

Community NEWS



St Albans
City & District Council

SPRING 2025

Don't miss our Spring Festival



Be sure not to miss our new street event with free entertainment suitable for all - the St Albans Spring Festival.

The Festival on Sunday 18 May will be a celebration of food, well-being, community spirit and sustainability.

Thousands of people are expected to gather in the City Centre for the event which will take place from 11am to 5pm, with St Peter's Street closed to traffic.



Among the attractions will be live music, arts and crafts, street theatre and dozens of stalls selling takeaway food, drink and other products.

There will also be a wide range of fun activities offering people the chance to learn, create and play with others.

To ensure accessibility, sighted guides and British sign language interpreters will be supporting the event.

The other Council-run festival later in the year will be the St Albans Christmas Cracker which will get the festive season off to a flying start on Sunday 16 November.

For more details about these and other events, scan the QR code to access the Enjoy St Albans website.



Council Tax

All you need to know about this year's Council Tax.

[Pages 4 and 5](#)

Recycling

Your cut-out-and-keep recycling and waste calendar.
[Page 8](#)



Verulamium Park

[Read about the planned improvements.](#)

[Page 2](#)



Community News is published by **St Albans City & District Council**

www.stalbans.gov.uk



Have your say in May

Hertfordshire County Council elections are taking place on Thursday 1 May.



There are ten county divisions in St Albans District with all County Councillor seats up for election.

The County Council has responsibility for social care, education, transport and other important public services, so it is important to have your say.

Make sure you are registered to vote by the Friday 11 April deadline and that you have an approved form of photo ID.

More information, including how to apply for a postal or proxy vote, can be found on our elections webpages (www.stalbans.gov.uk/voting-and-elections) which you can access by scanning the QR code.

Poll cards will be issued in late March and voters are asked to check to see which polling station they should attend as there may have been a change.



Help for a hospice

Residents of St Albans District raised more than £21,000 for the Hospice of St Francis from a charity Christmas tree collection.

In return for a donation, the hospice arranged for people's trees to be picked up and recycled after the festive season.

The money raised is enough to fund a hospice nurse for more than five months.

The Hospice of St Francis helps people across Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire through their inpatient unit, well-being centre and home care service.

It needs to raise more than £6 million a year to provide its outstanding care.



Enhancing Verulamium Park

A major scheme to make lasting improvements to Verulamium Park's artificial lakes and an adjoining meadow has been unveiled.

The project will provide new wetlands, nature walks and plant beds where native species can thrive.

Among the aims are enhancing the water quality of the lakes, improving biodiversity and making the area more attractive to visitors.

One feature will be the dredging of the heavily silted lakes with silt recycled to provide fertile planting areas around the edges.

The project will take several years to complete and the next stage is finalising the detailed plans.



Charter Market success story

Adam Atkins began running his Peddling Pizza stall at our Charter Market eight years ago after being made redundant from his delivery driver job.

He started off with a bicycle and trailer and, such has been his success, he now operates from a customised Chevrolet P10 Step-Van that he imported from Alabama.

Adam, who has lived in St Albans all his life, posts videos of his pizza making skills on social media and has built up more than 70,000 YouTube followers.

He said: "I am self-taught and just have a massive passion for pizza. There is no such thing as the perfect pizza – no two pizzas are ever quite the same."



Support local good causes!



Harperbury Bowls Club, near London Colney, is one of the many good causes which is raising funds through the St Albans District Community Lottery.

Their coach Jan Taylor (pictured) recently won Bowls England's coveted Coach of the Year title at their 2025 awards.

Since its launch in April 2022, the lottery has raised almost £60,000 for community groups, charities and sports clubs within the District.

Each ticket costs just £1 with players having a chance to win prizes including a £25,000 jackpot. At least 50p of every ticket goes to a good cause of the player's choosing.

Among the groups registered as good causes are Colney Heath FC, Youth Talk, Harpenden Colts FC, Redbourn Community Group, The Friends of St Leonard's in Sandridge and Sustainable St Albans.



Scan the QR code and start playing now!



Key amnesty

We are acting against tenancy fraud by holding a key amnesty.

Social housing is intended to provide affordable and secure accommodation for those in genuine need of it.

Subletting a social housing property or not using it as your main home is a criminal offence.

Anyone who is not using their Council home in accordance with their tenancy agreement can return their keys to us by Monday 31 March.

By doing so, they can avoid being prosecuted for fraud if action is not already underway.

You can report a fraud by calling **0300 123 4033** or by emailing **fraud.team@hertfordshire.gov.uk**.

Access Permit

We have launched a brand new Access Permit to make it easier for older people to pay for car parking.

The Permit, an alternative to using a mobile phone app or chip and pin, covers all District Council car parks.

It costs £190 a year and is valid for one visit a day for up to three hours. While many older people are comfortable using digital payment methods such as mobile phone apps, we know that some are not and this permit is designed for them.

To be eligible for the pass, a person needs to be a resident of the District and aged 70 or over.

Find out more by scanning the QR code or call our customer services team on **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 **£114.4m**

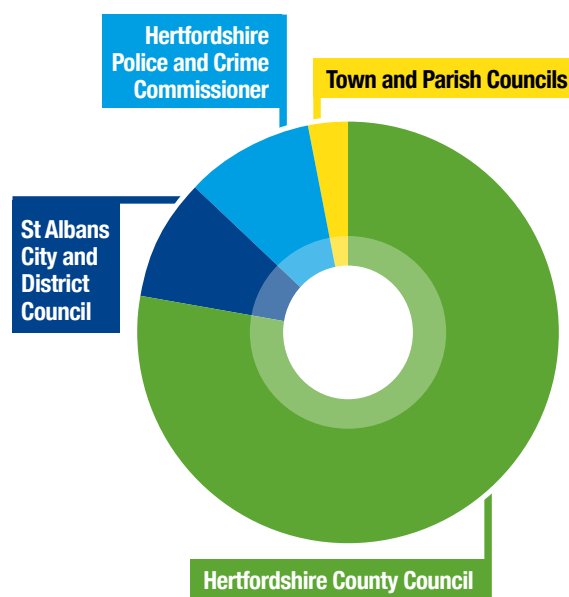
Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner will get **11p** Total **£17.1m**

St Albans City and District Council will get **9p** Total **£13.5m**

Town and Parish Councils will get **3p** Total **£4.1m**

On average, you will pay just £4 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 four key priorities, designed to deliver a viable, happy, inclusive and sustainable community, are to:

- Support great communities
- Improve social housing provision
- Make the environment a priority in all our decisions
- Treat everyone with 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 £46.8m is the main determinant of the level of Council Tax after allowing for expected income.

Expenditure and Income Summary	2024/25		2025/26	
	£m	Council Tax Band (D) £	£m	Council Tax Band (D) £
St Albans City and District Council budget expenditure	£42.8m	£668.29	£45.6m	£705.24
Plus contribution to reserves	+£0.1m	+£2.34	+£1.2m	+£18.24
Total Gross Expenditure for Council Activities	£42.90m	£670.63	£46.8m	£723.48
LESS income from fees, charges, sales, rent, grants	-£23.7m	-£369.55	-£25.1m	-£388.75
St Albans City & District Council net budget	£19.2m	£301.08	£21.7m	£334.73
LESS funding from elsewhere				
Central Government, Business Rates, and Collection Fund Surplus	-£6.3m	-£99.12	-£8.2m	-£126.73
Total funding from elsewhere	-£6.3m	-£99.12	-£8.2m	-£126.73
Council Tax – St Albans City & District Council	£12.9m	£201.96	£13.5m	£208.00
PLUS				
Town and Parish Precepts	£3.8m	£59.84	£4.1m	£63.08
Hertfordshire County Council Precept	£107.9m	£1,685.75	£114.4m	£1,769.87
Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	£16.1m	£251.00	£17.1m	£265.00
Total Council Tax	£140.7m	£2,198.55*	£149.1m	£2,305.95*

*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	1,504.76	1,755.54	2,006.35	2,257.13	2,758.72	3,260.30	3,761.89	4,514.26
Colney Heath	1,588.93	1,853.75	2,118.59	2,383.40	2,913.05	3,442.70	3,972.33	4,766.80
Harpenden Rural	1,509.48	1,761.05	2,012.65	2,264.22	2,767.39	3,270.55	3,773.70	4,528.44
Harpenden Town	1,561.71	1,821.99	2,082.29	2,342.57	2,863.15	3,383.72	3,904.28	4,685.14
London Colney	1,569.92	1,831.57	2,093.24	2,354.88	2,878.19	3,401.50	3,924.80	4,709.76
Redbourn	1,572.76	1,834.87	2,097.02	2,359.13	2,883.39	3,407.63	3,931.89	4,718.26
St Michael	1,499.41	1,749.30	1,999.22	2,249.11	2,748.92	3,248.72	3,748.52	4,498.22
St Stephen	1,562.95	1,823.43	2,083.94	2,344.42	2,865.41	3,386.39	3,907.37	4,688.84
Sandridge	1,542.78	1,799.90	2,057.05	2,314.17	2,828.44	3,342.70	3,856.95	4,628.34
Wheathampstead	1,567.41	1,828.64	2,089.89	2,351.11	2,873.58	3,396.05	3,918.52	4,702.22

% 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	3.34%	-6.10%	4.99%	5.60%	-
Colney Heath	3.34%	23.60%	4.99%	5.60%	2.20%
Harpenden Rural	3.34%	-	4.99%	5.60%	3.47%
Harpenden Town	3.34%	16.20%	4.99%	5.60%	7.66%
London Colney	3.34%	12.90%	4.99%	5.60%	2.15%
Redbourn	3.34%	-1.10%	4.99%	5.60%	7.99%
St Michael	3.34%	-	4.99%	5.60%	39.01%
St Stephen	3.34%	16.10%	4.99%	5.60%	3.55%
Sandridge	3.34%	41.00%	4.99%	5.60%	7.62%
Wheathampstead	3.34%	-8.70%	4.99%	5.60%	3.96%

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%

* Hertfordshire County Council's element of council tax has increased by 4.99%, of which 2.00% is attributable to the Adult Social Care precept and 2.99% to general expenditure. Information about spending by Hertfordshire County Council is available at:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax Email: contact@hertfordshire.gov.uk Telephone: 0300 123 4040.

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.

Jobs at the Council

We are supporting a national campaign to inspire people to embark on a rewarding career with their local council.

By doing so, they can have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of their friends, neighbours and other residents.

With over 9 in 10 councils experiencing recruitment challenges amid growing demand for services, this initiative comes at a crucial time.

It aims to address workforce shortages by attracting new talent into councils, ensuring we can continue to provide the vital services on which communities depend.

You can see what jobs are available at our Council by scanning the QR code or you can look at opportunities at other local authorities at this website: **www.localcounciljobs.gov.uk**.



Action on Climate Change

The Green House is one of six local projects awarded funding from St Albans Greener Together's Net Zero Fund.

Launched in May last year, the Green House, located at 46 London Road, St Albans, is a community eco-hub for the whole District.

It provides an eco-book club, a repair café, a junior climate club and a place where people can meet up to learn more about sustainability.

Greener Together is supported by the Council and is a network of individuals and organisations committed to taking action to tackle climate change.

You can find out more about Greener Together, learn about the other projects it has funded and join up by scanning the QR code.



Are you missing out on Attendance Allowance?

You may be entitled to Attendance Allowance if you are of pensionable age and have a disability or a long-term medical condition and need help caring for yourself.

The benefit is worth up to £110.40 a week and is not means tested, so you can claim it even if you have other income or savings in excess of £16,000.

If you are awarded Attendance Allowance, you might find you also qualify for other financial help such as Pension Credit, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support.

You can apply for Attendance Allowance by calling **0800 731 0122** or via **www.gov.uk/attendance-allowance/how-to-claim**.



Landlord Forum

We are holding a Landlord Forum on Tuesday 6 May – a chance for private landlords and letting agents to learn about new legislation, network and discuss housing issues.

Representatives from the Council's private sector housing team and Mosaic Lettings agency will be in attendance.

The Forum will take place from 6.30pm at the Civic Centre and you can book your place by emailing **landlordforum@stalbens.co.uk** or calling **01727 814674**.

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.
Visit regularly to catch these and other great exhibitions and events.

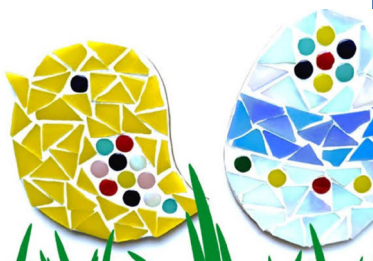
Easter Holidays, Monday 7 April to Monday 21 April

Visit St Albans Museum + Gallery for a wide range of activities: make a bird feeder, create a clay animal, dress up as a historic character or enjoy a City or Museum trail.

At Verulamium Museum create your own Easter mosaic, discover Roman herbs, take part in family craft events or step outside and discover the history of Verulamium Park on the "Tread the Past" tour.

Climb the 93 steps to the top of the Clock Tower during weekends and Bank Holidays from Easter to September.

Image © Montet Designs

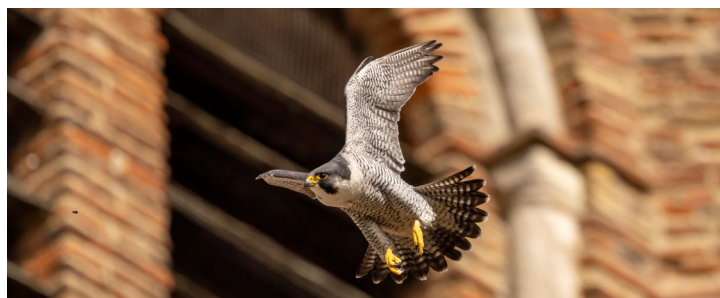


Catching the Chain: exhibition, Museum + Gallery, 10am-4pm daily until Monday 21 April, free



Inspired by the building's historic cells and courtroom, this exhibition explores the history of criminal justice and the different ways in which local communities have dealt with crime throughout history.

Image © Simon Jacobs



Wild about Hertfordshire: exhibition, Museum + Gallery, open daily 10am to 4pm from Friday 21 March, free

Celebrating 150 years of Hertfordshire Natural History Society and the iconic flora, fauna and habitats of our county.

Image © Patrick Wainwright

Generations: Stories from South Asian St Albans

We are looking for local people with a connection to South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka) to get involved in our next community co-curated exhibition - Generations.

Find out more under 'Get Involved' on our website.

Image © Cecelina Tornberg



St Albans
City & District Council

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.

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

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.

**See us on
social media
@stalbenscouncil**



Waste and recycling calendar 2025/2026

-  General waste and food waste collection.
-  Garden waste, recycling and food waste collections.
-  Bank Holiday collections will be one day later than usual all week.
-  No garden waste collections.
-  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/3Y29lts
Normal collections will resume on **Monday 12 January 2026**.
Note: crews are working on Good Friday.

Please check the website should any additional bank holidays be announced or amended in 2025/26.

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 the garden waste bin on your first scheduled garden waste collection day following this period. Garden waste subscribers can also present Christmas trees for collection at this time.



JUNE: Garden waste subscription renewals open.

Week 1

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

April 2025

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Week 2

April 2025

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January 2026

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Need more information?

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