

Community NEWS



SPRING 2020



Council Tax

All you need to know about your Council Tax payments for 2020/21 that come into force on Wednesday 1 April. Pages 4-5.



SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL 2020 Saturday 23 May to Sunday 7 June

The Sustainability Festival is returning for the fifth year in a row with residents, businesses, schools, faith groups and community organisations all involved.

The aim of the fortnight-long event, covering the whole of the District, is to encourage people to learn more about the environment and sustainable lifestyles.

There is an action-packed programme of more than 100 events organised by local groups that you can get involved in.

These include talks on key issues, a wildlife photography competition, a vegan cookery course and a sustainable fashion show.

There are many events suitable for all the family and young children with Sustfest schools week running from Monday 1 to Friday 5 June.

More details are available on the festival website www.sustfest.org with the full events programme due to be finalised in April.

A brochure will also be distributed across the District while bulletins will be posted on social media:

- Twitter at [#sustfest20](https://twitter.com/sustfest20)
- Facebook [@sustainablestalban](https://www.facebook.com/sustainablestalban)
- Instagram at [#sustainablesta](https://www.instagram.com/sustainablesta).

More information on Page 3.

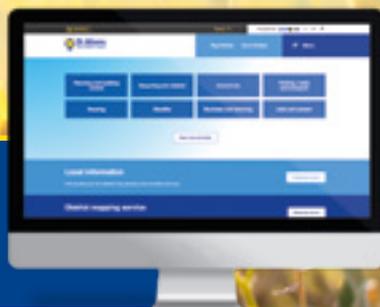
Museum Programme

What's on in the coming weeks at St Albans Museum + Gallery. Page 7.



New Website Launched

The Council's new website is now up and running. Page 2.



Community News is published by St Albans City & District Council

www.stalbans.gov.uk



**Your vote
is your voice**

Register to vote at:
gov.uk/register-to-vote

Make sure you're registered to vote!

St Albans City and District Council elections take place on Thursday 7 May along with the election of the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

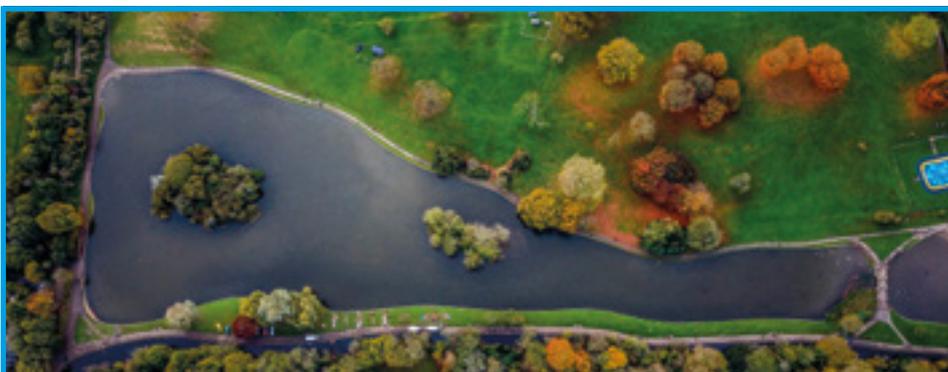
Make sure you are registered to vote so you can have your say by the deadline of Tuesday 21 April 2020.

You can register online in just a few minutes at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. If you're not registered, you may lose your right to vote.

You can also apply to vote by post or appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf. The deadline for new postal vote applications is 5pm on Wednesday 22 April and for proxy vote applications, it is 5pm on Wednesday 29 April.

Application forms are available by calling the Electoral Services Team on **01727 819294** or forms can be printed from www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter.

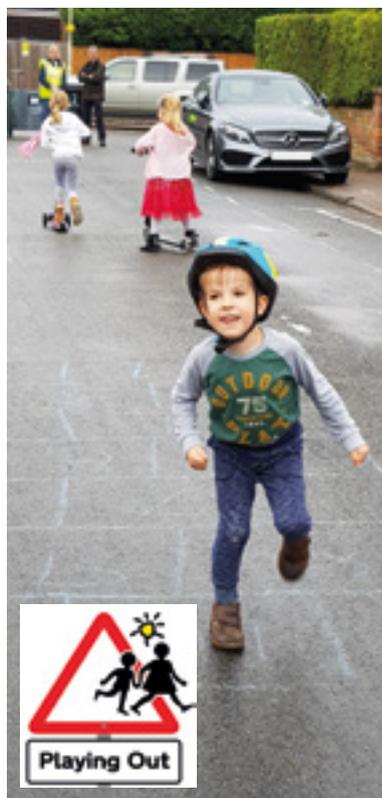
For further information on registration and voting please visit www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-and-elections.



River Ver Update

The Environment Agency has committed £300,000 to the next phase of the Revitalising the River Ver partnership project.

The money will help fund the drawing up of detailed designs by specialists as well as the business case for proceeding with the initiative. Revitalising the Ver is a multi-million project to turn a 2.5 kilometre stretch of the rare chalk stream into its more natural state as it flows through Verulamium Park and the Sopwell Nunnery green space.

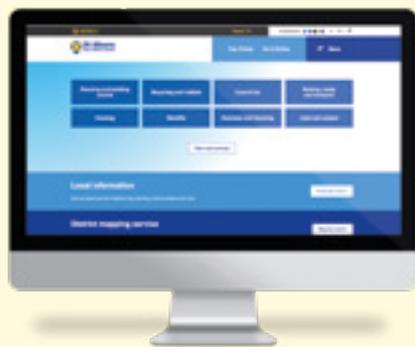


Playing Out Scheme

A scheme to encourage children in St Albans, Harpenden and other parts of the District to play safely outside has been launched.

Playing Out St Albans is part of a nationwide campaign to let young people take over streets free of traffic for a few hours. They can then cycle, scoot, enjoy games, make friends and experience how life was for previous generations. Their parents and other residents can get to know each other and have a chat while the children exercise in the fresh air. The scheme was set up in the District by the environment charity Sustainable St Albans and is supported by the Council. To take advantage of the scheme, residents need to organise a street meeting, enlist neighbours to volunteer as stewards and make an application.

They can do so online at sustainablestalbens.org/playingout or by emailing playingout@sustainablestalbens.org for help.



New Website Launched

The Council has relaunched its website to make it more user-friendly for residents and businesses.

Check out www.stalbans.gov.uk to see how the website structure has been changed so you can find information much more easily. Our goal is to make it easier for you to do the things you need to do, when you want to do them. We will be analysing your feedback following January's launch with residents able to give your views through a MyStAlbans District Account.

Eco Issues

#SustFest20

Events all about the environment
run by the local community

**SUSTAINABILITY
FESTIVAL 2020**

23 May to 7th June

Energy | Food | Waste | Transport | Natural Habitats

@SustFest20

@SustainableStAlbans



There is something for all ages and interests during the Sustainability Festival – all focused on our natural world and sustainable living.

It is organised by a local charity, Sustainable St Albans, in partnership with St Albans Friends of the Earth. Events are run by local groups and the programme includes:

Vegan Market in Harpenden on Sunday 24 May when a vast array of sustainable food will be on offer.

Market Takeover on 24 May at St Peter's St, St Albans, with environmental stalls and activities, vegan and vegetarian food, and live music all day.

Batford Springs Open Day in Harpenden on Thursday 28 May with wildlife activities all day for the whole



family to celebrate the wildlife in the nature reserve.

Wilderhood Watch's art and photography competition – see more at www.wilderhoodwatch.org to take part.

Phase Out Plastics pop-up shop on Holywell Hill, St Albans, from Monday 1 to Sunday 7 June.

Upcycle and Repair Fair on Saturday 30 May – take your broken bikes, kettles and toasters to St Luke's Church, St Albans, to be repaired.

Waste Recycling Centres

There are three waste recycling centres serving the District where residents can take bulky items such as mattresses, unwanted furniture and electrical goods.

These are – Dark Lane, off Grove Road, in Harpenden; Ronsons Way, St Albans; and Waterdale, St Albans Road, near Garston.

Full details are available of these and other centres that can be used on Hertfordshire County Council's website: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk.

Recycling Changes

There has been a reduction in waste being deposited at some of our small, unsupervised recycling containers located at a number of car parks across the District.

This follows the success of the kerbside collection service launched four years ago and in response we have conducted a review.

From April, several of the sites will cease operation. Further details of the changes can be found on: <https://stalbans.gov.uk/local-recycling>.

You can contact wastemanagementofficers@stalbans.gov.uk to ask any questions.



Tree Wardens

The District has around 50 volunteer tree wardens - but new recruits are always needed.

They get involved in a range of activities from practical projects such as planting and caring for trees to developing projects for schoolchildren.

You don't need to be an expert to become a warden, and it's a great way to learn more about trees with like-minded people.

To volunteer or gain further information, please contact: trees@stalbans.gov.uk or call **01727 866100**.

Your Council Tax explained

Your total bill includes Council Tax for:

- Herts County Council • St Albans City and District Council
- Herts Police and Crime Commissioner • Town and Parish Councils

For every £1 you pay in Council Tax

Hertfordshire County Council will get **77p Total £88.8m**

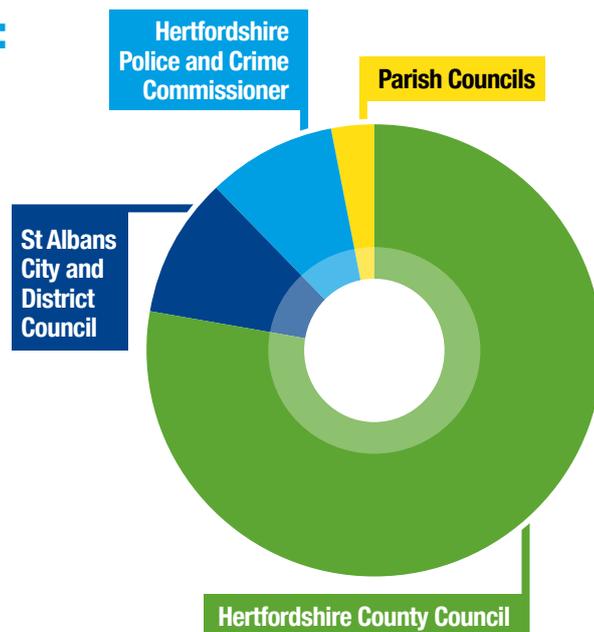
St Albans City and District Council will get **10p Total £11.4m**

Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner will get **11p Total £12.4m**

Parish Councils will get **2p Total £2.9m**

On average, you will pay just £3.50 a week for all the services provided by your District Council including:

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



Our work is focused on achieving four key results for the District:

- A thriving community
- A great place to live and work
- A vibrant economy
- A cost effective council

For details of our five year work plan, including our priority projects for the coming year, see our Corporate Plan at www.stalbans.gov.uk/corporateplan.

How Council Tax is calculated

The Council's funding comes from a number of sources including Council Tax. The Council's gross expenditure of £33.5m is the main determinant of the level of Council Tax after allowing for expected income.

Expenditure and Income Summary	2019/20		2020/21	
	£m	Council Tax Band (D) £	£m	Council Tax Band (D) £
St Albans City and District Council budget expenditure	£31.7m	£511.18	£34.0m	£540.78
LESS contribution from reserves	-£0.1m	-£1.25	-£0.5m	-£7.15
Total Gross Expenditure for Council Activities	£31.6m	£509.93	£33.5m	£533.63
LESS income from fees, charges, sales, rent, grants	-£16.8m	-£272.22	-£18.9m	-£301.23
St Albans City & District Council net budget	£14.8m	£237.71	£14.6m	£232.40
LESS funding from elsewhere				
Central Government and Business Rates	-£3.6m	-£57.60	-£3.1m	-£48.92
Balance transferred from Collection Fund	-£0.2m	-£3.22	-£0.1m	-£1.59
Total funding from elsewhere	-£3.8m	-60.82	£-3.2m	-£50.51
Council Tax – St Albans City & District Council	£11.0m	£176.89	£11.4m	£181.89
PLUS				
Parish Precepts	£2.7m	£43.82	£2.9m	£45.88
Hertfordshire County Council Precept	£84.5m	£1,359.94	£88.8m	£1,414.20
Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	£11.7m	£188.00	£12.4m	£198.00
Total Council Tax	£109.9m	£1,768.65	£115.50m	£1,839.97[†]

[†] The charge will vary between areas. See box on page 5.

What you pay

PARISH	BAND	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
St Albans City		£1,206.48	£1,407.57	£1,608.65	£1,809.73	£2,211.89	£2,614.05	£3,016.21	£3,619.46
Colney Heath		£1,234.13	£1,439.82	£1,645.52	£1,851.20	£2,262.58	£2,673.95	£3,085.33	£3,702.40
Harpenden Town		£1,239.08	£1,445.59	£1,652.12	£1,858.62	£2,271.65	£2,684.67	£3,097.70	£3,717.24
Harpenden Rural		£1,195.92	£1,395.24	£1,594.57	£1,793.88	£2,192.52	£2,591.16	£2,989.80	£3,587.76
London Colney		£1,239.88	£1,446.52	£1,653.18	£1,859.82	£2,273.12	£2,686.40	£3,099.70	£3,719.64
Redbourn		£1,256.55	£1,465.97	£1,675.40	£1,884.82	£2,303.67	£2,722.51	£3,141.37	£3,769.64
St Michael		£1,194.46	£1,393.54	£1,592.62	£1,791.69	£2,189.84	£2,587.99	£2,986.15	£3,583.38
St Stephen		£1,245.99	£1,453.65	£1,661.32	£1,868.98	£2,284.31	£2,699.63	£3,114.97	£3,737.96
Sandridge		£1,233.21	£1,438.75	£1,644.29	£1,849.82	£2,260.89	£2,671.96	£3,083.03	£3,699.64
Wheathampstead		£1,248.96	£1,457.13	£1,665.30	£1,873.45	£2,289.77	£2,706.09	£3,122.41	£3,746.90

% Change from last year

PARISH	St Albans City & District Council	Special Expenses (see box at bottom of page)	Hertfordshire County Council*	Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner	Town & Parish Councils
St Albans City	2.8%	2.8%	1.99% (+2%)*	5.32%	-
Colney Heath	2.8%	-	1.99% (+2%)*	5.32%	1.81%
Harpenden Town	2.8%	2.8%	1.99% (+2%)*	5.32%	3.37%
Harpenden Rural	2.8%	-	1.99% (+2%)*	5.32%	6.25%
London Colney	2.8%	2.8%	1.99% (+2%)*	5.32%	2.92%
Redbourn	2.8%	2.8%	1.99% (+2%)*	5.32%	2.22%
St Michael	2.8%	-	1.99% (+2%)*	5.32%	0%
St Stephen	2.8%	2.8%	1.99% (+2%)*	5.32%	14.99%
Sandridge	2.8%	2.8%	1.99% (+2%)*	5.32%	2.84%
Wheathampstead	2.8%	2.8%	1.99% (+2%)*	5.32%	2.22%

The County Council precept includes a levy on behalf of Lee Valley Regional Park Authority and the Environment Agency. Details of the levy are available on their website www.hertfordshire.gov.uk.

* For adult social care authorities, council tax bills show two percentage changes: one for the part of the overall change attributable to the adult social care precept (2.00%), and one for the part attributable to general expenditure (1.99%). The percentage change is applied to the full 2019/20 council tax for the County Council (General expenditure + Adult Social Care precept). Information about spending by the County Council is available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax; email contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk; telephone 0300 123 4040 or by writing to Hertfordshire County Council, PO Box 153, Stevenage, Herts, SG1 2GH.

Further information about Council Tax and how it is calculated is available at www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-tax



Charges, and why they vary between areas

St Albans City and 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 more information, please see:

www.stalbans.gov.uk/where-your-council-tax-goes.



Working For A Safer St Albans

That's the new mission statement for the St Albans City and District Community Safety Partnership (CSP).



Five new priorities will be agreed for the coming year after consultations with the public, businesses and charities. These will identify where the CSP should concentrate its time and resources.

They are likely to include a focus on all types of violent crime, cybercrime, flytipping and antisocial behaviour. Other themes will include raising awareness of crime prevention and promoting the physical and mental wellbeing of residents.

Particular importance will be placed on looking after the more vulnerable members of our community including victims of domestic abuse, homeless

people and those with alcohol, drug and mental health issues.

The CSP will support educational programmes in schools to remind our young of the dangers of knife crime, child sexual exploitation and what makes a healthy relationship.

The partnership is an umbrella organisation that includes the Council, Hertfordshire Constabulary, the Fire Service and the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner. Its overall aim is to ensure that St Albans, Harpenden and the surrounding villages remain a safe place to live and work.



CCTV

CCTV operators based in the Council's offices monitor cameras at key areas in the District to help keep people safe and they have assisted the Police with a number of cases this year.

A suspicious car was observed in Harpenden and the operator spotted the occupants weighing and bagging up cannabis. The police were alerted and they recovered drugs and a knife at the scene. Two men were arrested for intent to supply drugs and possession of an offensive weapon.

On another occasion, an operator saw a van driving erratically late at night in St Albans. Again, police were alerted and the vehicle was stopped and searched. Two men were charged with theft. A further example of CCTV's effectiveness was the case of a man spotted pushing at the front doors of several shops late at night in St Albans City Centre. Police were informed and he was arrested for burglary.



Compost Giveaway

We are offering free compost for the garden – provided by Severn Trent Green Power. It will be available from the Veolia depot at Ronsons Way, St Albans, from 7am on Sunday 5 April.

It's a DIY event, so bring your own shovel and bag with a limit of five bags per car.

House Clearance



The charity Emmaus Hertfordshire operates an affordable house clearance service with all proceeds going to support people who have experienced homelessness.

Residents in Harpenden, St Albans, Wheathampstead and the District's other towns and villages can all use the service.

Emmaus aims to reuse much of what it collects, saving items from landfill while raising money to sustain its community home in the St Albans District which supports 41 people who have experienced homelessness and social exclusion.

For more information about the service and to receive a competitive quote, please go to the website www.emmaus.org.uk/hertfordshire or call the charity's house clearance manager on **07557-035214**.

WHAT'S ON at the museums

St Albans Museum + Gallery, St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL1 3DH
Verulamium Museum, St Michael's Street, St Albans, AL3 4SW

St Albans Museum + Gallery

For detailed information about the events programme, go to: www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk.
Make sure you visit regularly to catch all these must-see exhibitions.



Hertfordshire Open 2020

Saturday 4 April – Sunday 21 June,
Weston Gallery, free.

A brand new exhibition showcasing a host of works from different artists with a connection to Hertfordshire, selected by an independent panel of judges. Part of the Hertfordshire Year of Culture 2020 and organised in partnership with University of Hertfordshire Arts.

Museum Treasure Hunt with the Breadcrumbs app

Play using your phone, £4.99.

Receive cryptic clues to your phone via text and embark on a treasure hunt around St Albans Museum + Gallery. Discover little known facts and features in the historic spaces and learn more about the fascinating objects on display.

Museum Minis

Tuesdays on 31 March, 14 and 28 April, 12 and 26 May, 10am – 11am and 11.30am – 12.30pm, Learning Studio, £3 per child.

Looking for a way to keep little ones occupied? Join us for a story, craft activity and a museum hunt inspired by our museum collections and exhibitions. Suitable for children aged 2 – 4 years, accompanied by an adult. Book online via our website www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk



Medieval Manuscripts: Chroniclers of History

Saturday 18 July – Sunday 18 October,
Weston Gallery, free

St Albans was once home to one of the greatest monasteries in the country. For over 300 years from the 12th century, the most dramatic events of English history were captured and recorded at the Abbey of St Albans, producing some of the finest chronicles in England. This new exhibition shines a light on these beautiful and important works, returned to St Albans for the first time since the Dissolution Of The Monasteries.

Check our website for fascinating events and activities linked to this exhibition throughout the summer:
www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk.

Handley Page

Until Sunday 7 June,
Keeper's Galleries, free.

Iconic aviation company Handley Page manufactured aeroplanes locally for over 60 years, creating planes that were used in both World Wars. Working with the Handley Page Association, this is a new exhibition about the historic company. Learn about some of the incredible planes and equipment they invented, and discover some fascinating stories including one about the first man to break the speed of sound backwards!



The City That Went Uphill Study Day

Saturday 14 March, St Albans Cathedral, Verulamium Museum and St Albans Museum + Gallery, 10am – 3.30pm, £25 (light refreshments provided, but please bring your own lunch).

This study day will explore how Verlamio was settled, became Verulamium and then moved up hill to surround the foundations of St Albans Abbey. It will finish with a chance to see The City that went Uphill gallery at St Albans Museum + Gallery.

This event is being run in partnership with St Albans Cathedral.



Green Waste Subscription Service

Do you struggle with your garden waste and feel you could fill an additional green bin?

If so, you can take out an annual subscription to have additional garden waste collections.

Our waste contractor Veolia empties one green bin per household as part of the recycling service, but you can pay for them to pick up an extra one, two or three. Households not serviced by a green wheeled bin will be supplied with reusable bags.

You can subscribe for the year beginning 1 April or renew an existing subscription through your MyStAlbans account. Each additional bin is £50 for the year. For more details see www.stalbans.gov.uk/additional-green-waste-subscription



Jubilee Centre

A community centre will be able to expand its services after being awarded £73,500 for major improvements.

The Council is giving the money to the Jubilee Centre, Catherine Street, St Albans, which runs a wide range of activities for local people of all ages.

The extra finance will allow the Centre to host more activities for residents and boost their physical and mental wellbeing.

Friends of the Jubilee Centre, a voluntary group run by local residents, brought about the injection of funds to safeguard the building and support those at risk of loneliness and isolation.

The money will go to Hertfordshire Independent Living Service (HILS), a charitable social enterprise which provides 16 services for older people and those in need.

Among other activities, it runs a meals-on-wheels service from the centre, serving more than 2,500 people across the county.

In addition, HILS runs a drop-in lunch club and a dementia club for people living with mild to moderate dementia. There are also rooms for hire at a reasonable cost for community groups, private events and meetings.

For more information, see: hertsindependentliving.org/jubilee-centre

Over 21,000 residents have now signed up to MyStAlbans District Account – a personalised online account which gives you access to many Council services.

You can use the account to manage your Council Tax - receiving your bills, checking your balance, paying online or switching to direct debit. You can also tell us if you are moving home.

MyStAlbans will also give you information about your neighbourhood and allow you to report a flytip, noise nuisance or antisocial behaviour.

Around 25% of Council house tenants have an account and are able to check rent balances and see recent transactions.

More services are being added all the time and it only takes a couple of minutes to sign up at stalbands.force.com/mysadc/s/login/.

EU Settlement Scheme



The EU Settlement Scheme will enable EU citizens resident in the UK and their family members to obtain the immigration status they will require to live and work in the UK after 30 June 2021.

They can apply from now until that date for settled or pre-settled status. Some groups, such as Irish citizens, may stay in the UK without applying. For more information and details on how to apply: www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families.



St Albans
City & District Council

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@stalbands.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 3LD

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

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

Telephone: 01727 866100

Alternative formats: If you want to receive this newsletter in an alternative format, such as Braille, please call 01727 819572. See www.disabledgo.com for information about access to local facilities.

 **Twitter:** @StAlbansCouncil

 **Facebook:** St Albans Council

 **Facebook:** Recycle for St Albans District