

April  
2014

# Bulletin

ST ALBANS DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

COMMUNITY  
BUSINESS  
AWARDS

2014



Sponsored by  
Debenhams Ottaway, Harpenden Building Society, The Herts Advertiser, Oaklands College,  
Rayner Essex, St Albans City and District Council and St Albans District Chamber of Commerce

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014

# Forthcoming Events

## St George's Day Lunch

Venue : Sopwell House Hotel

Friday 25th April 2014

£65.00 Tickets

Table of 10 £650

**BOOK NOW ONLINE**

**Speaker: Graham Poll**

## Speed Networking

Venue : The Bistro, Westminster Lodge

Wednesday 21st May 2014 6.00pm

£22.00 Members

£26.00 Non Members

**BOOK NOW ONLINE**

**Host: June Cory**

## Business Breakfast with IoD

Venue : St Michaels Manor Hotel

Wednesday 11th June 2014 7.30am

£21.00 Members

£26.00 Non Members

**BOOK NOW ONLINE**

**All Chamber events can be booked  
on our website:**

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

## Be Part of the St Albans Film Festival 'Bird Trail'



The St Albans Film Festival is creating a Fun 'Bird Trail' through the city. Residents & Visitors of any age can take part – they just need to pick up the Sheet of Clues from our Festival Office, inside the Town Hall and they

will be taken around the city, hunting for Birds. At each stop they will need to collect a sticker on their sheet or answer a question about the Bird. If you Own a Business in the centre of St Albans eg: a Shop, Restaurant, Pub or any Business premises then this will drive people to you over the festival weekend.

### How to Take Part:

1. Put a Bird in your Shop/premises window – or it can be inside the shop. It can be any bird you like... big or small – beautiful or scary – big bright and colourful or small, neat and sleek... or perhaps an unusual rare bird.. Phoenix? Dodo? The choice is yours! Get creative.
2. Pay £50 to take part in the trail – it will encourage people to engage with your premises over the festival weekend – either by looking in the window and answering a question about the bird or by coming into the premises to find the Bird. The Fee will be sponsorship to help pay for the printing of the Bird Trail forms and a prize for the Lucky Winners, selected randomly from those people who complete the Trail.



**We have just 10 places left on the trail so if you want  
to be part of it please email:**

**[info@stalbanfilmfestival.com](mailto:info@stalbanfilmfestival.com) asap & before 18<sup>th</sup>  
April.**

A ST ALBANS CITY EVENT FOR EVERYONE TO BE ACTIVE

FAMILIES  
INVITED FOR  
A FUN DAY OF  
ACTIVITY

# The Mayor's City Sprint Triathlon

AT WESTMINSTER LODGE LEISURE CENTRE

Sunday 11th May  
10am - 3pm

5k cycle in the sports hall

200m swim

3k run around the meadow

- £20 per entry
- Teams invited
- FREE activity bags for all participants including a race T-Shirt, free activity passes for Westminster Lodge and more!
- All monies raised go to Rennie Grove
- Entrees must be 12 years and over

\* Subject to availability.

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RELEASE MASSAGE WHEN  
YOU CROSS THE FINISH  
LINE, COURTESY OF THE  
VERULAMUM SPA\*



CHILDREN'S  
ACTIVITIES FROM  
FIT FOR SPORT



To enter please register at

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

Call 01727 736080 option 3 for more information



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Feel better for it



## Chamber Speed Networking with a buffet & glass of wine

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 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/>

**St Albans District Chamber of Commerce**

**ST GEORGE'S DAY LUNCH**

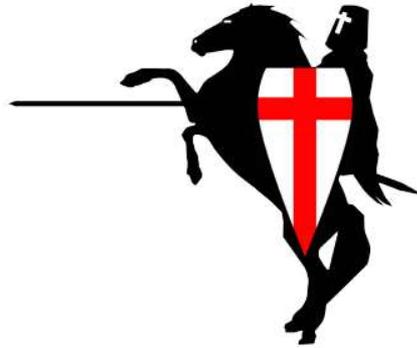
**Friday 25th April 2014**

*at Sopwell House Hotel,*

*Cottonmill Lane,*

*St Albans,*

*Herts AL1 2HQ*



**We would like to thank our event sponsor  
Clydesdale Bank**



**And also our other sponsors:**

**Principal Security Consultants**

**Debenhams Ottaway**

**Impact Promotional Merchandise**

**Giant Cycle Stores**

**Havana**

**SG Hambros Bank Ltd**

**Kingston Smith LLP**

**PWC**

**My Mustard**

**If you would like to donate and auction item, please  
call the office on 01727 863054**

**Our nominated charity this year is Grove House Hospice**

— SAVE THE DATE —

**Thursday 15th May**  
6-8pm

**STANTA CELEBRATION** (in St Albans)

- Celebrate 30 years of helping St Albans businesses
- See our new brand and website
- Enjoy networking with local businesses
- Get an idea of all the great new business initiatives in our district

More information to follow but  
to confirm your place:  
Contact Ginny or Mel  
advice@stanta.co.uk | 01727 837760



## Flood Support for Local Businesses



Businesses and homeowners affected by the recent flooding in St Albans District may be eligible to receive a grant from St Albans City and District Council. The Council are administering a new government scheme to provide grants of up to £5,000 to homeowners and businesses whose homes and premises were flooded following adverse weather.

The scheme was announced by the Government in February to provide funds for additional flood resilience or resistance measures for homes and businesses affected by the floods. This repair and renew grant is only available to homeowners and businesses that were 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.

For more information on the grant, please see the [news release](#).

## Research and Data

- Vacant Unit Survey March 2014 – The retail vacancy rate is 7.75%, the latest national retail vacancy rate from Local Data Company is 13.9% (December 2013) although this does not include food or public houses
- Unemployment Rate February 2014 – The number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance in the St Albans City and District is 1,059 people or 1.2% (February 2014). The England Jobseeker rate is 3.3% during February 2014.

# Highlights

## Free catalytic converter marking for St Albans drivers

Drivers in St Albans District area are being offered the chance to make their vehicles safer free of charge thanks to the St Albans City and District Community Safety Partnership. For more information see the [Hertfordshire Constabulary](#)

## St Albans District Chamber of Commerce Community Business Awards 2014

St Albans City and District Council are sponsoring the Green award at this year's Chamber Community Business Awards. For more information see [St Albans District Chamber of Commerce](#)

## Retailer of the Year 2014

The Retailer of the Year competition returns for 2014. For more information see the [St Albans and Harpenden Review](#)

## The Green Triangle

St Albans City and District Council with BRE, Rothamsted Research, University of Hertfordshire and others are forming a partnership to promote green enterprise. Visit [The Green Triangle](#) for more information

## LEP Growth Plan

The Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has consulted and published a draft Growth Plan. For more information visit [Hertfordshire LEP](#)

## Corporate Plan and Budget 2014-19

The Corporate Plan and Budget for the next five years were formally agreed on Wednesday 27 November 2013. For more information, see the [news release](#)

## Council to become more business friendly

Many thanks to members of the District Chamber of Commerce, and others, for giving us your feedback and ideas on how we can become more business friendly. We will now be using this to shape our plans to make it easier for businesses to work with us and to use our services. For more information see the [news release](#)

## HMRC Key Messages

HMRC has published its [Key Messages for April 2014](#)

## University of Hertfordshire - Accelerate Success - your business, our expertise

The University is opening its doors on the 23rd June to host a business engagement event. On the day, there will be a selection of guest speakers including Jo Fairley, Green and Blacks chocolate, 1-1 (10 minute) consultancy sessions for your business needs and a complimentary afternoon tea. For more information visit the [University of Hertfordshire](#)

## St Albans Business Barometer

The Inaugural Albans Business Barometer, a review of St Albans' top 100 businesses, was launched at the St Albans Chamber of Commerce AGM 2014. For more information visit the [St Albans District Chamber of Commerce](#)

# News Releases

Flood support for [local businesses and homeowners](#)

A year of improvement for [local economy](#)

St Albans District Council to become more [business-friendly](#)

Green science and technology at the heart of [economic prosperity](#)

Green Belt review [completed](#)

Changes to street trading fees [proposed](#)

Study reveals spare [car park capacity](#)

19 March 2014

## College recruits TV chef Brian Turner for Alumni launch

Oaklands College's students were given a cooking master class by celebrity chef and Clydesdale bank ambassador, Brian Turner, to prepare, cook and serve canapés for a Reception to officially launch the College's Alumni.



The event, held in the College's brand new restaurant The Stables, allowed students to learn directly from the popular TV chef and what it takes to be internationally known. Guests were drawn from 1975 to 2013.

rolls, leek confit with chilli and chives, and chorizo sausage in cider.

With over 100 people to cater for, the College's Level 2 Hospitality & Catering students – under Brian's supervision – produced 8 intricate canapés including spinach mousse stuffed chicken

Chef Lecturer of Oaklands College, Kev Speed, commented: "I have to say a massive thank you to Brian Turner and Clydesdale Bank for giving our students this great opportunity. Not only have the students gained invaluable advice and experience, but they've done so whilst doing what they love."

Hospitality & Catering student, Dominic Shields, commented: "This whole experience has been amazing. Watching and learning from Brian has just reinforced my passion for cooking. Oaklands gives us so many opportunities, and catering for the Alumni launch has been wonderful."

Brian Turner: "It's great to see such a high standard of talented chefs here at Oaklands. The students were very competent and showed excellent food knowledge. It's been an honour working with them."

Kirsty Steer, Deputy Principal of Oaklands College, commented: "We are delighted to see so many faces here tonight to help celebrate the official launch of our Alumni."

**"The Oaklands College Alumni gives past students and staff the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and to benefit from a great range of services and discounts."**



RADIO VERULAM IS PROUD TO HOST...

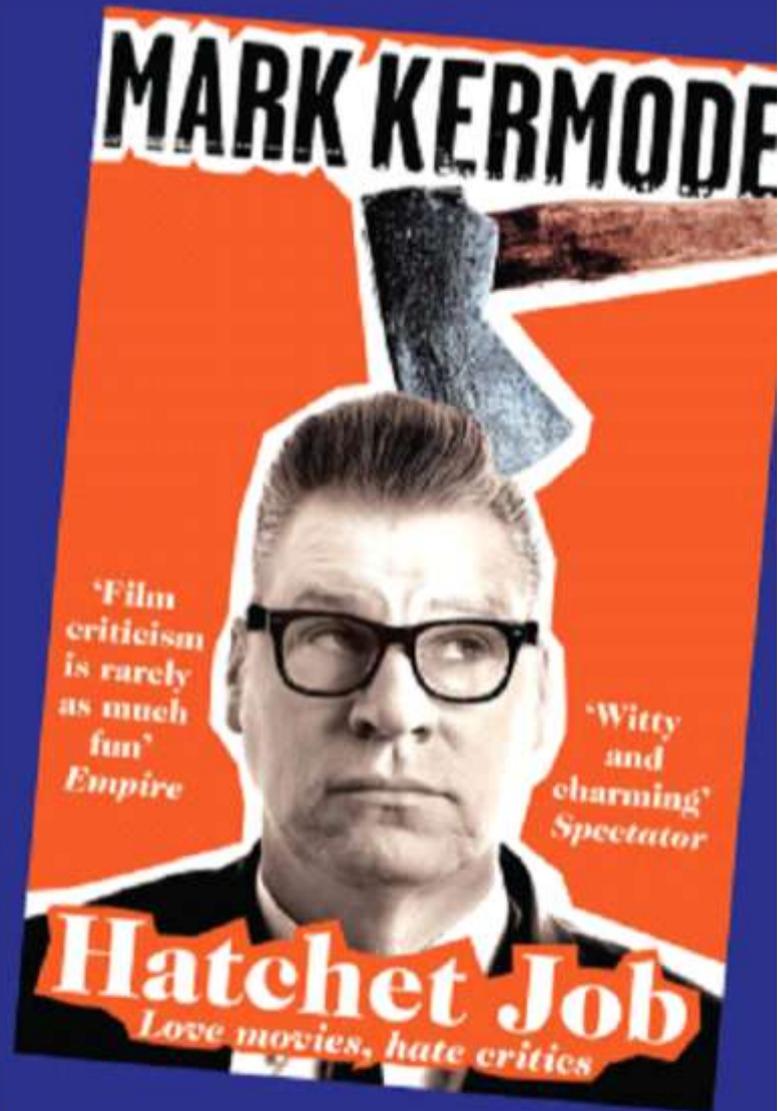
## AN EVENING WITH MARK KERMODE

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH THE UK'S MOST OPINIONATED FILM CRITIC, AS HE PIT-STOPPS IN ST ALBANS TO LAUNCH HIS NEW BOOK: 'HATCHET JOB: LOVE MOVIES, HATE CRITICS.'

LISTEN AS MARK TAKES US ON A JOURNEY ACROSS THE MODERN CINEMATIC LANDSCAPE, BLENDING TRENCHANT OPINION AND LAUGH- OUT-LOUD ACERBIC HUMOUR.

THERE WILL BE A BOOK SIGNING AFTER THE SHOW.

AN INCREDIBLE EVENING, NOT TO BE MISSED!



**WHEN:** FRIDAY 2ND MAY 2014

**WHAT TIME:** 8.00PM

**WHERE:** WESTON AUDITORIUM, DE HAVILLAND CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE, AL10 9EU

**TICKETS:** ADULT: £12.00 STUDENT: £5.00

**BOOK + TICKET DEAL:** £15.00

**CALL NOW TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS:** 01707 281127

ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY RADIO STATION.

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



**Follow us on twitter!  
@stalbanschamber**

### New Members

We welcome the following  
companies to the Chamber:

R & J Catering at Porters Park  
*Catering for all events and occasions, based at  
Porters Park Golf Club.*

c/o Porters Park Golf Club  
Shenley Hill  
Radlett  
Hertfordshire  
WD7 7AZ

Tel: 01923 854127  
Contact: Richard McFarland  
Contact: Jason Chessher  
Position: Chef Owners  
Email: portersparkchefs@gmail.com

The Book Midwife  
*Help for authors to plan, write and publish their  
books*

MGK Consulting Ltd  
48 St Vincent Drive  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL1 5SJ

Web: [www.bookmidwife.com](http://www.bookmidwife.com)  
Tel: 0845 003 8848  
Contact: Mindy Gibbins-Klein  
Position: Owner  
Email: [mindy@bookmidwife.com](mailto:mindy@bookmidwife.com)

St Albans City FC  
*Semi-professional football club*

Clarence Park  
York Road  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL1 4PL

Tel: 07876801484  
Web: [www.sacfc.co.uk](http://www.sacfc.co.uk)  
Contact: Tom Norman  
Position: Commercial Manager  
Email: [tom.norman@sacfc.co.uk](mailto:tom.norman@sacfc.co.uk)

Forex Brokers Ltd  
*Helping companies save on foreign exchange  
transaction costs.*

33 Tudor Road  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL3 6BA

Web: [www.forexbrokersltd.com](http://www.forexbrokersltd.com)  
Tel: 07969 972 568  
Contact: Howard Berry  
Position: Client Relationship Manager  
Email: [howard@forexbrokersltd.com](mailto:howard@forexbrokersltd.com)

Solo Office Products Ltd  
*Office, print and furniture supplies*  
Unit 7G, St Albans Enterprise Centre

Long Spring  
Porters Wood  
St Albans  
Hertfordshire  
AL3 6EN

Tel: 01727 848585  
Contact: Steve Robinson  
Position: Sales Director  
Email: [steve@solo-officeproducts.co.uk](mailto:steve@solo-officeproducts.co.uk)