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.

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@stalbansmgtrust.org.uk (01727 296148).
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.

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 Peters 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.enjoystalbans.com.
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.

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**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).

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**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@stalbans.gov.uk
- 01727 819218

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**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 raise funds including on behalf of Alcohol Concern which is working to reduce alcohol harm in the UK. Details at: www.dryjanuary.org.uk.
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

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### 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@stalbans.gov.uk, 01727 296146.

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### 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@stalbans.gov.uk, 01727 814612.

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### 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.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.

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Click here for details of other organisations available at the Civic Centre.
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.

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

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.
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.

- **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**

**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**
  - 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**

Visit our website [www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling)
Send us an email wastemanagementservices@stalbans.gov.uk
Call 01727 809019
Follow us on Twitter @stalbanscouncil
Like us on Facebook recycleforstalbans
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 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.

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.
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), and on Twitter @StAlbansCouncil.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Usual collection day</th>
<th>Revised collection day</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 26 Dec</td>
<td>Wednesday 28 Dec</td>
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<td>Tuesday 27 Dec</td>
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<td>Wednesday 28 Dec</td>
<td>Friday 30 Dec</td>
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<td>Thursday 29 Dec</td>
<td>Saturday 31 Dec</td>
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<td>Friday 30 Dec</td>
<td>Tuesday 3 Jan</td>
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<td>Monday 2 Jan</td>
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<td>Tuesday 3 Jan</td>
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<td>Wednesday 4 Jan</td>
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<td>Friday 13 Jan</td>
<td>Saturday 14 Jan</td>
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Christmas waste and recycling collection dates
Please put your bins and boxes out by 7am.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Opening Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 19 Dec</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<td>Tuesday 20 Dec</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<td>Wednesday 21 Dec</td>
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<td>Thursday 22 Dec</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<td>Friday 23 Dec</td>
<td>Closed from noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 26 Dec</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 27 Dec</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<td>Wednesday 28 Dec</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<td>Thursday 29 Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 30 Dec</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 2 Jan</td>
<td>Closed</td>
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</tbody>
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Emergency out of hours telephone - 01727 811155.

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.

Do it online
Many of the Council’s most used services can be accessed online.

Do it online
Many of the Council’s most used services can be accessed online.

Have your say... we welcome anything you want to say about our services.

St Albans City & District 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

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 809019
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

We hope you enjoy reading Community News. If you can spare a moment, please email communications@stalbans.gov.uk and let us know your views and what else you want to include.