

# Community NEWS



WINTER 2018

## CHRISTMAS IN ST ALBANS 2018

Look out for your copy of an essential guide to what is happening over the festive season in the District. It is being delivered to every household.



## Festive Fun Gets Underway

Charter market on every day from Saturday 15 December to Monday 24 December

**Christmas in St Albans City Centre will be extra enticing for shoppers this year with the famous Charter Market open for TEN days in a row.**

The market, normally held every Wednesday and Saturday, has been extended to give shoppers more choice and add to the festive atmosphere of the City Centre.

It will take over St Peter's Street from Saturday 15 December right through to Christmas Eve with dozens of stalls selling a wide range of seasonal produce and novelty gifts as well as essentials such as fruit and veg.

There will also be a number of street food stalls. In addition, there will be a Christmas Farmers' Market on Sunday December 9.

A further attraction will be the return of the popular French Market on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 of December.

Throughout the festive season there will be occasional live music and art performances in front of the Clock Tower.

The festive fun got underway on Sunday 18 November with the Christmas Lights Switch-On in St Albans.

Around 16,500 people attended the popular event with several streets closed to traffic to allow for a six-hour long street party.

Stars from the Alban Arena pantomime turned on the lights in St Peter's Street from the main stage and St Albans Mayor, Councillor Rosemary Farmer, switched the lights on at the Clock Tower.

**Note:** for all the news on the Meraki Christmas Festival, please see: [www.merakichristmas.com](http://www.merakichristmas.com)

### Festive Pub of 2018

The annual contest for the most festive pub in St Albans of 2018 is underway again. Send in your nominations to: [economicdevelopment@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:economicdevelopment@stalbans.gov.uk)

### Green Christmas

See **page 4** for the Christmas and New Year waste and recycling collection dates; **page 5** for top tips on how to have a Green Christmas.



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

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



Approved by Plain English Campaign



## Mayor's Carol Concert

Everyone is welcome to attend the Mayor's Carol Concert on Sunday 9 December at 4pm. St Albans' Mayor, Councillor Rosemary Farmer, will be hosting the popular annual event by the Clock Tower with mulled wine and mince pies available to add to the festive atmosphere. Funds raised will be donated to Rennie Grove Hospice.

## Alban Arena Panto

This year's pantomime at the Alban Arena is a production of Cinderella starring Rachel Stevens of S Club 7, CBeebies' Mr Bloom Ben Faulks, and local legend, comedian Bob Golding,

Tickets and further information is available at: [www.alban-arena.co.uk](http://www.alban-arena.co.uk)



## Economic Development Strategy

**A new Economic Development Strategy for the St Albans District has been launched and it is focused around building a flourishing local economy to deliver a broad range of high-quality jobs.**

Produced by the Council, it aims to make the most of opportunities for future growth, particularly in the enviro-tech and green science sectors.

The District has one of the most vibrant local economies in Hertfordshire with 9,375 business enterprises and a highly skilled workforce.

To view the strategy go to: <http://bit.ly/2NNL4SG>



## A County at War: Life on the Home Front – the Armistice Centenary Edition

**Robert Voss, the Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, has commissioned a film about the County's role in the First World War.**

This compelling, 50-minute documentary can be watched at [tinyurl.com/ACAWTAE](http://tinyurl.com/ACAWTAE)

Around 3,000 DVDs are being

distributed free to interested groups so as many people as possible can learn about this important part of our local history.

To apply for a copy, please email Justin Apthorp, the associate producer, including quantity required and postal address: [acountyatwar@gmail.com](mailto:acountyatwar@gmail.com)



## Remembrance Sunday

**Around 3,000 people attended a moving Remembrance Day ceremony on the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.**

They lined the pavements to watch and support the annual parade and service that started in St Peter's Street at 6.30pm.

Representatives from the Royal British Legion, Air, Sea and Army Cadets, HMS Wildfire, the Guiding and Scout movements as well as the police all took part in the march.

After the parade came to a halt by the memorial, a multi-faith service started with County, District, Town and Parish Councillors in attendance along with religious leaders.

St Peter's Church Choir led the singing and pupils from Heathlands School for deaf children signed I Vow To Thee My Country.

More than 20 organisations and individuals laid wreaths at the War Memorial near St Peter's Church before a two-minute silence was held.

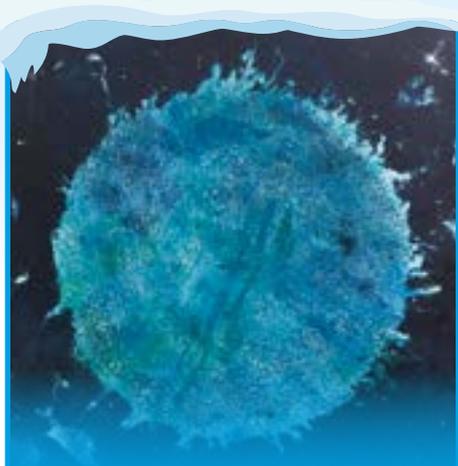
As darkness fell, a beacon was lit and another set ablaze at Highfield Park - two of 1,000s that lit up the sky at the same time across the UK.

# WHAT'S ON at the museums

St Albans Museum + Gallery, St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL3 5DJ  
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.



### Imprinted

Running now until Sunday 3 February 2019, free

Working from studios in Hertfordshire, artists Jane Glynn and Suman Gujral present solo exhibitions in neighbouring galleries. Each with a particular style exploring the experience of time and memory, they share personal autobiographical subjects through sensitive paintings, prints and associated ephemera.

### Visit Father Christmas' Charity Grotto! In partnership with St Albans for Refugees

Saturday 15 December, 10.00am – 4.00pm, free

Can you help Father Christmas find presents for refugees? They need socks, hats, scarves, gloves, sleeping bags, walking boots, tracksuit bottoms, jumpers and coats. All can be pre-loved except underwear.

### Museum Explorers

Saturday 15 December 2018 – Sunday 6 January 2019, all day, free

Borrow items from our specially made explorer kit and investigate spaces, objects and artworks at both Verulamium Museum and St Albans Museum + Gallery. Work as a family to uncover the stories in our displays.

### Game Plan: Board Games Rediscovered

Saturday 1 December 2018 – Sunday 3 March 2019, £5

Originally displayed at the Victoria & Albert's Museum of Childhood, this exhibition celebrates excitement and occasional frustration of playing board games. Come and see some of the most iconic and visually-striking games from the V&A's outstanding national collection. Alongside modern games like Cluedo and Trivial Pursuit and traditional ones like chess, the exhibition will look at historical games from the 18th and 19th centuries.



### Chocolate Replica workshop – Seeing Double

Saturday 8 December, 2pm – 4.30pm, £25

Back by popular demand! Join us for a unique opportunity to learn how museum replica objects are made. Archaeologist Tess Machling and replica maker Roland Williamson share their talent for making flawless replicas of museum objects from metal and even chocolate! Have a go at painting your own chocolate object to take away.



### Make a Winter Lantern with designer Sarah Moroney

Wednesday 12 December, 10.30 am – 12.00pm, £25

Make those cold dark nights a little bit cosier with your own handmade winter lantern under the expert guidance of designer Sarah Moroney. Choose from a selection of fabric designs and create your very own light for use with an LED flameless candle. All materials provided.



**P.S:** The £7.75 million St Albans Museum + Gallery, which opened in June, has won the Hertfordshire Building Futures 2018 award for best retrofit and was also highly commended in the Project of the Year category!

## Verulamium Museum

### Celebrate Saturnalia!

Friday 21 – Sunday 23 December, 2pm - 4pm, last entry 3.40pm, £1.50 per child

This traditional festival honouring the Roman god of plenty, Saturn, was the Romans' way of celebrating in style! Take part in crafts inspired by Saturnalia's customs.

### Twelve Days of Christmas Gallery Trail

Saturday 15 December 2018 – Sunday 6 January 2019

Discover Verulamium Museum's hidden treasures with our very own twelve days of Christmas trail. Free with museum entry!



## Christmas Waste and Recycling Collection Dates

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Monday 24 December 2018	Monday 24 December 2018
Tuesday 25 December 2018	Thursday 27 December 2018
Wednesday 26 December 2018	Friday 28 December 2018
Thursday 27 December 2018	Saturday 29 December 2018
Friday 28 December 2018	Monday 31 December 2018
Monday 31 December 2018	Wednesday 2 January 2019
Tuesday 1 January 2019	Thursday 3 January 2019
Wednesday 2 January 2019	Friday 4 January 2019
Thursday 3 January 2019	Saturday 5 January 2019
Friday 4 January 2019	Monday 7 January 2019
Monday 7 January 2019	Tuesday 8 January 2019
Tuesday 8 January 2019	Wednesday 9 January 2019
Wednesday 9 January 2019	Thursday 10 January 2019
Thursday 10 January 2019	Friday 11 January 2019
Friday 11 January 2019	Saturday 12 January 2019



### Services in Extreme Weather

In the event of severe weather conditions this winter such as heavy snow or flooding, the latest Council service updates can be found online at: [www.stalbans.gov.uk/snow](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/snow)

This will include updates on waste and recycling collections as well as information from Hertfordshire County Council on school closures and road gritting. There is also advice on what to do in the event of a flood and how to minimise energy bills.

## Fight the Flu This Winter

**Public Health England is urging people most at risk from the flu to get a free vaccination.**

They are targeting pregnant women, children aged 2 and 3 years old, adults with underlying health conditions and people aged 65 or older.

For most children, the flu vaccine is not an injection, just a quick and easy nasal spray.

If you are eligible for the flu vaccine, get it now – it's free because you need it. Contact your general practice, pharmacist or midwife to get it.

Visit [www.nhs.uk/flu vaccine](http://www.nhs.uk/flu vaccine) for more information.

**STAY WELL THIS WINTER**



## Dial 111 For Urgent Health Needs

The NHS is reminding people to first dial 111 if they want help for an urgent health need rather than head to an accident and emergency unit or seek an appointment with their GP.

The 111 service is provided by a highly trained team, including GPs and nurses based at a call centre. People will have

their symptoms assessed and will be directed to the right service for their needs, or receive self-care advice over the phone.

The NHS wants 111 to be the first call people make if they feel they need urgent medical help – particularly in the evenings, overnight and at weekends.

## Winter Gift Pack



**Are you aged over 55? Are you feeling cold in your home or do you know someone who is?**

If so, then a warm in winter gift pack could help you fight off the cold.

Each pack contains a blanket, socks, gloves, a hat, a mug and a selection of hot drinks and soup, all packed in a reusable tote bag.

And they are delivered free to your home.

To order one for yourself or to nominate someone to receive one, please call 01923 372717 or email [info@smallactsofkindness.co.uk](mailto:info@smallactsofkindness.co.uk)

Details at: [www.smallactsofkindness.co.uk](http://www.smallactsofkindness.co.uk)



# Have Yourself A Green Christmas

**Christmas may be the season to be jolly - but it's also the least eco-friendly time of the year with an extra 30 per cent of waste generated each festive season!**

**But you don't need to be a killjoy to have a Green Christmas as our Recycling and Waste Officer's top tips on how to reduce, reuse and recycle show.**

**So, here's how to enjoy the festive season, and spoil yourself and your loved ones without spoiling the planet.**

## Sensible Shopping:

Last-minute Christmas shopping can be stressful with poorly picked presents likely to be thrown away. Choose presents with durability so that they can be enjoyed again and again, not forgotten after five minutes. Also, don't forget to take your reusable shopping bags out with you!

## Green Gift Ideas:

**Go reusable** - Reusable bottles, coffee cups and lunch boxes make excellent presents. They can be used all year long and can save money, as well as helping to save the environment!

**The gift of time** - Create some memories together and give your loved one a ticket to a show, event, dinner or a getaway instead of a product they might not use.

**Get thrifty** - Second hand stores can be gold mines for finding the perfect present, and can be much cheaper too!

**Get crafty** - Can anything beat a gift that has been lovingly hand-made?



## Festive Feasts:

Don't end up with food leftovers after the festive period. Design a meal plan and then write a list of the ingredients so that you only buy what you need.

For tips on planning perfect portions, correct storage or how to love your leftovers visit: [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com)

Recycle all food waste in your caddy, not your brown bin. This includes cooked or raw vegetables, bones and skins, plate scrapings, tea-bags, egg shells, etc.

Top tip: You can line your kitchen caddy with any soft plastic bag, compostable liner or newspaper.

## Festive Recycling Guide:

In your black bin you can recycle: all glass bottles and jars (rinsed out); sweet tins and biscuit tubs; clean aluminium foil, mince pie cases and trays and cans. Try and recycle aluminium foil in a tennis ball-sized lump.

In your box you can recycle wrapping paper and greetings cards without glitter or 3D decorations and cardboard packaging.

## Garden waste collection service: improvements coming in April 2019

The existing green bin collection service is being enhanced so additional garden waste can be collected.

From next April, residents will be able to take out an annual subscription to have additional garden waste bins.

The scheme is being introduced in response to requests from residents.

Households not serviced by a green bin will be able to buy prepaid compostable sacks for their excess garden waste.

The new services will help to cut down on car journeys to local household waste recycling centres.

Charges will be in line with similar services provided by neighbouring Councils.

Further details will be available early in the New Year on how residents can take out a subscription for the new service.



## Christmas Trees:

Recycle your Christmas Tree with the help of the Council. Leave your tree out with your green bin on garden waste collection day and we will take it away.





## Candles

Candles in the home are a very popular way to mark a special occasion like Christmas and create a distinctive atmosphere - but they also bring fire into your home.

Sales of candles have increased dramatically and so has the number of candle-related incidents which the Fire Service has to deal with.

Here are some tips to avoid starting a blaze at your house:

- Always put candles on a heat resistant surface.
- Keep them clear of curtains, other fabrics or furniture and away from draughts.
- Don't put them under shelves.
- Take care with scented candles as they turn to liquid to release their fragrance. Put them in a glass or metal holder.
- Extinguish all candles before you leave a room and never go to sleep with one still burning.



## Sign up to your MyStAlbans District Account

Signing up to your MyStAlbans District Account has never been easier with the launch of a QR code that you can use with your mobile phone.

If you register you can get customised information from the Council for you, your home and your neighbourhood. You can also use it to pay Council Tax, or see your bill and check your balance.

And you can tell us about waste and recycling issues and report things like litter at the click of a button.



## Vehicle Theft

As winter approaches drivers should be aware that the cold weather is a car thief's friend.

Drivers should never de-ice a car by leaving it running with the keys in the ignition as you could become a victim of a 'frosting' car crime. If this happens, an insurance claim would probably be turned down.

It can take as little 10 seconds for a thief to steal something from your car so drivers are reminded to ensure that their vehicles are locked and secured overnight. Do not leave small change on view in the centre console and remove all valuables from the vehicle.

The Council's Community Safety Team has some ice scrapers to give away – please come to reception to pick up one while stocks last.



Several hundred people attended the annual Older People's Day on October 17 organised by the Council with a number of partners at the Alban Arena. This was a chance for people make new friends and have a chat while enjoying free tea and cake.

# Focus on Green Issues

## Sustainability Newsletter

The Council now publishes 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 My StAlbans District Account. See: [www.stalbans.gov.uk/mystalbans](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/mystalbans)

Previous copies can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/2pUn5YI>



## Green Ring Opened

**St Albans Green Ring – a continuous 6.5 mile cycling and walking route around the City – has been officially opened.**

The ring connects many of the City's green spaces, beauty spots and heritage sites as well as schools, workplaces, leisure facilities and residential areas.



## Schools in Bloom

**Young gardeners have been rewarded for taking part in the St Albans District Schools in Bloom competition.**

Pupils from 11 primary schools created flower displays and vegetable patches for the competition organised by the Council to help children learn about wildlife and horticulture.

The winners of the five competition categories were: Perfect for Pollinators – Manland Primary School, Harpenden; Vibrant Vegetables – Camp Primary and Nursery School, St Albans; Wonderful Wildlife – Skyswood Primary School, St Albans; Scrapyard Scarecrow – Wood End School, Harpenden; and Super-Duper Sunflower – Wheatfields Infants and Nursery School, St Albans.

## Red Box Project

**The Council is supporting the Red Box Project – a campaign to ensure no young woman misses out on her education because of her period.**

They place constantly stocked Red Boxes of free sanitary wear in schools for young women to access, aiming to reach those who may not be able to afford them.

This follows a recent survey by Plan International UK that found 1 in 10 teenage girls had been unable to afford sanitary products.

Among the local businesses who support the movement are Jade Pharmacy, St. Peter's Street, Budgens, the Quadrant, Marshalswick, and the London Colney Community Centre.

## Half-Marathon

**Registration has started for next year's St Albans Half-Marathon – one of the District's most popular annual events.**

To sign up for the event - or the ten kilometre race and children's fun run – on Sunday 9 June, go to: [www.stalbanshalfmarathon.com](http://www.stalbanshalfmarathon.com)





# Make St Albans work for you

- ✓ Learning and Development opportunities
- ✓ Flexitime or Flexible working e.g. nine-day fortnight, compressed hours, partial homeworking
- ✓ Generous annual leave
- ✓ Up to 18.5% employer pension contributions
- ✓ Reimbursement of professional fees
- ✓ Leisure travel discounts
- ✓ Childcare Voucher scheme

Here at the council, we take great pride in our people and the services we deliver. We are always looking for talented people to join our team here at St Albans.

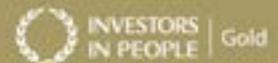
In fact, we may have the perfect job that will allow you to kick start a new career or progress further in your chosen field.

From apprenticeships and graduate placements right through to professional and management posts, we've got a variety of opportunities to inspire you.

In return, we can offer competitive pay and benefits, a range of development opportunities and flexible working options right on your doorstep!

**So check out our current vacancies and make St Albans work for you!**

[www.stalbans.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers)



## St Albans Food and Drink Festival 2018

**Around 16,000 people enjoyed the main event at this year's Festival – the annual street festival.**

The City Centre was closed to traffic and turned into a gastronomic wonderland with pop-up restaurants, cocktail bars, 70 food and drink stalls, a cookery theatre and live music.

And the winners of the highly-coveted festival awards were:

**Best Local Producer** – Darlish; **Food and Drink Shop** – Buongiorno Italia;

**Pub** – Ye Olde Fighting Cocks; **Bar** – Suckerpunch; **Café** – Hatch; **Market Stall** – Peddling Pizza; **Takeaway** – The Ridgeway Fish Bar; **Hot Beverage** – Charlie's Coffee & Company; **Place to do Business** – The Beech House; **Most Family Friendly Venue** – The Prae Wood Arms; **Restaurant for Special Occasion** – Lussmanns; **Restaurant for Everyday Dining** – Per Tutti; **Newcomer** – Heartwood Tea Rooms, Sandridge

**PLUS Kate D'Arcy Award for Customer Service** – Liam Judge, Hatch; **Food & Drink Champion for Outstanding Achievement** – Christo Tofalli, Ye Olde Fighting Cocks.



### Christmas Opening Hours

The Council's Offices at the Civic Centre will be closed on 24, 25 and 26 December, after noon on 31 December and 1 January.



*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](mailto:communications@stalbands.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@stalbands.gov.uk](mailto:contactus@stalbands.gov.uk)

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

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

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

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

**Planning:** [planning@stalbands.gov.uk](mailto:planning@stalbands.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