

Community NEWS



WINTER 2023



Christmas across the District

Page 2

Christmas Cracker Returns!

Celebrate the start of the festive season in St Albans District by joining our fantastic Christmas street party.

Much of the City Centre will be closed to traffic for the free-to-attend event, called the St Albans Christmas Cracker.

The action starts at noon on Sunday 19 November and continues until 6pm.

Among the attractions will be dozens of food, drink and gift stalls, Santa's grotto, street entertainers, a create and play zone, dance and theatrical performances.

There will also be live music by some of the District's most talented musicians.

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

The Market is taking place every Thursday and Friday 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 Sunday 24 December – a perfect time to pick up a last-minute gift.

Our partners at St Albans BID are also organising a series of Christmas events and will provide the City Centre's Christmas lights. You can keep up to date with what's happening by checking the Enjoy St Albans website, www.enjoystalbans.com, which you can access with this QR code.



Pull out and keep your recycling and waste collection calendar for 2024

Pages 4-5

The Charter Market is booming!

Page 6



Community News is published by St Albans City & District Council

www.stalbans.gov.uk

Christmas Across The District

Harpenden Christmas Carnival and Light Switch On, Sunday 26 November, noon to 6pm

Organised by Harpenden Town Council, this exciting event will include the Farmers' Market, Santa's Grotto, the Harris Funfair, the main stage, walkabout entertainment, Young Enterprise Trade Fair and the much-anticipated procession. The lights will be switched on from the stage at 5pm.



London Colney Lights Switch On, Sunday 3 December, 3.30pm to 6pm

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

Redbourn Christmas Market, Sunday 3 December, 11am to 5pm

More than 100 stalls selling food and drink, crafts and seasonal gifts with superb 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 Saturday 2 December on the Common between 4pm to 5pm.



Wheathampstead Lights Up, Thursday 23 November, 5.30pm to 8pm

Lots of stalls, food and drink, Santa's Grotto, fairground rides, live music and more, centred on the High Street. There is also a magical Christmas Market in the Crinkle Crinkle Community Garden on the same day, 4pm to 8pm.

Batford Christmas Lights Up, Thursday 30 November, 4.30pm to 6.30pm

Carols, refreshments and craft activities- a traditional Batford Christmas celebration!

Southdown Christmas Lights and Lanterns Extravaganza, Friday 1 December, 5.30pm to 7.30pm

This event opens with the stunning annual lantern parade and includes carol singing, stalls, craft activities and Santa's grotto. Lights switched on at 6.15pm.



Mayor's Charity

St Albans Mayor Anthony Rowlands has announced his charity for his year in office - the St Albans Fund for the Future.

The Fund, managed by Hertfordshire Community Foundation, distributes grants to smaller charities and community groups within the District.

Councillor Rowlands will raise money for the fund through a series of activities with the theme of his Mayoralty being All Ages Together.

You can find out more about the fund and sign up to make regular contributions by using the QR code or this web address, bit.ly/3F3JU2i.



Eco News

Council homes to be upgraded

We are undertaking £18 million of energy-efficient improvements to more than 900 of our social rent homes.

As well as cutting harmful carbon emissions, the work will also reduce tenants' energy bills.

Enhancements will include loft, cavity wall and external wall insulation, solar panels and low-energy lighting as well as upgrades to windows, external doors and ventilation.

Picture: Councillor Jacqui Taylor, 2nd from right, shakes hands on the deal with representatives from the specialist building contractor Correct Contract Services.



Green Flag success

We have been given four Green Flag awards in recognition of the District's outstanding parks and open spaces.

The Green Flag, an international quality mark, was given to Verulamium Park, Clarence Park and Hatfield Road Cemetery.

Verulamium Park was also one of only 135 places awarded Green Heritage Site Accreditation. This award, supported by Historic England, is for the excellent management of the park's ancient Roman features.



Active Travel Plan

A long-term plan to create better cycling and walking routes in the District and encourage active travel has been prepared.

Along with Hertfordshire County Council, the highways authority, we have produced a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan which prioritises high-demand routes that could be enhanced.

The aim is to develop cycling and walking networks over a 10-year period to increase active travel and reduce the number of trips people take by car.

As well as reducing traffic congestion and air pollution, cycling and walking can also boost physical health and mental wellbeing.

Cost of Living Help

We have produced a webpage with information to help residents cope with the cost of living crisis.

The webpage has a wealth of information on help that is available to people struggling to make ends meet.

Did you know, for example, that NHS Healthy Start provides eligible families with fruit, vegetables and milk worth £220 a year, plus free vitamins to help pregnant and breastfeeding women and growing children.

Or that the charity Stepchange can offer free, confidential and expert help in dealing with debt.

The webpage also has advice on how to cut energy bills and claim benefits as well as giving details about how to contact local organisations that may be of help to you.

These include St Albans District Foodbank, Citizens Advice and our own Healthy Hub which is situated in the Civic Centre.

You can check out the webpage via this link, <http://bit.ly/46ehiiO>, or use the QR code.



Thank you for Recycling Right

St Albans District remains in the top 3 best regions in England for recycling.
Keep this information safe, so you can refer to your revised bin collections throughout 2024.

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 25 December	Wednesday 27 December
Tuesday 26 December	Thursday 28 December
Wednesday 27 December	Friday 29 December
Thursday 28 December	Saturday 30 December
Friday 29 December	Tuesday 2 January 2024
Monday 1 January 2024	Wednesday 3 January
Tuesday 2 January	Thursday 4 January
Wednesday 3 January	Friday 5 January
Thursday 4 January	Saturday 6 January
Friday 5 January	Monday 8 January
Monday 8 January	Tuesday 9 January
Tuesday 9 January	Wednesday 10 January
Wednesday 10 January	Thursday 11 January
Thursday 11 January	Friday 12 January
Friday 12 January	Saturday 13 January

IMPORTANT The garden waste collection service will be suspended for two weeks from Monday 25 December, recommencing on Tuesday 9 January. Extra garden waste can be presented next to garden waste bins on scheduled collections days during the weeks commencing Tuesday 9 January and Monday 15 January.

Waste and recycling calendar 2024

- General waste and food collection*
- Dry recycling, garden and food collection*
- Bank Holiday collections will be one day later than usual all week.
- Garden waste collection suspended

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. **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.
*Food waste is collected weekly.

Week 1**

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

Week 2**

December 2023							January						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				

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

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

June							July						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4						1	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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
							30						

October							November						
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						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22

December 2023							January						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31				

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

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

June							July						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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
							30						

October							November						
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						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22

Christmas collection dates for 2024 will be issued next year.

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Need more information?

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

Charter Market is booming!

The historic Charter Market is going from strength to strength - attracting more traders with many selling innovative products.

During the four months of June to September 2023, the average number of traders working at the weekly Wednesday markets was up 22% compared to the same period last year.

The number of occupied pitches rose by 37% with many traders operating from two or more pitches.

At the weekly Saturday markets, the number of traders rose by 16% and the number of pitches they occupied was up 26%.

The Sunday market, held on the second Sunday of every month, has also been growing.

Over the same quarter, the number of traders was up by an average of 11% and the number of occupied pitches rose 16%.

Picture: trader Manish Panchal at this Eat Wholefoods stall at the Charter Market.



Pavilion reopened

The Victorian-era Clarence Park Pavilion in St Albans has re-opened following a £300,000 facelift.

The external structure of the historic building, which was built in 1894, has been restored as part of a conservation project by the Council.

Improvements included painting and decorating, new guttering and repairs to the brickwork, external staircase, roof and distinctive balustrade.

Now the second phase of the project, refurbishing the interior and upgrading the changing rooms for both men and women players, is being planned.



Fly-tip fines

Fifty fines for fly-tipping have been issued by our enforcement team so far this year.

The number is a significant increase on the same period last year when seven such Fixed Penalty Notices were issued.

Professional fly-tippers are believed to be responsible for a substantial proportion of illegal rubbish dumps in the District.

These usually contain commercial waste from construction sites and property clearances.

We have taken measures to detect offenders including the installation of mobile CCTV cameras in hot spot areas and patrols with police to try and catch offenders in the act.



Phoenix programme

A project to help survivors of domestic abuse gain sustainable employment has been launched in St Albans District.

The Council has joined forces with its housing repairs contractor Morgan Sindall Property Services to provide the Phoenix Programme.

This will help survivors of domestic abuse to overcome challenges, by rebuilding confidence and developing skills to enter or re-enter the workforce.

Among the support offered is an assessment of job aspirations and needs, work experience and training in digital skills, CV preparation, interview techniques and personal finance.

The initiative follows last year's award to the Council of White Ribbon status for its work to end male violence against women.



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.

Exhibition: Rana Begum – Ordered Form, Museum + Gallery 8 December to 14 April 2024, Free

Rana Begum's work has been viewed by millions across the globe and is renowned for spanning across sculpture, painting, and architecture.

Now she returns to her former home of St Albans to present brand new works at a solo exhibition, many created for this showcase.

Currently living and working in London, Rana grew up in St Albans where she moved from Bangladesh with her family at the age of eight.

She attended St Albans Girls School and as a young artist, she completed a foundation course at the University of Hertfordshire.

Curated by UH Arts + Culture, the exhibition focuses on Rana's geometric works created over the past three years and presents sculptures, paintings and screen prints.

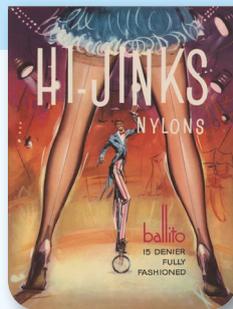
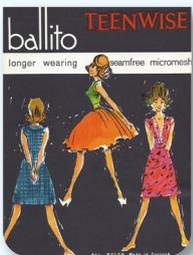
It also features newly created relief works and a panel painting installation, fabricated especially for this exhibition. Also displayed are Begum's studio experiments, maquettes and sketches which provide a fascinating insight into her techniques.

From January until March, she will take over the stunning Assembly Room with a vast awe-inspiring work: No. 670 (Mesh installation).

Pictures; top, artist Rana Begum at work; middle, the giant No 670 (Mesh Installation) on display at the Sainsbury Centre, Norwich; and Zigzag, an installation.



Exhibition: Ballito Bombshells, Keeper's Galleries, Museum + Gallery, until Sunday 4 February, Free



The Ballito Hosiery Mill was a major landmark in Fleetville from the 1920s to the 1960s. This exhibition celebrates the Ballito stockings worn across the country, the striking adverts that filled newspapers, the advanced machinery used in the factory and the dances, language classes and sports facilities offered to its employees. Also covered is the transformation of the factory during the Second World War from making delicate stockings to artillery shells.

SHOP SMALL : ST ALBANS

CHRISTMAS CREATIVE MARKET

ST ALBANS MUSEUM & GALLERY

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2023
11AM - 4PM

SHOP SMALL ST ALBANS

Handmade & Unique Gifts from Local Small Businesses

The Furniture Parlour



Support the Community Lottery

Trestle is one of the local good causes that is raising funds through the St Albans District Community Lottery.

Trestle, a mask and physical theatre company with a 40-year history, is on a mission to inspire creativity for all through participation and dialogue.

Taking part in the St Albans District Lottery has enabled them to create bursary places for those in need, enabling more young people to access their work.

You can support Trestle – and other good causes – by buying £1 tickets for the online lottery. There is a weekly draw and a £25,000 top prize.

Tickets cost only £1 with 60p going to Trestle or another good cause of your choosing. Use the QR code to buy tickets online.



Street party success

Thousands of people enjoyed the main course of the Enjoy St Albans Food and Drink Festival – a six-hour-long street party.



The City Centre was closed to traffic for the fun event known as the St Albans Festival on Sunday 24 September.

Attractions included around 100 market stalls selling a vast variety of food and drink products, live music and street entertainers.

Congratulations to the winners of the Festival’s coveted Food and Drink awards.

They were: Nouvellè Lounge, Marshalswick, Restaurant of the Year and Best Newcomer; The Green Man, Sandridge, Best Pub; The Potting Shed, Sandridge, Best Café; Carpenter’s Nursery, Sandridge, Best Food and Drink Shop; the Pudding Stop Redbourn, Best Local Producer; the Angoni family of Bellacino’s, French Row, Kate D’Arcy Award for Customer Service.



Local Plan consultation response

There was an excellent response to the draft Local Plan consultation with more than 1,200 people attending exhibitions held across the District.

More than 1,500 people gave their views in a questionnaire and more than 1,000 completed a survey.

All the feedback will be analysed by the Council’s spatial planning team and a report on the findings submitted to Councillors.

The Local Plan is a blueprint for growth, identifying land for future commercial, infrastructure and housing developments. A further consultation will take place next summer.



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 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.

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