

# Community NEWS



SUMMER 2018



## The Stunning Alban Pilgrimage and Street Festival

St Albans City Centre

### Alban Pilgrimage

Saturday 23 June

See spectacular giant carnival puppets tell the story of Alban, Britain's first saint. Follow the procession from St Peter's Church from 11am as it winds its way through the historic heart of the City to St Albans Cathedral.

### Alban Festival

Sunday 24 June

At this year's fabulous Alban Street Festival, St Peter's Street is closed for music, merriment, performance, food and fun for all the family. And it's all FREE! Hurrah!



Check out the glorious new St Albans Museum + Gallery  
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## Sign up now for your new

# MyStAlbans District Account

Register to get customised information for you, your home and your neighbourhood, pay Council Tax, or see your bill and check your balance.

You can tell us about waste and recycling issues and report things like litter at the click of a button. Apply for parking permits, and, if you're a council tenant get lots of your housing services online.

More services are being added all the time. It's easy to sign up. Just go to [www.stalbans.gov.uk/mystalbans](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/mystalbans)

If you're new to computers, or need a bit of help, Computer Friendly is offering short courses to get you started online – see [www.computerfriendlystalbans.org.uk](http://www.computerfriendlystalbans.org.uk) (or ask a friend to download their brochure), email [courses@cfsta.org](mailto:courses@cfsta.org), or call **020 3239 1559**.



Community News is published by St Albans City & District Council

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



# IT'S OPEN!

The new £7.75 million St Albans Museum + Gallery opened its doors to the public on Friday 8 June following a two-year restoration of the City's Georgian Town Hall.

The historic building, including the octagonal courtroom and prison cells, and the double height Assembly Room, has been beautifully restored. Glazed links on the first floor mean visitors can now walk around the entire building and take in wonderful views over the City. A new temperature-controlled basement gallery will house national touring exhibitions and contemporary art shows. The ground floor accommodates a learning studio, visitor information point, gift shop and café.

See the summer season programme at [www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk](http://www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk)

To volunteer to help at the museum, or to join the Friends of St Albans Museums, email [museum@stalbens.gov.uk](mailto:museum@stalbens.gov.uk), or call 01727 751810.



## WHAT'S ON at the museums?



### First Impressions

Until 12 August

Discover the fascinating story of printing in St Albans in this flagship opening exhibition.

St Albans Museum + Gallery, St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL3 5DJ  
Verulamium Museum, St Michael's Street, St Albans, AL3 4SW

Our summer programme all takes place at St Albans Museum + Gallery. In addition to the exhibitions below, we have a fun packed family programme. See [www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk/whats-on) for details.



### Squatlife

14 July – 26 August

Inspired originally by Dave Kotula's photographs of squatted premises in St Albans in the 1980s, Squatlife highlights historical and contemporary responses to homelessness, giving insight into this previously under-researched aspect of local history.

Picture: Sam Tharby and Dave Kotula on the roof of a St Albans squat



### Flutter

Until 5th August

A flutter of butterflies has settled in St Albans Museum + Gallery. Inspired by the Alexander Hopkins British Butterfly collection which were once part of the St Albans Museums' collection. Artist: Lyndall Phelps.

### Susie MacMurray

Until 5 August

Internationally renowned artist, Susie MacMurray, showcases a range of artworks and a specially-commissioned installation set in the dramatic splendour of the Assembly Room.

### Accumulate

Until 8 July

Artists Lyndall Phelps, Abi Spendlove and Katie Gillam-Hull present artworks and interventions shining a light on the hidden elements of the museum collection.



# Larks in the Parks

Sunday 1 July  
12 noon - 5pm

Lights, Camera, Action! Larks in the Parks 2018 features 'The Magic of the Movies' at local green spaces around the District:

Colney Heath JMI School, High Street, Colney Heath, AL4 0NP

London Colney Community Centre, Caledon Road, London Colney, AL2 1PU

Batford Springs, Marquis Lane, Harpenden, AL5 5AA

Victoria Playing Field, Folly Lane, St Albans, AL3 5JH

Fleetville Community Centre, Royal Road, St Albans, AL1 4LQ

Meet your friends and neighbours for an afternoon of music, entertainment, food and fun.

Parking is limited so best to walk or cycle if you can.



30 July to 31 August

Our play leaders will be coordinating fun and games for 3-12 year olds in 15 parks across the District.

Join in for FREE! Details at [www.stalbans.gov.uk/playintheparks](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/playintheparks) (sasport@1Life.co.uk; 01727 819531).

## ST ALBANS FOLK FESTIVAL

June 15-17 2018

[www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk](http://www.stalbansfolkmusic.org.uk)

This issue of Community News is distributed around the same time as this year's fabulous St Albans Folk Festival. If you get your copy in time, check out their website for all the info at [www.stalbansfolkatthefestival.org.uk](http://www.stalbansfolkatthefestival.org.uk)

## Revitalising the River Ver



**Ambitious plans have been proposed to return the chalk stream River Ver in St Albans to its more natural state.**

The plan includes significant enhancements to Verulamium Park and the water quality of its artificial lakes.

Major landscape and wildlife improvements are also proposed.

The Environment Agency is leading on the proposals, along with partner organisations including the District Council.

See [www.revitalisingtheriver.co.uk](http://www.revitalisingtheriver.co.uk) for details.



### Bowls anyone?

Batchwood Hall Bowls Club (St Albans) is looking for new members. Bowls is a great way to be active, outside. Parking is easy and lifts can be arranged for those without transport. There are discounts on offer, and an opportunity to have a go at their Open Day on 16 June (10.30am to 4pm). Contact Mark Trembling (07876 881101) or Jackie Kenealy (07957 572715).

### St Albans FOOD & DRINK AWARDS 2018



### St Albans Food & Drink Festival Awards 2018

Nominate your favourite food and drink outlets for the St Albans Food & Drink Awards 2018! Nominations are being taken until 20th July, with public voting open from 26 July to 26 August. Make your nominations now at [www.enjoystalbans.co.uk/foodanddrink](http://www.enjoystalbans.co.uk/foodanddrink)

Follow us on Facebook: [@StAlbansFoodandDrinkFestival](https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansFoodandDrinkFestival) for all the latest news and updates.



### St Albans Film Festival

26 June - 1 July

See the full programme at: [www.stalbansfilmfestival.com](http://www.stalbansfilmfestival.com)



## Urban gangs

The police are aware that gangs coming out of large cities are supplying drugs to market and coastal towns across the country.

Gangs use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money. They have been known to establish a base in a market town, typically by taking over the homes of vulnerable adults by force or coercion. This practice is known as 'cuckooing'. There can be links too to safeguarding, sexual exploitation, modern slavery and missing persons.

If you suspect anyone of involvement in criminal activities like these, or if you are worried about someone who needs help, please call the Police. To report concerns anonymously call Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111**.



# Stay safe at home!

'Safe and Well' is a County-wide initiative to help people stay safe at home.



It involves a home visit by a trained worker who can come and talk to you about precautions to take to avoid a fire or accident. Advice is also available on health issues such as diet, smoking, and the effects of loneliness and alcohol abuse.



To book a Safe and Well visit, search online for Safe and Well Hertfordshire or call Herts Help on **0300 1234 044**.

## Fly-tipping action



Police and Council officers staged a fly-tip in St Albans City Centre highlighting fines of up to £50k for people who fly-tip.



**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

**DON'T LOSE IT**

## Registered to vote?

The annual household canvass will soon be underway. Every home will receive a household enquiry form. Please respond to ensure that your details are included in the register of electors.

If you have just moved into your property, you'll also need to register to vote individually. You can register at: [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

Or we can send you a paper application form on request (see back page for contact details). More information about the annual household canvass is available at: [www.stalbans.gov.uk/elections](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/elections)

# Mentors sought



**The Employer Mentoring Programme supports young people about to start their GCSEs, who are at risk of underachieving in their studies.**

They are partnered with a mentor who supports and encourages them to raise their aspirations, and inspires them about their future in the world of work. Could you help?

In the next three years YC Hertfordshire, the County Council's team for young people, hopes to support over 250 individuals through mentoring. Mentors need to be in employment, available to volunteer for at least one hour a fortnight, and able to inspire and motivate young people about the world of work.



## Dementia concerns?

**Hertswise is Hertfordshire's seven day a week community dementia service.**

It offers support to help people with low level memory loss and dementia live well and independently. It also helps friends, family and carers. Referrals to the service by individuals, family members and GPs are all accepted and those referred don't need to have a diagnosis of dementia. Contact Herts Help ([www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net), 0300 123 4044).



## Community Reserve Volunteers

Community reserve volunteers are called on in a crisis to help should there be a major incident locally like a flood, fire or any other emergency.

Anyone over 18 can become a community reserve volunteer; no specialist skills are required and quick training is provided at the scene.

Watch the British Red Cross video and sign up at [www.redcross.org.uk/reserves](http://www.redcross.org.uk/reserves)

Image courtesy of Matt Crossick/British Red Cross

# Green matters

## Plastics and polystyrene

You can put out all sorts of plastic for recycling, from large supermarket milk containers to shampoo bottles.



We can't take rigid plastic (e.g., kids' toys or garden furniture), plastic bags, crisp packets, or plastic wrappings though in your recycling bin. However, you can use plastic bags in your food caddy (these are removed later during processing). Some supermarkets recycle plastic bags too.

### Polystyrene is not recyclable.

It has to go in the bin, or you can take big sheets to your local Household Waste and Recycling Centre (see: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/wasteaware](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/wasteaware) for locations).

# **IDLING...**

# **SWITCH OFF**

# **FOR CLEANER AIR**



Leaving your engine running when you're parked creates 20 times more pollution than when driving at 30mph. These pollutants are harmful to health, the environment and your pocket.

Let's work together.  
If you're parked...

# **TURN IT OFF.**

## Refill water bottle network

You can now refill your water bottles with tap water for free at a growing network of friendly local cafes, shops, hotels and businesses. Download the 'refill' app to your smart phone. See [www.refill.org.uk](http://www.refill.org.uk) for details.



## August bank holiday collections

Collections will be one day later than usual during August bank holiday week.

Monday's collections will be on Tuesday, Tuesday's on Wednesday, and so on. Crews will work on Saturday 1 September to catch up.

## Wood fires and stoves

Open fires and wood burning stoves are cosy, it's true. But spare a thought for the environment and air quality. A 2016 government survey found that 7.5% of UK homes burned wood making up 30% of UK particle emissions.

Even if you live outside a smokeless zone, it's best to stick to smokeless fuels.



## Weed treatment

St Albans City and District Council has taken over the responsibility for weeds management across the District from Hertfordshire County Council (HCC). The move follows concern that weeds were growing unchecked in some areas.



HCC has agreed to devolve its legal duty and associated funding to the District Council for a year's trial period. The District Council and HCC will monitor the impact of the new weeds management programme until March next year and take on board feedback.



# Be in control – sign up for your MyStAlbans District Account

Your **MyStAlbans District** customer account (see front page) is a great way to report waste and recycling issues, and manage your bins. From your account you can see when each type of waste and recycling collection is due at your address, and you can report waste related matters really easily. Plus tons of other useful stuff. Sign up today at [www.stalbans.gov.uk/mystalbans](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/mystalbans)

# Civic Centre – a hub for info and advice

 At the Civic Centre in St Albans, you'll find lots of advice, information and guidance on offer from all these local organisations.

See [www.stalbanshub.org.uk](http://www.stalbanshub.org.uk) for details of each organisation's opening times or call 01727 866100.



Information,  
Advice &  
Guidance



citizens  
advice  
St Albans  
District



HAWA



## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO BE ACTIVE

So let's give it a go



Register for Hertfordshire County Council's Never Too Late To Be Active campaign and receive a free local activity pass for yourself and a friend.

You can also sign up for ongoing personalised support to help you get more active, and enter a prize draw for an iPad, Fitbit or £100 clothing voucher. See [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/nevertoolate](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/nevertoolate), call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, or ask at your local library for details.

## Get physical this summer!

2018 is Hertfordshire's Year of Physical Activity. There's lots to keep you fit and active over the summer. June is 'women and girls' and 'bike' month with special events planned. July is all about having fun in the parks (see [www.parksherts.co.uk](http://www.parksherts.co.uk)). And August has a special family feel, with things to do together. Details at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertsYOPA18](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertsYOPA18)

## ST ALBANS MARKET

Value • Variety • Atmosphere

Bag a bargain  
every Wednesday  
and Saturday

visit [www.enjoystalbans.com](http://www.enjoystalbans.com)  
for more information

 your local  
market



*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](mailto:communications@stalbens.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](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk) **Email:** [contactus@stalbens.gov.uk](mailto:contactus@stalbens.gov.uk)

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

**Refuse & Recycling:** [wastemanagementservices@stalbens.gov.uk](mailto:wastemanagementservices@stalbens.gov.uk), 01727 809019

**Council Tax:** [counciltax@stalbens.gov.uk](mailto:counciltax@stalbens.gov.uk), 01727 819204/819205

**Benefits:** [benefits@stalbens.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@stalbens.gov.uk), 01727 819220

**Planning:** [planning@stalbens.gov.uk](mailto:planning@stalbens.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](http://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