

Community NEWS



WINTER 2016

Snow and flood news online



When it snows, all the latest Council service news can be found at www.stalbans.gov.uk/snow. You'll find updates on changes to waste and recycling collections (see back page), flood advice and lots more. You'll also find links to Hertfordshire County Council information on school closures, gritting and salting routes. Follow us on Twitter for the latest District Council updates @StAlbansCouncil.



Become part of the St Albans story

*Charity registration no. 1051868

A special Xmas gift

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

The magnificent panels are part of the £7.75 million Town Hall conversion project led by local charity* St Albans Museums and Galleries Trust. £800k remains to be raised.

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

Make your donation by Friday 16 December and the Trust will send you a certificate to present as a gift. Thanks to everyone who has contributed so far.

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

Magical Launch & Christmas Lights Switch-On Sunday 27 Nov
Details page 2

ST ALBANS CHRISTMAS MARKET 2016

24 NOV - 18 DEC

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

IN THE STUNNING GROUNDS OF ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL

Bags of Christmas magic • Visit Santa's Grotto
• Great food, chalets, music and merriment •
NEW The Meraki Christmas Mini-Festival

For more info: www.enjoystalbans.com



Also, bag a bargain at ST ALBANS CHARTER MARKET every Wed and Sat throughout the year (and 16-18 & 20-24 Dec)



Community News is published by St Albans City & District Council

www.stalbans.gov.uk





Christmas Market Launch Party and St Albans Lights Switch-On

Sunday 27 November, from noon

 **The magical St Albans Christmas Market opens in the Cathedral Vintry Garden, on Thursday 24 November.**

The launch party coincides with St Albans' Christmas Lights Switch-On on Sunday 27 November, from noon. To ensure the festive season gets off to a great start, there is music, fairground rides, costumed performers and loads of family entertainment planned.

Rather than just one lights switch-on event, this year you will be spoilt for choice. See the lights being switched on in St Peter's Street, or at the Alban Arena with the fabulous Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs panto stars. Or see them at the Clock Tower with a festive brass band, or at the Christmas Market with a glass of mulled wine.


We are delighted to welcome Meraki Festival to the 2016 Christmas Market. Meraki is providing an exclusive 25-day programme of entertainment to celebrate the launch of their summer festival at Herts Showground (11-13 August 2017). See www.merakifestival.com.

Sunday 27 November is also the date of **Harpenden Christmas Carnival** and **Farmers Market** (from noon) and **Redbourn Christmas Market** (11am - 5pm).

More information about local festive events is available in 'St Albans Christmas 2016', our special brochure. Look out for it at outlets around the District from mid-November, and at www.enjoystalbens.com.



Historic wall rebuilt

 **An historic St Albans wall in danger of collapsing has been rebuilt using as many of the original bricks as possible.**

Great efforts were made to preserve the distinctive appearance of the landmark wall in St Peter's Street, which dates back to the early 1500s.

Many of the original bricks were retained including one found with a brickmaker's handprint. In medieval times, it was a custom for tradesmen who could not read or write to leave such a signature on their work. That brick has now been put in a prominent spot in the reconstructed wall.

Thanks to everyone for your patience while the pavement was closed.



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

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

Tots Tales

Wednesday 14 Dec, 11 Jan, 8 Feb.

10.30-11.30am and 1.30-2.30pm.

Age 2-4. £2. Join us for a story, craft activity and museum hunt. Limited places. Advance booking strongly advised.



Cracking Christmas Crafts

Saturday 3 December.

10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-4pm. £3. Join us for a day of craft fun for all the family.

Celebrating Saturnalia

Monday 19 to Friday 23 December. 2-4pm. Age 3+.

£1.50. Celebrate the Roman festival of Saturnalia and make decorative wreaths and baubles to take home.

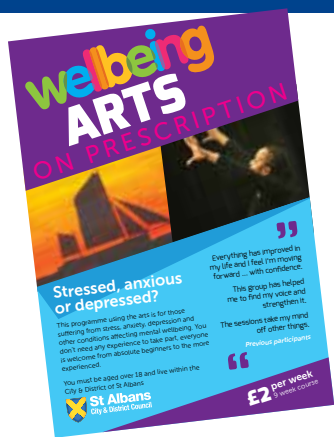
12 Days of Christmas

Tuesday 27 to Friday 30 December. 10am-5pm. Age 3+. Free. Explore the museum with a special '12 days of Christmas' trail. A great day out for all the family.



The Alf Gentle Slide Collection

Saturday 14 January. 2-3pm. £3. Back by popular demand! Join us for a slide show of local resident Alf Gentle's images of St Albans. See how St Albans has changed since the 1960s. Limited places. Advance booking strongly advised.



Arts on Prescription

If you are feeling stressed, anxious or depressed, Arts on Prescription may be for you. Studies have shown that taking part in arts activities can have a positive influence on mental health. The sessions are for adults living in the District and are led by experienced professional artists over 9 weeks. Art forms include visual arts, and drama with Trestle Theatre.

For details see <http://bit.ly/2dxaTK7> or email artsonprescription@1Life.co.uk (01727 819303).



DRY JANUARY

1-31 January 2017

Do you want to cut down on your drinking, lose weight, sleep better and have more energy?

Lots of people will be signing up to Dry January and getting free tips, advice and guidance throughout the month. You can also use it as an opportunity to fundraise including on behalf of Alcohol Concern which is working to reduce alcohol harm in the UK. Details at: www.dryjanuary.org.uk.


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





 On 1 April 2016 the National Living Wage became law. This means that workers aged 25 and over, who are not in the first year of an apprenticeship, are legally entitled to the new minimum pay rate of £7.20 per hour. For further information see: www.livingwage.gov.uk

Shopmobility


 You can find the Shopmobility office on the ground floor of Drovers Way Car Park in St Albans.

There is no charge for use of a scooter or wheelchair for the day, though donations are welcome (the service is run by volunteers). 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**. To volunteer (lovely people!), please contact jennifer.titmuss@stalbands.gov.uk, **01727 296146**.



Your vote matters

 The revised Register of Electors will be published on 1 December 2016. If you recently moved home and have not yet registered to vote, it is important that you do so now. The registration process can be done online by visiting www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. If you don't have internet access, you can request a paper application form.


Hertfordshire County Council elections take place on 4 May 2017. If you are not registered, you won't be able to vote.

If you want to vote by post or proxy, please contact the Electoral Services Office (elections@stalbands.gov.uk; **01727 819294**).

For more information see: www.stalbands.gov.uk/elections.



Flood wardens needed

 Volunteer to be a Community Flood Warden and help protect London Colney and Colney Heath from flooding.

For more information, please contact Paul Blande, Emergency Planning and Community Resilience Officer, at flooding.support@stalbands.gov.uk, **01727 814612**.















Civic Centre – a hub for info and advice

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

See www.stalbandshub.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.





Theft from vehicles up

Following a growing number of vehicle related crimes, Herts Police are asking drivers to be vigilant.

They advise never leaving valuables on display, or tools in vans, and using an approved steering lock, gear clamp, immobiliser or alarm. If you use keyless technology, double check your vehicle is locked, and once home, keep the locking device as far away from the vehicle as possible.



PARTY GOERS - STAY SAFE AND LEGAL THIS CHRISTMAS!

While many people know the dangers of driving home after a boozy night out, far fewer know that they can still be over the drink drive limit the morning after.

The Police's drink drive campaign runs throughout December. They will be conducting breathalyser

checks round the clock – including during the morning rush hour.

Residents are also being urged to plan their trip home after a festive night out. This includes advanced booking a licensed taxi (which are subject to checks) or agreeing a designated driver who will not drink.

Anti-theft payment card defenders

FREE



Contactless payment cards have led to an increase in electronic pickpocketing.

Criminals are using handheld card readers to skim payment details and sensitive information without the victim realising.

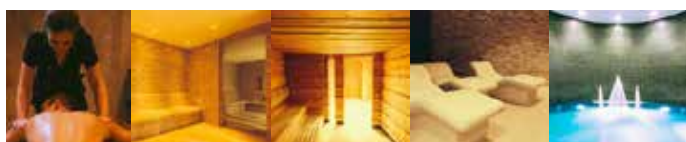
The Community Safety Partnership is giving away **FREE** card defenders – sleeve holders containing blocking technology that prevents credit cards from being read.

Pick one up from the Council's reception at the Civic Centre in St Albans (while stocks last).

Please don't suffer alone

Did you know that you can talk to the Samaritans any time you like, in your own way, and off the record?

The Samaritans are there whenever things are getting to you. Call their free phone number **116 123** or email them at jo@samaritans.org. Alternatively visit them at 45 St John's Road, Watford. They are a safe place to talk things through. And if you've ever wondered about volunteering, please get in touch at swhrecruitment@outlook.com.



Verulamium • Spa

ST ALBANS

FIND THE PERFECT

GIFT

at the Verulamium Spa

Gift vouchers and gift sets available from

£10

Contact us today
01727 736 087

www.verulamiumspa.com or
email victoriabatey@everyoneactive.com



Recycling Reminders

Refuse is collected on alternate weeks to recycling.
Food waste, small electricals and textiles are collected weekly.

HOUSES

In some conservation areas there are special arrangements (bags, boxes and purple sacks).

Plastics, cans, foil, glass bottles and jars



Please wash and squash plastics. No plastic bags or wrapping. No drinking glasses, light bulbs, spectacles, plate glass or Pyrex-type heat treated glass.

Landfill waste



Waste that can't be recycled.

COMMUNAL FLATS

Food waste



Empty your sink-side caddy into the food waste bins in your communal bin area.

Plastics, cans, foil, glass bottles and jars



Please wash and squash plastics. No plastic bags or wrapping. No drinking glasses, light bulbs, spectacles, plate glass or Pyrex-type heat treated glass.

Paper and card



Place large sheets of card securely with box. No unflattened cardboard, plastic wrapping or Tetra Pak please.

Garden waste



No soil, rubble or food waste please.

Food waste



Paper and card



No unflattened cardboard, plastic wrapping or Tetra Pak please.

Landfill waste



Waste that can't be recycled.

Small electricals and textiles

Please keep separate in plastic carrier bags and put out next to your bins on collection day.

Batteries & small electricals



Textiles



WEEKLY COLLECTION

Web www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling

Email wastemanagementservices@stalban.gov.uk

Call 01727 809019

Twitter @stalbanscouncil

Facebook recycleforstalban



Don't have a rubbish Christmas!

We are working to get local recycling rates up to more than 60% annually from our current 52%. Early signs are encouraging – thank you for all your efforts.

Recycling at Christmas is especially important to ensure as much of the extra packaging and food waste as possible gets recycled.

Wrapping paper and Christmas cards

Please put paper and card in your kerbside paper box or (for flats) in your labelled paper bin. Please remove any ribbons or bows first!



Christmas trees

If you live in a house, your real Christmas tree can be put out for recycling. Put it out to the side of your garden waste bin, on either your **first or second collection after Christmas**. The crews can't collect large trees with a trunk diameter of more than two inches, as these will not compost easily.

After this time, or if you have a large tree, please take it to your local Household Waste and Recycling Centre (see: www.wasteaware.org.uk).

Please remove all decorations first!

If you live in a flat, please don't leave your tree in the bin area. Please take it to your local Household Waste and Recycling Centre. Some garden centres will collect your tree for a small fee (including Ayletts – **01727 822255**).



Christmas food waste

Please use your kerbside caddy so food waste can be turned into fertiliser rather than sent to the tip. Food waste is heavy, and costs around £100 per tonne to send to landfill. Please recycle as much as possible. **Food waste is collected every week.**

If you live in a flat, please empty your kitchen caddy into the shared food waste bin in your communal recycling area.

Replacement compostable liners can be bought from local supermarkets, or you can use paper bags.

Cardboard

If you live in a house, please flatten your card and put it in (or securely under) your paper and card recycling box. If you live in a flat, please put your flattened cardboard in the labelled bin in your communal recycling area. Please remove all plastic. Polystyrene is not recyclable – this needs to go in your landfill waste bin.

Having a clear out?

Small electrical items such as hairdryers, irons and toasters can be put out for collection in carrier bags next to your bins each week. So can old clothes – just keep the two things separate please!

Larger electrical items such as TVs and fridges can be taken to your local Household Waste and Recycling Centre for recycling. We offer a bulky waste collection service too at a cost of £45 for up to 6 items (furniture, washing machines, etc). Residents in receipt of some benefits can get this service for free. See: www.stalbans.gov.uk/bulkywaste for details.



Bottles, foil, cans and glass

These all go in your black recycling bin (or recycling boxes in some areas). In flats, please put them in the labelled bin in your communal recycling area. Please squash plastic bottles.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION DATES

Your collection day will change over Christmas and New Year (**see back page**). Look out for your 2017 collection calendar being delivered to local homes in December.

Waste collection in the icy weather



Below are details of how we plan to keep disruption to a minimum if snow or ice hit the District this winter.

If disruption lasts for a day or two, collections will roll on one day until we catch up. Crews will work on Saturdays until backlogs are cleared. Where disruption is more severe, lasting 3 days or more, recycling

collections will be suspended for those roads that we have not been able to get to. In these roads, we will continue to try to collect, and when we do, all rubbish and food waste will be sent to the tip as landfill. You may prefer not to put your food caddy out until the next week so the content can be recycled instead.

Other recycling will be collected on the next scheduled collection day, weather permitting.

Updates will be posted online at www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling, on Facebook ([RecycleforStAlbans](https://www.facebook.com/RecycleforStAlbans)), and on Twitter [@StAlbansCouncil](https://twitter.com/StAlbansCouncil).

Council Christmas opening times

Normal opening hours (see box below) resumes Tuesday 3 January

Dates	Opening Times
Monday 19 Dec	Open
Tuesday 20 Dec	Open
Wednesday 21 Dec	Open
Thursday 22 Dec	Open
Friday 23 Dec	Closed from noon
Monday 26 Dec	Closed
Tuesday 27 Dec	Closed
Wednesday 28 Dec	Open
Thursday 29 Dec	Open
Friday 30 Dec	Closed
Monday 2 Jan	Closed

Emergency out of hours telephone - **01727 811155**.

Christmas waste and recycling collection dates

Please put your bins and boxes out by 7am.



Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 26 Dec	Wednesday 28 Dec
Tuesday 27 Dec	Thursday 29 Dec
Wednesday 28 Dec	Friday 30 Dec
Thursday 29 Dec	Saturday 31 Dec
Friday 30 Dec	Tuesday 3 Jan
Monday 2 Jan	Wednesday 4 Jan
Tuesday 3 Jan	Thursday 5 Jan
Wednesday 4 Jan	Friday 6 Jan
Thursday 5 Jan	Saturday 7 Jan
Friday 6 Jan	Monday 9 Jan
Monday 9 Jan	Tuesday 10 Jan
Tuesday 10 Jan	Wednesday 11 Jan
Wednesday 11 Jan	Thursday 12 Jan
Thursday 12 Jan	Friday 13 Jan
Friday 13 Jan	Saturday 14 Jan

Do it online

Many of the Council's most used services can be accessed online.

You can see your Council Tax bill, pay, report a change of address or a missed bin, and lots more. We also have a popular self-service kiosk in the Council's reception area where you can make payments.

Over the coming months we will be investing in better technology and making innovations to customer services, including appointment booking. More about this in future editions of Community News.



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@stalbins.gov.uk and let us know your views and what else you want us to include.

St Albans City & District Council, Civic Centre, St Peter's Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 3JE

Website: www.stalbans.gov.uk **Email:** contactus@stalbins.gov.uk

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

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

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

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

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

Planning: planning@stalbins.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](https://twitter.com/StAlbansCouncil)

Facebook: [Recycle for St Albans District](https://www.facebook.com/RecycleforStAlbansDistrict)