

# Community NEWS

INCORPORATING **Recycling News**



**St Albans**  
City & District Council

WINTER 2014

## Snow and flood news online



 When it snows, all the latest news on Council services is available at [www.stalbans.gov.uk/snow](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/snow).

You'll find information on refuse and recycling, school closures, gritting, salting routes, advice on clearing pavements outside your home and lots more.

- Follow us on Twitter @StAlbansCouncil.
- See back page for waste collection arrangements in the snow.
- For flood advice see: [www.stalbans.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/flooding).



## Waste and recycling collection dates

 A useful 2015 collection calendar is being delivered to local homes in December. A handy reminder of what to put in each recycling box is included. For communal flats see stickers on bins shortly. Details are also available at: [www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling), or if in doubt call 01727 819285.

### MAGICAL FESTIVE LAUNCH

Fri 28 Nov, 5-8pm  
Market Place,  
St Albans

## ST ALBANS CHRISTMAS MARKET

27<sup>TH</sup> NOV - 21<sup>ST</sup> DEC

Open 11am-6pm, Sun-Wed; and 11am-8pm, Thurs-Sat.  
IN THE GROUNDS OF ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL

- ★ Fabulous chalet-style stalls
- ★ Music and merriment
- ★ Stunning location
- ★ Bags of Christmas magic
- ★ Visit Santa's grotto

For more information please visit [www.enjoystalbans.com](http://www.enjoystalbans.com) or call 01727 864511



**St Albans**  
City & District Council

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

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



Approved by  
Plain English  
Campaign

# What's on at the museums

Museum of St Albans, 9a Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RR, 01727 819340  
Verulamium Museum, St Michael's Street, St Albans, AL1 4SW, 01727 751810

Please note: children must be accompanied by an adult

## Exhibitions

### St Albans Camera Club

28 Nov - 4 Jan. Museum of St Albans. Free.

### Eastern Approaches

6 Dec - 11 Jan, Museum of St Albans. Free. Showcase of work by East region artists. A rich mix of media and inspiration.

### Ancient Egypt Lives Forever

23 Jan - 17 May. Museum of St Albans. Free. A peek into the daily lives of Egyptians from the times of the Pharaohs, including preparations for the afterlife and mummies.

### Great IDEA

25 Jan - 22 Mar. Museum of St Albans. Free. Photographs by Tobias Hofsäss. Sculptures by Thomas Raschke. Humour and irony on differences between Europe's national cultures.

## Events

**Roman Domestic Life** - Sat 6 Dec.

**Gods & Goddesses** - Sun 7 Dec.

**Iron Age** - Sat 17 Jan.

**Life & Times of Alban** - Sun 18 Jan.

**Mosaics & Wall Paintings** - Sat 24 Jan.

**Death & Burial** - Sun 25 Jan.

Events run 3 - 3.30pm. Free (Verulamium museum entry charge for non residents).

Talks by St Albans Tour Guides.

### Festive Fun

Sun 7 Dec, 2 - 5pm. Museum of St Albans. £2 (suitable for ages 3 - 11). Seasonal stories and Christmas decoration making.

### Tots Tales

Wed 10 Dec, Wed 14 Jan, Wed 11 Feb, 11am - 12pm & 1.30 - 2.30pm. Museum of St Albans. £1 (suitable for ages 2 - 4). Join us for a story, craft activity and museum hunt.

### Saturnalia Swags

Sat 13 Dec, 11am - 4pm. Sun 14 Dec, 2 - 4pm. Verulamium Museum. Free (museum entry charge for non residents). Saturnalia was the Ancient Romans' winter festival. Decorate our evergreen garlands with Roman style decorations. Make one for the Museum and another to take home.

### Archaeology Apprentices

Sun 18 Jan, 2 - 4pm. Verulamium Museum. Free (museum entry charge for non residents, suitable for ages 5 - 11). Are you good at investigating? Come along and reconstruct broken objects.

### Marvellous Mummies

Sat 24 Jan, 2 - 5pm. Museum of St Albans. Free. A special family event for Residents First Weekend. Meet an Egyptian Priest, find out about his work and how he mummifies bodies!

### Story time session for the under 7s

Sun 25 Jan, 3 - 4pm. Museum of St Albans. £1 (free to members of the St Albans Children's Book Group). Join us for stories, activities and Children's Book Award voting.

### Reminiscence at the Museum of St Albans

Tues 27 Jan, Tues 24 Feb, 2 - 3pm. Free. Join us for a cup of tea and a chat to reminisce about the past.

### Take a Cellfie!

Sat 31 Jan, 11am - 3pm. Free. Proceeds to the new museum and gallery appeal. Limited disabled access. Bring your camera and take a unique selfie down in the cells under the Court Room at the old Town Hall. Share your photos on Twitter #stalbanselfie.

### Egyptian Preparations for Death

Sat 7 Feb, 2 - 3pm. £7 (£6 Friends). Verulamium Museum. Helen Strudwick, Curator of Egypt at the Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge. Funerary processes and religious beliefs.

### Egyptian Myths and Legends

Sat 14 Feb, 2 - 3pm and 3.30 - 4.30pm, Museum of St Albans. £2. Story telling and Egyptian craft activity (suitable for ages 6 - 11).

### Mummy Making

Mon 16 Feb. Gory details of mummification and make a mini mummy.

### Awesome Afterlife

Tues 17 Feb. Find out about the dangerous journey to the Egyptian afterlife and make a brilliant board game.

### The River Nile

Wed 18 Feb. Make a model of this amazing river complete with a crocodile, hippo and boat. Museum of St Albans. 10.30am - 12.30pm. £6 (£5 for Young Friends). Suitable for ages 6 - 11. Book sessions in advance on 01727 819340.

### Roman Mask Making

Tues 17 Feb and Thurs 19 Feb, 2 - 4pm, Verulamium Museum. £1 (museum entry charge applies to non residents). Drop-in activity suitable for ages 3 - 11.

### Roman Mosaics

Sat 21 Feb, 10.15am - 12.15pm, Verulamium Museum, £8 (£7 for Friends). Find out about design and construction of the outstanding mosaics at Verulamium.

### Meet Queen Boudicca

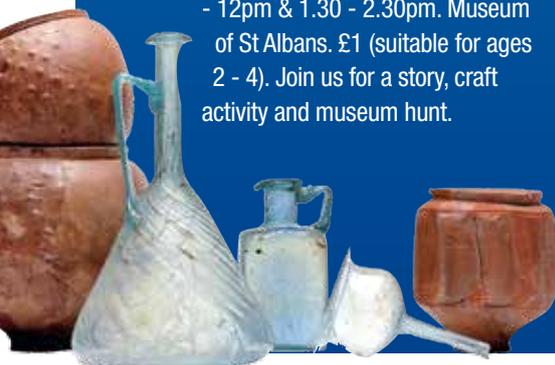
Sat 21 Feb 2 - 4.30pm. Story telling sessions at 2.30 and 3.30 pm. Museum of St Albans. Free (museum entry charge for non residents). Come along and meet Queen Boudicca.

### The Rediscovery of Ancient Egypt

Sat 28 Feb 2 - 3pm. £8 (£7 for Friends). Museum of St Albans. Talk by expert Egyptologist and author, Peter Clayton, on 19th century artists and travellers and the treasures of Ancient Egypt.

### A Gallery Talk at the Museum of St Albans

Sat 28 Feb 3 - 4pm. Free. David Thorold, Curator of the Egyptian Exhibition.





This scheme is operated in partnership with your local authority

## FOOD HYGIENE RATING



VERY GOOD

# Eating out this Christmas? Look before you book.

Christmas is a time to enjoy good company and good food without worrying about food poisoning.

There's one easy way to set your mind at rest. Check the food hygiene rating at [www.food.gov.uk/ratings](http://www.food.gov.uk/ratings) or look for the green and black sticker on the door. If you can't see one, just ask.

There are 6 hygiene ratings ranging from '0' (urgent improvement required) at the bottom to '5' (very good) at the top.



## Raising funds for the new museum and gallery



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

 Intrepid museum staff and volunteers are continuing to raise funds for a superb new museum and gallery at the old Town Hall in central St Albans. Here they are pictured on a recent Sponsored Walk. So far £5.1 million has been raised or pledged towards the £6.75 million needed. Local businesses are also

supporting the fundraising effort with various forms of sponsorship. There are lots of ways to be recognised as a donor. You could also organise your own fundraising event. The fundraising team can help. Contact them on: **01727 751830**, [stalbanstrust@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stalbanstrust@hotmail.co.uk). More information at [www.renaissancestalbans.org.uk](http://www.renaissancestalbans.org.uk)



## Nominate someone for a Mayor's Pride Award

 Do you know an unsung hero – an individual or group – deserving some recognition. Nominations are now open for the Mayor's Pride Awards. There are 8 award categories – nominations must be received by Friday 16 January. See [www.stalbans.gov.uk/mayorsprideawards](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/mayorsprideawards) for details or contact [events@stalban.gov.uk](mailto:events@stalban.gov.uk), **01727 819311**. To book a free ticket for the Awards event at the Alban Arena on 26 March 2015, call **01727 844488**.



## Market dates

**St Albans Market**  
every Wednesday and Saturday  
(extra dates in December:  
Thurs 18, Fri 19, Mon 22, Tues 23)

**St Albans Christmas Market**  
27 Nov - 21 Dec (see front page)

**St Albans Farmers' Market**  
2nd Sunday of the month

**Harpenden Farmers' Market**  
4th Sunday of the month

## Residents | First Weekend

24 & 25 January 2015

 Residents First Weekend is a great opportunity to see top local attractions for free, or try leisure activities, restaurants and other local venues at a discount. Look out for the brochure in the New Year, see [www.enjoystalbans.com](http://www.enjoystalbans.com) or contact [events@stalban.gov.uk](mailto:events@stalban.gov.uk), **01727 819311**.



## Getting fit, keeping healthy

**X** If you've decided the moment has come to get into shape, we thought a reminder of what's on offer locally might be of help. Council owned sports facilities in the District are listed below. There are also lots of community and privately run leisure facilities and clubs.

### Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre

Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1 2DL, 01727 736080. Mon - Fri: 6am - 10pm; Sat - Sun: 7am - 10pm. [www.everyoneactive.com/westminsterlodge](http://www.everyoneactive.com/westminsterlodge)

### Abbey View Golf and Track

Verulamium Park, Holywell Hill, St Albans, AL1 2DL. 01727 868227. Mon - Thurs: 8am - 9pm; Fri to Sun: 8am - dusk. Operated on a pay and play basis.

### Batchwood Golf Course and Sports Centre

Batchwood Drive, St Albans, AL3 5XA. 01727 844250. Mon - Fri: 8am - 10pm; Sat - Sun: 7am - 7pm; Bank Hols: 10am - 6pm. [www.1life.co.uk/st-albans-city-district-council](http://www.1life.co.uk/st-albans-city-district-council)

### Harpenden Sports Centre / Swimming Pool

Rothamsted Park, Leyton Road, Harpenden, AL5 2HU. 01582 767722. Sports Centre: Mon - Fri: 6am - 11pm; Sat - Sun: 8am - 9pm; Banks Hols: 10am - 6pm. Swimming Pool: Mon - Fri 6.30am - 10.30; Sat - Sun 8am - 8pm. [www.1life.co.uk/st-albans-city-district-council](http://www.1life.co.uk/st-albans-city-district-council).

### London Colney Adventure World

Perham Way, London Colney, St Albans, AL2 1LB. 01727 822447. [www.1life.co.uk/st-albans-city-district-council](http://www.1life.co.uk/st-albans-city-district-council). Opening times vary.

**Aldwyck**  
HOUSING GROUP

St Albans District  
Credit Union

OAKLANDS COLLEGE

citizens  
advice  
bureau

Volunteer Centre  
St Albans District

## Civic Centre – a hub for info and advice

**X** 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.stalbans.gov.uk/civiccentre](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/civiccentre) for details of each organisation's opening times or call **01727 866100**.

Visitors can also make use of a new touch screen service providing access to lots of additional information on other local services and sources of help and advice.



## Your vote matters

**X** The way we register to vote changed this year to **Individual Electoral Registration**.

If you recently moved home and have not yet registered or received a letter inviting you to register again, it is important that you do so by 20 April 2015. This will ensure your details are included in the register of electors. The registration process is easy and can be done online by visiting [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

or by contacting the Electoral Services team (details below). If you are not registered, you may lose your right to vote in the UK Parliamentary, District and Parish elections on 7 May 2015. If you would prefer to vote by post (deadline: 5pm, 21 April) or proxy (deadline: 5pm, 28 April), please contact the team at [elections@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:elections@stalbans.gov.uk) (**01727 819294**). More information at: [www.stalbans.gov.uk/elections](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/elections).

## Shopmobility

**X** Anyone who has difficulty getting around can use the Shopmobility service, run by volunteers.

The office is on the ground floor of Drivers Way Car Park in St Albans. There is no charge for use of a scooter or wheelchair for the day, though donations are welcome. You can hire a wheelchair for £5 per week. The scheme is open Monday to Saturday, 9.30am to 4pm (not bank hols). You can book in advance or drop in. Contact the office on **01727 819339**. To volunteer, please contact [michelle.bostock@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.bostock@stalbans.gov.uk), **01727 836781**.



## Hertfordshire Home Safety Service

**X** The countywide Hertfordshire Home Safety Service uses money recovered from criminals to provide a wide range of free and low cost services to help prevent crime.

You can get advice, for example on home security and safety, or get help with fitting and maintaining locks on doors, windows and gates. See [www.hertsdirect.org/services/commsafe/HHSS/](http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/commsafe/HHSS/) for details or call 0208 438 2920.



## Buy with confidence

**X** Hertfordshire Trading Standards knows how important it is to use a good trader but also how hard it is to find one.

They have set up a Buy With Confidence scheme for Hertfordshire residents. You can find a list of businesses including electricians, plumbers, builders, handymen and many more who have passed a set of tailored background checks. Check out the website at [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk) or call 01707 292429.

## Get flu immunised

**X** You are at more risk from flu if you are over 65, pregnant, very young, or have an existing health condition like severe asthma, chest or heart complaints or diabetes.

If you fall into one of these groups you are entitled to free flu protection. Speak to your GP or see [www.nhs.uk/flu](http://www.nhs.uk/flu).



## Try our website first

**X** 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 at [www.stalbans.gov.uk](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk). You can also find a wealth

of map based information tailored to your specific address. Also, many of our meetings can be viewed by webcast, either live or later. See: [www.stalbans.gov.uk/webcasts](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/webcasts).

## Christmas Day with friends

**X** Community Christmas believes that no elderly person should be alone on Christmas Day unless they want to be.

They have a website where Christmas Day community lunches and events are promoted. If you have an event planned, why not tell them about it so they can help promote it. Or if you are an elderly person who is interested in seeing what's on locally on Christmas Day, why not make contact with them: [www.communitychristmas.org.uk](http://www.communitychristmas.org.uk), 0844 443 0662.



## Libraries consultation

**X** Hertfordshire County Council's 'Inspiring Libraries' consultation on changes to the library service runs until 7 December. Have your say at [www.hertsdirect.org/inspiringlibraries](http://www.hertsdirect.org/inspiringlibraries) or fill in a questionnaire at your local library.

# GREEN ISSUES

## What can I recycle?

There are separate arrangements for flats.  
See [www.stalbans.gov.uk/flatsrecycling](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/flatsrecycling)

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.)



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



**Green waste, food waste and shredded paper**

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

**Glass**  
(No broken glass please)



## 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@stalban.gov.uk](mailto:wastemanagementservices@stalban.gov.uk).



## New cardboard collection leads to recycling increase

 The amount of cardboard being recycled by residents increased by 6% during the first two weeks following the introduction of a new cardboard collection.

A regular collection of bulky cardboard was introduced to all homes, including flats, on 15 September as part of ongoing improvements to the Council's recycling service.

All types of card, regardless of size, are now being collected. If cardboard is too large for the paper recycling box, it needs to be flattened and stacked securely

with the box so it can't blow away. Please ensure that the card is clearly visible for collection. All cardboard will be collected at the same time as the paper recycling box. If you live in a flat with communal recycling, your cardboard should be flattened and placed in the bin provided for paper collections.

Overall, recycling has increased to 50.1% of all household waste for the year ended 30 September 2014, up from 45% for the previous 12-month period. The Council is on a mission to get this up to 60%. Thank you very much for doing your bit!



## Litter pick volunteers

 We have a number of wonderful volunteers who organise community litter picks and help to keep the District looking spic and span.

If you would like to organise an event, please contact Luke Bennett ([luke.bennett@stalban.gov.uk](mailto:luke.bennett@stalban.gov.uk), 01727 819589).



## Get help keeping warm this winter



**✘ Rising energy costs and an ageing housing stock mean that some households will struggle to keep warm this winter.**

Get advice and help on energy bills, debt, draught proofing, insulation, grants, and more. If you, or anyone you know, needs help this winter contact **Herts Healthy Homes** on **0300 123 4044**.

## Slay your energy vampires

**✘ The average household spends an extra £50 - £80 each year by not turning devices off at the wall when not in use.**

For information about so-called 'energy vampire' devices and the chance to win an energy saving countdown plug, visit [www.greenourherts.org.uk](http://www.greenourherts.org.uk) or call **01727 819466**.

## Flood support

**✘ Businesses and homeowners affected by flooding in the District may be eligible to receive a grant.**

The Council is administering a government scheme to provide grants of up to £5,000. The repair and renew grant is available to homeowners and businesses flooded between 1 December 2013 and 31 March 2014. The grant is not intended to provide funding

for damage and items that should be claimed through insurance. Businesses that can show they were significantly affected by the floods, may also be eligible for a business support grant. For example, this could be due to significant loss of income as a result of road closures. For more information contact [floodingsupport@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:floodingsupport@stalbans.gov.uk), **01727 814612**. For details see: [bit.ly/1xEpGBk](http://bit.ly/1xEpGBk).

## Don't have a rubbish Christmas

### ✘ Food waste

Please put your food scraps in your green bin, if you have this service, (wrapped tightly in paper) or in your home composter. About a third of our refuse is currently food waste which is heavy and expensive to send to landfill. **Every tonne costs taxpayers almost £100**. Thanks very much for your efforts.

### Christmas trees

You can recycle your tree at your local Household Waste Recycling Centre (Dark Lane, Harpenden; Ronsons Way, St Albans; Waterdale, A405 Bricket Wood). If it's small enough it can go in your green bin (not available at communal flats). Please remove all decorations first! Some garden centres will collect your tree for a small fee (including Ayletts – 01727 822255).

### Wrapping paper, Christmas cards and cardboard

These can all be recycled – put them in your paper recycling box. Please be sure to **flatten** your cardboard first!



## Recycle your electricals

**✘ Electrical waste is growing at about 5% a year.** If you have electrical items to dispose of, please take them to one of the three Household Waste Recycling Centres in the District (see left).

In the run up to Christmas and until the end of January, there will be extra electrical waste collection points provided around the District. As we go to press, the details are being worked out, but please check [www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling) for details from 15 December, or call **01727 819428**.

# Waste collection in the snow

We will be working hard to keep services going this winter whatever the weather. If snow and ice hit the District, we have plans in place to help keep disruption to waste and recycling services to a minimum.

If disruption lasts for a day or two, collections will roll on one day until we catch up. Crews will work on

Saturdays until the backlog is cleared.

Where disruption is more severe, lasting 3 days or more, green waste collections will be suspended for those roads that were missed. All rubbish and green waste will be collected together and sent to landfill. You may prefer not to put out your green bin until the next scheduled collection so the content can be recycled instead. Recycling boxes will be emptied on the next scheduled collection day, weather permitting.

During periods of disruption updates will be posted online – see: [www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling), or follow us on Twitter @StAlbansCouncil.

## Keeping the District Clean and Green

If you spot a problem with...

- ✓ Illegal fly-tipping
- ✓ Graffiti or litter
- ✓ Dog fouling
- ✓ Dumped rubbish
- ✓ Illegal fly-posting
- ✓ Spills from refuse collection
- ✓ Accumulation of leaves
- ✓ Street cleaning
- ✓ Drugs paraphernalia

...please contact

The Cleaner District Hotline: 01727 819598  
Email: [a.cleanerdistrict@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto:a.cleanerdistrict@stalbans.gov.uk)

Together, for a Cleaner District.



Now on twitter: @StAlbansCouncil



## Christmas waste and recycling collection dates

Please put your bins and boxes out by 7am.

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 22 Dec	Monday 22 Dec
Tuesday 23 Dec	Tuesday 23 Dec
Wednesday 24 Dec	Wednesday 24 Dec
Thursday 25 Dec	Saturday 27 Dec
Friday 26 Dec	Monday 29 Dec
Monday 29 Dec	Tuesday 30 Dec
Tuesday 30 Dec	Wednesday 31 Dec
Wednesday 31 Dec	Friday 2 Jan
Thursday 1 Jan	Saturday 3 Jan
Friday 2 Jan	Monday 5 Jan
Monday 5 Jan	Tuesday 6 Jan
Tuesday 6 Jan	Wednesday 7 Jan
Wednesday 7 Jan	Thursday 8 Jan
Thursday 8 Jan	Friday 9 Jan
Friday 9 Jan	Saturday 10 Jan



## Council Christmas opening times

- Monday 22 Dec – Open
- Tuesday 23 Dec – Open
- Wednesday 24 Dec – Closed from noon
- Thursday 25 Dec – Closed
- Friday 26 Dec – Closed
- Monday 29 Dec – Open
- Tuesday 30 Dec – Open
- Wednesday 31 Dec – Open
- Thursday 1 Jan – Closed
- Friday 2 Jan – Closed

Normal opening times resume from Monday 5 Jan (see below)

Emergency out of hours telephone: 01727 811155



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](mailto: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](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk)

Email: [contactus@stalbans.gov.uk](mailto: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

\* 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.