



District in bloom 2011

ST ALBANS District in Bloom Competition 2011 will be launched in March with 12 categories this year including Best Fruit/Vegetable/Allotment garden, Best Voluntary Garden Group, and Best Public House Garden. The Council is grateful to stalwart supporters Ayletts Nursery and the Herts Advertiser who this year are joined by new sponsors including Romans, Ashtons and Villa Plus. For more information contact 01727 819366, districtinbloom@stalbens.gov.uk or visit the District in Bloom pages at www.stalbens.gov.uk

This year, St Albans is also entering the regional Anglia in Bloom competition where we will be up against strong competition from towns including Bury St Edmunds and Stevenage. Judging takes place in July.



Verulamium Park improvements

ENHANCEMENTS to the lake, tree planting, and a new woodland walk are amongst works that the Council will be taking forward this year as part of the Verulamium Park Master Plan.

This builds on work in 2010 which saw the completion of the Adizone outdoor gym, improvements to the cricket pavilion and the refurbishment of the causeway toilets. A planned Labyrinth Garden may also be part of this year's developments, and the Council hopes to be able to include a new cycle route.

Please help keep green waste green



IF you put non-compostable items in your green wheellie bin you could risk making the whole truck-load unfit for recycling.

Take Tetra Pak cartons and plastic bags for example. You might only put a few cartons or one or two plastic bags in your bin, but by the time 600 bins have been emptied, that's an awful lot of cartons and plastic bags and it can mean that the whole lorry load has to be rejected by Agrivert, the company that processes the District's green waste.

Please help keep landfill rates down, and recycling rates high by making sure only compostable items go in your green

wheellie bin or bag.

Fruit and vegetables, cooked and uncooked food waste, shredded paper, paper bags, cardboard and garden waste are all compostable. So are envelopes if their plastic windows have been removed.

Since it is difficult to tell the difference between bio-degradable and ordinary plastic bags, please don't put any plastic in your green bin and instead use paper bags, small cardboard boxes or newspaper to wrap up your food waste.

For further information please visit www.stalbens.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling or call 01727 819285.



Bricket Wood – a habitat of national importance

AGRICULTURAL students from Capel Manor College in Enfield are gaining valuable work experience and helping to maintain woodland on Bricket Wood Common. The southern edge of Bricket Wood is a particularly special place, and a rare and nationally important habitat protected as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Many years ago, part of the Common was planted with hornbeams that were regularly coppiced to provide charcoal and fire wood, providing a valuable wildlife habitat. Coppicing is a traditional form of woodland management where trees are cut down at the base in order to re-grow multiple stems. After cutting, the increased light allows existing woodland wildflowers, such as bluebells and anemones, to grow vigorously.

These sunny glades provide a habitat for a variety of creatures such as beetles, birds and butterflies. Eventually, the canopy closes up again but if the woodland is carefully managed, there will always be another recently cut area to provide a home for these animals.

The Council and the Countryside Management Service, together with groups like the Capel Manor College students, are working to save this valuable habitat for future generations.

Join in litter pick week



HELP rid local beauty spots and green areas of cans, litter, old newspapers and plastic bags during Litter Pick Week (March 19-27).

The Council is inviting residents, schools and local associations to organise group litter picks to help improve the appearance of the District's beauty spots and open spaces. We will arrange for any litter collected to be picked up and provide gloves, litter pickers and bags to use. Please let us know by March 9 if you would like to participate so we can make the necessary arrangements. For an information pack please call 01727

819285, or email wastemanagementservices@stalbens.gov.uk

Anna Cohen, park manager with the Highfield Park Trust is organising one such litter pick and is looking for volunteers to take part on Sunday, March 27, between 10am and 12noon. Meet at West Lodge, off Hill End Lane, opposite Frobisher Road, at 10am. Children are welcome but must be supervised. For more details see www.highfieldparktrust.co.uk or telephone 01727 847242.

The Council will also help groups who want to do voluntary litter picks at other times of the year.

Keeping St Albans City & District Clean and Green

If you spot a problem with...

- ✓ Abandoned vehicles
- ✓ Illegal fly-tipping
- ✓ Graffiti or litter
- ✓ Dog fouling or stray dogs
- ✓ Dumped rubbish
- ✓ Illegal fly-posting
- ✓ Overgrown hedgerows
- ✓ Spills from refuse collection
- ✓ Accumulation of leaves
- ✓ Pest control
- ✓ Damaged street furniture
- ✓ Street cleaning required
- ✓ Drugs paraphernalia
- ✓ Trees (overgrown/obstructing highway)
- ✓ Empty/derelect property
- ✓ Air pollution (bonfires/fumes)

...please contact

- ☎ The Cleaner District Hotline: 0845 125 8000
- ✉ a.cleanerdistrict@stalbens.gov.uk



Together, for a Cleaner District.