

Community NEWS

INCORPORATING **Recycling News**



SPRING 2014

GLORIOUS SUMMER EVENTS

For details of this summer's sizzling local music, festivals and events, see page 2



The official visitor website for St Albans

For visitor information on St Albans and surrounding towns and villages, visit www.enjoystalbens.com

- Things to do • What's on
- Where to stay • Eating & drinking
- Travel & maps

St Albans Tourist and Information Centre The Town Hall, Market Place, St Albans, AL3 5DJ.
01727 864511, tic@stalbens.gov.uk, Mon-Sat: 10am-4.30pm (closed on bank holidays).



www.enjoystalbens.com



Easier Ways to Pay

 You can make payments like Council Tax online at www.stalbens.gov.uk, via your bank, at the Post Office or at any shop showing the Pay Zone sign. There is also an automated payment line – call 0161 7853880.

Your Council Tax Explained

See centre pages for details

Extended Council opening hours

 We will be open for longer on dates from mid March to early April to deal with enquiries about Council Tax and benefits. Details on back page.



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



A Summer of FUN!

March

St Albans MusicCity

Sat 15 – Sun 23 March, various venues.

A celebration of our rich local music scene – traditional folk, blues, jazz, indie, metal and pop – at key music pubs and venues.

www.lemonrock.com/musiccity

www.enjoystalbans.com



May

The 2nd St Albans International Film Festival

Thurs 1 – Sun 4 May. Hundreds of filmmakers from across the world have been sending in their short films and the best will be screened in venues across the City.

www.stalbansfilmfestival.com

June

St Albans Half Marathon

Sun 8 June, starts in Verulamium Park.

Including Walking Half Marathon, 5k Race and 1.5 Mile Children's Fun Run.

www.stalbanshalfmarathon.co.uk

www.enjoystalbans.com



Alban Weekend

Sat 21 & Sun 22 June, various locations. Starts on Sat 21 June with the Alban Pilgrimage organised by the Cathedral. Ends with the Alban Street Festival on Sun 22 June in St Peter's Street, St Albans. Lots more including the St Albans Folk Festival. www.enjoystalbans.com

For all the latest details of these and other local events visit: www.enjoystalbans.com or call 01727 864511.



Check out the new shop at Verulamium Museum in St Michael's Street, St Albans, brought to you in collaboration with the British Museum.

What's on at the Museums?

March

Steampunk Ball

Sat 22 March, 8.00-11.30pm. Museum of St Albans, £15. The Gadgets and Goggles Exhibition continues until Sunday 13 April.

April

Thursday Night Lecture: Performing History – an analysis of the context and reception of three historical speeches.

Thurs 3 April, 7.30pm.

With Adam Ditchburn, Learning Officer, St Albans Museums. Verulamium Museum, £8.

May

Thursday Night Lecture: Herbs and Witchcraft – facts behind the fiction.

Thurs 1 May, 7.30pm. With Julie Wakefield. Verulamium Museum, £8.

Museums at Night: Roman Night Life at Verulamium Museum.

Sat 17 May, 7-10pm. Performances from Roman & Greek plays. Verulamium Museum, £10.

Sat 17 May, 7-10pm. Museums At Night: Late Night Opening and exhibition. Clock Tower, £3.

Visit www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk for details or call 01727 819340.

Apply for a community grant

 Voluntary and community sector groups can apply for funding of up to £5,000 through the Community Grants Fund.

Chosen projects benefit the local community and help deliver the District's strategy for community inclusion. Last year 36 projects received a total of £108,000 including St Albans City & District

Bereavement Network, the British Red Cross and the Hertfordshire Asian Women's Association.

This year's funding round starts on Monday 28 April. An application form will be available on the Council's website from that date – search for Community Grants – or call **01727 819518**.

New police info point

 A police and advice information point is now available at the Civic Centre in St Albans.

Council staff will be supporting residents using the police website www.herts.police.uk, contacting the police via the non-emergency number **101** and advising on other issues.

Register to vote!

X The European Parliamentary and District Council elections take place on Thursday 22 May 2014.

You must be on the electoral register to vote. If you have recently moved into the area, or moved house, it is important that you register again at your new address. The deadline for receiving applications is Tuesday 6 May.

You can also apply to vote by post or proxy. The deadline for new postal vote applications is 5pm on Wednesday 7 May, and for new



proxy vote applications 5pm on Wednesday 14 May 2014.

All application forms are available at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk. Further details at www.stalbans.gov.uk/elections, 01727 819294.

Lottery funding for new museum

X A project to transform St Albans' Grade II* Town Hall into a museum and gallery has received a huge boost with the announcement of a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) development grant of £282,000. The Council is also applying for further HLF funding to a total of £2.8m.

This means that detailed plans for an inspirational home for the Museum of St Albans (currently based in Hatfield Road, St Albans) can be developed.



The total project cost is estimated to be £6.75m. Other funding is being provided by the Council and fund raising by the St Albans Museums and Galleries Trust. The Trust is working with the Council and the University of Hertfordshire to take forward this exciting project.



Rogue traders

X Hertfordshire Trading Standards and the Police are advising residents to always say no to traders who turn up uninvited on the doorstep.

Only deal with callers by appointment and check ID carefully. Keep front and back doors locked and fit a door bar or chain. For the majority of contracts made at your home, you will be entitled to a 7 day cooling off period.

You can contact the doorstep hotline on 0845 60 444 66. To find a Trading Standards approved trader visit www.hertsdirect.org/trustmark and www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk, or call the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 08454 04 05 06. To report suspicious behaviour call the Police on 101 (or 999 in an emergency).



Non-contact boxing sessions

X Non-contact boxing sessions are on offer for boys and girls aged 7-15.

The sessions take place at St Albans Amateur Boxing Club in Toulmin Drive, St Albans on Wednesday evenings. To register your interest please call Iain Shields in the Community Safety Team on 01727 819305 or email communitysafety@stalbands.gov.uk.

Civic Centre – a hub for info and advice

X At the Civic Centre in St Albans, you'll find a host of advice, information and guidance on offer from all these local organisations. Check it out for yourself.

See www.stalbans.gov.uk/civiccetre for details of each organisation's opening times or call 01727 866100.



Your Council Tax explained

St Albans City and District Council's element of the Council Tax is frozen for the sixth year running.

For every £1 you pay in Council Tax

Hertfordshire County Council gets **76p Total £66.2m**

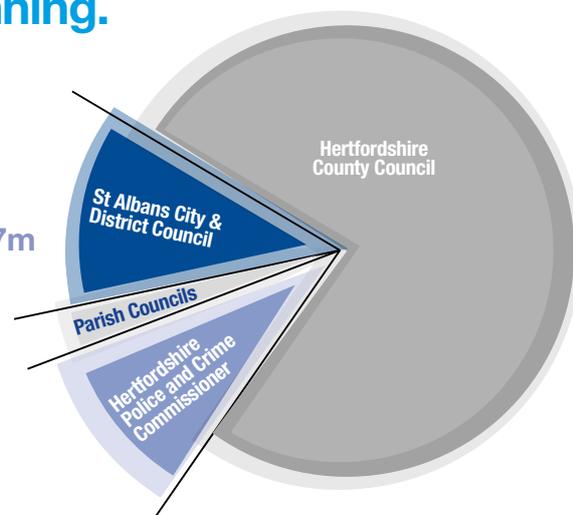
St Albans City & District Council gets **11p Total £10m**

Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner gets **10p Total £8.7m**

Parish Councils get **3p Total £2.3m**

On average, you pay just £3.24 a week for all the services provided by your District Council including:

- Refuse and recycling services
- Parks, play areas, leisure centres and sports activities
- Street cleaning
- Markets
- Tackling crime and nuisance like fly-tipping, noise and dog mess
- Special events and festivals
- Museums
- Elections
- Planning and building control
- Public toilets
- Car parking and parking control
- Housing and benefit advice
- Sustainability initiatives
- Food, health and safety inspectors



Council Commitments

- Protecting the vulnerable
- Planning for the future
- Delivering for young people and families
- Supporting businesses and developing the visitor economy
- Delivering sports and leisure facilities
- Delivering transport improvements
- Keeping the district clean, green, healthy and safe
- Ensuring value for money and excellent customer service

How Council Tax is calculated

The Council's funding comes from a number of sources including Council Tax. The Council's gross expenditure of £27m is the main determinant of the level of Council Tax, after allowing for expected income.

	2013/14		2014/15	
	Net Expenditure £m	Council Tax Band (D) £	Net Expenditure £m	Council Tax Band (D) £
St Albans City & District budget before fees, charges, sales, rent	£26.2m	£449.25	£26.0m	£439.81
PLUS contribution to reserves	£0.3m	£4.70	£1.0m	£16.37
LESS income from fees, charges, sales, rent, grants	-£11.0m	-£187.72	-£12.0m	-£203.27
St Albans City & District Council net budget	£15.5m	£266.23	£15.0m	£252.91
LESS funding from elsewhere				
Central Government and Business Rates	-£5.5m	-£97.10	-£4.9m	-£84.29
Balance transferred from Collection Fund	-£0.1m	-£0.85	-£0.1m	-£0.34
Total funding from elsewhere	-£5.6m	-£97.95	-£5.0m	-£84.63
Council Tax – St Albans City & District Council	£9.9m	£168.28	£10.0m	£168.28
PLUS				
Parish Precepts	£2.3m	£38.52	£2.3m	£38.69
Hertfordshire County Council Precept	£65.6m	£1,118.83	£66.2m	£1,118.83
Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	£8.7m	£147.82	£8.7m	£147.82
Total Council Tax	£86.5m	£1,473.45	£87.2m	£1,473.62

Your total bill includes Council Tax for:

• Herts County Council (HCC)* • Herts Police & Crime Commissioner (HP&CC) • St Albans City & District Council (SACDC) • Town and Parish Councils

PARISH	BAND	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	% Change from last year
St Albans City		£965.10	£1,125.94	£1,286.80	£1,447.64	£1,769.34	£2,091.04	£2,412.74	£2,895.28	SACDC -0.10% HCC 0.0% HP&CC 0.0% PARISH N/A
Colney Heath		£993.42	£1,158.98	£1,324.56	£1,490.12	£1,821.26	£2,152.40	£2,483.54	£2,980.24	SACDC 0.0% HCC 0.0% HP&CC 0.0% PARISH 0.95%
Harpenden Town		£996.17	£1,162.19	£1,328.23	£1,494.25	£1,826.31	£2,158.37	£2,490.42	£2,988.50	SACDC 0.0% HCC 0.0% HP&CC 0.0% PARISH 0.0%
Harpenden Rural		£957.19	£1,116.70	£1,276.25	£1,435.77	£1,754.84	£2,073.89	£2,392.96	£2,871.54	SACDC 0.0% HCC 0.0% HP&CC 0.0% PARISH 6.09%
London Colney		£995.02	£1,160.83	£1,326.68	£1,492.51	£1,824.19	£2,155.85	£2,487.53	£2,985.02	SACDC 0.0% HCC 0.0% HP&CC 0.0% PARISH 2.72%
Redbourn		£999.85	£1,166.47	£1,333.12	£1,499.76	£1,833.05	£2,166.32	£2,499.61	£2,999.52	SACDC 0.01% HCC 0% HP&CC 0% PARISH 1.82%
St Michael		£952.95	£1,111.76	£1,270.59	£1,429.41	£1,747.06	£2,064.71	£2,382.36	£2,858.82	SACDC 0.0% HCC 0.0% HP&CC 0.0% PARISH 5.95%
St Stephen		£991.94	£1,157.25	£1,322.59	£1,487.90	£1,818.55	£2,149.19	£2,479.84	£2,975.80	SACDC 0.01% HCC 0.0% HP&CC 0.0% PARISH -0.03%
Sandridge		£987.29	£1,151.81	£1,316.37	£1,480.91	£1,810.01	£2,139.09	£2,468.20	£2,961.82	SACDC 0.01% HCC 0.0% HP&CC 0.0% PARISH 4.32%
Wheathampstead		£999.61	£1,166.19	£1,332.80	£1,499.40	£1,832.61	£2,165.80	£2,499.01	£2,998.80	SACDC 0.0% HCC 0.0% HP&CC 0.0% PARISH 1.65%

The HCC precept includes a levy on behalf of Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (Gross Expenditure 2013/14 £23m, Levy £11.5m; Gross Expenditure 2014/15 £24.7m, Levy £11.3) and on behalf of the Environment Agency (Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee) (Gross Expenditure 2013/14 £74.6m, Levy £10.5m; Gross Expenditure 2014/15 £63.7m, Levy £10.5m).

Town and Parish Council spending

TOWN / PARISH	2013/14 Town & Parish Council Spending				2014/15 Town & Parish Council Spending			
	Leisure	Other	Total	Cost per Band D Property	Leisure	Other	Total	Cost per Band D Property
Colney Heath	£59.7k	£107.3k	£167.00k	£71.43	£60.3k	£109.8k	£170.10k	£72.11
Harpenden Town	£431.3k	£474.2k	£905.50k	£67.52	£417.6k	£493.4k	£911.00k	£67.52
Harpenden Rural			£3.95k	£16.74			£4.05k	£17.76
London Colney	£21.8k	£196.0k	£217.80k	£66.83	£92.4k	£130.9k	£223.30k	£68.65
Redbourn	£92.0k	£77.2k	£169.20k	£74.14	£57.5k	£115.1k	£172.60k	£75.49
St Michael			£3.10k	£10.73			£3.10k	£11.40
St Stephen	£195.2k	£187.6k	£382.80k	£62.23	£195.2k	£187.6k	£382.80k	£62.21
Sandridge	£75.0k	£130.0k	£205.00k	£44.01	£77.6k	£134.9k	£212.50k	£45.91
Wheathampstead	£64.0k	£140.2k	£204.20k	£71.68	£78.0k	£130.2k	£208.20k	£72.86

Statement of budget changes in St Albans City & District Council's estimated expenditure between 2013/14 and 2014/15

	£m	£m
2013/14 Net Budget		£9.9m
Increases:		
Reduction in Government support/share of business rates	£0.6m	
Service Improvements and changes	£0.1m	
Reduction in use of reserves	£0.5m	
Revenue cost of capital programme	£0.2m	
Inflation	£0.5m	
Total increases	£1.9m	
Less reductions:		
Efficiencies and savings	-£1.0m	
Increase in New Homes Bonus Grant	-£0.8m	
Total reductions	-£1.8m	
2014/15 Net Budget		£10.0m

Charges, and why they vary between areas

St Albans City & District Council also collects Council Tax on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Town and Parish Councils in the District. The actual charge for each band varies from area to area. This is because certain services are provided by the District Council in some areas, but by the Town or Parish Council in others. District, Town and Parish Councils all make different charges (know as special expenses or precepts). The amount you pay depends on where you live. For a more detailed explanation, please visit www.stalbans.gov.uk/counciltax, or telephone **01727 819204**.

Revenue expenditure and income summary

	2013/14	2014/15
Income from Council activities	£11.0m	£12.0m
Contribution to reserves	£0.3m	£1.0m
Net budget requirement (excluding reserves)	£15.2m	£14.0m
Total Gross Expenditure for Council Activities	£26.5m	£27.0m



Latest on Council projects

Over the last year we have:

- ✓ Re-built the golf and bowls pavilions at Batchwood destroyed by fire – the new Batchwood Sports Centre reopens this spring.
- ✓ Built new affordable homes on under-used garage sites – 41 built or underway.
- ✓ Rolled out new recycling arrangements across the District's 46,000 houses, designed to boost recycling to 60%.
- ✓ Frozen Council Tax for the sixth year in a row.
- ✓ Launched a successful new Christmas Market in the grounds of St Albans Cathedral and a new strategy to attract more visitors to the District.
- ✓ Installed new play equipment at Fleetville, Camp and Longacres recreation grounds.
- ✓ Successfully applied for Heritage Lottery Funding to help finance a new museum and gallery at the old Town Hall.
- ✓ Completed new cycle paths in Verulamium Park and elsewhere.

Highlights for the coming year include the development of a new sports centre in London Colney and further work to develop the old Town Hall as a new museum and gallery. See www.stalbans.gov.uk/corporateplan or call **01727 819571** for the Council's Corporate Plan.



Cardboard Recycling

 We are delighted to say that most households make a superb effort to recycle, which is very much appreciated. We are working hard to make St Albans a top recycling district with over 60% recycling – but we are not there yet. We need everyone's help to make this possible.

Following changes in national compost quality standards, we need to remove cardboard from the green waste. Please put your cardboard in your recycling box with your paper instead.

The recycling crews are putting stickers on bins where they are still finding cardboard explaining the changes and asking for it to be removed. We are cracking down on this because contaminated green waste now has to be sent to landfill which is bad for the environment and costs households £90 a tonne in landfill tax.

There is no limit to the amount of recycling we will collect from you. If your cardboard is too big to go in your recycling box, and you can't break it down, you can book an oversized cardboard collection free of charge.

To book, please call **01727 819285** or email wastemanagementservices@stalbens.gov.uk. If you need further recycling boxes you can order these (for details see box on page 7). Cardboard can also be recycled at one of the District's three household waste recycling centres and at Morrisons, Fleetville. Details at www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling, or call **01727 819285**.

Easter waste and recycling collection dates

 A reminder that crews will be out as usual on Good Friday (18 April).

Please put your bins and boxes out as normal by 7am. Crews will not be working on Easter Monday (21 April). Collections that week will take place one day later than usual, with Monday's collections on Tuesday, Tuesday's collections on Wednesday, and so on. Crews will work on Saturday 26 April to catch up.



FREE compost

 Sunday 6 April, from 7am (until stocks run out), Amey Depot, Ronsons Way, St Albans. Once again, to say thank you for all your recycling efforts, we are offering residents free garden compost. This is a DIY event so please bring your own bags (max 4 per car) and a spade. It's always popular so it's best to get there early!

GREEN ISSUES

What can I recycle?

For more information:

-  www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling
-  wastemanagementservices@stalbins.gov.uk
-  01727 819285
-  @StAlbansCouncil

Paper and folded
or torn cardboard



Plastics, cans and foil.
(No plastic bags please)



Green waste, food
waste and
shredded paper

Use paper caddy liners or
wrap food in newspaper to
keep your bin clean.

Glass



Need an extra recycling box?

You can have up to five recycling boxes for free.
Extras cost £3. To order more boxes contact
01727 819285, wastemanagementservices@stalbins.gov.uk.
Note: Over 5,000 extra boxes ordered since Christmas – thanks for all your recycling efforts!



Walk your way to a new you

 If you want to get out more,
meet new people, loose
weight or improve your fitness,
the Hertfordshire Health Walks
programme could be for you.

Health Walks are FREE, led by
friendly volunteers and are suitable for
all ages and abilities. They range from
an easy walk of around 20 minutes, to a
moderate walk of around 2 hours. See:
www.hertslink.org/cms/healthwalks,
or call 01992 588433.

Flats recycling leaflet

 A leaflet
about special
arrangements for
recycling in flats
is being delivered
this spring. To
download the
leaflet go to
www.stalbans.gov.uk/flatsrecycling or call
01727 819285 for a copy.



Real nappies?

 Why not
switch from
disposable nappies
to environmentally
friendly cotton ones?

They have
poppers and come in
funky designs these
days! For details of a
free trial offer and cash
back scheme, contact
Louise Palmer on
01727 819428.

Nappychinos Events

- Alban Way Children's Centre,
Sherwood Avenue, Marshalswick
on Mon 28 April, 10.30-12.00.
- Alban Way Children's Centre,
Fleetville Primary School, Hatfield
Rd, Tuesday 29 April, 10.30-12.00.
Come along for a coffee and find
out more. Children welcome.



Extended Council Opening Hours

	Walk in enquiries	Telephone enquiries
Monday 17 March	8.30 – 6pm	8am – 7pm
Tuesday 18 March	8.30 – 6pm	8am – 7pm
Wednesday 19 March	8.30 – 6pm	8am – 7pm
Thursday 20 March	8.30 – 6pm	8am – 7pm
Monday 31 March	8.30 – 6pm	8am – 6pm
Tuesday 1 April	8.30 – 6pm	8am – 6pm
Wednesday 2 April	8.30 – 6pm	8am – 6pm

Council Tax call **01727 819204**, or **01727 819205**.

Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction Scheme (which replaces Council Tax Benefit) call **01727 819220**.

Visit www.stalbans.gov.uk to tell us of a change of address, set up a direct debit or apply for a single person discount.

Older people's forum

X The next meeting of St Albans Older People's Forum is at Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre on Thursday 5 June from 10.00 to 11.30am. Bus routes and timetables will be discussed and network planners from Hertfordshire County Council will explain how routes are planned. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions and have your say. Refreshments available. All welcome. For information, contact Nicky Flynn on **01727 819518**.

Keeping the District Clean and Green

If you spot a problem with...

- ✓ Abandoned vehicles
- ✓ Illegal fly-tipping
- ✓ Graffiti or litter
- ✓ Dog fouling or stray dogs
- ✓ Dumped rubbish
- ✓ Illegal fly-posting
- ✓ Overgrown hedgerows
- ✓ Spills from refuse collection
- ✓ Accumulation of leaves
- ✓ Pest control
- ✓ Damaged street furniture
- ✓ Street cleaning
- ✓ Drugs paraphernalia
- ✓ Empty/derelict property
- ✓ Air pollution (bonfires/fumes)

...please contact

The Cleaner District Hotline: **01727 819598**
 Email: a.cleanerdistrict@stalbans.gov.uk
 Together, for a Cleaner District

St Albans
City & District Council

Now on twitter:
@StAlbansCouncil



Where to go for health advice

X Advice from the NHS
 If you are suffering from coughs, colds, aches, pains or indigestion the place to go for advice and treatments to help relieve your symptoms is your pharmacist. If your health need is more urgent but not a 999 emergency then dial **111**. You will be

assessed, given advice and directed straight away to the local service that can help you best. That could be a pharmacist, community nurse, out of hours GP, minor injuries unit, urgent care centre or A&E department. If it's a life threatening emergency, dial **999**.

Market dates

St Albans Market
every Wednesday and Saturday

St Albans Farmers' Market
2nd Sunday of the month

Harpenden Farmers' Market
4th Sunday of the month



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@stalbans.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

Email: contactus@stalbans.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

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.