

Community NEWS



SUMMER 2017

The Magnificent Alban Pilgrimage & Street Festival

(St Albans City Centre)



Saturday 24 June, Alban Pilgrimage

See the spectacular giant carnival puppets tell the story of Alban, Britain's first saint. Roman chariots, centurions, and lions all take their place in the dramatic procession, leaving St Peter's Church at 11am, and winding its way to the Cathedral.



Sunday 25 June, Alban Street Festival

At this year's fabulous street party we have a Minecraft Hackathon, two music stages, a sporting area, and loads of activities, performances and fun for all the family. And it's all FREE! Hurrah!



New museum – meet the builders!

Interested in how work is going to transform the old Town Hall into a sparkling new museum and art gallery?

Now you can go along to meet the building team every last Friday of the month. Meet them outside the Town Hall in Market Place from 11am - 1 pm.

When it opens in Spring 2018, the new museum will complement Verulamium Museum, which will continue to offer exciting exhibits on Roman history down in the park.

Local charity, St Albans Museums and Galleries Trust*, is leading the fundraising campaign.

For a £250 donation, you can have your name, or that of a loved one, engraved on the limited edition oak panel honours boards in the museum. Contact georgina.bawden@stalbanstrust.org.uk (01727 296148) for details.

*Charity registration no. 1051868

See all the latest events news at www.enjoystalban.com

SEE RECYCLING NEWS ON PAGES 6-7

Community News is published by St Albans City & District Council
www.stalbans.gov.uk





Mayor's Pride Awards 2017

And the winners are – drum roll please...



Community Champion of the Year – Helen Fish

The British Cycling Breeze Champion inspires women to get cycling for fun, fitness and health.

Cultural Innovation Award –

staff at Fosse House, Quantum Care Activities include raising money for a wildlife garden and a sensory room, and helping to run a weekly Caribbean club, and special dining evenings.

Young Person of Distinction –

Elizabeth Pepper

Elizabeth is an active member of St Albans Youth Council, raising mental health awareness, and helping organise community events including a Christmas tea party for elderly residents.

Community Project of the Year –

StarScope

This local charity, providing support to people with cerebral palsy, successfully campaigned for a changing and toilet facility for disabled people in St Albans town centre.

Community Orientated Business of the Year – JPA Furniture

The company takes disused furniture from local businesses and finds new homes for it with charities and people in need. It also supports Sustainable St Albans Week.

Environmental Champion of the Year – Sustainable St Albans Week 2016

A small group of volunteers delivered more than 100 informative and entertaining events to raise environmental awareness.

A small group of volunteers delivered more than 100 informative and entertaining events to raise environmental awareness.

Voluntary Sector Award – St Albans Good Neighbour Scheme

This network of 175 volunteers give up their time to assist mainly elderly residents, providing transport, undertaking odd jobs and running a telephone helpline.

Inclusive Communities Award – Hertfordshire Asian Women's Association Saheli Tiffin Club

This weekly luncheon club helps build members' confidence, skills and understanding of local services, in a social setting.

Mayor's Recognition Award – St Albans Signal Box Preservation Trust

The Trust preserves the St Albans South signal box as part of our railway and architectural heritage, and runs popular local events.



Summer school holidays

(26 July to 31 August)

Our play leaders will be co-ordinating fun and games in parks across the District. Join in for FREE! Details at www.stalbans.gov.uk/playintheparks or contact alex.varran@1life.co.uk, 01727 819531.



For fabulous, free tennis for all the family this summer, see www.greatbritishtennisweekend.com.

You can also play tennis for free in Harpenden and St Albans on Saturdays between 10-11am. See details and register at www.parktennis.org.

Sessions are run by volunteers as part of the Park Tennis event programme.



Sat 17 and Sun 18 June.

A national weekend of street parties, picnics, bake-off contests and barbecues, intended to inspire the nation to celebrate what we have in common. The Big Lunch, a similar national event, is teaming up with the Great Get Together this year.

For more information on The Great Get Together, see:

www.greatgettogether.org.

For more information on the Big Lunch, see: www.edenprojectcommunities.com/thebiglunch.

For full details, including the finalists, see www.stalbans.gov.uk/mayorsprideawards.

WHAT'S ON at the museum

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

www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk 01727 751810

All children must be accompanied by an adult. Museum entry charge for non-residents.

Summer Fun!

Venture into Verulamium

Thurs 27 July, 11am - 4pm,
Verulamium Park, St Albans.

Discover the secrets of the third largest city of Roman Britain. Activities for all the family (some weather dependent – check website first).

A Soldier's Story Clock Tower

Sat 29 July, 11am - 4pm,
Clock Tower, St Albans.

An event to commemorate the Battle of St Julien (31 July 1917) at Passchendaele.

Visit the exhibition and meet characters from the First World War on leave from the front.



Museums on the Mall

Sat 5 and Sun 6 August, 11am - 4pm,
Christopher Place, St Albans.

Find out about the Town Hall museum development project and take part in fun museum activities at Christopher Place.

Activities for families at Verulamium Museum

Every day in August.

From museum trails and object handling, to quizzes and crafts, there'll be plenty of fun on offer. Check out the 'What's On' section at www.stalbansmuseums.org for details of all museum events.



Watch out for our pop-up Museum 'A Curious Conversation', with artist Lyndall Phelps, appearing across St Albans this summer.

St Albans International Organ Festival and IOFringe

Three weeks of exciting events across St Albans



IOFringe

Wed 28 June – Sun 9 July

Featuring free events across the City centre. There's folk, country, blues, pop and rock, and lots of opportunities to join in! The Festival culminates in the IOFringe Garden Party and a special musical 'Heroes' celebration! www.facebook.com/iofringe, www.lemonrock.com/iofringe.



International Organ Festival

Mon 10 – Sat 22 July

A rich programme of music featuring internationally renowned artists and inspirational stars of the future. See too the popular Three Choirs concert, Handel's Messiah at St Albans Cathedral, and a special puppets performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream. www.organfestival.com (and on Facebook and Twitter).



St Albans Food & Drink Festival Awards 2017

Voting for this year's Food and Drink Festival (27 Sept – 7 Oct) is open from Monday 3 July to Monday 28 August. To see if your favourite foodies are in the running, and to vote, see www.enjoystalbans.co.uk/foodanddrink. Follow us on Facebook @StAlbansFoodandDrinkFestival for all the latest news and updates.



Rogue tree contractors

Don't get caught out

X Some trees have legal protection through a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or Conservation Area designation to stop them being cut down or damaged.

You **must** get permission from the Council before TPO trees are pruned or felled. In the case of Conservation Area trees, 6 weeks written notice **must** be given before pruning or felling takes place.

Unfortunately there are rogue traders about who tout for work and often give poor advice to tree owners. These traders are often ignorant about protected trees. Willful damage could cost you dearly - the maximum fine is £20,000 per tree.

Reputable contractors can be found via the Arboricultural Association's website, www.trees.org.uk.

More information can be found at www.stalbans.gov.uk/treesandwoodlands. You can also use the Where You Live link from our homepage to check if a tree is protected.



Spic and span

X Here are some of the works undertaken recently to keep local facilities up to scratch.

In Verulamium Park, the popular splash park has been resurfaced to get it ready for this summer's fun-packed water play.

Nearby, damaged fencing at the tennis courts is to be replaced. We have done more silt removal at the lake and are introducing additional measures to help keep the water clean. Our current work with the Environment Agency is about finding long term solutions to the water quality issues there.

Elsewhere, work has begun to renew the playground at the Victoria Playing Fields in St Albans, with additional funding raised by local people. The Foxcroft playground will undergo a similar transformation later in the year.

In Harpenden, repairs to brickwork at Luton Road Bridge have now been completed.



Citizens Advice Wellbeing Clinic

X Making ends meet, health scares, reduced work hours or family breakdown can affect people's wellbeing. Citizens Advice (www.citizensadvice.org.uk) can help.

Their clinic is open on Tuesday afternoons at The Hub (see below) from 1 to 4pm. Friendly, trained advisers can help untangle frustrating bureaucracy, tackle debt and lots more. Why not come along?

Civic Centre – a hub for info and advice

X Information, advice and guidance is on offer from these local organisations at the Civic Centre in St Albans (next door to the Alban Arena). See www.stalbanshub.org.uk for details of each organisation's opening times.



Sign up for Neighbourhood Watch Online

Over 100,000 Hertfordshire residents regularly receive messages about crime prevention, missing people and security advice thanks to the award winning Online Watch Link (OWL). See www.hertswatch.com for details of how to sign up.



Modern slavery

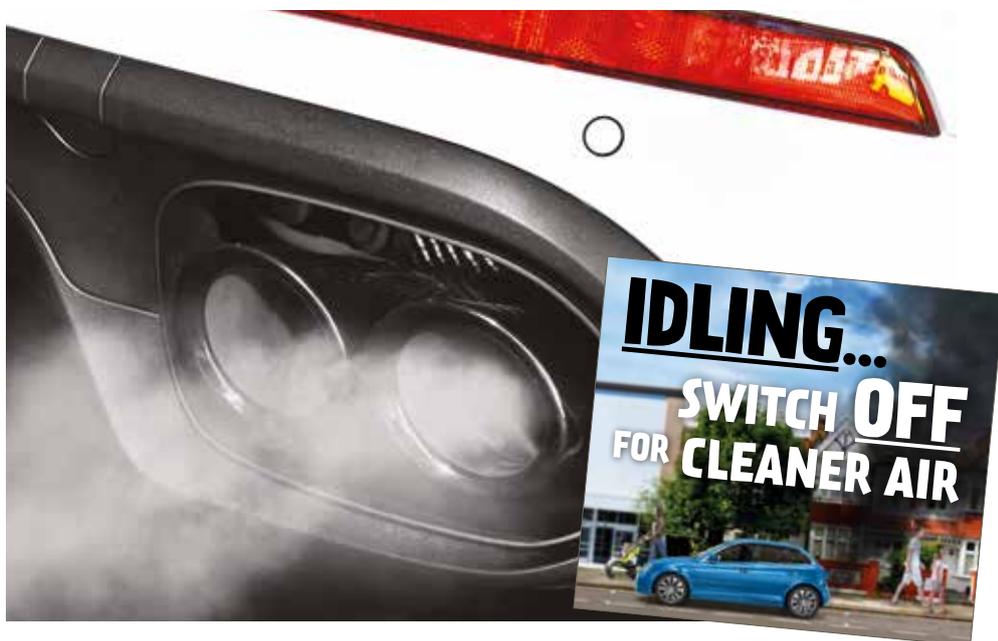
Modern slavery is a serious crime where people are exploited, abused and treated as a commodity. It encompasses slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour and human trafficking. If you are concerned about someone, or something you've seen, the modern slavery helpline number is **08000 121 700** (free from landlines and most mobile networks). Or see www.modernslavery.co.uk or www.salvationarmy.org.uk/human-trafficking.



Do it online!

You can do lots of your Council business on our website.

Report a missed recycling collection, pay a bill, or tell us you've moved house, all from the comfort of your home, night or day. You can also sign up for your online Council Tax account, request Council property repairs, apply for Benefits, get parking permits and lots more. Just go to www.stalbans.gov.uk.



Do your bit for air quality

Air pollution from vehicles, although invisible, affects everyone's health, especially children's. Running your engine while stationary releases more pollution than a moving vehicle.

That's why we are asking local people to please turn your engine off when you are stationary for more than one minute. Studies confirm that switching off reduces fuel costs and emissions and improves air quality and health.

We are looking for volunteers to help raise awareness about this important matter locally. Please visit www.stalbans.gov.uk/anti-idling for details.

GREEN ISSUES

New woodland path opens



 A new woodland footpath has been created in a scenic part of Harpenden, linking Crabtree Fields car park with the Lea Valley Walk.

10th Harpenden Scouts, who have their hut near the route, came up with the idea and have taken on responsibility for the path's upkeep. It has been paid for with a £5,000 grant from the Fields in Trust charity, plus money contributed by property developers for local amenities and infrastructure. Check it out!



Grass verges and weeds – reporting

 Hertfordshire County Council cuts the grass verges in St Albans District. It also does everything highways-related including repairing potholes, and weeding pavements. There is a handy reporting tool on their website, so you can keep track of what's happening if you report an issue. See www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/faultreporting.

On target for 60% recycling rate

 Last year, we introduced big changes to the way you recycle. This is to make sure as much of your waste as possible is recycled or composted.

We're proud to say that you've made it a big success by using your recycling bins and boxes, and your food waste caddy. With your help we think we can do even more! Please recycle as much as possible and be sure to put the right things in the right bin! If in doubt about food waste – it can all go in your food caddy.



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 2 September to catch up.



Fixed penalty notices and fly-tipping

X The Council has new powers to issue £400 fixed penalty notice fines for smaller scale fly-tipping offences. In the past, councils have found it difficult to take action in Magistrates Courts to tackle smaller scale fly-tipping. Such crime costs local tax-payers thousands of pounds each year. It also angers law-abiding residents greatly. We're determined to do what we can to

stop those who do it.

Fixed Penalty Notices can also be used to fine people using the services of a contractor who is not a licensed waste carrier. So if you are tempted by a man-in-a-van offering cheap disposal of your rubbish, think twice. It's your responsibility to check they are licensed. You can do so at www.gov.uk (search 'waste carrier').



What happens to your garden waste?

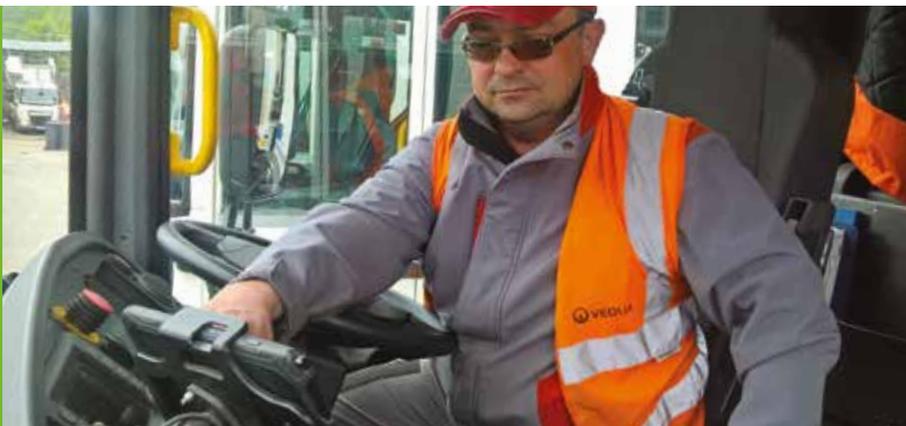
X Veolia, the Council's street cleaning, recycling and waste collection contractor, operates twelve composting sites where green waste from across the UK is processed. The composted green waste is made into Pro-Grow soil and lawn conditioner, an environmentally friendly alternative to peat-based garden products and imported chemical fertilisers. Pro-Grow is used in landscaping, agriculture and gardening (see www.pro-grow.com for details).



Recycling your food waste just got easier

X You no longer have to use compostable liners in your food caddy due to the way food waste is now treated – through anaerobic digestion.

Once the food waste reaches the recycling site, all wrappings now have to be removed, whether they are recyclable or not. The team at the Agrivert site near Colney Heath use big hooks to take the bags out. This means it no longer matters what sort of liners you use. You can continue using biodegradable ones, or switch to bin liners (not black!), carrier bags, bread bags, or paper wrappings. Food can even be put into the caddy loose if you prefer. Food waste presented in caddies in any of these wrappings will now be collected as part of the weekly service.



New technology in use

X Our waste and recycling crews have special vehicle technology that records their progress as they complete their collection rounds. The smart technology feeds live data back to Veolia's customer contact centre in St Albans.

The crews record information such as bins not presented for collection, contaminated containers and excess waste. The contact centre staff use the information to help respond to customer queries. For example they use it to explain why contaminated recycling was not collected, or to make decisions about whether to instruct crews to return for missed bins.



Collect your commode, sir?

Hertfordshire Equipment Service loans out more than 70,000 items such as mobile hoists, bathing equipment, beds, toilet frames, and commodes each year. But around a quarter are never returned, adding £2 million to council and healthcare budgets.

Equipment has been found languishing in cupboards, or being put to other uses – including a commode being re-used as a fancy plant pot!

If you, or a relative, have equipment to return, they will come and collect it. Just email hes.collection@hertfordshire.gov.uk, or call **01707 292555**.



Need a grant? Apply now

To apply for up to £5,000 for a local community project, get your application in by 30 June. Terms and conditions apply. See www.stalbans.gov.uk/communitygrants for details.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE | Gold

A job at the Council?

To see our latest vacancies, and watch videos about what it's like to work with us, see www.stalbans.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers. Are you looking for a flexible way to work? Why not register as a casual worker? See our website 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



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@stalbins.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@stalbins.gov.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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.

All Other Enquiries: 01727 866100

Twitter: @StAlbansCouncil

Facebook: St Albans Council

Facebook: Recycle for St Albans District