

Community NEWS



AUTUMN 2019

St Albans Food and Drink Festival Mon 23 Sept – Sun 6 Oct

The St Albans Food and Drink Festival returns for its 12th year – and it is set to be the greenest ever.

Efforts are being made this year to take a step away from single-use plastic towards alternative food and drink containers that are recyclable.

Businesses taking part in the fun-packed fortnight of tasty events are being encouraged to commit to the initiative.

The aim is to move towards a Festival completely free of single-use plastics at some point in the near future.

Among this year's highlights is the St Albans Festival when the City Centre will be closed to traffic and taken over by 75 food and drink stalls.

The Festival will showcase a mouthwatering sample of the District's food and drink produce and will take place on Sunday 29 September from noon until 6pm with everyone welcome to attend.

Stalls will be selling takeaway snacks, craft beers, flavoured gins, breads, cakes, cheeses, organic meats and many other products.

Attractions – many of them free – will include cookery demonstrations, live music, children's activities, pop-up restaurants and bars.

Other Festival events include the internationally-renowned CAMRA beer and cider festival at the Alban Arena from Wednesday 25 to Saturday 28 September.

George Street will come alive to the sound of music on Friday 4 October for an evening of Gin and Jazz.

To see a full programme of all the events, including wine tastings and cookery workshops, go to the Festival website: enjoystalbans.com/foodanddrink.

During the Festival, the winners of the St Albans Food and Drink Awards 2019 will be announced.



WHAT'S ON AT THE MUSEUMS

For the exciting autumn programme, see page 3.



Climate Emergency

The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and pledged to reduce harmful carbon emissions. See page 5.

Community News is published by St Albans City & District Council

www.stalbans.gov.uk



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

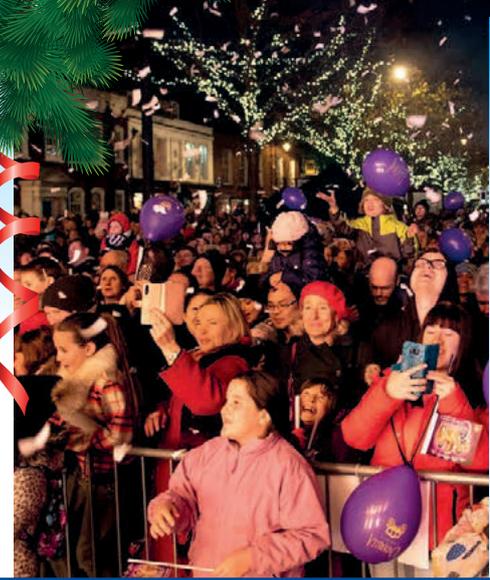
More than 12,000 people are expected to attend the spectacular St Albans Christmas Lights Switch On which takes place on Sunday 17 November.

This is one of the most popular, family-friendly City Centre events of the year with St Peter's Street closed to traffic. The fun will start at noon with the lights being switched on as darkness falls around 5.30pm. Among the attractions will be Santa's grotto, funfair rides, live

music and dozens of food, drink and gift stalls.

In the run-up to Christmas, further events will be stage to maintain the excitement. The Council is working with a number of partner organisations, including the Cathedral, on the festive-season package.

A list of what is happening around the District will appear nearer the time on the website: www.enjoystalbans.com.



New Mayor

Councillor Janet Smith has been voted the Mayor of St Albans City and District for 2019/20.

She will raise funds for her chosen charity, Citizens Advice, during her year of office. If you would like to invite the Mayor to an event, please contact her office on 01727-819544 or mayorality@stalbans.gov.uk.

Look out for a form checking

who's registered to vote

at your address

Make sure you respond by the deadline.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS
DON'T LOSE IT

Secure Your Vote

Residents are urged to complete a household enquiry form to ensure they are registered to vote at local and national elections.

More than 60,000 forms were sent to households in the District and should be checked to see who's registered to vote at your address.

If you have just moved into a new property, you'll also need to register to vote. This can be done online by visiting:

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

More information about the annual voter registration canvass and how to register is available at: www.stalbans.gov.uk/elections.



Older People's Day

We are celebrating Older People's Day this year on Wednesday 16 October at the Alban Arena from 10am to 1pm.

There will be a variety of entertainment, activities and information of particular interest to older residents. This will include advice on how to keep safe and how to connect to Council services such as benefits.

There will also be guidance on how to stay independent or join one of the District's many clubs, societies and social groups.

Anyone living in the District is welcome to drop in for free tea, cake and – of course – a chat.

FLOOD VOLUNTEERS WANTED

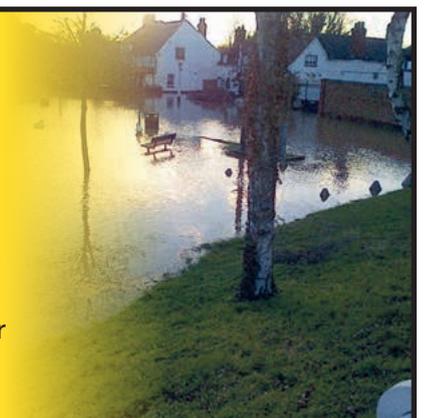
Volunteers are needed to help with the response to flooding incidents and become the eyes and ears of the community.

The areas at most risk of flooding are London Colney, Colney Heath, Wheathampstead and Harpenden.

Flood Wardens will be tasked with the job of looking out for blocked drains and culverts or anything else that causes a flood risk.

They will also raise awareness among residents about the need to look after their properties in the event of a flood.

Anyone interested about taking on this important and fulfilling role should ask for an Opportunity Form from: volunteer@communities1st.org.uk.



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

Along with a vibrant programme of events, St Albans Museum + Gallery hosts an array of changing displays. Make sure to visit regularly to catch all these must-see exhibitions.



Museum Minis

Tuesday 24 September, Tuesday 29 October and Tuesday 26 November from 10 – 11 and 11.30am – 12.30pm, £3 per child.

Looking for a way to keep little ones occupied? Join us in the morning or afternoon for a story, craft activity and a museum hunt inspired by our collections and our new exhibitions. Suitable for children aged 2 – 4 years, accompanied by an adult.

Pop-up Planetarium Shows

Wednesday 30 October and Thursday 31 October, various showtimes, £3.

Come along during the school half-term and be dazzled by the amazing night sky. Explore our galaxy, discover how the solar system works and learn how the sun creates the northern lights. With three different shows to choose from these immersive shows are ideal for families.

The Making of a Market Town: Eastern Region Textile Forum

Running now until Sunday 3 November, Keeper's Galleries, Free.

Explore the theme of the market through textile art with history, products and trading links all represented. Focused on St Albans, the artworks reflect other market towns across the East of England and capture their character and importance.



Coffee and Craft in the Courtroom

Saturday 28 September, 3 – 5pm, Free.

Join members of the Eastern Region Textile Forum in the Gallery Courtroom for a chat and a chance to take part in craft projects. All textiles crafts and skill levels welcome. Tea and coffee can be purchased from the café.



Novum Organum Scientiarum: Science in St Albans

Saturday 19 October to March 2020, Weston Gallery, Free.

A major exhibition that celebrates some of the incredible scientists who have lived and worked in the St Albans District. It is named after philosopher Francis Bacon's highly-influential 17th Century book *Novum Organum Scientiarum* that described his experimental methods.

His ideas still shape the way we approach science today. The exhibition also highlights Rothamsted Research, in Harpenden, one of the oldest agricultural research institutions in the world. Eleanor Ormerod, a pioneer in the study of insects, and physicist Stephen Hawking, who both lived in St Albans, also feature.

Verulamium Museum

Local Treasure: The Sandridge Hoard, a talk and coin handling with curator David Thorold

Thursday 17 October, 7pm, £10.

Discovered in 2012, this is one of the largest stashes of Roman gold coins found buried in the UK. This talk looks at the circumstance of the find and the hoard's recovery and investigates the reasons why they came to be buried close to Verulamium.



Tots Tales

Thursday 12 September, Thursday 10 October, Thursday 14 November, Thursday 12 December, 10.30 – 11.30am, 11.45am – 12.45pm and 1.30 – 2.30pm, £3 plus admission.

Join us on the second Thursday of each month for a story, craft activity and a museum hunt inspired by a new storybook. Suitable for children aged 2 – 4 years, accompanied by an adult. Please book online via our website.

CATHEDRAL SPACE VOYAGE

Take a journey to the heavens this autumn with a space-themed sound and light show at St Albans Cathedral to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing.

Space Voyage runs from Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November and will illuminate both the outside and inside of the Cathedral.

The facade of the Cathedral will be transformed into a spectacular visual journey to the edge of the Milky Way and back.

Inside, the longest nave in England will become a galaxy as light and music fill the huge, ancient spaces. A special display using NASA imagery of the lunar surface will allow people to “walk on the moon” and take their very own one small step.

The installation forms the centrepiece of a wider space-themed events programme at the Cathedral throughout October and November, including talks, music and children’s trails.

Tickets go on sale at: www.stalbanscathedral.org.



Remembrance Sunday

St Albans Mayor, Cllr Janet Smith, will honour the nation’s war dead at a Remembrance Service and Parade on Sunday 10 November.

Everyone is welcome to attend to pay their respects to members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives in two World Wars and other conflicts.

A parade will begin just after 10.30am from outside the former BHS store and proceed to the War Memorial near St Peter’s Church. A service led by Reverend Canon Mark Dearnley will begin at 10.50am.

Representatives from Air, Sea and Army Cadets, the Guiding and Scout movements, the Police and other uniformed services will attend. They will be joined by Councillors and leaders of the main faiths.

On Monday 11 November at 11am, the Mayor will be at the war memorial to mark the two minutes’ silence.



Picture above: last year’s parade.



Rothamsted Park improvements

Plans to make environmentally-friendly improvements to Rothamsted Park in Harpenden have been submitted for approval.

Under the proposals, soil excavated during the redevelopment of the swimming pool and sports centre buildings will be retained at the park.

It will be used to level a nearby football field and enhance the playing surface to encourage greater community use. The soil will also help strengthen flood defences by improving the area’s natural drainage.

It was originally planned to transport the soil by a fleet of lorries to a landfill tip. That would have resulted in 1,500 heavy vehicle journeys.

Keep your family warm this winter with free or discounted home energy improvements.

To check eligibility call **0300 123 4044** (local rate) or email info@hertshelp.net

HertsHelp

Rushfordshire Warmer Homes

In partnership with the ten district & borough councils of Hertfordshire and Hertfordshire County Council.



Is Heat Leaking From Your Home?

Are your windows and doors letting in draughts? If so, you can create a more energy saving home this winter.

Borrow one of Sustainable St Albans’ thermal imaging cameras to locate the sources of draughts and check if your roof is adequately insulated. This device is easy and free to use. Book onto a free information session for training on using the camera before borrowing it.

Sessions are held in St Albans and Harpenden from the end of September. See www.sustainablestalbans.org for details.

Herts Warmer Homes

You may be eligible for subsidised home insulation, boiler repairs or a new heating system to keep your house warm this winter. You may qualify if you are on a low income, have a particularly cold home, a health condition or young children.

For a free assessment please contact the Herts Warmer Homes scheme by calling HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044 or by e-mailing info@hertshelp.net, quoting Herts Warmer Homes.

Focus on Green Issues

Climate Emergency

The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and pledged to help ensure the District is carbon neutral by 2030.

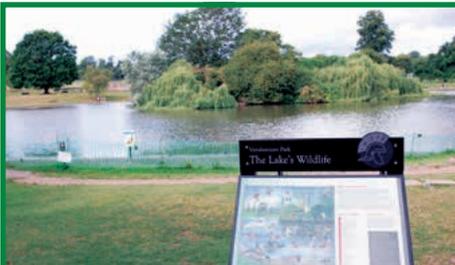
Councillors took the decision unanimously at a meeting of the Full Council in July after receiving a 1,700-signature petition.

An action plan detailing how the goal can be achieved is to be drawn up and brought before the

Council for discussion early next year. Progress reports will then be submitted every six months.

The Council is also committed to further reduce its own emissions and take account of the climate impact of any of its policies and decisions.

It is also tasked with working with partner organisations on a strategy for meeting the carbon-neutral target.



Green Flags

Five of our parks and green spaces have been awarded Green Flags for being among the very best in the country.

Verulamium Park, Clarence Park, Bricket Wood Common, Sopwell Nunnery and Hatfield Road Cemetery were all given the honour with Verulamium also gaining a Green Heritage Site Award.

A Green Flag is a sign of high environmental standards, excellent maintenance and first-rate visitor facilities.

FREE CYCLE MAP

A new cycling map for the St Albans District has been produced to encourage people to use green transport and take more exercise.

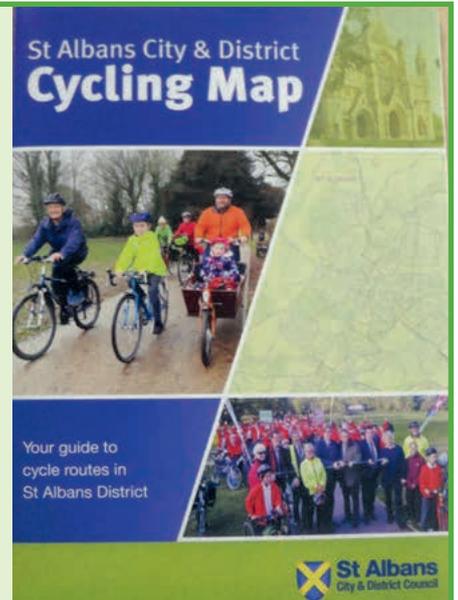
The free fold-out map will be available from cycling shops, leisure centres, St Albans Museums and Council offices.

It promotes key cycling routes such as the Green Ring, a continuous 6.5-mile cycling and walking path that circles the City.

The map shows the National Cycle Networks within the District and a section of the 170-mile Chiltern Cycleway.

Sites of particular interest such as play areas, historic features, cafes and sports facilities are marked out.

The map has been produced by the Council with the help of the St Albans Cycle Campaign and updates a 2014 edition.



Tree planting bid

A bid to finance more tree planting in St Albans District is to be made to a multimillion-pound nationwide scheme.

The Council is preparing to apply to the Government's £10 million Urban Tree Challenge Fund. That initiative aims to encourage the planting of 20,000 large and 110,000 small trees in urban areas across England.

The Council will seek suggestions from residents as to where the trees should be planted if the bid is successful.

Burglary Advice

Police describe burglary as an opportunistic crime with burglars choosing to strike at the least secure house in a neighbourhood.

The simplest way to prevent a burglary is to make sure your house does not look like a desirable target.

That involves closing and locking all your doors and windows whenever you go out and keeping all valuables out of sight. Lock any side gates, sheds and garages. If you're out all day, then it's advisable to use a timer device to switch on lights.

If you are away for a long period, avoid leaving obvious signs that the house is unoccupied. Ask a neighbour to collect the post and close and open the curtains at appropriate times.



Friends Against Scams is a national initiative which aims to prevent people from becoming victims of criminals who try and con them out of their savings.

It operates by enlisting people to make a stand against the scammers by becoming more aware of the threat.

Anyone can become a Friend Against Scams and make a difference in their local community by helping others.

Interested residents can complete an online training session to become a certified Friend at friendsagainstscams.org.uk.

Scams affect the lives of millions of people across the UK and those who fall prey to them often experience loneliness, shame and social isolation.

Friends Against Scams aims to inspire action and highlight the scale of the problem. It also wants to change the

perceptions of why people fall victim to scams and make scams a local, regional and national topic.

By becoming a Friend, you will learn about the different types of scams and how to spot and support a victim. With increased knowledge and awareness, people can make scams part of everyday conversations with their family, friends and neighbours, which will enable them to protect themselves and others.

To get the latest advice about scams follow Hertfordshire Trading Standards Scams Team on Twitter [@HCC_TS](https://twitter.com/HCC_TS).



Office Work

The Civic Centre is undergoing an exciting makeover with a new reception area and refurbished community Hub where voluntary organisations such as Citizens Advice have a desk. Alterations are still underway with the building due to include an NHS clinic.



DOMESTIC ABUSE AFFECTS EVERYONE. IT'S TIME TO FACE THE FACTS

Domestic abuse isn't really about stats, it's about the person experiencing it and how it affects them and those around them. If we don't start to talk about it, the harm just goes on. Call us now.

FREEPHONE 08 088 088 088
9am - 9pm weekdays • 9am - 4pm weekends
HertsDomesticAbuseHelpline.org

Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline
08 088 088 088

#TheFirstStepsToTalk

IT STOPS HERE  **THE FIRST STEP IS TO TALK**

The Helpline is a registered charity no. 1140158

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse affects people of all ages, walks of life and backgrounds. It can take many forms including financial, emotional and sexual abuse as well as violence.

Hertfordshire Constabulary has set up a special unit to help support victims. Working with the Council and the Fire Service, they aim is to deliver the best possible service to those affected. They want to give victims the confidence to report offenders and protect people and children from harm.

Does someone at home frighten you, or is violent towards you, makes you do things you don't want to do, tries to control your life? If you want to talk to someone about it, the Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline is there for you.

Freephone: 08 088 088 088

CHARITY SPOTLIGHT Emmaus Hertfordshire



Emmaus works to support people who were once homeless and has a strong presence in St Albans. It provides employment in social enterprises centred on the recycling and sale of goods donated by the public.

These social enterprises generate revenue that pays for homes, food and upkeep, and helps people regain feelings of self-worth.

Emmaus Hertfordshire has five stores selling quality pre-owned furniture, household goods, clothing and other articles. It also offers house clearances, collections and delivery services. Our companions are trained to renovate donated furniture and are skilled in restoration, upholstery and up-cycling.

Income from these activities goes directly to the community to help people to move on from homelessness. Most of the people you see working in Emmaus shops and vans are trying hard to build a new life for themselves.

You can help through donations of furniture and other goods or by volunteering to assist our companions and train them in different areas. We have volunteering opportunities for those with additional needs or criminal convictions.

To find out more, visit www.emmaus.org.uk/hertfordshire or follow the charity on Facebook and Twitter @EmmausHerts.



Shape Up



Shape Up is a free, male-only weight management course designed to tackle obesity.

The 12-week courses teach people how they can adopt a healthy lifestyle and avoid yoyo dieting. Participants take part in fun, group physical activities such as circuit training, walking football and boxing drills.

Coaches guide people through the course and provide regular feedback. You can register at www.shapeupherts.com and check on the next available courses.

ST ALBANS MARKET

Value • Variety • Atmosphere

Bag a bargain every Wednesday and Saturday

visit www.enjoystalbands.com for more information

your local market



CITY CENTRE FUN!

Around 17,000 people enjoyed a free summer street party in St Albans with live music, dozens of food and drink stalls and many family-friendly activities.

The City Centre was closed to traffic for this summer's six-hour-long Alban Street Festival.

To celebrate the City's rich history, this year's event had a Roman theme with appearances from armour-clad Centurions and Gladiators.

There were demonstrations of the ancient art of pottery while Roman soldiers showcased their equipment and tents. Families were also able to help paint a giant Roman floor mosaic.

MyStAlbans District Account

More than 12,000 residents have now signed up to MyStAlbans - an online personalised account, offering quick and easy access to many Council services.

These include customised information about your home and neighbourhood as well as access to bills and balances. You can use the account to pay Council Tax, report a fly-tip,

noise or antisocial behaviour and apply for a parking permit.

The account also provides services for housing tenants including the ability 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. Just go to www.stalbans.gov.uk/mystalbans and follow the instructions.



Question the Cabinet

Residents, businesses and community groups are being given the chance to question the Council's executive at its monthly meetings.

They will be able to raise issues of concern, suggest changes to policies and comment on the Council's performance.

A 15-minute slot is to be set aside at Cabinet meetings for the questions and answers sessions.

Questions should be relevant to the meeting's agenda which is published a week in advance.

The Cabinet is the decision-making body of the Council and its seven members each have an area of responsibility, known as a portfolio, about which they make day-to-day decisions. These include social housing, planning, recycling, museums and parks.

The Cabinet agenda and papers will be published on the Council's website: www.stalbans.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@stalbins.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 3JE
Website: www.stalbans.gov.uk **Email:** contactus@stalbins.gov.uk

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

Refuse & Recycling: wastemanagementservices@stalbins.gov.uk, 01727 809019

Council Tax: counciltax@stalbins.gov.uk, 01727 819204

Benefits: benefits@stalbins.gov.uk, 01727 819220

Planning: planning@stalbins.gov.uk, 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.

All Other Enquiries: 01727 866100

 **Twitter:** @StAlbansCouncil

 **Facebook:** St Albans Council

 **Facebook:** Recycle for St Albans District