

Community NEWS



SUMMER 2019



St Albans Roman Festival – Ten Action-Packed Days

Friday 21 June to
Sunday 30 June

The St Albans Roman Festival takes place this summer with ten days of exciting, family-friendly events to celebrate the District's heritage. Among the highlights are:

The Alban Pilgrimage

Saturday 22 June

A procession of 12ft-tall carnival puppets takes to the streets to re-enact the story of Alban, Britain's first Christian martyr. This colourful spectacle includes Roman soldiers, lions and chariots.

Alban Fest

Saturday 22 June

This event takes place in the Abbey Orchard by the Cathedral following the Pilgrimage procession. Among the Roman-themed entertainment will be re-enactments of battles, live music, food stalls, clay sculpting and other crafts.

Alban Street Festival

Sunday 23 June, noon – 6pm

St Peter's Street will be closed to traffic for an afternoon street party including a Roman-style market, dozens of food, drink and craft stalls, live music, puppet shows and a special UK Strongest Man activity.

Many local businesses and other organisations are getting involved in the Roman Festival. For a full list of events, please go to:
www.stalbanscathedral.org



Museum Events

See what's happening throughout the summer at the award-winning St Albans Museum + Gallery.
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Recycling record

Residents have helped boost the District's recycling figure to its highest ever level.
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Community News is published by St Albans City & District Council

www.stalbans.gov.uk



Food and Drink Festival

Voting for the St Albans Food and Drink Festival awards opens on Thursday 4 July.

You can show your support for your favourite restaurant, pub, café or other dining venue as well as back nominees in a wide range of other categories.

This year's festival starts on Wednesday 25 September and runs until Monday 7 October. There will be dozens of events from food and wine tastings to a street "feastival" that is likely to attract more than 12,000 people to the City Centre.

To vote and for further information, go to www.enjoystalbens.com/foodanddrink



CONSERVATION 50 50th Anniversary of Conservation Area

A number of community groups have joined up to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the St Albans Conservation Area.

St Albans Civic Society, Abbey Precincts Residents Association and Aboyne Residents Association have organised a host of events.

These include an exhibition at St Albans Museum + Gallery which is already underway and runs until Sunday 21 July.

There is also to be a public meeting at Dagnall Street Baptist Church on Saturday 6 July which will address

the future of conservation. There will be questions and debate with a guest panel hosted by BBC Radio 4's Any Answers presenter Julian Worricker.

A Visual Arts Competition for Primary Schools is being held with winning entries going on public display at the Museum's Assembly Room on Sunday 7 July. The City Guides will lead special Conservation 50 Walks during July.

Find out more by contacting www.conservations50.org



MyStAlbens District Account

More than 7,000 residents have now signed up to MyStAlbens - 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.stalbens.gov.uk/mystalbens and follow the instructions.

Scan here!



ST ALBANS FILM FESTIVAL



Film Festival

The St Albans Film Festival returns for its sixth year from Tuesday 25 June to Sunday 7 July.

Among the attractions is an open-air cinema in the superb location of the Abbey Orchard. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to: www.stalbensfilmfestival.com

Verulam Writers

A St Albans-based writing group – Verulam Writers – is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year.

The group holds fortnightly meetings at St Michael's Church Hall and

embraces a wide-range of writing, including novels, articles, screenwriting and poetry.

To find out more, visit www.verulamwriterscircle.org.uk or search Facebook for @verulamwriters

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 you visit regularly to catch all these must-see exhibitions.



Soap Sculptures

Wednesday 28 August, 10.15 – 11.15am
and 11.30am – 12.30pm, £5

Work together as a family to carve your very own sculptures from soap. All soap kindly donated by Lush. Book now on our website:

www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk

Life Drawing Class

Thursday 18 July, 7 – 9.30pm, £45

Inspired by Hepworth, you will create drawings from a life model, interpreting their movements in your own artistic style. Led by artist and tutor Bob Wright, this session will take place in the spectacular Courtroom. Please note, this class will contain nudity. Suitable for all abilities.



Museum Late: Make, Do and Draw

Thursday 4 July, 7 – 9.30pm, £5, activities located across the whole museum

The museum is having a party to celebrate all things Barbara Hepworth. Grab your friends and come along - try your hand at sketching and sculpting as well as Hepworth-inspired craft activities for beginners. Watch live performances, join exclusive tours of the exhibition and explore the museum after-dark. No artistic experience necessary.

The Pickling Project

Keeper's Galleries, until 1 September, Free

A collection of fascinating animal and plant specimens preserved in fluid will go on display. The Pickling Project explores a previously unknown part of St Albans Museums' collection and shines a light on the processes taken to look after the natural history collection. Discover weird and wonderful creatures and learn more about how this collection was saved.

The Significance of Hepworth's Work 1948–53

Evening talk with Rachel Rose Smith, Assistant Curator of Modern British Art at Tate Britain

Thursday 20 June, 7pm doors, 7.30 – 8.30pm talk, £10

Join curator Rachel as she reveals what can be learned from the Hepworth exhibition.



Barbara Hepworth: Artist in Society 1948–53

Until Sunday 8 September, Weston Gallery, Free

This major exhibition explores a short but significant period in the life of one of Britain's most celebrated artists.

Movement Focused Drawing Class

Saturday 13 July, 2 – 4.30pm, £35

Take part in a workshop to develop your drawing skills with tutor Ben Twiston-Davies. Inspired by Hepworth's drawings of dancers and surgeons, you will create figurative drawings from a clothed model, interpreting their spontaneous movements in your own artistic style. Suitable for all ages and abilities.



Shape Your Own Mini Sculpture

Tuesday 30 July, 10.30am – 12.30pm and 2 – 4pm (last entry 12.10pm and 3.40pm), £2 per child

Be inspired by the shape and forms of Barbara Hepworth's works and create your own pieces of sculpture in this drop-in family event. Children must always be supervised by an adult.

Verulamium Museum

The Denarii in Your Pocket – Roman Coins and Verulamium

Thursday 27 June, 7pm, £10

Join curator David Thorold for a talk exploring how the Romans introduced the coin to Britain. Includes an opportunity to handle examples of Roman coinage. Book on website:

www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk

Verulamium Octoginta: Celebrating 80 years of Verulamium Museum

Saturday 29 June, 11am – 4pm, Free

Verulamium Museum opened in 1939 and has been a focal point for Roman history, both locally and beyond, ever since. Celebrate its 80th year with family friendly activities, gallery talks and costumed characters who will bring the stories from the third largest city in Roman Britain to life.

Museum Explorers

Available all day throughout the school holidays, free with admission.

Borrow items from our explorer kit to help you investigate the museum. What will you discover?



Local Plan Submitted

A Local Plan identifying land for future development in St Albans District has been

submitted to the Government for examination.

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has appointed an Inspector to hold a public hearing later this year and see if the Plan is “sound”.

If it passes this stage, it will need to be adopted by the Council before it comes into force.

The draft pinpoints areas suitable for new housing, commercial building and infrastructure from 2020 to 2036 and conforms to a Government

standard that 913 new homes a year should be built during that period.

The Council has also set out an Infrastructure Delivery Plan - an assessment of the major facilities that will be required to support new developments.

These include roads, walking and cycling paths, public transport, schools, health clinics and open spaces for recreation.



City Centre Changes

Work is well underway on a £60 million project to transform a rundown area of St Albans City Centre with new housing and business space.

The City’s former Police Station in Victoria Street and an NHS Clinic to its rear are both being demolished.

In its place, the Council and its contractor Morgan Sindall Construction are building two new stylish developments around an attractive public space.

These will provide around 100 new homes, commercial space on the ground and first floors and more than 100 parking spaces.

In another Council development, work has also started on the creation of new leisure and sport centres in Harpenden in a £18.8 million project that is due to be completed by early 2021.

Garden Community Funding

A bid to create a vibrant garden community with 11,000 new homes in the west of St Albans District has received an initial £750,000 of Government funding.

The Council put forward the proposal with its partners, Dacorum Borough Council and the Crown Estate.

The land involved lies to the east and north of Hemel Hempstead and falls within both Councils’ administrative territories.



Hertfordshire IQ to create 8,000 jobs

Hertfordshire Innovation Quarter has been launched with the aim of becoming the UK’s leading centre for green business.

The Council was one of seven organisations that helped created the new Enterprise Zone to the west of the District.

It hopes to attract leading environmental technology, agri-tech and modern construction companies to the area to join others that are already based here.

Over the next 10 years, it is planned to develop three million square feet of business space on the site. That is enough to support 8,000 jobs.

The new commercial zone will offer businesses a flexible mix of work spaces from offices to research and development labs, light industrial plants and warehousing.

Businesses may apply for tax breaks and can receive guidance on to how access funding through the Hertfordshire Growth Hub.

For more information, see: www.herts-iq.co.uk

MAYOR'S PRIDE awards 2019

Sponsored by **MORGAN
SINDALL**

Pride Awards

A teenage boxing champion, a community pub and the organisers of a talking newspaper were among the nine winners of the St Albans Mayor's Pride Awards 2019.

They were presented with their trophies at a ceremony at St Michael's Manor, Fishpool Street, by the 2018/19 Mayor, Councillor Rosemary Farmer.

The annual awards celebrate the achievements of inspiring individuals, hard-working community groups and public-spirited businesses.

This year's winners were:

Community Champion of the Year – Stuart New, an active member of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets and the Royal British Legion for over three decades.

Cultural Innovation Award - Clare Suttie, organiser of the Polar Bear Plunge, a charity fund-raiser that sees people dive into a freezing pool on New Year's Day.

Young Person of Distinction - Anthony Agard. He changed his life for the better when he joined a boxing club at 13 and is now studying business at Oaklands College.

Community Orientated Business of the Year – Hare & Hounds, St Albans. A pub that took a leading role in a number of charity projects.

Environmental Champion of the Year – Incredible Edible Community Gardens. Foodsmiles have set up two gardens in central St Albans with the aim of teaching local people gardening skills and enhancing the City Centre.



Picture by Tia Fields: The Mayor (2nd from the right) with some of the finalists in the Voluntary Sector Award.

Voluntary Sector Award – Soroptimist International, St Albans and District. A local women's group that has been serving the community since 1957.

Inclusive Communities Award – Gordon Baisley, Victoria Playing Fields Football Club. He runs an inclusive youth football club.

Community Project of the Year - 'Box Cleva,' St Albans ABC. They delivered socially inclusive boxing sessions for 7-15 year olds.

Mayor's Recognition Award – St Albans and District Talking Newspaper. A weekly audio programme sent out free of charge to those with limited sight.



Communities 1st

Working with you to make a bigger difference

St Albans & District

Community Grants

Voluntary and community groups are invited to apply for grants from a £55,000 fund run by the Council.

The money is intended to support projects that benefit the whole community, particularly the most vulnerable people such as the very elderly and the less able.

Payments of between £500 and £5,000 are distributed every year from the Council's Community Grants Fund which is administered with the help of Communities 1st. Applications for this year can be made until Sunday 7 July. For more information: www.stalbans.gov.uk/community-and-living/communitygroups/community-grants/



Empty Homes

The Council is committed to bringing homes that have been empty for a long time back into use.

An empty property can be reported to them and an inquiry will then be carried out to establish how long it has been vacant and the reasons for this.

Officers in our Private Sector Housing Team will try and contact the owner to discuss their plans and how the empty home can be brought back into use.

As a last resort, enforcement action may be taken if it is unlikely the owner will restore the property voluntarily.

Empty properties fall into disrepair, becoming an eyesore and a source of antisocial behaviour and vermin. An empty house is also a wasted resource in an area where there is a high demand for housing.

If you wish to report a property that may be empty, please contact our team on: privatesectorhousing@stalbands.gov.uk



Rough Sleepers

Funding of £200,000 to help rough sleepers in the St Albans District and a neighbouring area has been obtained from the Government.



St Albans City and District Council along with Dacorum Borough Council were awarded the money from the Rough Sleeping Initiative Fund for 2019/20.

Some of the money will finance a Housing First project, providing opportunities for rough sleepers to be found suitable long-term accommodation.



Picture: Fly-tippers spotted by Council cameras in Hogg End Lane.

Fly-tipping Prosecutions

Three people have already been prosecuted this year for fly-tipping offences by St Albans City and District Council.

One man was ordered to pay almost £700 in fines and costs for letting his hired van be used for the illegal dumping of rubbish in Hogg End Lane, a fly-tipping hotspot.

Another man was ordered to pay more than £750 for fly-tipping in Waverley Road, St Albans, and the third offender was penalised £250 for dumping rubbish in the City Centre.

In addition, a number of £400 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued to offenders and warning letters sent to others.

The Council is part of the Hertfordshire Fly-tipping Group that is seeking to combat the crime. For more information about their work and campaigns, see:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/flytipping

StreetLink

StreetLink is a charity that connects rough sleepers to local services. If you are concerned about someone over the age of 18 that you have seen sleeping rough, you can send an alert to their website: www.streetlink.org.uk



Rural Crime

The St Albans District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has made a commitment to the rural community that it will work with farmers and landowners to reduce crime.

This is an umbrella group that includes representatives from the Council as well as Hertfordshire Constabulary and other organisations.

Hare coursing, poaching, fly-tipping and other rural crimes can have a damaging effect on landowners and prevention will be a priority for the police in 2019/20.

By developing closer relationships with the community, the CSP aims to use technology such as cameras and investigate innovative ways of preventing offending.

The Police are encouraging victims of rural crime to report any crimes to them immediately. In addition, they advise farmers to join schemes like Rural Watch or Heritage Watch and to invest in security measures such as CCTV.

Photo credit: Mariusz Galas

EU Settlement Scheme

The EU Settlement Scheme will enable EU citizens resident in the UK and their family members to obtain the immigration status they will require to live and work in the UK after 30 June 2021.

They can apply from now until that date for settled or pre-settled status. In the event of a no-deal Brexit, applications would be required before December 2020.

Some groups, such as Irish citizens, may stay in the UK without applying. For more information and details on how to apply: www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families

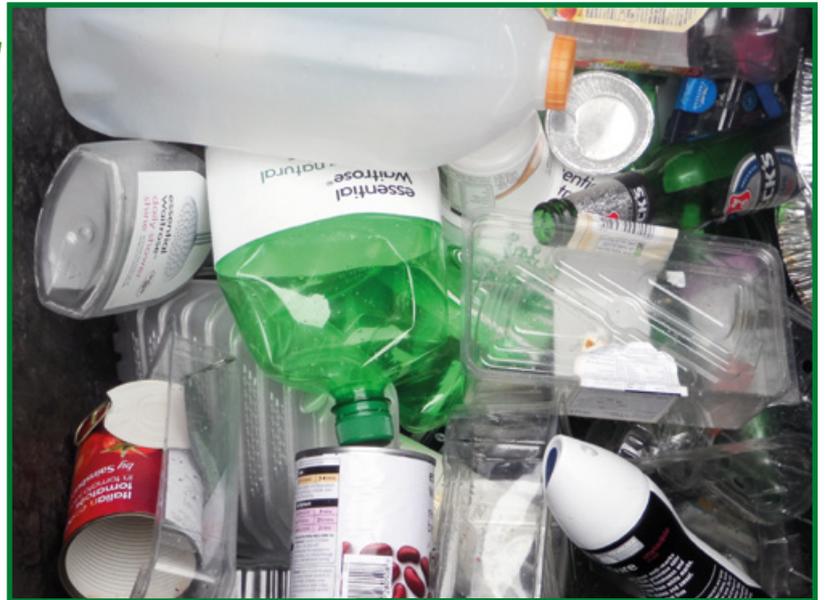
Focus on Green Issues

Newsletter

We publish a quarterly Sustainability Newsletter which is available for free to anyone who signs up to it.

It provides information on local initiatives, events and news, aiming to inspire you to make positive choices to reduce your impact on the environment.

If you want it emailed to you four times a year, you can select it in your MyStAlbans District Account.



Recycling hits highest figure yet



The annual recycling rate in St Albans District has reached its highest ever figure of 62.1%.

The rate for the 12 months to the end of March this year is significantly higher than the previous year's 59.6%.

It is also ahead of the ambitious 60% target set by the Council and well above the overall recycling rate for England of 44.8%.

The improvement could now put the Council among the top ten recycling local authorities in England.

Currently, the Council is 13th in the table of around 340 councils with a new table due to be published later this year.

During the past year, the District's recycling rate – as measured by weight – exceeded 60% in every month but two. The highest monthly figure was 66.5% in May 2018.



Changes to garden waste service

We are offering a new garden waste collection service to allow each household to have up to three extra green bins or bags.

The new service is aimed at people with large gardens who struggle to contain all their waste in the one bin.

To subscribe, you must register through your MyStAlbans account or set one up: www.stalbans.gov.uk/mystalbans

The cost is £50 a year for each bin or for two reusable bags.

They will be collected fortnightly along with the existing green bin which will still be emptied as normal.

Weeds clearance

The Council took on responsibility last year for managing weeds on pavements and kerbs throughout the District.

This includes the weed spraying programme that was previously undertaken by Hertfordshire County Council.

It is intended to improve weed control across the District and the treatment frequency in many areas has been increased to three per year.

You can report a high number of weeds in your street or check when it is scheduled to be treated via the Council's website: <http://bit.ly/2Vsknf3>

Tree watering

Residents can help the environment this summer by watering trees in public areas during hot, dry spells.

This is especially the case for newly-planted trees – for example in Charmouth Road, St Albans – as it helps them get established.



Jobs At The Council

Jobs at the Council carry an attractive package of benefits and opportunities – including flexible working, generous annual leave, childcare vouchers and up to 18.5% in employer pension contributions.

There are also fantastic learning and development options that can kick start a new career path or help you progress in your chosen field.

We take great pride in delivering first rate services to our residents and other customers – and are always looking for talented people to join our team.

So, check out our current vacancies and make St Albans work for you! www.stalbans.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers

Join Community Viewpoint

a sounding board for new ideas and service developments

You are invited to join Community Viewpoint – our sounding board to discuss new ideas for improving the District.

We will notify you by email of any consultations we have on subjects ranging from proposed parking controls to changes to green spaces.

Community Viewpoint is only accessible through the new MyStAlbans account – an online portal that you can sign up to for easy access to Council services.

To sign up for Community Viewpoint, please visit www.stalbans.gov.uk/communityviewpoint or scan the QR image using a smart phone.



Special Olympians

Seven Special Olympics athletes from St Albans District won a total of 12 medals at the World Games.

They took home nine golds as well as three silvers from the Abu Dhabi games in swimming, football, judo, basketball and equestrian events.

To celebrate their success, they attended a reception at the St Albans Museum + Gallery.

Special Olympics is a charity that provides sports training to children and adults with a learning disability. The St Albans branch has 150 members.

The Special Olympics World Games, which is held every four years, attracted 7,500 athletes from 200 countries and was watched by 500,000 spectators.



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 and what else you want us to include.

St Albans City & District Council, Civic Centre, St Peter's Street, St Albans, Herts. AL1 3LD

Website: www.stalbans.gov.uk; www.stalbans.gov.uk/mystalbansdistrictaccount

Email: contactus@stalbens.gov.uk

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

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.disabledgo.com for information about access to local facilities.

Twitter: @StAlbansCouncil

Facebook: St Albans Council

Facebook: Recycle for St Albans District