

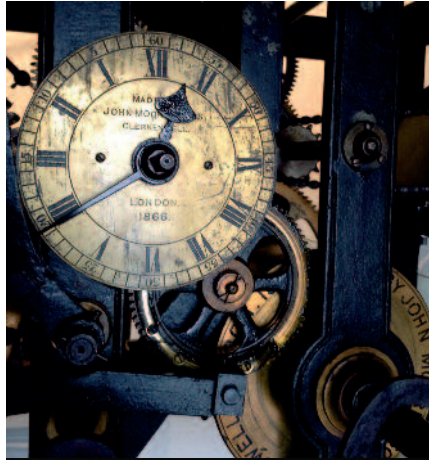


heritage **open** days

Explore what's on your doorstep

ST ALBANS

Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 &
Thursday 13 to Sunday 16
September 2018





St Albans
CIVIC SOCIETY

The Herts
ADVERTISER

St Albans Civic Society, in conjunction with the Herts Advertiser, is pleased and proud to be bringing you this special local guide for Heritage Open Days.

Details will also appear on the Council's tourism website www.enjoystalbans.com

St Albans
CHOOSE YOUR STORY



heritage open days

Heritage Open Days was established in 1994 as England's contribution to the European Heritage Days. The idea behind it was to raise appreciation of our rich and diverse cultural assets and the need for their care and protection.

It has since grown into this Country's largest heritage event.

Most attractions are FREE unless otherwise stated.

City Tour Guides

Saturday 15 Sept 14.30

Aristocrats, Paupers and Philanthropists.

Sunday 16 Sept 11.00

Historic St Albans: A City Revealed.

Sunday 16 Sept 14.30

A Monastery Revealed.

For all of these walks, meet the guide outside the front of the Museum + Gallery.

Free walks covering St Albans past - hear tales of events and characters from bygone days brought to life. Full descriptions on www.stalbanstourguides.co.uk

Some pavements are cobbled and narrow. Not suitable for children under 10. No booking required. See also *Ryder House* exhibition p8

Fleetville History Walk

Saturday 8 Sept 14.30 and 16.30

Duration approx 45 minutes.

Meet at Fleetville Community Centre, Royal Road, St Albans AL1 4LQ 01727 836843

Walk led by Mike Neighbour.

Walk about Fleetville's past, to compliment the Fleetville Diaries Exhibition and get a flavour of part of the Fleetville Community. Starting and finishing at the Community Centre we will be able to illustrate how the district developed from its beginnings in 1897. These are the stories behind the streets. It's in the school curriculum too!

No booking required. Max number per walk 20. Family friendly but no dogs or buggies please as footpath space is sometimes restricted. Level surfaces, no steps, wheelchair friendly.

3 hour free parking opposite Royal Road on south side of Hatfield Road. www.fleetville.org.uk

Exploring Beech Bottom Dyke and Bernards Heath

Sunday 9 Sept 14.00

Meet at St Saviour's Church Hall, Sandpit Lane, St. Albans AL1 4DF

Beech Bottom Dyke is a striking mile long Iron Age earthwork, linked to Shakespeare's King Cymbeline, and set in an ancient area of commons called 'Bernards Heath'. It is unpublicised and lacks interpretation - except for this guided walk.

The Dyke is St Albans' least known heritage asset. It is a huge Scheduled Ancient Monument running round the north of the city. A short talk is followed by a guided circular walk across Bernards Heath, along the Dyke and back to the church hall for refreshments (to be paid for).



We will interpret the setting of the Dyke and explain what is known about it, including its roles in the Wars of the Roses and defending us against the French in the 19th century.

Pre-booking, on a first come first served basis, to ensure we do not exceed the capacity of the hall.

Booking contact: Peter Burley, Friends of Bernards Heath, 60 Seymour Road, St Albans AL3 5HW 01727 831413 admin@bernardsheath.org Booking closes: 5 Sept.

Free parking is available at or near the church hall. Stout footwear is recommended. Dogs on leads welcome. The Dyke itself is not wheelchair or buggy accessible. A reasonable level of fitness is needed to walk along the Dyke. The event will end by 17.00.

Contact on the day: 07811 393694 www.bernardsheath.org



Abbey Gateway Tours

Sunday 9 Sept

10.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00, 15.00

Tour of the most complete medieval gateway in England including a museum relating to the history of St Albans School founded in 948 AD. No booking required.

Disabled access to ground floor only. Max 25 people per tour/session. Narrow spiral staircases with steep steps.

Adjacent to the west front of the Cathedral. Five minutes from the city centre. St Albans School, Abbey Gateway AL3 4HB

Abbey Theatre

Saturday 8 Sept 14.00 to 18.00

Sunday 9 Sept 10.00 to 14.00

Opened in 1968, the Abbey Theatre is home to the Company of Ten, St Albans Youth Music Theatre and the Company of Teens. The Theatre also stages productions staged by local groups.

Come down for a glimpse behind the scenes and hear what's coming up this autumn.

Abbey Theatre, Westminster Lodge, Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1 2DL
www.abbeytheatre.org.uk

St Albans Cathedral

Tower Tours

Saturday 8 Sept 10.00, 11.30, 13.00 & 14.30

Sunday 9 Sept 14.00 & 16.30.

Climb up the 211 steps and walk through narrow, medieval staircases and passageways to the roof of the Norman Tower. On the way there are stunning views of the Cathedral interior, including the great rose window, and a visit to the ringing chamber. Higher up the Tower, you also get to see the Cathedral bells before heading out onto the roof to enjoy extensive views of the city in all directions.



Access information

There are 211 steps, mostly in a steep and narrow medieval staircase. Visitors taking this tour need to be fit enough to manage such a climb. Anyone who suffers from vertigo or claustrophobia should not attempt it. The Cathedral reserves the right to refuse visitors admittance to the Tower and Roof Spaces.

St Albans Cathedral, Sumpter Yard
St Albans AL1 1BY
www.stalbanscathedral.org



Clock Tower

Thursday 6 to Saturday 8 Sept 10.30 to 1700
Sunday 9 Sept 10.30 to 16.00

Climb the 93 steps to the top of the only medieval town belfry in England and enjoy the magnificent views of the Cathedral, the historic city of St Albans and the beauty of the surrounding countryside. Visitors can also admire the working Victorian clock on the second floor and the great medieval bell, Gabriel, on the fourth floor.

As part of Heritage Open Days national celebration of “Extraordinary Women” the Clock Tower will be putting on a display of the local suffragette heroine Constance Lytton and asking “Who was your local heroine?”

In keeping with the idea of HOD to open buildings to the public that are not normally available to be seen, the Clock Tower will open up the third floor Dial Room on Thursday 6 September from 13.30 until closing at 17.00.

No booking required.

No wheelchair access. There are 93 narrow, steep steps to the top of the tower.

Contact for the day:

Caroline Howkins 07447 500055

Clock Tower, Market Place, St. Albans AL3 5DL

The Clock Tower will also be taking part in the exciting **Three Towers Challenge** on Sunday 9 September along with St Peter’s Church and St Albans Cathedral (booking required).

Dagnall Street Baptist Church

Thursday 13, Friday 14, Saturday 15 Sept
10.00 to 18.00

Sunday 16 Sept 13.00 to 17.00

Lofty Victorian Baptist Church built above a lower hall circa 1885. Refurbished in 2003. Features are the Baptistry in the Apse, mosaic floor of the Choir and the Bevington organ. There is a stained glass window, unusual for non-conformist churches of the time. Display of archive material. Cross Street Centre Café open for the sale of refreshments Thurs to Sat 10.00 to 14.00.

No booking required.

Wheelchair access can be arranged via Cross Street Centre. Families and children welcome.

Upper Dagnall Street, St Albans AL3 5EE
www.dbsc.org.uk





De Havilland Aircraft Museum

**Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 Sept and
Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 Sept**
10.30 to 17.00 last entry 16.00

Visit the oldest aircraft museum in the UK, run by volunteers. See the restoration of de Havilland aircraft and many inspiring projects. Heritage Open Days visitors presenting this leaflet enjoy two adult admissions for the price of one or two children's admissions free with two charged adult admissions.

Salisbury Hall, London Colney AL2 1BU
www.dehavillandmuseum.co.uk 01727 826400

Fleetville Community Centre

Saturday 8 Sept 14.00 to 17.00

Fleetville Dairies, 'the local history people', will be displaying exhibitions of Fleetville-related subjects:

- *A J Nicholson*, Coat Maker. (Photo top right)
- *Right Up My Street* - a history of Cambridge Road.
- *Frederick Sander, the Orchid King and his artist son-in-law, Henry Moon.*

Committee members will be on hand to help. Mike Neighbour will be running a Fleetville History Walk from the Centre at 2.30pm and again at 4pm. No need to book - just turn up.



Contributions from visitors towards room hire costs would be gratefully received!

Venue: Fleetville Community Centre,
Royal Road, St Albans AL1 4LQ 07507 684531

Fleetville Diaries - the local history people:
<https://fleetvillediaries.org>
Fleetville Harmony - a cappella for anyone:
<http://fleetville-harmony.org.uk>
Fleetville Community Centre - fundraising for a brand new building: <http://www.fleetville.org.uk>

Kingsbury Barn

Exhibition by 35 local potters.

Thursday 13 to Sunday 16 Sept
10.00 to 17.00

Dacorum and Chiltern Potters Guild will be exhibiting and selling their work in this Grade II* listed barn, built in 1374, with its soaring wooden interior.

Demonstrations and Have-a-go from 13.00 to 16.00 Sat and Sun afternoon. DCPG is a charity promoting pottery and encouraging people to enjoy creating with clay.

No parking anywhere in Kingsbury Mews.
Disabled parking inside the barn's gates.
Enter via Branch Road, St Albans AL3 4SE

Special HOD offer: Civic Society membership £5 for any number persons at same address.



Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Saturday 8 Sept 10.00 to 16.00

A fine late 19th century Methodist Church, sympathetically refurbished in 2017 with new lighting that has enhanced the traditional elements. There is a stunning modern stained glass memorial window. A self-led trail explains the key features of the church. Special displays trace the history of the congregation. Light refreshments, musical interludes.

No booking required.

Step-free access via the Hall door.

Visitors are welcome at our Sunday 10.30 service.
Marlborough Road, St Albans AL1 3XG
www.mrmc.org.uk

St Albans Museum + Gallery

Saturday 15 Sept 10.00 to 17.00

Sunday 16 Sept 12.00 to 17.00

The brand new St Albans Museum + Gallery will be celebrating Heritage Open Days. Make sure to drop into the museum on Sunday in particular as we explore stories from the Home Front in St Albans during the Second World War as part of the Time Turner Festival that will be taking over the town centre.



Redbournbury Mill

Saturday 8 Sept 09.00 to 13.00

Sunday 9 Sept 12.00 to 17.00

Saturday 15 Sept 09.00 to 13.00

Sunday 16 Sept 12.00 to 17.00

18th century restored working water mill producing organic stone-ground flours and bread. Museum, milling demonstrations and artisan bakery on site.

No booking required.

Not suitable for children under 5.

Ground floor wheelchair access only.

Redbournbury Lane AL3 6RS

(just off A5183 Redbourn Road)

www.redbournburymill.co.uk

Ryder House and Exhibition

Saturday 15 to Sunday 16 Sept

10.00 to 17.00 subject to availability.

The Clarion Collection Hotel occupies this Grade II listed landmark built in 1911 and designed by local architect Percival Blow to house the former offices of Samuel Ryder and his successful 'penny packets' seeds company. Ryder became mayor of St Albans and is also the donor of the prestigious golfing Ryder Cup.

The building, sympathetically restored, retains many original features including the original



office fireplace, complete with Samuel Ryder hand carved initials, leaded light room screens, a sweeping staircase and a magnificent mahogany stained glass dome as well as intricate friezes outside the front entrance.

In the upstairs Samuel Ryder Room is an exhibition on Samuel Ryder organised by the City Tour Guides.

Clarion Collection Hotel
27 Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1 1HQ
01727 848849

Next door is Samuel Ryder's art deco former Seed Hall Exhibition Building, now Café Rouge, also designed by Blow in 1931.

St Michael's Church

Churchyard Fete: Saturday 8 Sept
11.00 to 16.00

A traditional-style fete with music from St Albans City Band, performances by St Albans Morris, stalls, children's activities, refreshments, and more. Something for everyone to enjoy. Entry is free.

History Exhibition & Flower Festival
Saturday 8 Sept 11.00 to 17.00 and
Sunday 9 Sept 12.00 to 17.00

As 2018 is the centenary of the signing of the Armistice that ended the fighting in the Great War, the church is hosting a History Exhibition

which tells the story of the war in words and pictures, with the Flower Festival echoing the story by the use of floral displays.

Entry to the Exhibition and Flower Festival is £5, payable at the church door.

St Michael's Street, AL3 4SL
www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk

In addition:

**The Great War Remembered
in Words & Music:**

Friday 7 Sept 18.30 for 19.30 start

The programme for the evening has been specially written by drawing on letters from combatants, reports from the Herts Advertiser and uses music written at the time to tell the story of The Great War. The price of the ticket for the event costs £20 which includes return entry the following day (Saturday) to the history exhibition and flower festival, as well as wine (or soft drink) and canapés.

To purchase tickets, please call 01727 835037 weekdays.

St Peter's Church

Sunday 9 Sept

Church 14.00 to 17.00

Tower Tours 15.00 and 16.00

There are historic displays and the tower is the highest point in St Albans and offers spectacular views, which can include the Wembley Arch and Canary Wharf.

The tower has a narrow spiral staircase and, to roof level, a very steep ladder. Access is subject to weather and an age restriction. Under 9s not allowed on the roof because of the steepness and height of the last ladder. Max 12 people per tour. Pre-booking preferred.

Church and Churchyard are free to explore but Tower tour numbers are limited and places will be allocated on the day on a first-come first-served basis from 13.30.



The large churchyard has an orchard, wildflower meadow, a storytellers' circle and a Garden of Hope with Tree of Life memorial sculpture.

St Peter's Street AL1 3HG
www.stpeterschurch.uk.com

St Albans South Signal Box and Railway Museum

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 Sept
10.00 to 17.00

This year is the 150th anniversary of the coming of the Midland Railway through St Albans. The signal box will celebrate this with a photographic display of the railway in St Albans and a collection of large and small model railway engines.

All the usual displays will be available. Come and control the signals by pulling the levers and ringing the bells as the 100mph trains thunder



past the box and friends of Thomas the Tank Engine weave through the flower beds. Ride on the miniature steam railway in the road outside the box or just sit in the Signalman's garden and drink tea or coffee. Great fun for 'children' of all ages!

Max 25 people per tour/session - 1 to 2 hours. The operating deck on the first floor has a 16 step narrow staircase access. The lock room museum and the garden are fully accessible. No booking required.

How to find us: the signal box lies just south of the St Albans City Station near the platform 4 exit. It can be found at the end of Ridgmont Road inside the station car park.
Ridgmont Road, St Albans AL1 3AJ
www.sigbox.co.uk

St Albans Time Turner Festival

Sunday 16 September 11.00 to 17.00

HOLYWELL HILL *will be themed* WW1 to 1920s
ST PETER'S STREET WW2 and 1940s
GEORGE STREET 1950s and 1960s
CATHERINE STREET 1970s and 1980s

Go back in time as St Albans turns back the clock! St Albans BID are delivering another exciting event designed to encourage residents and visitors to explore the history of the local area.

Streets in the city centre will be themed to a different era with a variety of activities for the public to enjoy.

Historic vehicles, cars, motorbikes, scooters and commercial vehicles will line the streets and businesses of all types, shops, restaurants, banks and public houses will be joining in the fun by creating their own retro feel.

As well as music, there are performances and activities relative to the era throughout the day. The audience will be following a trail, which will take them around the city stopping at historical

PLACES TO VISIT

points of interest to answer any questions about the site.

There is a walking trail that will follow designated pathways. But if walking isn't your thing feel free to stay and enjoy the fun around you.

The fun is on all day 11.00 to 17.00. Stay as long as you like. There will be music, performance, activities and plenty of food and drink throughout the day. Lots for the whole family to enjoy. Baby change/breastfeeding facilities will be available at a number of the businesses that are open.
www.stalbansbid.com/leisure/

Directions

Follow the signs from the City or Abbey train stations to the city centre and you'll find us! City Centre car parking is also available.

Roman Mosaic and Hypocaust

Thursday 6 to Saturday 8 Sept 10.00 to 16.30
Sunday 9 Sept 14.00 to 16.30

View a fine mosaic with hypocaust, a precursor of central heating, in the remains of a Roman Town House from around 200AD.
Verulamium Park, St Albans AL3 4SW

Roman Theatre

Saturday 8 Sept Free 10.00 to 17.00
(Also open daily but admission charges apply.)

The Roman Theatre of Verulamium is unique. Built in about 140AD it is the only example of its kind in Britain, being a theatre with a stage rather than an Amphitheatre. The ruins one can see today were unearthed in 1847 and 1935. Subsequent excavations in 1957 and 1961 revealed a row of



OTHER PLACES TO VISIT

Charter Market

Saturday 8 & 15 Sept

With a Royal Charter granted in 1553 but dating back to the 9th Century, the Saturday Market is an established feature of St Albans' tree-lined St Peter's Street area. It is well worth exploring from end to end to see the huge variety of goods and services on offer.
www.enjoystalban.com/market

The Farmers' Market is on Sunday 9 Sept
08.00 to 14.00.

Fishpool Street and Lower Red Lion

Walk along Fishpool Street to see the 72 listed buildings of architectural and heritage importance. It once had 14 pubs for Fishpool Street was on the main coaching route through St. Albans. Now there is just one, The Lower Red Lion. Inside there is a good collection of old St. Albans pictures. The beer garden has an interesting view up towards the Cathedral. (Best viewed 12.00-18.00. Food and rooms; dog friendly. Children under 12 welcome in garden.)

www.thelowerredlion.co.uk
Fishpool Street, St Albans AL3 4RX 01727 855669

shop foundations, a Roman Villa and a secret shrine, all thought to date from the First Century.

Wheelchair access, which allows a user to view the main areas of the arena and limited parking.

Roman Theatre, Gorhambury Drive,
St Albans AL3 6AE 01727 835035
romantheatre@gorhamburyestate.co.uk
www.gorhamburyestate.co.uk/The-Roman-
Theatre

Verulamium Museum

Free entry

Thursday 6, Friday 7 Sept 15.00 to 17.00

Saturday 8 Sept 10.00 to 17.00

Sunday 9 Sept 14.00 to 17.00

Built on the site of one of the largest Roman cities in Britain, Verulamium Museum is filled with ancient treasures and some of the finest mosaics outside of the Mediterranean. Drop in with the entire family for free entry to this wonderful museum. Explore the wonders of Roman life, immerse yourself in recreated Roman rooms and admire the craftsmanship of the intricate large-scale mosaics on display.



Finds day at Verulamium Museum

Saturday 8 September 12.00 – 16.00

Every year thousands of archaeological objects are discovered by members of the public and reported through the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Pop by Verulamium Museum and explore a collection of found objects. You can even bring along your own found objects and our Finds Liaison Officer will help you identify and report your items.

St Michael's Street, St Albans AL3 4SW

Heartwood Forest

One of the Woodland Trust's biggest woods preserving existing areas of ancient woodland now connected by the planting of thousands of new trees and wildflower meadows.

A guided landscape history walk.

Sunday 9 September 14.00

Highlighting key events in geological and human history that have influenced the landscape. Start at the information boards next to the car park. No booking. Maximum 15 people. No dogs. Contact for the day: Peter Cutfort 07736 245900

Location: AL4 9DQ

www.heartwoodforest.wordpress.com

The Odyssey Cinema

See cinema performance times and ticket prices. St Albans' gloriously restored art deco cinema. Saved from demolition by the determined efforts of the Civic Society with the help of local people. Rescued by James Hannaway of The Rex in Berkhamsted with money raised by the citizens of St Albans. Now part of Cinema Heritage going back to Arthur Melbourne-Cooper, pioneer of film.

166 London Road AL1 1PQ 01727 453088
www.odysseypictures.co.uk

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Clarence Park

A classic Victorian park retaining some original features. There is an Aberdeen granite drinking fountain and park keepers' lodge plus a sensory garden. Clarence Road, St Albans AL1 4NF

Sopwell Nunnery

The ruins of Sir Richard Lee's Tudor country house built on the site of a twelfth century nunnery. Cottonmill Lane, St Albans AL1 2BY

Verulamium Park

Over 100 acres of beautiful parkland named after the Roman City of Verulamium on which it stands. Ornamental lakes with the River Ver, a rare chalk stream, flowing through the park.

SPECIAL EVENT!

The Three Towers Challenge

Sunday 9 Sept

Are you up for a challenge? Back by popular demand after the inaugural Challenge last year, this is your chance to climb over 800 steps and get a bird's eye view of St Albans from three historic landmarks.

12 FREE tickets are available to scale the heights of St Peter's Tower, the Cathedral Tower and the Clock Tower on Sunday 9th September.

Your efforts won't go unrewarded – as well as enjoying spectacular views, those who complete all three climbs will receive a Three Towers Challenge medal after the final climb at the Clock Tower.

The Challenge starts at 14.00 at St Peter's Church Tower, the highest point in St Albans, moves swiftly on to the iconic Cathedral Tower at 15.15 and ends at the unique Clock Tower at 16.30 (estimated end time 17.00).

How to apply for a Challenge place

To apply for a place email by Wednesday 5 September to stalbanscivicsociety@gmail.com You will be notified whether or not you have a place on Thursday 6 September.

The Challenge is open to everyone aged 12 and over. Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult. You can apply for a maximum of two places.

Visitors taking the tours need to be fit enough to manage the climbs. Anyone who suffers from vertigo or claustrophobia should not attempt it. Due to the physical nature of the tours we reserve the right to refuse admittance.



Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure the details supplied are accurate at the time of going to print. If in doubt, please check with the venue direct.