

Community NEWS



AUTUMN 2016



St Albans & Harpenden Food & Drink Festival 2016

25 SEPTEMBER TO 3 OCTOBER

 **St Albans & Harpenden Food & Drink festival is back, celebrating the diversity, creativity and tastiness of our local food. Tastings, demonstrations, talks, quizzes and festivities will be taking place across the District.**

A highlight of the Festival is the St Albans Street Finale on Sunday 2 October, from noon until 6pm. St Peter's Street will be closed for a day of food, fun and feasting. With 100 fine food and drink producers, music, demonstrations by expert chefs, and plenty for the kids to do, it will be a great family day out.

The wonderful CAMRA St Albans Beer and Cider Festival (28 Sept – 1 Oct) is also not to be missed!

Many festival activities are free but some require pre-booking. See www.enjoystalbands.com/foodanddrink for details, or look out for the festival brochure.



Want to work locally?
The Council is recruiting

 **We work hard to recruit, develop and retain top staff to help us deliver the best possible service to local residents.**

To see our latest job vacancies and watch videos about what it's like to work with us, see www.stalbands.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers.

Also, if you're looking for a flexible way to work, why not register as a casual worker? Details are available on our website.

Try our website first

 **Many of our most used services can be accessed online at any time of the day or night.**

To pay your Council Tax, report a change of address or a missed bin, and lots more, just go to www.stalbands.gov.uk.

We also have a popular self-service kiosk in the Council reception area where you can make payments.

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

www.stalbands.gov.uk





Lights
Switch-On
Sun 27 Nov
(5pm)

St Albans Christmas Market

THURS 24 Nov – SUN 18 DEC

 **St Albans' magical Christmas Market will be back for a fourth year, once again located in the Vintry Garden overlooked by our glorious Cathedral.**

This year the market launch and the ever-popular Christmas lights switch-on have been combined. An extra special event to be held in St Albans on Sunday 27 November (from noon) will ensure that the festive season gets off to a great start. There will be music, fairground rides, costumed performers and lots more. Rather than just one lights switch-on event, this year you will be spoilt for choice. See the lights being switched on in St Peters Street, or at the Alban Arena with the Panto stars. Or see them at the Clock Tower with a festive brass band, or at the Christmas Market with a glass of mulled wine.

Look out for a special brochure – available mid-November – showcasing lots of fantastic events taking place locally over Christmas, or see www.enjoystalbans.com.



SuStAinable StAlbans Week

19-26 Nov 2016



 **This year's award winning Sustainable St Albans Week is all about improving environmental sustainability in the District – everything from natural habitats, to sustainable transport.**

Over 1,500 people were involved last year, organising community litter-picks, heritage walks, river clean-ups, cycle events, talks, films, play activities, repair workshops and more. Transition St Albans and St Albans Friends of the Earth, the joint organisers, won two accolades for their efforts in the District's 2016 Mayor's Pride Awards.

This year the focus is on food waste. Residents are being challenged to do a 'Week Without Food Waste'.

See www.sustainablestalbins.org for details.



ST ALBANS
MARKET

Value • Variety • Atmosphere

Bag a bargain every Wednesday and Saturday

visit www.enjoystalbans.com for more information

 your local market



WHAT'S ON

The Museum of St Albans in Hatfield Road is now closed while we develop the new museum and gallery at the Town Hall.

at the museum

Verulamium Museum, St Michael's Street, St Albans, AL3 4SW.

www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk, 01727 751810.

Museum entry charge for non-residents (including 'Free' events).

Children and Families

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Story time session for the under 7s

Sun 25 Sept, Sun 30 Oct, Sun 27 Nov.

3-4pm. £2 (free to members of the St Albans Children's Book Group). Join us for stories, activities and Children's Book Award voting.

Meet Queen Boudicca

Sat 22 Oct. 2-4.30pm. Free. Meet Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni. Story telling by Boudicca at 2.30 and 3.30pm.

October half-term

Join us for spooky goings on in the museum.



Crafty Capers

Mon 24, Tues 25 Oct. 2-4pm. £1. Drop-in Halloween craft activities.

Witches

Wed 26 Oct, 10.30am-12.30pm, and 2-4pm. £6 (£5 for Young Friends). Age 6-11.

Do witches really have blue spit and colour-changing pupils? Create your own model witch detector aids.

Haunted Houses

Thurs 27 Oct. 10.30am-12.30pm, and 2-4pm. £6 (£5 for Young Friends). Age 6-11.

Funny spooky stories. Make your own model haunted house.

Halloween Fun

Fri 28 Oct. 10.30am-12.30pm, and 2-4pm. £6 (£5 for Young Friends). Age 8-13.

Halloween craft, and a St Albans ghost walk.

Adults



Hands On History

Fri 28 Oct, 7.30-9.30pm. £5.

As part of the national Museums at Night event, experience the thrill of handling real (and replica) Roman artifacts. Learn how the people of Roman Verulamium kept clean, constructed their homes, cooked and ate.

Mid-week Talk Series

Wed 9 Nov, 16 Nov, 23 Nov, 30 Nov.

7.30-8.30pm. £5.

Talks on: well-known St Albans characters; the first torpedo to be fired by the Navy; the history of the toilet; and food and drink in Roman Britain. Details at www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk.



Games of Rome

Sat 26 Nov. 11am-10.30pm. Free. Suitable for all ages. Play real ancient roman games and historically-based modern board and card games. Drop in for an hour or stay for the whole day.

Become part of the St Albans story

 **St Albans Museums and Galleries Trust*** has so far raised over £100,000 through its unique appeal giving people a chance to write their name into St Albans' history.

There is still time to have your name engraved on limited edition Honours Boards at the new Museum & Art Gallery. The magnificent oak panels are part of the £7.75 million project to convert the Town Hall into a beautiful new museum and exhibiton space.

For a donation of £250 or more,

your name, or that of a loved one, will be etched into the oak panels in the Benefactors Wall of Fame. The idea was inspired by the courtroom's wooden walls and graffiti left by prisoners on the cell doors.

Many of the donations are being made in memory of loved ones or as gifts to children and grandchildren. They make a great Christmas present!

See www.honoursboard.org.uk or contact georgina.bawden@stalbanstrust.org.uk (01727 296148) for an application form.



* CHARITY REGISTRATION NO. 1051866.



Carers' library scheme

Do you care for someone who has an illness or disability and who is unable to visit a library?

Hertfordshire County Council's libraries offer a special carers' library card to help make life a little easier. The card is also for young carers who look after their mum, dad or other relative at home.

As a carer you can borrow up to 30 items on the same card and keep most for up to 6 weeks. You can also borrow music recordings and talking books and reserve books for free. There are no overdue charges on books, talking books or music recordings.

Ask at your local library or call **0300 123 4049**.

You can also join 'Coffee & Computers' and 'Tea & Tablets' sessions, through Carers in Herts. To find out more about other support available see www.hertsdirect.org/carers.

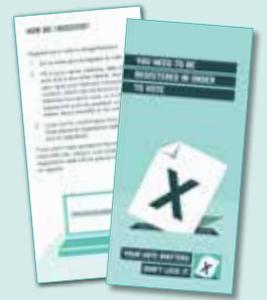
Spotlight on mental health awareness

Measures to improve people's understanding of mental health issues are being supported by the District Council.

Last year, Councillor Anthony Rowlands was named the District's Mental Health Champion, tasked with raising awareness and encouraging good practice locally.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT



Registered to vote?

The annual household canvass to update the electoral register is under way. Each residential property in the District has been sent a Household Enquiry Form. If you have not yet replied, please do so to ensure your details are included in the register of electors.

You can register online, return your form in the post, or use our free phone or text registration service (standard network rates apply). See the form for details. Visit www.stalbans.gov.uk/elections.



5 year olds consume body weight in sugar

The Change4Life campaign Sugar Smart app can help parents to see how much sugar there is in everyday food and drink. 4 to 10 year olds consume the equivalent of an estimated 5,500 sugar cubes a year (22kg), the same weight as an average 5 year old. Currently 19% of 4 to 5 year olds and 28% of 10 to 11 year olds are overweight or obese in Hertfordshire.

Search 'Change4Life' for lots of free support, tips, ideas and recipes. If you're worried about your child's weight, you can speak to your GP, school nurse or contact Beezee Bodies which offer programmes to help the whole family www.beezeebodies.com.

The Council has recently signed the Time to Change pledge, a commitment to tackling stigma and mental health discrimination in the workplace.

St Albans City and District Health and Wellbeing Partnership has invested £110,000 over the past 4 years in 24 projects including

telephone helplines, workshops and counselling sessions. To find out more, see

www.stalbans.gov.uk/healthpartnership.

World Mental Health day is on Monday 10 October.



Update on playground, park and infrastructure improvements

 A new slide and springy animal have been installed in the Everlasting Lane playground and other equipment introduced at Bernards Heath play area. We have also given the sites a fresh coat of paint.

At Clarence Park, emergency repairs to the wooden ramp and steps at the Hatfield Road entrance were carried out after rotten timbers were found during an inspection. The ramp and steps are due to be replaced later this year with a durable brick-built structure.

Repair works have been made to the bridge on the High Street at Redbourn, and new bus shelters installed at Batchwood Drive and Griffiths Way, St Albans.



The Council has also made repairs to Sopwell Nunnery, renewed parts of the Alban Arena and carried out maintenance work at Verulamium Park lakes.



WORKING TOGETHER IN HERTFORDSHIRE



Trusted Traders



Trustworthy trader?

 Hertfordshire County Council's Trading Standards team and Which? have joined forces to promote a new approved trader scheme. Every trader in the scheme has passed an assessment before joining. For further information and to find a trustworthy trader, visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/goodtrader.

Action against hate crime

 **The Council is committed to taking action against hate crimes committed in the District following a slight increase in reports over the summer. Our Community Protection Team monitors hate crime levels along with Hertfordshire Police. We will take action over any allegations of abuse involving Council tenants, customers or staff.**

Anyone who feels they have been the victim of a hate crime

should contact their local Police on 101 who will investigate and take appropriate action.

Alternatively you can report it to the national charity True Vision by texting **07786 207091** or by visiting: www.report-it.org.uk.

Community relations in St Albans District are very good and the Council and the Police want to keep it that way. Hate crime will not be tolerated. If you experience it, don't ignore it, please report it.



Free bike safety equipment

 The Community Safety Partnership and police cadets are holding bike events on **Saturday 17 September** in **Harpenden** (High Street, 9-11am) and **St Albans** (market, 12-4pm). They are promoting safer night-time cycling. Bring your bike along to have it security marked, and pick up a free high viz rucksack cover, florescent ankle straps and portable bike lights. While stocks last.

New and improved recycling and waste service

New service for houses

Plastics, cans, foil, glass bottles and jars



NEW USE FOR EXISTING BIN

There is no need to separate your recycling any longer (except paper and card). Simply put it all in your big black bin, which is now for recycling.

Landfill waste



NEW

We've provided a new slimmer brown bin for waste that can't be recycled.

Food waste



NEW

We've introduced a new weekly food waste collection. Empty your new sink-side caddy into the food waste bins when they arrive in your bin area.

Plastics, cans, foil, glass bottles and jars



NEW

There's no need to separate the rest of your recycling any longer (except paper and card).

Paper and card



NO CHANGE

Garden waste



NO FOOD WASTE

NEW KERBSIDE CADDY
Lockable lid to keep smells in and flies out.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Food waste



Paper and card



NO CHANGE

Landfill waste



NO FOOD WASTE

In conservation areas where there are special arrangements (no bins), there is no change to your service, except new weekly food waste, textiles and small electricals collections. No need to separate your plastics, cans, foil, glass bottles and jars.

Small electricals and textiles

We have started a weekly collection service for small electrical items, batteries and textiles. Please keep separate in plastic carrier bags and put out next to your bins on collection day.

Batteries & small electricals



Textiles



Need more information?

Why all the fuss about food waste?

X Before the changes this summer, about a third of the waste that went in local rubbish bins was food. This is bad for the environment, smells bad, and can attract pests too.

Food waste is also heavy and very expensive to send to the tip, where each tonne costs around £100 in landfill tax. So it makes sense for everyone if the Council invests in better recycling of food waste.

Some people have asked us why we no longer want the food waste to

go in the green garden bins. As well as the hygiene reasons outlined above, plain garden waste needs much less treatment and can be put to good use at lower cost. So we'd much rather you put your food waste in your caddy for weekly collection. It will be treated and made into compost for agricultural use.

We will see in time the extent to which the new service is helping to boost recycling. We'll let you know how we get on.



Why have recycling services changed?

X We are trying to make it as easy and convenient as we can for you to recycle. We want St Albans District to be a shining example of great community recycling. With your help, we think we can boost recycling to over 60% of waste from the current 52%.

All the evidence suggests that the easier it is to recycle, the more people will do it. As everyone who cares about the future of the planet will know, these things are important to save resources, and cut carbon emissions.

The recycling service is paid for through Council Tax, and the changes also provide opportunities to save money in the long run. With financial resources squeezed, this means more money can be made available to spend on other important things locally.

There is lots of information about the new services on our website. You can download service leaflets, see answers to Frequently Asked Questions, and lots more. Just go to www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling.



Taking care of our crews

X As the waste industry is one of the five most dangerous in the country, there are, understandably, strict rules required by law to protect collection crews.

Nationally, in the last five years, three men have been killed and many more injured by bins falling from dustcarts. The mechanism that grips the bins to lift and empty them, has a maximum weight limit. This is why we are not able to take very heavy bins. Similarly if a bin is so full that the lid can't close, the crew is unable to see if it is attached correctly to the lifting mechanism. This is why we ask you to ensure the lid of your bin can close when you put it out for collection.

Our crew members want to be as helpful as possible, but sometimes reasons like these mean they have to say no. Sadly, while most people treat our crews with respect and dignity, some don't. Over the last few years, there has been an increase in the number of reported incidents of verbal abuse, escalating to physical violence. We want to protect our crews from abuse at work. If you witness abuse, or dangerous driving around the waste and recycling vehicles, please report this to us. We will involve the Police or suspend waste collections from individual properties if necessary. Thank you for your help.

Visit www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling

Email wastemanagementservices@stalban.gov.uk Call 01727 809019



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 the local organisations above.

See www.stalbanshub.org.uk for details of each organisation's

opening times or call 01727 866100. Visitors can also make use of a touch screen service providing access to lots of additional information, help and advice.



Handy online reporting

To report things like potholes, faulty streetlights, and overgrown vegetation or verges, Hertfordshire County Council, which runs all these services, has a useful online reporting web portal. See www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/highways. You can sign up for progress reports on what action is being taken too.



Celebrating older people

Wednesday 19 October, Alban Arena, 10am – 1pm.

This special event offers information about local services, groups, hobbies, interests and staying fit, of particular relevance to older residents. Drop in for free tea and cake and see what's going on locally.

Home extension? Loft conversion?



You will require building regulations approval. The Council is here to help you. Contact our expert team for a free consultation and quotation for building regulation fees.

- www.stalbans.gov.uk/buildingcontrol
- buildingcontrol@stalbands.gov.uk
- 01727 819218



My Council Services App



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 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@stalbands.gov.uk

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

Housing Repairs: housingrepairs@stalbands.gov.uk, 01727 819256

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

Council Tax: counciltax@stalbands.gov.uk, 01727 819204/819205

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

Planning: planning@stalbands.gov.uk, 01727 866100

All Other Enquiries: 01727 866100

Harpenden Town Council Information Point
 Town Hall, Leyton Road, Harpenden

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

Telephone: 01582 768278

Alternative formats: If you want to receive this newsletter in an alternative format, such as Braille, or in another language, please call 01727 819572. See www.disabledgo.com for information about access to local facilities.

Twitter: @StAlbansCouncil

Facebook: Recycle for St Albans District