

Bulletin

The Chamber begins 2014 with a new initiative to look after St Albans Business Against Crime (SABAC) as we feel this is a very important issue affecting a large number of businesses in the area.

SABAC was formed in 2006 and became a Community Interest Company in 2008, with the express purpose of reducing business crime in the district by bringing together interested retailers, the police and the City CCTV system, with, for those that choose to subscribe, a radio system run by Shopsafe.

St Albans Business Against Crime now successfully covers the majority of the district and is working with the police and local authorities to extend the already successful CCTV coverage. SABAC has been coordinating the funding needed to replace the temporary CCTV camera at The Quadrant with two new permanent cameras. Anti-social behaviour in the area has already reduced and it is expected that this initiative will build on this success.

In this it has been exceedingly successful, with rates of shoplifting in particular falling steadily, especially in the earlier years (after the beginning of the recession, when national shoplifting figures were increasing). SABAC members ban known offenders and persistent trouble-makers from their premises, and information is shared to make this practical. Over 100 retailers are members. SABAC is self-funding and relies on the payments of retailers (for the radio service and SABAC membership) so budgets are tight, and it sustains only one part-time role. To make this more practical and effective, it is hoped in the longer term that the SABAC function can be performed through the City Centre Partnership in some format.

However, this will not be clear for some months, so the SABAC directors are extremely grateful to St Albans Chamber of Commerce for undertaking the necessary liaison with retailers, the police and City Centre CCTV to keep SABAC effective in the interim period, when a long term solution can be found as part of the overall development of the City Centre.

Mark Fordham, one of the Chamber Directors, will be taking on this interim role with funding through SABAC's share of radio fees, and its membership fees, and will be making contact with existing and potential new members as quickly as it is practical to get around to see them, and will be redeveloping the links that are so important to the impact of SABAC.



Mark said *"I am very much looking forward to speaking to local retailers and businesses about their concerns and helping to prevent business crime in the area. The Chamber feels strongly that we should be supporting local retailers and effectively help prevent business crime in the district"* **For more information please contact Mark Fordham by email: sabac@stalbans-chamber.co.uk or by telephone: 07852 923996**

Forthcoming Events

- **Business Breakfast - Sponsored By Collinson Hall**
Wednesday 15th January 7.30am
Venue : The Quality Hotel
Speaker: St Albans Film Festival
£21 Members
£26 Non Members
SOLD OUT
- **Networking Lunch**
Thursday 13th February 12.30pm
Venue : Lussmanns St Albans
Hosted by: Chamber President
£27.50 Members
£32.50 Non Members
BOOK NOW ONLINE
- **Speed Networking**
Monday 24th February 6pm
Venue : The Bistro, Westminster Lodge
Hosted by: June Cory
£22.00 Members
£26.00 Non Members
BOOK NOW ONLINE
- **Chamber AGM and St Albans Business Barometer**
Thursday 27th March 2014
Venue : To be Confirmed
MORE DETAILS SOON
- **St George's Day Lunch 2014**
Friday 25th April 2014
Venue : Sopwell House Hotel
Speaker: To be confirmed
£65.00 Tickets
Table of 10 £650
BOOK NOW ONLINE
SPONSORS NEEDED



Shredathon Week in aid of Peace Hospice Care

www.peacehospice.co.uk

Week commencing 20th January 2014

Please bring your confidential paper waste to Humphreys Data Management Ltd and have it shredded in return for a donation* to Peace Hospice Care .

**Open Weekdays 9am until 4pm
Saturday 10am until 4pm**

1 Sydney Road Watford WD18 1XX

The event is open to the General Public and Local Businesses, larger loads by appointment.

No need to remove staples or paperclips our shredder will even cope with Lever Arch Files.

Last Year we raised in excess of £2100. Please help raise even more money this year.

For more information please contact
Richard Walters
01923 252447



*Recommended donation £5 per sack



St Albans • Harpenden • London Colney

Networking Lunch

Thursday 13th February 2013

12.30pm

Lusmanns

Waxhouse Gate

St Albans AL3 4EW

LUSSMANN'S

FISH & GRILL



Networking Lunch and Business Card Exchange

The majority of companies join the Chamber of Commerce to network. This informal lunch is an opportunity to introduce your company's products/services to other members and local companies – a chance to make *new* business contacts in this fantastically reliable award winning Chamber restaurant.

Don't Just Join..... Join in!

Welcome drink ,Two Course Menu and Coffee included

£27.50 (+ VAT) for members
£32.50 (+VAT) for non-members

Book now online www.stalbans-chamber.co.uk/events



A QUESTION OF SPORT CHARITY DINNER



Raising funds to support the specialist services for patients with life-limiting illness provided at Grove House

Hosted by Geoff Shreeves
(Sky Sports Premier League Reporter)

Thursday 6th March 2014

St Michael's Manor

Fishpool Street, St Albans, AL3 4RY

- champagne reception
- interactive sports quiz
- three course dinner & wine
- charity auction & raffle
- celebrity guests

Dress code: smart

Early bird ticket price (£75 pp)
after February 14th £85 pp

FOR
FURTHER
DETAILS &
BOOKING INFO:

[www.renniegrove.org/
questionofsport](http://www.renniegrove.org/questionofsport)

Tel: 01442 820731

We offer excellent palliative and end-of-life care based around patients and their families both day and night, through:

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- support for all the family from diagnosis
- nurse and medical clinics
- therapies
- respite care

All our services are provided at no cost to the patient and we rely on your support to fund 85% of our £6.5 million running costs.

Charity No:
1140366





Chamber Speed Networking with a buffet & glass of wine

Monday 24th February 6.00pm at
The Bistro, Westminster Lodge Leisure Centre
Holywell Hill
St Albans
Herts
AL1 2DL



SPEED NETWORKING

The fastest and most cost-effective way to positively promote your business - and it's really good fun!

GET MORE BUSINESS FAST - book now for Business Speed Networking hosted by June Cory of My Mustard. Speed-Networking works like speed dating - only you make lots of new business contacts, not romantic ones!

In fact, you'll make more business contacts in just one evening of Speed-Networking with us than in weeks of what we call ordinary "slow" business networking. It's remarkably cost-effective and gets you great results for your business.

Many people tend to gravitate towards those they may already know at networking events, never getting the opportunity to meet others who could be great business contacts. Come along to this event and meet every single delegate! Market your business effectively and enjoy a buffet and a glass of wine at this superb new Chamber venue. All delegates will receive a tour of the facilities and will be entered into a draw for a free membership Verulamium Spa!

PLEASE BOOK EARLY AS SPACES ARE LIMITED

**£22 (+VAT) for members
£26 (+VAT) for non-members**

Non members welcome as guests

BOOK NOW ONLINE

<http://www.stalbans-chamber.co.uk/buy-online/events/>

Less than four weeks before Self Assessment tax return deadline

There are now less than four weeks until the deadline for 2012-13 [Self Assessment tax returns](#) passes - and anyone yet to file their online is urged to act immediately.



HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has started an advertising campaign calling on people to "find inner peace" and submit their returns, along with payment for the tax they owe.

Anyone who needs to but hasn't by January 31st will be hit with an immediate £100 fixed penalty, regardless of whether there is any tax to pay.

After three months, an additional £10 is added every day up to a maximum of £900, while a six-month penalty of five per cent of tax due or £300 - whichever is the larger - will be applied.

For those who are 12 months late, another five per cent or £300 charge will be applied, whichever is greater, making it essential that those who are yet to submit their details do so as soon as possible.

The St Albans, Harpenden and Radlett TaxAssist Accountants team offer clients a personal service helping them to profitably build their business and develop local contacts. We take care of the time consuming paperwork and tax filing requirements so our clients can focus on their business. We also offer access to a whole range of financial and other services tailored specifically for the small business owner. For a free consultation call 01727 899200 or email stalbans@taxassist.co.uk 8 <http://www.taxassist.co.uk/accountants/st-albans>

Please see our brochure [here](#) for what we do.
Follow us on:



Don't Just Join.....Join in !!!!

New Members

We welcome the following companies to the Chamber:



Follow us on twitter!
@stalbanschamber

LN Projects

Project Management (Construction)

Arquen House,
4-6 Spicer Street
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL3 4PQ

Web: www.lnprojects.co.uk
Tel: 07956 828590
Contact: Lucy Nylander
Email: lucy@lnprojects.co.uk

Metro Bank

Business Banking

Borehamwood Retail Park
Unit 3E
Borehamwood
Hertfordshire
WD6 4PR

Tel: 0203 402 7530
Web: www.metrobankonline.co.uk
Contact: Daniel Seeby
Position: Local Business Manager
Email: dan.seeby@metrobank.plc.uk

Ann Coleman Accountancy Ltd

*Chartered Accountants, Book Keeping,
Payroll and Accountancy Services.*

Ground Floor, 5C Parkway
Valley Road, Porters Wood
St Albans
AL3 6PA

Web: www.anncolemanaccountancy.co.uk
Tel: 01727 860413
Contact: Ann Coleman
Position: Director
Email: ann@anncolemanaccountancy.co.uk

David Turner Surveyors

Chartered Building Surveyor

7 Spooners Drive
Park Street
St. Albans
Hertfordshire
AL22HX

Tel: 01727 873935
Web: www.davidturnersurveyors.co.uk
Contact: David Turner
Position: Owner
Email: davidturner@btinternet.com



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