dogs, put their chewing gum and fag ends in the bin, and are thoroughly thoughtful neighbours. They never litter or fly-tip and they wouldn't dream of hanging dog poo bags in the trees (who does that?) or being abusive to waste collection crews. Our recent survey (see page 4) suggests nine out of ten people think the District is a lovely place to live. We'd like to thank you for your help in making it so. To those anti-social few who spoil it for everyone else, please don't!



Walks & More!

For walks all over Hertfordshire this summer, check out the Walks & More website www.hertsdirect.org/walksandmore. You'll find lots of information and ideas to inspire you, from walks and cycle rides to family events.

Bank holiday collections

Crews won't be working on August Bank Holiday Monday (29th). 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 3 September to catch up.

TRY OUR WEBSITE FIRST

Many of our most used services can be accessed online. To pay your Council Tax, report a change of address or a missed bin, and lots more, just go to www.stalbans.gov.uk.

To report things like potholes, faulty streetlights, and overgrown vegetation or verges, Hertfordshire County Council, which runs all these services, has a handy online reporting website. See www.hertsdirect.org/highways. You can sign up for progress reports on what action is being taken too.



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@stalban.gov.uk
 01727 819218



Keeping the District Clean and Green

If you spot a problem with...

- ✓ Illegal fly-tipping
- ✓ Graffiti or litter
- ✓ Dog fouling or stray dogs
- ✓ Dumped rubbish
- ✓ Illegal fly-posting
- ✓ Spills from refuse collection
- ✓ Accumulation of leaves
- ✓ Street cleaning
- ✓ Drugs paraphernalia

...please contact

a.cleanerdistrict@stalban.gov.uk (preferred)
 or call 01727 809019 (new number from 13 June)

Together, for a Cleaner District.



Now on twitter: [@StAlbansCouncil](https://twitter.com/StAlbansCouncil)




Information, Advice & Guidance

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

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

Visitors can also make use of a touch screen service providing access to lots of additional information, help and advice.



ST ALBANS MARKET
Value • Variety • Atmosphere


Bag a bargain every Wednesday and Saturday

visit www.enjoystalbans.com for more information

 your local market



COUNCIL - A GOLD STANDARD EMPLOYER

 Investors in People (IiP) has awarded the Council a prized Gold award for the way it leads, supports and manages its staff.

IiP says its gold standard is intended to be "the sign of a great employer, an outperforming place to work and a clear commitment to sustainability".

The Council works hard to recruit, develop and retain top staff to help deliver the best possible service to local residents.

To see our latest job vacancies and watch a video about what it's like to work with us, see www.stalbans.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers.

If you are looking for a flexible way to work, why not register as a casual worker? Details are available on our website.



St Albans City & District Council

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 or call 01727 819572 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

Housing Repairs: housingrepairs@stalbans.gov.uk, 01727 819256

Refuse & Recycling: wastemanagementservices@stalbans.gov.uk, 01727 809819 (from 13 June)

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

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

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

All Other Enquiries: 01727 866100

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.

 **Twitter:** @StAlbansCouncil
 **Facebook:** Recycle for St Albans District