

Community NEWS

INCORPORATING **Recycling News**



SUMMER 2014

SUMMER IN THE CITY

For this summer's glorious local events and music, and details of:

The Alban Weekend

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 June, see page 2.

Batchwood opens



 The new Batchwood Sports Centre is open once again following the fire in August 2011.

The magnificent new facility is an East of England regional centre of excellence with six indoor tennis courts, a special judo facility and an improved gym. For information and bookings see: www.bit.ly/1pxhuPK or call 01727 844250.



Try our website first

 Our customer service centre covers everything from taking Council payments to answering planning enquiries.

Many of the things people come to talk to us about can also be done online from the comfort of your own home.

www.stalbans.gov.uk



**FOR RECYCLING
news see pages 7-8**

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

www.stalbans.gov.uk



Approved by
Plain English
Campaign



SUMMER in the CITY!



The Alban Weekend

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 June

Join the hullabaloo and celebrate Britain's first saint, Alban, with fabulous street entertainment, music and the Cathedral's unique and dramatic Alban Pilgrimage. See giant carnival puppets retrace Alban's last steps and tell his remarkable story. Enjoy St Albans Folk Festival. Soak up the entertainment and festive atmosphere. See: www.enjoystalbans.com, or pick up a leaflet at Council information points.

The Alban Pilgrimage

Sat 21 June, St Peter's Street. Procession starts at 11am from St Peter's Church. Also various special services at the Cathedral. See: www.stalbanscathedral.org.

St Albans Folk Festival

Sat 21 & Sun 22 June. Various locations in St Albans. Call: **01727 852111**. See: www.stalbansfolkfestival.co.uk.

Sandridge 900 Midsummer Gala

Sat 21 June from 2.30pm, Jersey Farm Woodland Park. Gala ends with beacon and fireworks. No parking on site. See: www.sandridge900.com.

St Albans Street Market

Sat 21 June, all day, St Peter's Street. Combine your visit with a trip to St Albans' famous Charter Market.



Alban Street Festival

Sun 22 June, St Peter's Street. Fabulous street entertainment, music, arts and crafts, delicious food, loads of interesting things to see and do. See: www.enjoystalbans.com.

International Organ Festival Weekend 2014

Thurs 17 – Sun 20 July

Tickets: www.organfestival.com

Franz Josef Stoiber - Organ

Thurs 17 July, 5.30pm. St Peter's Church, St Albans, £12. Fascinating programme of spontaneous music-making by leading German organist.

Zelkova String Quartet

Sun 20 July, 3pm. St Michael's Church, St Albans, £15/10. One of the outstanding string quartets of their generation. www.zelkovaquartet.co.uk

Wolfgang Holzmaier (baritone) and Imogen Cooper (piano)

Sun 20 July, 8.15pm. St Saviour's Church, St Albans, £28/£20. Critically acclaimed musicians with international reputation.



Heritage Open Days

Thurs 11 – Sun 14 September

Many attractions will open free of charge. The country flings wide the doors of many buildings normally closed to the public. It's a great chance to discover architectural treasures, tours, events and activities. More information at: www.heritageopendays.org.uk from mid July.

St Albans Food and Drink Festival

Wed 24 September – Mon 6 October
It starts with the CAMRA Beer Festival and comes to a climax with the grand Food and Drink Festival Market finale in the City Centre. In between there are loads of great events and offers. The festival celebrates the best food and drink the District has to offer. See: www.enjoystalbans.com/foodanddrinkfestival, 01727 819311.



Footie skills

 **Come along and join in football inspired activities for just £1 a session.**

The Onside project, run by Watford Football Club qualified coaches is for 8 to 16 year olds in the Batford, Wheathampstead, Batchwood, Sopwell, London Colney and Marshalswick areas. To register, email michael.jones@watfordfc.com or call **07825 274608**.

Play in the Parks

 **Our summer play project is back for the school summer holidays** (Thurs 24 July – Fri 29 August). Details at: www.stalbans.gov.uk/playintheparks or call **01727 819531**.

Free led bike rides

 Free, fun, 'Sky Ride Local' guided bike rides are on offer from British Cycling this summer.

All rides are guided by friendly ride leaders along scenic routes. They are 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 for details or call 01727 819320.



Free tennis fun

 The Great British Tennis Weekend initiative offers free tennis for all the family this summer.

Book your free place at: www.greatbritishtennisweekend.com, or call 01727 814649.

Drive and cycle SAFE

 With bike accidents on the increase, here are some safety tips for drivers from the Think! campaign.

Look out for cyclists, especially when turning – make eye contact so they know you've seen them.

Use your indicators – signal your intentions so that cyclists can

react. When overtaking cyclists, leave as much room as you would give a car. Cyclists may need to manoeuvre suddenly if the road surface is poor, it's windy or if a car door is opened.

Always check for cyclists when you open your car door. For safety advice for drivers and cyclists see: think.direct.gov.uk/cycling.html.



Celebrate your river

 Sat 28 June & Sat 26 July, 10am. Come on down to Verulamium Park to learn about the river Ver and get closer to wildlife. There's fun for all the family with river dipping, a scavenger hunt and talks by local experts. These events are run by organisations involved in protecting our valuable chalk river.



Beach volleyball

 How about booking some time on the beach volleyball courts in Verulamium Park this summer?

Details at: www.stalbans.gov.uk/beach-courts, or call 01727 868227.

Marking the First World War

 There are lots of activities planned to mark the First World War Centenary taking place across the District.

You can see what local groups are doing at: www.stalbans.gov.uk/firstworldwar, or call 01727 819303. Plans include poppy

planting; historical walks; exhibitions; a tea dance; a prayer trail; workshops; lectures; publications; local research projects and a memorial book.

The Museum of St Albans has an exhibition on war time life in St Albans and Worms, our twin town in Germany (see page 4).





What's on at the museums

Museum of St Albans. 9a Hatfield Rd, St Albans, AL1 3RR. **01727 819340**.
Verulamium Museum. St Michaels St, St Albans, AL3 4SW. **01727 751810**.
www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk

June

Tots Tales

Wed 11 June, 11am – 12 noon & 1.30pm – 2.30pm. Listen to stories, enjoy a craft activity, go on a museum object hunt.
Museum of St Albans, £1.

Keeping the Home Fires Burning

Fri 13 June – Sun 16 Nov. Exhibition: Life in St Albans and Worms during the First World War.
Museum of St Albans. Free.

Life during the First World War

Fri 13 June, 7pm – 9pm. Two talks on life in St Albans and Worms, Germany during the First World War. Verulamium Museum. £8.

Reminiscence at the Museum of St Albans

Tues 24 June, 2pm. Join us at our monthly reminiscence session for a chat about memories of St Albans, with tea and biscuits.
Museum of St Albans. Free.

July

Keeping the Home Fires Burning

Until Sun 16 November. As June. Free.

The Cat's Tea Party

Sat 5 July, 11am – 3pm. To mark the 75th anniversary of the death of artist Louis Wain we are recreating one of his most famous works 'Tea party at Napsbury'. Come along and create your own Wain inspired cat-mask and step into the painting. Museum of St Albans. £4. Family discounts.

Tots Tales

Wed 9 July. As June.
Museum of St Albans, £1.

Reminiscence at the Museum of St Albans

Tues 29 July, 2pm. As June.
Museum of St Albans. Free.

Summer Holiday Activities

Throughout July and August. Crafty capers and holiday fun for children at both the Museum of St Albans and Verulamium Museum



August

Keeping the Home Fires Burning

Until Sun 16 November. As June. Free.

Day of the Dead Art Workshop

Sat 2 August, 12 – 3pm. Work with a professional artist to create your own work of art inspired by the Mexican 'Day of the Dead'.
Verulamium Museum.

Tots Tales

Wed 13 August. As June.
Museum of St Albans.

Reminiscence at the Museum of St Albans

Tues 26 August, 2pm. As June.
Museum of St Albans.

Summer Holiday Activities

As July.



All change on voter registration

 **The biggest change to UK voter registration in a hundred years starts soon. We will be writing to residents shortly about the switch to 'Individual Electoral Registration'.**

Each individual is now responsible for their own registration and to make the electoral register more secure, you will be asked to

provide a few more details.

Most people who are already registered have been transferred automatically to the new register. However some people will need to re-register. To find out more, see www.gov.uk/yourvotematters or call **01727 819294**.

New police info point

 A police advice and 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 police related issues.

St Albans Green Ring



X A 9km continuous walking and cycling route in and around St Albans is gradually taking shape.

Over the next few months we are working on sections through Bernard's Heath, near the Alban Way and along Sandpit Lane. Other sections are being worked on by Hertfordshire County Council. The whole project is due to be completed in 2015.



Neighbour action on green issues

X Neighbours are getting together to take practical action to reduce their environmental impact.

There are currently thirteen Transition Streets groups operating in the District. For information about setting up your own group, email streets@transitionstalbens.org or call 07413 932 380.



Community Payback

X Nearly 8,000 hours of free labour was provided last year through Community Payback.

Street furniture was repainted, public gardens dug, bush cleared,

grounds swept, grass cut and graffiti cleared. Courts have power to sentence offenders to community sentences of up to 300 hours of unpaid Community Payback work.

Say NO to laughing gas

X The Community Safety Partnership is warning against the use of nitrous oxide (laughing gas) as a euphoric drug.

Misuse of the gas is on the increase. Users risk unconsciousness or death from lack

of oxygen. The risk is greatest if the gas is inhaled using a plastic bag. Mixing nitrous oxide with alcohol is especially dangerous.



Parking – pay by phone

X PayByPhone is a quick and secure way to pay for parking by credit or debit card using your mobile phone.

Get reminder text alerts and top up your parking time on the move too. To register visit www.paybyphone.co.uk/registration.

Fees apply. The new system, currently available at all district on-street Pay and Display machines and at Westminster Lodge and Civic Centre car parks, will be rolled out further soon.

Changes to parking fees



X To free up spaces for shoppers, parking fees are frozen or reduced at some car parks for stays of up to three hours from Monday to Saturday.

Meanwhile, fees have gone up for all day parking in central car parks. This is the case at Drovers Way, Russell Avenue, London Road and Adelaide Street in St Albans, and at Bowers Way East, Bowers Way West and Amenbury Lane in Harpenden.

Fees for all day parking are lower than before at other car parks.

This is the case at Bricket Road North, Keyfield Terrace, Gombards and Townsend Avenue.

Parking on Sundays now costs £1 all day in most central locations. This flat rate compares favourably with Sunday parking costs in surrounding Districts. Westminster Lodge car park is free of charge for up to two hours every day.

We will be reviewing how the changes are working out over the coming months. More information at www.stalbans.gov.uk/parking.



Hands up for volunteering

Why not pop into your local Volunteer Centre at the Civic Centre in St Albans (beside the Arena) run by St Albans Centre for Voluntary Service.

Friendly staff and volunteers can help you find a fantastic volunteering role. The Centre opens 10 – 4pm Monday to Thursday, and has over 300 opportunities to choose from.

Help in a day centre, befriend a neighbour, build your professional skills as a trustee – or so much more!

Volunteering is a great way to gain and improve skills, and is a wonderful way to meet people and get involved in your local community. More information at:

www.volunteerstalbands.org.uk or call **01727 814644**.



Don't wash raw chicken!

The most common cause of food poisoning in the UK – Campylobacter – is associated with eating raw or undercooked chicken, or from contamination due to washing raw chicken.

Coinciding with Food Safety Week, here are some reminders from our team. Cover and store raw chicken at the bottom of the fridge at 5°C or below; don't wash raw chicken before cooking; wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water and cleanse all utensils and surfaces; use separate chopping boards for raw food; change or wash dish clothes regularly; and cook chicken thoroughly ensuring the thickest part is steaming hot, with clear juices.

More info at: www.stalbands.gov.uk/campylobacterfacts, **01727 819354**.



 **renaissance: St Albans**
your new museum and gallery at the heart of the city

New museum and gallery

Community fundraising is underway for the transformation of St Albans' Grade II* listed Town Hall into a beautiful new museum and gallery.

The **renaissance: St Albans** campaign will be launched at the Alban Street Festival on Sunday 22 June by St Albans Museums and Galleries Trust.

Information and fundraising packs are available for residents,

schools and businesses. The Heritage Lottery Fund and the Council are providing the majority of the funding needed for the £6.75M project. A further £1.7M now remains to be raised. The project has been described in the local press as “perhaps one of the most exciting developments the city has seen for decades”.

To find out more see www.stalbandsmuseumsandgalleriestrust.org.uk, or call **01727 751830**.



Civic Centre – a hub for info and advice

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.stalbands.gov.uk/civicculture for details of each organisation's opening times or call **01727 866100**.

GREEN ISSUES

What can I recycle?

There are separate arrangements for flats.
See www.stalbans.gov.uk/flatsrecycling

For more information:

-  www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling
-  wastemanagementservices@stalban.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

(No soil or card please)

Glass



Coming soon – easier cardboard collection

 Following feedback from residents, we will be adjusting the new system of cardboard collection later this year to make it easier to recycle.

Once rolled out, we will be able to collect larger sheets of cardboard as part of our normal service. The details are being finalised at the moment and we will be sending out

information to homes shortly. There are separate arrangements for flats.

One feature of the new service will be a separate collection vehicle just for cardboard and paper.

In the meantime, please continue to break up your cardboard to fit in your paper recycling box. Thank you!



Why we ask you to separate your recycling

 Each type of recyclable material needs to be handled by a separate facility.

Plastics, cans and foils go to a centre in St Albans where magnets are used to pick out metals. Paper and cardboard is graded, pulped and cleaned at a paper mill. Glass is graded into colour and size to be used as road aggregate or new bottles and jars. Food and garden waste goes to a local composting plant to be used on farms and community gardens.

Large plastic bottles



 Please remember to squash all plastic bottles. This helps to prevent clogging up the recycling vehicle crushing mechanism. Large plastic bottles that cannot be squashed can be taken to recycling sites.



Litter and flytipping

X Last year we collected nearly 3,000 tonnes of unsightly, vermin attracting litter, and waste from flytipping, at a cost to tax payers of £1.4m.

Please help keep our beautiful

district clean. You can report littering or flytipping, or find out about joining a community litter pick, at wastemanagementservices@stalbans.gov.uk, 01727 819285.



Electrical recycling

X Electrical goods can be recycled at local Household Waste Recycling Centres (see www.stalbans.gov.uk/HWRC or call 01727 819285 for info).

Waitrose and Morrisons in St Albans also have recycling facilities for small electrical goods.

Abuse of crews

X 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 may seek to involve the Police and suspend waste collection services from individual properties if necessary.



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@stalbans.gov.uk.

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



Now on twitter: [@StAlbansCouncil](https://twitter.com/StAlbansCouncil)

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](https://twitter.com/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.