

# Community NEWS



AUTUMN 2015



**ST ALBANS & HARPENDEN**

**FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL 2015**

**WED 23 SEPT – MON 5 OCT**

**Stand by your knives and forks! The fabulous St Albans and Harpenden Food and Drink Festival is coming! The Festival showcases the fantastic range of food, drink and produce available locally.**

With so many excellent eateries and delightful drinking holes, it's a great time to try something new or different. The festival opens with the Harpenden Food Court on **Sunday 27 September**. The finale Street Festival is on **Sunday 4 October** in

St Albans. There are events organised throughout the fortnight, not least the famous **St Albans CAMRA Beer & Cider Festival** (Wed 30 Sept – Sat 3 Oct). Full details at [www.enjoystalbins.com/foodanddrink](http://www.enjoystalbins.com/foodanddrink).

## A job at the Council?

The Council recently achieved IIP Silver accreditation recognising our commitment to learning and development, strong leadership, customer service and employee engagement. To see the latest Council job vacancies and watch our video about what it's like to work with us go to [www.stalbins.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers](http://www.stalbins.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers). Are you looking for a flexible way to work? If so, why not register as a casual worker? See our website for details.



## Information tailored to your address

*Just enter your postcode*

At [www.stalbins.gov.uk](http://www.stalbins.gov.uk) you can find detailed information specific to your home.

See the planning history of your house and details of neighbouring properties, overlay maps, check your next waste collection date – it's all there at the click of a mouse.

You can also pay for Council Services online, or use our new self-service payment kiosk at Council reception.



Check out the "where you live" link from the homepage

Community News is published by St Albans City & District Council

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



Approved by Plain English Campaign

# Grade II listings for war memorials

 **Five First World War memorial plaques in St Albans have been awarded a Grade II listing.**

Each lists the names of men who died in the war and who lived in the street where they are located. Some are attached to the homes of men who died in the war. Four are in Albert Street, Lower Dagnall Street, Pageant Road and Sopwell Lane. The fifth plaque is on the corner of Bardwell Road and Thorpe Road.



## National Older People's Day

 **Thursday 8 October, 10am – 2pm, Alban Arena, St Albans.**

Come along to learn about fitness, crime and fire prevention, and personal safety. Herts County Council's Trading Standards team will be offering consumer advice, and you can learn about what the University of the Third Age offers locally too. It's free!



## Alban Way celebrations

 **This October we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Hatfield to St Albans Railway Line – now the much-loved Alban Way.**

**Fri 16 Oct:** Guided walk along the length of the Alban Way, plus evening lecture and exhibition at the University of Hertfordshire.

**Sun 18 Oct:** Family fun day with events and walks at various places along the Alban Way.

Details: [www.smallford.org](http://www.smallford.org), [info@smallford.org](mailto:info@smallford.org).

## Christmas Lights Switch On

 **Sunday 15 Nov 12-6pm, with Switch On at 5.30pm.**

Join Tinkerbell and Peter Pan at this year's street festival guaranteed to kick-start your Christmas!

Twinkling lights, giant snow globes, mulled wine and merriment on a closed-to-the-traffic St Peters Street. For latest news see: [www.enjoystalbans.com](http://www.enjoystalbans.com).

## New damaging pest on sweet chestnut trees

 If you spot green or rose coloured galls (like the ones in the picture) on sweet chestnut trees, please contact the Forestry Commission at [tree\\_health\\_england@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tree_health_england@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) (preferred), or call 0300 067 4000. There's a nasty disease spreading – they need help to stop it. Oriental chestnut gall wasp disease has been spotted in the District, so they are concerned.

## ST ALBANS CHRISTMAS MARKET

Thur 26 Nov – Sun 20 Dec

In the grounds of St Albans Cathedral

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri: 11am - 6pm  
Thur: 11am - 8pm • Sat & Sun: 10am - 6pm



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

You can also always bag a bargain at **ST ALBANS CHARTER MARKET** every Wednesday and Saturday



# WHAT'S ON

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

## at the museum

Verulamium Museum, St Michaels St, St Albans, AL3 4SW.  
01727 751810 [www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk](http://www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk)



### Hoard Coins Exhibit

See the Sandridge Hoard Roman Coin Exhibit from Sat 12 Sept.

### Talks

**History of Beers & Pubs of St Albans**  
Sat 26 Sept. 4.30 - 5.30pm. Part of St Albans and Harpenden Food & Drink Festival. £4.

### Children and Families

**Note:** children must be accompanied by an adult

#### Story time sessions for the under 7s

Sun 27 Sept. Malachy Doyle stories.

Sun 25 Oct. "Box of Tricks" and other Katie Cleminson stories.

Sun 29 Nov. 'Cinderlephant', and other Emma Dodd stories.

3 - 4pm. £2 or Free to St Albans Children's Book Group members.

#### Archaeology Apprentices

Sun 4 Oct. 2.15pm & 3.15pm. Simulated archaeology dig. Free (Museum entry charge for non-residents). Ages 5-11.

#### Tots' Tales

Wed 14 Oct, Wed 11 Nov. £2.

1.30 - 2.30pm. Story, craft activity and museum hunt. Ages 2-4.

#### Coin Detectives

Sun 18 Oct. 2 - 5pm. Look for clues. Find hidden coins. Necklace making. £2 (+ Museum entry charge for non-residents). Ages 3-11.

#### Meet Queen Boudicca

Sat 24 Oct. 2 - 4.30pm. Includes story telling at 2.30pm & 3.30 pm. Free (Museum entry charge for non-residents). Ages 3-11.

#### Make Your Own Roman Keyring

Mon 26 & Fri 30 Oct, 2 - 4pm. Turn your Roman object picture into a fantastic keyring. £1.50 (+ Museum entry charge for non-residents). Ages 3-11.

#### Mystery Objects

Tues 27, Wed 28 & Thurs 29 Oct. 2 - 4pm. Discover everyday items people used in Roman times. Free (Museum entry charge for non-residents). Ages 3+.

#### Courageous Celts

Tues 27 Oct. 10.30am - 12.30pm & 2 - 4pm.

Why did the Celts burn Verulamium? Why were they eventually defeated by the Romans? Celtic shield making. £6 (£5 for Young Friends). Book in advance (01727 751810).

#### Roman Rooms

Wed 28 Oct. 10.30am - 12.30pm & 2 - 4pm.

No TVs, no Xbox, no fitted kitchens - so what did Roman homes look like? Plus model making. £6. (£5 for Young Friends). Book in advance (01727 751810).

#### Violent Vesuvius

Thurs 29 Oct. 10.30am - 12.30pm & 2 - 4pm.

Hear about dramatic events at Pompeii 2,000 years ago. Make a miniature 3D volcano. £6 (£5 for Young Friends). Book in advance (01727 751810).

#### Romans Versus Celts

Sat 21 Nov. 1 - 5pm (drop in any time). Model

soldiers battle re-enactment. Free (Museum entry charge for non-residents). Age 5+.

## New Museum - Update

 The Museum of St Albans may be closing its doors shortly, but behind-the-scenes work to create a new museum and gallery at the iconic Town Hall is firmly underway.

The outcomes of two critical applications – one to the Heritage Lottery Fund for over £2.5m, and one for planning permission – are awaited. They are expected this autumn. Everyone involved has their fingers crossed.

Meanwhile, your help is vital in raising the remaining £1.5m towards the £7.75m project. If you can host a community or corporate event to raise money, or want to make a donation, the team would love to hear from you.



To raise money or donate please contact the St Albans Museums and Galleries Trust (Registration No. 1051868) at: [www.renaissancestalbans.org.uk](http://www.renaissancestalbans.org.uk), [stalbanstrust@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stalbanstrust@hotmail.co.uk), 01727 751830. Thank you!

# St Albans Salad

 Local food writer, Ren Behan, has created a new recipe, featuring locally sourced produce, especially for the St Albans and Harpenden Food and Drink Festival (see front page). For recipe see: [www.enjoystalbens.com/foodanddrink](http://www.enjoystalbens.com/foodanddrink).



## Unmarked, but not forgotten



## Home extension? Loft conversion?

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

 [www.stalbens.gov.uk/buildingcontrol](http://www.stalbens.gov.uk/buildingcontrol)  
 [buildingcontrol@stalbens.gov.uk](mailto:buildingcontrol@stalbens.gov.uk)  
 01727 819218



 Until the mid 20th century many people, not able to afford a private grave, were buried in public plots without a memorial.

The newly installed Remembrance Memorial at Hatfield Road Cemetery provides a way for people to remember a relative or friend buried in this way. It's for everyone, not just those buried at Hatfield Road Cemetery.

For details contact [cemeteries@stalbens.gov.uk](mailto:cemeteries@stalbens.gov.uk), telephone 01727 819362.

We can also help with enquiries about burial locations.



## 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 above.

See [www.stalbenshub.org.uk](http://www.stalbenshub.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.



## Pension Wise

 Citizen's Advice is providing Pension Wise guidance as part of a new Government initiative.

Following pension reforms in April, people approaching retirement have greater freedom over how they can use their pension pots. People may take out a lump sum, an annuity, or a mixture of both. The Pension Wise service is designed to help people make sense of their pension options.

Stevenage Citizen's Advice is delivering the free, independent, confidential, and impartial service across Hertfordshire. To book, call 01438 721760.



# New leisure centre – OPEN

**X** Cotlandswick Leisure Centre in London Colney opened in June. The new £4.6m leisure facility features 9 superb astroturf football pitches, a 42 station gym, group exercise studio, sports hall and children’s soft play area. For opening times see: [www.leisureinstalbans.co.uk](http://www.leisureinstalbans.co.uk), 01727 822447.



# Free led bike rides

**X** Free, fun, ‘Sky Ride Local’ guided bike rides are on offer from British Cycling. All rides are guided by friendly ride leaders along scenic routes. They’re a great way to get out and explore the local area with family and friends. There are levels to suit everyone. Look out too for Breeze bike rides for women, and rides organised through Social Cycling Groups, British Cycling’s social network for cyclists. See [www.goskyride.com](http://www.goskyride.com) for details or call 01727 819320.

# St Albans - green technology capital

**X** Nestled around St Albans lies a cluster of internationally renowned environmental research, engineering, education, science and technology businesses.

Together they form the Green Triangle, responsible for an annual research spend of over £100m and employing more than 1,500 skilled

research staff.

The plan is to establish 3,000 green technology jobs across Hertfordshire, double the research spend to £200M, and nurture 100 small green technology businesses. To find out about Green Triangle membership for your organisation, see [www.thegreentriangle.org](http://www.thegreentriangle.org).



# Award for Half Marathon

**X** The popular St Albans Half Marathon has won a top leisure industry accolade - the ‘Go Outdoors’ award - in the ukactive and Matrix Flame Awards 2015.

The Half Marathon, now in its 34th year, fought off strong competition. This June, the charity event as a whole attracted 6,300 runners, the most ever.

Proceeds went to the fundraising effort for the new museum and art gallery at the Town Hall, and Headway Hertfordshire, supporting people with brain injuries.

Next year’s Half Marathon is on Sunday 12th June. To register visit [www.stalbanshalfmarathon.co.uk](http://www.stalbanshalfmarathon.co.uk), or call 01727 819327.

# Are you registered to vote?

**X** The annual household canvass to update the electoral register began in July. Every residential property in the district received a Household Enquiry Form. Reminder forms were sent out

in August. If you have not yet replied, please do so to ensure your details are included in the register of electors when it’s published on 1 December. You can register online, return your form in the post, or use our free

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS  
MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN**



phone or text registration service (standard network rates apply). See the form for details. For further information visit [www.stalbans.gov.uk/elections](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/elections) or call 01727 819294.



# Taxi safety

**St Albans is one of the safest places in Hertfordshire. But there's always room for improvement. In this edition, we're reminding residents about taxi safety. Tips for keeping safe:**

- Only use licensed vehicles displaying a Hackney Carriage (taxi) or Private Hire (mini-cab) licence plate.
- If using a minicab, always pre-book. Legitimate minicabs are licensed but they are only allowed to carry

passengers who book in advance. Use a company you know and trust.

- Check that the cab that's arrived is the cab you ordered.
- Always sit in the back and keep the conversation impersonal and professional.
- Have your keys ready to enter your house quickly.
- Report any problem you encounter to the police on 101 – this might help protect others in future.

## Spotting scammers

**Scammers use a number of techniques to con people out of their hard earned cash.**

This includes fake lotteries, clairvoyants, prize draws, unexpected inheritances, and people phoning to tell you that you are owed money or to offer to fix your computer.

Once people respond, their details can be sold on for other criminals to exploit.

Hertfordshire County Council's Trading Standards Team can help. You can call the Citizens Advice consumer service on **03454 04 05 06** who will pass details on to them.

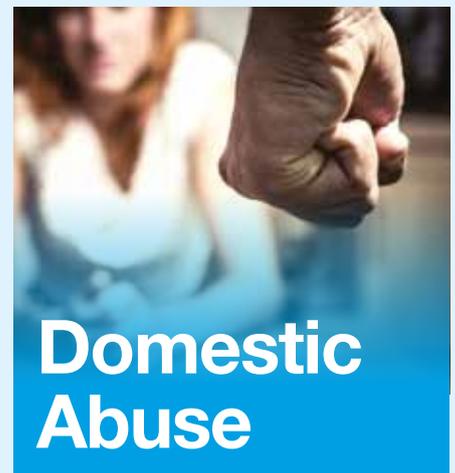
For more information see: [www.hertsdirect.org/scams](http://www.hertsdirect.org/scams).



## Taxi Marshal Scheme

**The St Albans Taxi Marshal Scheme is helping to get people get home safely after a night out and reduce alcohol related violent incidents in the City. We have asked all late night**

licensed businesses to contribute to the running costs – we hope more will choose to do so. A big thank you to the organisations above for stepping up to help fund this important scheme.



## Domestic Abuse

**1 in 4 women, and 1 in 6 men, experience domestic abuse at some point in their lives.**

Sometimes it is a one-off incident of violence, but more often it is a pattern of persistent abusive behaviour. The Hertfordshire domestic abuse helpline (**08088 088 088**) is free, confidential and open Monday to Friday from 10am to 10pm.

# GREEN ISSUES

## Communal flats – what can I recycle?

For recycling arrangements for other types of homes, see page 8.

### Paper and flattened cardboard

(No unflattened cardboard, plastic wrapping or Tretra Pak please.)



### Plastics, cans and foil

(Please wash and squash. No plastic wrapping or plastic bags please.)



### Glass bottles and jars

(No drinking glasses, light bulbs, spectacles, plate glass, or Pyrex/other heat treated glass please.)



Please separate your recycling as shown here, and place in the communal recycling bins. It's important that the right items go in the right bins. No plastic bags please.

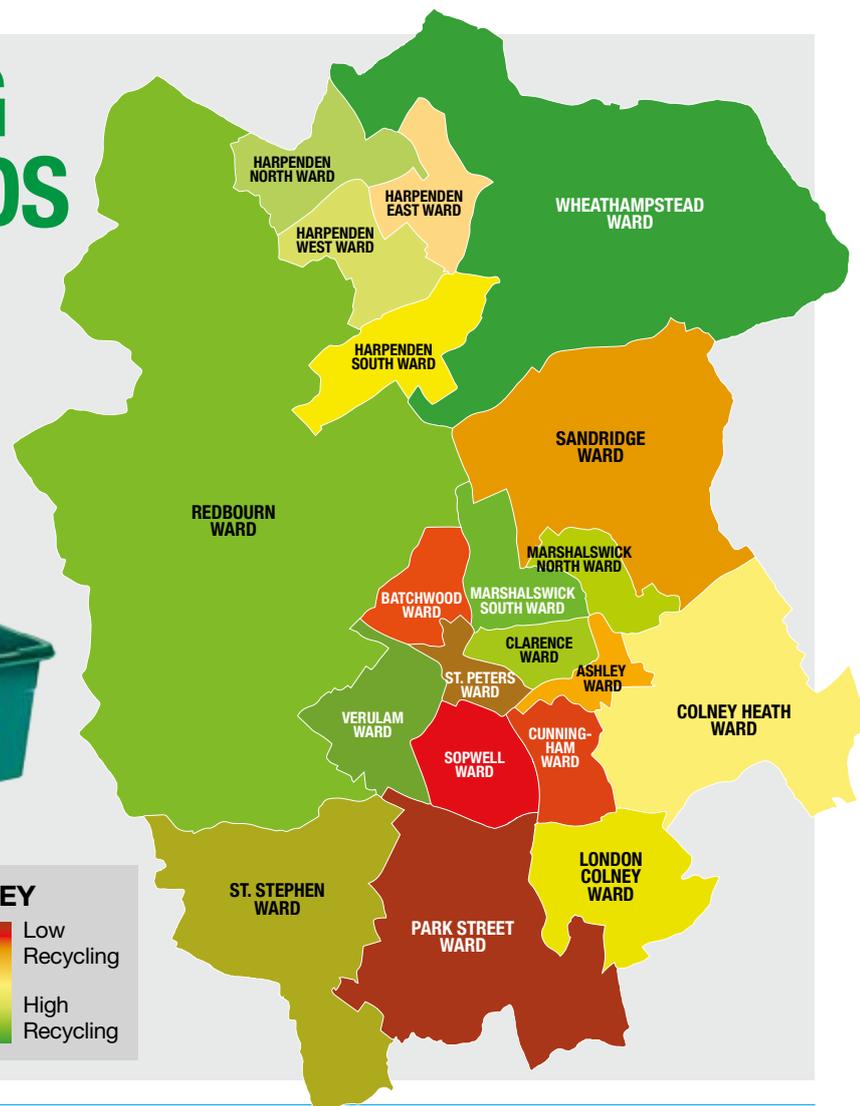
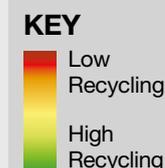
## BEST RECYCLING NEIGHBOURHOODS

### It's scores on the doors time

 The map shows the level of recycling in each neighbourhood in the District. Over the next few months we will be pounding the streets to see if we can help residents in some areas recycle more. We're trying to get local recycling up to 60%. Recycling your food waste in your green bin (or bag in some areas) will have the biggest impact! Thanks for helping!

### Need a new recycling box or replacement lid?

We'll give you up to five recycling boxes for free. Extras cost £3. We will empty as many as you can fill! We also have spare lids available – just ask. Contact [wastemanagementservices@stalban.gov.uk](mailto:wastemanagementservices@stalban.gov.uk) (preferred), or 01727 819285.



# What can I recycle?

There are separate arrangements for communal flats – see overleaf.

For more information:

-  [www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling)
-  [wastemanagementservices@stalban.gov.uk](mailto:wastemanagementservices@stalban.gov.uk)
-  01727 819285
-  @StAlbansCouncil

## Paper and flattened cardboard

(Place large sheets of card securely with paper box please. No unflattened cardboard, plastic wrapping or Tretra Pak please.)



## Plastics, cans and foil

(Please wash and squash. No plastic wrapping or plastic bags please.)



## Glass bottles and jars

(No broken glass please. No drinking glasses, light bulbs, spectacles, plate glass, or Pyrex/ other heat treated glass please.)



## Green waste, food waste and shredded paper

 (No soil or card please.)  
(Some streets have bags rather than bins.)



## Bin your butt!

 Councils are spending nearly £1 billion a year cleaning the streets.

Top of our current pet hates are cigarette butts which take years to biodegrade. In fact smoking related materials account for a third of all litter! Butts are difficult

to remove from pavements and take up lots of time. Our contractor, Amey, is working hard to keep the District spic and span. Please think before you drop that butt (or your gum!) – you might not think of it as littering, but it is. Thanks for doing your bit!



## Abuse of crews

 Sadly, while most people treat waste, recycling and street cleaning crews with respect and dignity, there has been a rise in abusive behaviour.

We want to protect crews from abuse at work. This is why we will seek to involve the Police and suspend waste collection services from individual properties if necessary.



My Council Services App



Now on Twitter @StAlbansCouncil



*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@stalban.gov.uk](mailto:communications@stalban.gov.uk) or call 01727 819572 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@stalban.gov.uk](mailto:contactus@stalban.gov.uk)

### Customer Service Centre opening hours:

Mon-Thurs 8.45am-5pm, Fri 8.45am-4.30pm

Housing Repairs: 01727 819256

Refuse & Recycling: 01727 819285\*

Council Tax: 01727 819204/819205

Benefits: 01727 819220

Cleaner District Hotline: 01727 819598\*

All Other Enquiries: 01727 866100

\* Until 5pm on Fridays

### 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](http://www.disabledgo.com) for information about access to local facilities.