

# Community NEWS



AUTUMN-WINTER 2024



## Christmas across the District

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## Don't miss the Christmas Cracker

Join our fabulous Christmas street party to kick off the festive season in St Albans District.

The City Centre will be closed to traffic on Sunday 17 November for the St Albans Christmas Cracker, a free-to-attend event starting at noon and continuing until 6pm.

Among the attractions will be 100 food, drink and gift stalls, street theatre and the chance to see the stars of this year's Alban Arena pantomime, Cinderella.

There will also be a Santa's grotto and live music from some of the District's rising stars.

You can also enjoy the Christmas

lights which will include the illuminated installations that have become a major hit in recent years.

The event is funded by the Council with a contribution from St Albans City Centre BID.

Another highlight of the festive season will be the additional December dates for the twice-weekly Charter Market.

The Market will take place every Thursday, Friday and Sunday, 9am to 3pm, in the fortnight leading up to Christmas Day as well as the usual Wednesdays and Saturdays. There will be an extra day's trading, too, on Tuesday 24 December – a perfect time to pick up a last-minute gift.



Your recycling and waste collection calendar for 2025 and the festive season

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Good causes benefit from the St Albans District Community Lottery

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[www.stalbans.gov.uk](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk)



# Christmas Across The District

## Harpenden Christmas Carnival and Lights Switch On, Sunday 24 November, noon to 6pm

Organised by Harpenden Town Council, this exciting event will include the Farmers' Market, Santa's grotto, funfair rides, street food, outdoor bars and the much-anticipated procession. Lights switched on from the stage at 5pm.



## London Colney Lights Switch On, Sunday 1 December, 3.30pm to 6.30pm

A fun afternoon featuring a market, carols, food stalls, funfair rides and other attractions at Chester Gibbons Green, High Street.

## Redbourn Christmas Market, Sunday 1 December, 11am to 5pm

More than 100 stalls selling food and drink, crafts and seasonal gifts with family entertainment. This is a not-for-profit event run by volunteers with funds raised paying for the village's Christmas lights. There will also be community Christmas tree decorating on Sunday 24 November on the Common, 4pm to 5pm.



## Wheathampstead Lights Up, Thursday 28 November, 5.30pm to 8pm

Wheathampstead Parish Council hosts a magical evening of

affordable entertainment and activity in the centre of the village, including Santa's grotto, an animal nativity, music, food and drink stalls, artisan market and funfair rides. Lights switched on at 6pm.



## Batford Lights Up, Thursday 28 November, 4.30pm to 6.30pm

Carols, mulled wine, mince pies and craft activities - a traditional Batford Christmas celebration!

## Southdown Christmas Lights and Lanterns Extravaganza, Friday 29 November, 5.30pm to 7.30pm

Stalls, Santa's grotto, carols, funfair rides, lantern parade and more. The lights will switch on at around 6.15pm.

## Help shape a new look Victoria Street



We are working with Hertfordshire County Council to reimagine the route between St Albans City rail station and the City Centre.

The aim is to create a sustainable, safe and vibrant Victoria Street that enhances the quality of life for the whole community as well as supporting local businesses and tourism.

Improvements could include more trees and planting, new places to sit, signage, wider pavements, cycle lanes, better bus stops and accessibility measures.

Residents and community groups have been sharing their vision by telling us the improvements they would like to see. You can find out more at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/VictoriaStreet](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/VictoriaStreet).



# Jubilee Square completed

We finished the building of Jubilee Square earlier this year – a £64 million regeneration project to transform a rundown area of the City Centre.

The development includes two new landmark buildings, providing 93 new homes and business space, as well as a walkway and landscaped gardens.

All the flats were bought by the housing association Watford Community Housing which made 33 available for social rent to people on St Albans District housing register.

The remaining 60 are being sold on a shared-ownership basis to give young people and key workers the chance to obtain a home of their own in an iconic location.



## Veolia driver saves colleague's life

**Bin lorry driver Matko Spondreht has been hailed a hero after saving a stricken colleague's life.**

Matko and his Veolia refuse crew were on their rounds in the District when loader Daniel Gardiner became unwell.

Suddenly, Daniel lost consciousness and stopped breathing.

Matko, who previously trained as a nurse, leapt into action, laid Daniel across the truck's seats and performed CPR while loader Scott Franklin dialled 999 for an ambulance.

Thanks to his colleagues' quick thinking, Daniel regained consciousness and later made a full recovery in hospital. He has since returned to light duties at work.

Councillor Paul de Kort, the Council's Leader, pictured above 2nd from right, shook hands with Matko as he was presented with an employee award, watched on by Daniel, far right, and Scott.

## Support a good cause

Dozens of community groups, sports clubs and charities have signed up to the St Albans District Community Lottery to raise funds for their good cause.

Among those who have done so are Carers in Herts, Youth Talk and the Hygiene Bank, with each encouraging their supporters to buy £1 tickets.

From each ticket, 50p goes to a good cause of the buyer's choosing and 10p into a central fund to support community groups. The remainder goes towards the prize fund, VAT and administrative costs.



Carers in Herts supports 4,400 carers of all ages; Youth Talk provides free, confidential counselling to 13 to 25-year-olds; and the Hygiene Bank Harpenden and St Albans distributes toiletries to those in need.

You can find out more about the Lottery and buy tickets on their website at [www.stalbansdistrictlottery.co.uk](http://www.stalbansdistrictlottery.co.uk) or by using the QR code.

**Photo:** Young Carers in Herts at an art workshop.

## Sign up for your monthly Community News

You can keep up to date with what is happening across St Albans District by signing up to our monthly edition of Community News.

This free publication is emailed to subscribers and has updates on the Council's activities and news.

It will also keep you informed of many other local issues and events. To subscribe to these monthly bulletins, use the QR code or this web link: [bit.ly/3Z1Pzku](http://bit.ly/3Z1Pzku)



# Thank you for Recycling Right

**St Albans District remains in the top best regions in England for recycling. Keep this information safe, so you can refer to your revised bin collections over the festive period.**

## Christmas food waste



**Your food waste is collected weekly.** Please use your food waste bin. Food waste is turned into fertiliser or used to produce energy. **Please wrap your food waste in paper, biodegradable caddy liners, or even plastic bags.**

Please don't use black bags or put any other plastics in the food waste bins. All wrappings are removed by the processing plant.

## Wrapping paper and cards



Please put these in your recycling bin/box for paper and card. **Please remove any ribbons or bows first.** Please note: Foil backed wrapping paper, glittered items and polystyrene are not recyclable – please put in your general waste bin.

## Recycling of small domestic appliances and clean textiles



**Dry textiles** and **small electricals** can be put out weekly, next to your bins, in separate carrier bags. **Batteries** will also be collected in separate carrier bags to avoid a potential fire hazard. We only collect batteries, textiles and small electricals from kerbside properties.

## Revised Christmas collections



Usual Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Monday 23 December	No change
Tuesday 24 December	No change
Wednesday 25 December	Friday 27 December
Thursday 26 December	Saturday 28 December
Friday 27 December	Monday 30 December
Monday 30 December	Tuesday 31 December
Tuesday 31 December	Thursday 2 January 2025
Wednesday 1 January 2025	Friday 3 January 2025
Thursday 2 January 2025	Saturday 4 January 2025
Friday 3 January 2025	Monday 6 January 2025
Monday 6 January 2025	Tuesday 7 January 2025
Tuesday 7 January 2025	Wednesday 8 January 2025
Wednesday 8 January 2025	Thursday 9 January 2025
Thursday 9 January 2025	Friday 10 January 2025
Friday 10 January 2025	Saturday 11 January 2025
<b>Normal collections resume on Monday 13 January 2025</b>	



**IMPORTANT** There is no garden waste collection service for two weeks from 25 December as outlined in the terms and conditions. The service restarts on 9 January. Extra garden waste can be presented next to garden waste bins on your first scheduled garden waste collection day following this period. Garden waste subscribers can also present Christmas trees for collection at this time, either beside or in your green bin.

Working in partnership

# Waste and recycling calendar 2024/2025

## CALENDAR KEY

- General waste and food collection\*

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- Dry recycling, garden and food collection\*

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- No garden waste collection

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- Collections over the festive period will be 1-2 days behind

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\*Food waste is collected weekly.

If you receive a weekly general waste and/or recycling collection, your collection frequency will not change. Please don't put any bulky waste in your bin area. If you need to dispose of bulky items, please use the contact details below to arrange a collection. For flats, if items have been fly-tipped in the bin area your management agent should be contacted to get them removed.

**Christmas 2025 collections will be available at a later date.**

Sign up to monthly online Community News to keep up to date with collections at [bit.ly/3Y29lts](https://bit.ly/3Y29lts)

**Normal collections resume on Monday 13 January 2025.** Please check the website should any additional bank holidays be announced or amended in 2024/25.

## Week 1\*\*

October 2024							November 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2024							January 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
30	31												

February 2025							March 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

## Week 2\*\*

October 2024							November 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2024							January 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
30	31												

February 2025							March 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

\*\*Find out which week you are by visiting: [www.stalbans.gov.uk/rubbish-collections](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/rubbish-collections)

## Real Christmas Trees

For Christmas tree collections please visit: [www.stalbans.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish)



## Need more information?

Email [wastemanagementservices@stalbins.gov.uk](mailto:wastemanagementservices@stalbins.gov.uk)  
Visit [www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling)



Your 2025/26 annual calendar will be issued in the Spring edition of Community News

# Charter Market's Chatty Man

Say hello to trader Dave Bishop - the Charter Market's self-confessed chatterbox.

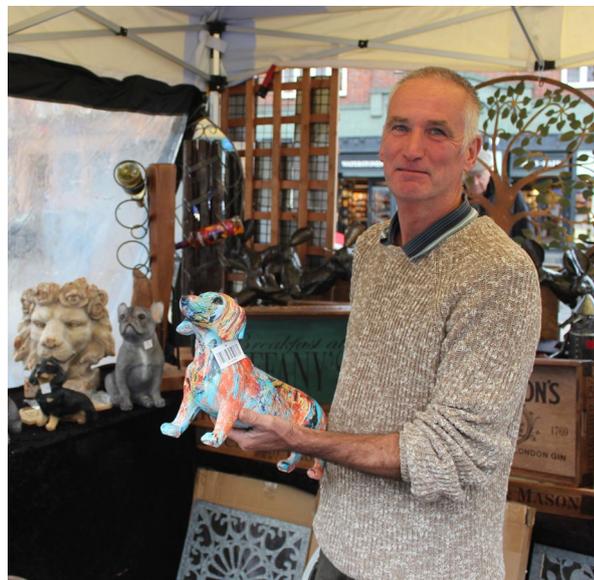
Dave has been running his Something Different stall at the twice-weekly market for nine years and has built up a loyal following.

Many of his customers hang around for a chinwag while they buy one of his esoteric collection of home and garden ornaments.

Dave says: "I love a good chat, getting to know people, it's what the Market is all about."

He sells hand-crafted animal figures, storage boxes, mirrors, signs, wine bottle holders and other objects sourced from many places including Indonesia, Zimbabwe and Yorkshire.

Anyone interested in hiring a market pitch, should contact the markets team at [markets@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:markets@stalbans.gov.uk).



**HERTFORDSHIRE  
FUTURES**



## Help shape Hertfordshire's economic future

Hertfordshire Futures is developing a new Economic Strategy for the county for the next 10 years and beyond.

It is placing residents, businesses and communities at the heart of plans to build a more inclusive and sustainable economy.

The strategy will take a detailed look at the different challenges and opportunities facing Hertfordshire's communities.

In order for the strategy to be a success, it needs to be representative of local views. Find out how you can get involved in shaping Hertfordshire's economic future at [www.hertfordshirefutures.co.uk](http://www.hertfordshirefutures.co.uk).

Herts Futures is a private-public sector partnership committed to accelerating employment, enterprise and innovation across the county.

## Greener Together

An exciting project to promote sustainability in the District has been launched with everyone invited to become involved.

St Albans Greener Together is run by us in partnership with the University of Hertfordshire.

The aim is to create a network of residents, schools, businesses and other organisations who are committed to taking action to produce a more sustainable District.

This includes, for example, initiatives to cut harmful emissions, promote renewable energy sources such as solar panels and encourage more sustainable travel.

Funding is available to finance projects that will have the potential to make a lasting impact on the community.

Find out more, see details about future events and learn about our current topic, retrofitting, at [www.stalbansgreenertogether.org](http://www.stalbansgreenertogether.org).



## Help is at hand

St Albans Healthy Hub is your free one-stop-shop for health and wellbeing information, advice and support.

Whether you'd like to quit smoking, get money advice or simply try a new activity to get out and about more, your local hub can help you every step of the way.

The organisations involved include Citizens Advice, Communities 1st, Mind in Mid Herts and many more.

You can find more information at [bit.ly/3I84ZLj](https://bit.ly/3I84ZLj), or use the QR code.



Healthy  
hub  
St Albans District



# 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



For detailed information about the events programme, go to: [www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk](http://www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk).  
Visit regularly to catch these and other great exhibitions and events.



## Catching the Chain

Museum + Gallery, until  
Monday 21 April 2025, Free

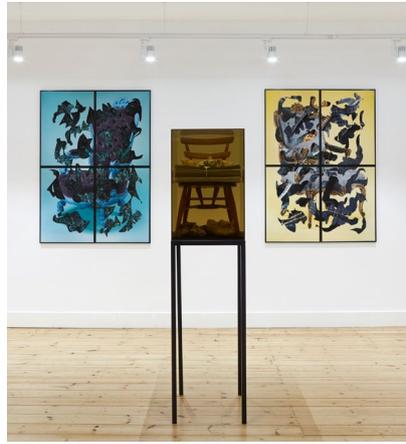
Inspired by the Museum + Gallery's cells and courtroom, this exhibition explores the history of criminal justice and the different ways in which local communities have dealt with crime, from the Iron Age to today.



## Talk: 10,000 Miles from Home: stories of local convicts transported to Tasmania

Museum + Gallery, Thursday  
21 November at 7pm, £10

Join curator Sarah Keeling as she traces the story of local people convicted in our courtroom and sentenced to transportation to Tasmania as punishment. For the first time, we bring together information from our court records with stories from the Digital History of Tasmania archive to give us a full picture of life before, during and after conviction.



## Maria Meyer: Thingchronicity

Museum + Gallery, Friday  
15 November to Sunday 9  
March 2025, Free

Local artist Maria Meyer develops the concept of "Thingchronicity" through a series of captivating sculptures, installations and paintings.

The objects and their arrangement will challenge you to think about the symbolism, magic, power and value that objects have in our lives.

Curated by UH Arts + Culture; photo, Strange Strangers 2021, Maria Meyer.



## Mapping an Uneven Path

Verulamium Museum, Friday  
15 November to 23 February,  
Free After Admission

Guest curator Kyle Lewis Jordan explores the ways in which Romans practised and understood medicine and healing, as well as their cultural attitudes towards disability.

Part of the Revisiting the Romans series of interventions.

Image: Lapyx removing arrowhead from Aeneas. Naples Archaeological Museum.

## St Albans Christmas Creative Market

Museum + Gallery, Saturday  
30 November, 11am to 5pm,  
Free entry

Shop local for your Christmas presents and treats! Discover local creative businesses offering an array of beautiful Christmas gifts, stocking fillers and bespoke products.



## Local Plan makes progress

A Local Plan for St Albans District is on schedule to be submitted to the Government for independent examination.

The Plan is a blueprint for growth, identifying land for future infrastructure, employment and housing developments.

Residents, community groups, businesses, neighbouring local authorities and other organisations have helped shape the document by contributing to consultations.

If it comes into force, it will help to protect the District from speculative developments where we have less power to require the necessary infrastructure we need to support new homes.

You can keep updated on the Local Plan's progress at [www.stalbans.gov.uk/new-local-plan](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/new-local-plan)



## Fireworks plea

**We are asking residents to think of others during the festive season and consider using quieter fireworks.**

The loud bangs and flashes from fireworks can upset vulnerable groups such as autistic people and those who suffer anxiety.

Research has shown they can also be a terrifying experience for dogs as they have highly sensitive hearing. Horses, cats, farm animals and wildlife can also be upset.

The RSPCA has a long running campaign called #BangOutOfOrder that has been raising awareness of the harm caused.

Quieter fireworks are widely available with many internet retailers stocking them.

We are also encouraging people and businesses to limit the use of fireworks to specific dates such as Bonfire Night, Diwali and New Year's Eve rather than throughout the festive season, so people who are adversely impacted are not taken by surprise.

## Street party fun

**Thousands of people enjoyed a six-hour-long street party that celebrated the District's food and drink businesses.**

The City Centre was closed to traffic for the annual St Albans Festival, a family-friendly and accessible event

organised by us with the support of partners.

Among the many attractions were around 100 market stalls offering an astonishing variety of food and drink products from local businesses.

There was also a cookery theatre, live music and numerous other free activities.



**St Albans**  
City & District Council

*How to contact us and follow us on social media.*

We hope you enjoy reading Community News. If you can spare a moment, please email [communications@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:communications@stalbans.gov.uk) and let us know your views on this edition.

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

**Website:** [www.stalbans.gov.uk](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk)

For latest service information, updates and general enquiries please go to the Council's website.

**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.accessible.co.uk](http://www.accessible.co.uk) for information about access to local facilities.



**@stalbanscouncil**