

Community NEWS



SPRING 2024

Have your say in May

Elections for St Albans City and District Council will take place on Thursday 2 May – along with an election for the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

Eighteen District Council seats – around a third of the total - will be contested, that is one in each ward except Colney Heath and Redbourn. People from across the county will be voting in the Police and Crime Commissioner election.

Poll cards will be issued in late March and voters are asked to check their polling station as there may be a change.

To have your say in May, make sure that you are registered to vote, especially if you have recently changed address. The deadline to register for the elections is Tuesday 16 April.



Voter ID

Voters are reminded they will need to show approved photo ID to vote at a polling station. This includes a current or expired UK passport or driver's licence.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID can apply for free ID known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate for the elections is 5pm on Wednesday 24 April.

Use the QR code for information about voter registration, voter ID and postal and proxy votes or see www.stalbans.gov.uk/voting-and-elections.



You can also find information here about opportunities to work at the elections as each year we employ hundreds of people to make sure the process runs smoothly.

Recycling

Your cut-out-and-keep recycling and waste calendar. Page 8



Council Tax

All you need to know about this year's Council Tax. Pages 4, 5, 6



Charter Market

Our Charter Market has won a major national award. Page 3



Community News is published by St Albans City & District Council

www.stalbans.gov.uk



Approved by Plain English Campaign



Support local good causes

You can support a wide range of local good causes and enter a weekly prize draw with a £25,000 jackpot by playing the St Albans District Lottery.

From each £1 ticket, 60p will go to a worthy cause in the District aimed at supporting our community.

You can see the range of good causes that are benefitting and buy tickets on the lottery website: www.stalbansdistrictlottery.co.uk.

Action against fly-tippers

We recently traced and prosecuted two fly-tippers at St Albans Magistrates Court.

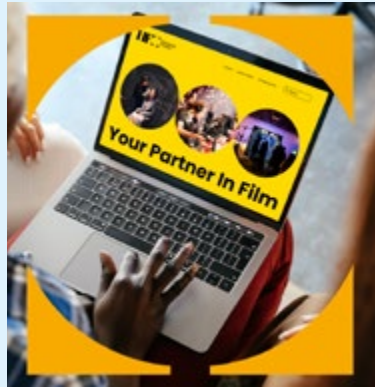
One company, which admitted dumping rubbish near Redbourn, was ordered to pay more than £7,000 in fines and costs.

A 37-year-old man who dumped the contents of a house clearance beside a farm gate near Wheathampstead was ordered to pay £544 and complete 150 hours of community service.

In addition, we have raised the maximum Fixed Penalty Notice fine for a fly-tip from £400 to £1,000. The maximum for failure to check if a waste removal firm has the required licence is now £600.

The Council issued more than 60 of these fines last year with fly-tips not only being an eyesore, but a potential health hazard and costly to clear up.

Herts Film Office



We are supporting the recently formed Hertfordshire Film Office (HFO) - a one-stop service for companies looking to film in the county.

It helps film makers identify ideal locations, find local talent and obtain any necessary permissions.

HFO has now launched its own website at www.hertfordshirefilmoffice.co.uk. You can access it using the QR code.



Bodycams for CEOs

Our Civil Enforcement Officers, formerly known as traffic wardens, have been equipped with body-worn cameras while out on patrol.

The cameras will help deter verbal and physical abuse of the officers as they will provide police with evidence of any serious incidents.

Police, other local authorities, the security industry and many businesses have used this type of camera for some years.

Measures to protect people's privacy and uphold data protection rules are fitted onto the devices.



Charter Market's national award

St Albans Charter Market has been declared the Best Large Outdoor Market in Britain.

It won the coveted title at the National Association of British Markets' annual awards ceremony.

The Market was praised for the support given to traders and for creating a lively atmosphere in the City Centre.

Joanne Wilson is one of the traders who are the backbone of the Market, having traded there for twelve years.

Her stall, Joanne's of Crews Hill, sells a wide range of ladies' fashion including tops, dresses, knitwear and accessories.

She said: "This is a great place to do business. There is nothing like face-to-face contact with customers."

Follow us on Threads

We are now posting important news and information about our activities on the social media channel Threads.

To find out what is happening in your neighbourhood, follow us @stalbanscouncil.

We continue to post as @stalbanscouncil on Facebook, X, Instagram and LinkedIn too.

Plus, you can keep up to date with our news by having our monthly Community News emailed directly to you. Use the QR code to sign up to that free service.



Road named after community hero

A community turned out in force to name a new street after their local hero - Jenny Huggard-Sena.

Mum-of-two Jenny, who died four years ago aged 53, was a popular teaching assistant and child health campaigner.



After consultations with the community, we named a new road near where she lived in Sopwell as Jenny Lane as a moving tribute to her. The street was created to serve a new development of seven new homes.

A plaque, commemorating Jenny, was unveiled and many of those who attended wore something purple or red – Jenny's favourite colours.

Photo: Jenny's husband Jose and daughter Charlie.



More than 3 million unvaccinated children are at risk of catching measles in England

Make sure your child is up to date with their MMR vaccinations



Measles warning

There is growing concern about an increase in cases and outbreaks of measles across England.

The vast majority of cases involve children who have not had the MMR vaccine.

Measles is an infection that spreads very easily and can cause problems in some people, so it is important to ensure you keep up to date with children's vaccines.

You can do so by checking a child's Red Book, by contacting their GP or by the NHS app.

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 £107.9m**

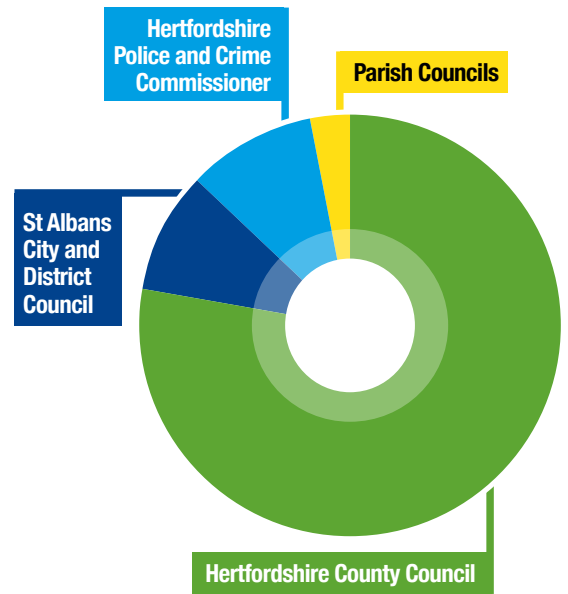
Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner will get **11p Total £16.1m**

St Albans City and District Council will get **9p Total £12.9m**

Parish Councils will get **3p Total £3.8m**

On average, you will pay just £3.88 a week for all the services provided by your District Council including:

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



Our five key priorities, designed to deliver a viable, happy, inclusive and sustainable community, are to:

- Combat the climate emergency,
- Deliver more social housing,
- Support our local economy,
- Enhance the District's cultural offer,
- Promote equality, inclusion and fairness.

How Council Tax is calculated

The Council's funding comes from a number of sources including Council Tax. The Council's gross expenditure of £42.8m is the main determinant of the level of Council Tax after allowing for expected income.

Expenditure and Income Summary	2023/24		2024/25	
	£m	Council Tax Band (D) £	£m	Council Tax Band (D) £
St Albans City and District Council budget expenditure	£39.7m	£622.63	£42.8m	£668.29
LESS (-) or PLUS (+) contribution from/to reserves	£-0.1m	£-1.52	£+0.1m	£+2.34
Total Gross Expenditure for Council Activities	£39.6m	£621.11	£42.9m	£670.63
LESS income from fees, charges, sales, rent, grants	£-21.0m	£-330.30	£-23.7m	£-369.55
St Albans City & District Council net budget	£18.6m	£290.81	£19.2m	£301.08
LESS funding from elsewhere				
Central Government and Business Rates	£-6.0m	£-94.71	£-6.3m	£-99.12
Total funding from elsewhere	£-6.0m	£-94.71	£-6.3m	£-99.12
Council Tax – St Albans City & District Council	£12.6m	£196.10	£12.9m	£201.96
PLUS				
Parish Precepts	£3.5m	£54.26	£3.8m	£59.84
Hertfordshire County Council Precept	£102.3m	£1,605.63	£107.9m	£1,685.75
Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	£15.2m	£238.00	£16.1m	£251.00
Total Council Tax	£133.6m	£2,093.99*	£140.7m	£2,198.55*

*This is the average rate of Council Tax across the District. The actual 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		1,436.74	1,676.19	1,915.66	2,155.11	2,634.03	3,112.94	3,591.85	4,310.22
Colney Heath		1,517.01	1,769.84	2,022.69	2,275.52	2,781.20	3,286.86	3,792.53	4,551.04
Harpenden Rural		1,439.09	1,678.94	1,918.79	2,158.64	2,638.34	3,118.04	3,597.73	4,317.28
Harpenden Town		1,486.36	1,734.08	1,981.82	2,229.54	2,725.00	3,220.45	3,715.90	4,459.08
London Colney		1,498.03	1,747.70	1,997.38	2,247.05	2,746.40	3,245.74	3,745.08	4,494.10
Redbourn		1,497.16	1,746.69	1,996.23	2,245.75	2,744.81	3,243.86	3,742.91	4,491.50
St Michael		1,425.08	1,662.59	1,900.11	2,137.62	2,612.65	3,087.67	3,562.70	4,275.24
St Stephen		1,490.06	1,738.41	1,986.75	2,235.10	2,731.79	3,228.48	3,725.16	4,470.20
Sandridge		1,465.61	1,709.89	1,954.16	2,198.43	2,686.97	3,175.51	3,664.04	4,396.86
Wheathampstead		1,495.68	1,744.96	1,994.25	2,243.53	2,742.10	3,240.66	3,739.21	4,487.06

% 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	3.48%	0.98%	2.99% +2%	5.46%	-
Colney Heath	3.48%	4.10%	2.99% +2%	5.46%	-0.66%
Harpenden Rural	3.48%	-	2.99% +2%	5.46%	-1.00%
Harpenden Town	3.48%	-18.47%	2.99% +2%	5.46%	8.40%
London Colney	3.48%	9.29%	2.99% +2%	5.46%	33.98%
Redbourn	3.48%	4.71%	2.99% +2%	5.46%	9.30%
St Michael	3.48%	-	2.99% +2%	5.46%	0.75%
St Stephen	3.48%	-14.38%	2.99% +2%	5.46%	11.00%
Sandridge	3.48%	-5.10%	2.99% +2%	5.46%	5.10%
Wheathampstead	3.48%	-5.72%	2.99% +2%	5.46%	3.34%

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.

The percentage change on the combined total of General and Special Expenses for St Albans City and District Council is 2.99%

* 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 (2.99%). The percentage change is applied to the full 2023/24 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.

Town and Parish Councils have the freedom to set their own precepts. The amount you pay depends on where you live.

For more information, please see:

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

Hertfordshire County Council



Our budget is broken down into key areas:

£59m: A cleaner and greener county



£21m: Community services for every stage of life



£257m: Supporting children and young people



£80m: Keeping Hertfordshire moving



£54m: Keeping residents healthy



£478m: Caring for adults



£46m: Protecting our communities



In 2024/25 we will spend around **£1 billion**. The portion of your Council Tax that you pay to Hertfordshire County Council helps to fund over 500 services benefiting every resident, business and community in Hertfordshire.



Figures are taken from the draft budget. Final, approved figures are available at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax

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

Becoming Us: African Caribbean
St Albans, until Sunday 30 June,
Keeper's Galleries, St Albans Museum + Gallery, until Sunday 30 June, Free.

This exhibition, co-curated by Active Lifestyles and LeeAnna's Wish, celebrates the role of the African Caribbean community in St Albans.

It will focus on the years between 1948 and 1971, though it will also refer to black residents from before this time and highlight achievements up to the present day.

Among the main themes are – Windrush and arrival, working lives, overcoming adversity, African Caribbean culture and commercial music.

The aim is to inspire the next generation and encourage people from diverse backgrounds to embrace their shared history.



Women Doing Everything, Everywhere, All At Once,
Verulamium Museum, until Thursday 4 July, Free after admission charge.



This exhibition explores the versatility of women through the ages, using a combination of real artefacts, archaeological dig diaries, old photos and ancient soundscapes.

It will take you back in time to meet the 1930s' women archaeologists at Verulamium and back 2000 years to meet the women of Roman Britain.

These projects are funded by St Albans City and District Council



Earthworks Garden Club

Join the wellbeing Garden Club at Earthworks' eco gardens to connect with nature and other people in a relaxed and supportive environment.

This club is aimed at those who are experiencing barriers to wellbeing such as stress, anxiety and bereavement.

Activities are based on the NHS's five steps to wellbeing and include activities such as gardening, habitat maintenance, woodwork and nature-based crafts.

To find out more call **01727 847311** or email **earthworks@earthworksstalbens.co.uk**

ADDA diabetes project

The Adda Club in St Albans runs free diabetes lifestyle coaching workshops where people can learn about food choices and discover the joy of getting active.

One in sixteen people in the UK has been diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes and if you are of South Asian Heritage, you are four times more likely to develop the condition.

The workshops are led by a diabetes coach who understands the challenges faced by the community. You can register by emailing **info@theaddaclub.co.uk**.

If you are a patient at Hatfield Road Surgery, Summerfield Health Centre or London Colney Health Centre, ask your GP for a referral to the programme.

Computer Friendly



Computer Friendly is a local charity that helps adults in St Albans District operate digital devices to meet the demands of the online world.

They offer free drop-in sessions where you can learn how to book a GP appointment online, access prescriptions and much more.

There is also a scheme where donated devices are refurbished and given to people in need.

Get in touch by contacting **01727 617359** or check out the website **www.computerfriendlystalbens.org.uk**.

Join our Access Forum



St Albans District Access Forum supports residents who want to raise accessibility and inclusion concerns, helping to make positive changes in the District.

The Access Forum conducts regular meetings. If you would like to attend, please contact **equality@stalbens.gov.uk**.



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@stalbens.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

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.accessable.co.uk for information about access to local facilities.



@stalbenscouncil

Waste and recycling calendar 2024/2025

- General waste and food collection*

- Dry recycling, garden and food collection*

- Bank Holiday collections will be one day later than usual all week.

- No garden waste collection.

- Collections over the festive period will be 1-2 days behind.
Sign up to monthly online Community News to keep up to date with collections at bit.ly/3Y29ItS
Normal collections resume on Monday 13 January 2025.

Note: crews are working on Good Friday.

Please check the website should any additional bank holidays be announced or amended in 2024.

If you receive a weekly general waste and/or recycling collection, your collection frequency will not change.



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.

*Food waste is collected weekly.

Week 1**

Week 2**

**Find out which week you are by visiting www.stalbans.gov.uk/rubbish-collections

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

June							July						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

August							September						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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October							November						
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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							January 2025						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
30	31												

February							March						
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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
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April 2024							May						
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June							July						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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August							September						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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October							November						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	

December							January 2025						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
30	31												

February							March						
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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						

Need more information?

Email wastemanagementservices@stalbins.gov.uk Visit www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling