

Community News

Making Sopwell a better place to live, work and play



Photo Voter ID needed to vote in Sopwell local election 4 May

If you don't have acceptable forms of photo ID you must get new photo Voter ID. Deadline to apply for this election is 5pm Tuesday 25 April 2023.

Which forms of ID can I use to vote? You may already have acceptable ID: you can use these:

- * Passport
- * Driving licence (inc provisional license)
- * Blue badge
- * Certain concess travel cards
- * Identity card with PASS mark
- * Biometric Immigration document
- * Defence id card
- * Certain national id cards

If you don't have accepted form of photo ID apply for Voter ID NOW!

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>



Sopwell Singers

Meet Weds 7.30pm at St Julians Church Hall. Sing great songs, have fun, make friends.

@sopwellsingers

Hire the Cottonmill Community and Cycling Centre

(off Old Oak, Cottonmill Lane, AL1 2EF)
email bookings@stalbanscyclehub.co.uk

For centre events search Facebook groups for **All Things Cottonmill Community & Cycling Centre @atcccc**



Photo: Cottonmill & Sopwell Hub campaign group & partners with St Albans District Mayor at the official opening in March for the Cottonmill Community and Cycling Centre.

On Your Bike! Good for you and good for the environment! SustFest23 Wed 14th June @ 3pm

Meet at Abbots Avenue West shops, weather permitting! To help you get back to cycling during St Albans **SustFest23** (10 - 18 June). This afternoon ride is short and gentle- no more than an hour. It is specially tailored for anyone wanting to opt for the most sustainable and cheapest mode of transport for getting around St Albans. **Led by Peter Wares.**



Leeanna's Wish

Coffee Mornings Tues 10-12 at the Cottonmill Centre. £2 Coffee & Cake **@leeannaswishcic**



Cottonmill Gathering

community festival Sun 16 July 11-4pm Cottonmill Centre



SRA FACEBOOK

Join 1,000+ people Search FB Groups for **Sopwell Resident**



SRA WEBSITE

Explore more news & events sopwell.org.uk



SIGN UP

To get SRA's email news bulletins email us at info@sra.org.uk



Welcome

Janet Charles, chair Sopwell Residents Association (SRA) writes...

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Sopwell Residents Association, formed in 2003,

which has grown and grown! **You are all invited to our social and celebration on Friday 9th June 7.30pm at our lovely Cottonmill Centre.** There will be a short AGM followed by social time and celebration of 20 years of the association. Enjoy a photo exhibition, information about neighbourhood watch, home-made refreshments. *It would be lovely to see you and have a chat about what makes Sopwell special.*

Much has changed over the 20 years, including our new logo - hope you like it! Our next big aim is to register as a charity. We all aim to make the area safer and enjoyable for all.

I want to thank the SRA committee for all their boundless hard work: we helped to officially open the Cottonmill Centre in March; we ran six months of the Monday Cafe Warm Hub sessions in partnership with St Albans Community Pantry and our volunteers – with thanks to Sandy Walkington's Locality Budget grants. We also ran an Election Voter ID event, Sopwell eco-stars group ran a Repair Fair, seasonal cooking, Saving Energy event, and a children's second-hand sale in May. The ever-passionate Cottonmill & Sopwell Hub group are now planning the **Cottonmill Gathering summer festival** with music/games/stalls/donkeys! *I love to hear from local residents, whatever your query. Do get in touch if you could help as a volunteer at events, especially on 16th July for the Cottonmill Gathering - or sign up to our email newsletter to stay in touch with news over the summer. Email me at info@sopwell.org.uk*



Cottonmill Community and Cycling Centre NEWS

It's been a busy time for the St Albans Cycle Hub, taking over the operation of both the Café and the community centre - on top of the bike service and repair shop!

HIRING THE SPACE

Inside the Community Centre the reorganised Café space has an improved offer; the community centre is thriving, and you too can hire the space: from £22 per hour (depending on your group) email bookings@stalbanscyclehub.co.uk See you soon for a coffee or cake.

Outside; Pump Tracks are free to use and open whenever there isn't an event happening. **No bike? No problem!** Pop into the shop and we'll fit you out with a hire bike from £5 an hour + £2 helmet.

Cycling Events

See website www.stalbanscyclehub.co.uk for training courses (kids/adults), bike maintenance courses and social rides. The monthly GO-Tri Local is an introduction to triathlon for all ages/abilities (includes family section to go round together!)

Race Fans - Hosting National Pump Track Series

On Sun 30th April the Cycle Hub hosts the opening round of the National Pump Track Series! The countries best pump track racers will compete for the fastest over two track laps. Feeling fast? Test yourself against the best! Sign up see FB [@stacyclehub](https://www.facebook.com/stacyclehub) -

Mat and The St Albans Cycle Hub Team

Sopwell Community Trust

The charity have lost no time in renovating the new centre, Masjid Ar Rahman, and using it for the SCT community to come together.

On Abbots Ave West it includes a main prayer hall, separate ladies' prayer room; fully equipped kitchen; office; separate washing facilities for males and females, disability access and secure car parking.

Masjid Ar Rahman aims to provide an enhanced Islamic studies programme, with creative, active learning, and classes/activities accessible for children and adults during weekdays & weekends. Today's children are the citizens of tomorrow. As a community it is our collective responsibility that they shall be ready for the challenges of the future.

Ramadhan has come to a close now: it's considered one of the holiest months for Muslims, marked by a period of fasting. For many, Ramadhan is synonymous with the word Community. A time to pull those around them tighter and for families to make great efforts to come together. As I write, the current atmosphere at Masjid Ar Rahman is one of "Community Harmony", well attended by all family members daily to break the fast together, with collective Iftar (food), a unique social gathering. We would like to express our gratitude to our donors and volunteers who have made it possible to reach our goal. **Gazi Faruq Mohammed Ali - SCT trustee**



Grow Community – Sopwell: your local 'gardening for food and nature' group – main site is the Community Garden - end of Berners Drive.

New sites! We now have (i) the beginnings of a fabulous wildflower meadow and space for nature at a site off Martyr Close, and (ii) spaces to grow food at the Cottonmill Community and Cycling Centre. **Volunteers wanted to water and grow!** <https://growsopwell.org>

SustFest23 Open Day Sunday June 11th: Berners Drive Community Garden:

10.30am - 12.30pm. Join us for our annual #SustFest event. Seeds & seedlings swaps, planting, activities for children, cake and more. **Come celebrate local food growing with us!**



Verulam Cycling Club (VCC)

The highlight of VCC's winter season at the Cottonmill Community and Cycling Centre was hosting two rounds of the Herts and Beds Muddy Monsters Series. This off-road cycling fun for Under 8 to Under 14 novice and inexperienced cyclocross racers saw over 50 young riders battling to get onto the podium for each of the 4 age categories. A lot of fun was had by everyone despite the cold! We hope to start some summer sessions at CCCC at some point. If you have a young person looking to develop cycling skills and have fun on a bike see our website for more www.verulamcc.org.uk/youth

St Stephen's and St Julian's Churches

Our two churches exist for the benefit of the whole community -for events see www.ststephenandstjulian.org/

Main Sunday morning services **9.30am at St Julian's** and **10am at St Stephen's** (weekend children's activities): <https://www.ststephenandstjulian.org/children>

Wider community events: Tuesday Lunch Club 70 years +: St Stephen's Church hall 12.30- 2.00pm, weekly term time. Email harriet.sherlock.t21@btinternet.com

Tots and Teddies: St Julian's Church Weds 10.30am-12 noon weekly term time. Christian song/story time session. No booking.

Wednesday Coffee Morning: St Stephen's Church 10am-11.30am. Pop in for a cuppa and chat.

Thursday Morning Community Café: St Julian's Church 10.30am -12 noon. Refreshments/cakes. Just pop in - meet local people.

Volunteering opportunities - make cakes, serve at lunch club and Cafe or learn Bell Ringing, help gardening or minibus driving. Contact: office@ststephenandstjulian.org / 01727 862598.

Hiring St Stephen's and St Julian's - lovely spaces for community groups/private parties. See ststephenandstjulian.org/hall-hire

Pastoral and spiritual support: Becky, the vicar, is happy to visit anyone in need whether sick or bereaved. She can also take funeral services at church or the crematorium. She can be contacted to arrange a wedding, baptism or thanksgiving for the birth of a child, or to discuss issues of faith.

vicar@ststephenandstjulian.org Tel: 01727 862598.

St Albans Community Pantry continues to collect and distribute food rescued from local supermarkets. #lovefoodhatewaste

Volunteers recently went to St Peter's school to deliver a lesson on food waste/redistribution and taught kids how to make hummus and bulgar salad. If you have a car -to help out, collect/distribute food contact stalbanscommunitypantry@gmail.com

SATURDAY CLUB STREET DANCE

- DATES: 22ND APRIL – 10TH JUNE 2023
- DAY: SATURDAYS
- TIME: 3–3.45PM (9–11 YRS) 4–4.45PM (12–15 YRS)
- MIXED GENDER
- SUBSIDISED FEE: £4.50 PP
- LOCATION: COTTONMILL LANE, AL1 (FULL ADDRESS ON REGISTRATION)

FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK:
 EMAIL: LEEANNASWISH@GMAIL.COM
 T: 07595 025 239
WWW.LEEANNASWISH.ORG | COMPANY NO. 13475611

St Albans Good Neighbour Scheme

We provide 'organised kindness' to locals who require help with day-to-day tasks; lifts to medical/social engagements, shopping, home repairs, and companionship for those feeling lonely. We support/ train volunteers to help them stay connected to the Good Neighbour family. Tel: 01727 830 713 www.stalbansgoodneighbourscheme.co.uk

Sopwell eco-stars needs fixers for our Repair Fairs! Email info@sra.org.uk See sopwell.org.uk/sopwell-eco-stars/



Sat 13 May | 2-4pm | Cottonmill Centre, AL1 2EF

Preloved & Jumble

SUMMER STUFF - Babies & Children

Clothes, coats, footwear swimwear & accessories

Also stalls! Local Sustainable Businesses

No thanks to winterwear, adultwear, toys, homewares, bric-a-brac etc





We are searching for the right people to work at our beautiful family run hotel just down the road from you! If you have the right drive and a desire to deliver genuine hospitality in a friendly environment, you may well be just what we are looking for. We have a number of roles available currently, so get in touch and join our growing, successful and award-winning team.

You provide the drive and dedication, we'll provide the training, development, benefits and much more! We have many opportunities: managers, supervisors & waiters, chefs, porters, housekeeping, marketing, spa & pool personnel and spa therapist positions. Check out our website as positions are updated weekly.

DETAIL

EMPATHY

COMFORT

GET IN TOUCH

Visit sopwellhouse.co.uk/careers or email talent@sopwell-house.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

Mondays 12-2pm Cottonmill Centre	St Albans Community Pantry supermarket rescued food to take away & free hot lunch.
Sun 30 April - all day Cottonmill Centre	Hosting the National Pump Track Series' opening round
Sat 13 May 2-4pm Cottonmill Centre	Pre-loved and Jumble Sale - children's clothes/stalls 2-4pm
Friday 9 June 7.30pm Cottonmill Centre	Sopwell Residents Association 20th Anniversary AGM/Celebration
Sun 11 June 10.30am Berners Drive C	SustFest23 Community Garden Open Day 10.30-12.30pm
Wed 14 June 3pm Abbotts Ave West	SustFest23 Community Cycling Ride meet at shops
Sun 16 July 11-4pm Cottonmill Centre	Cottonmill Gathering community festival. Music, games, food, stalls

Old London Road Pre school are looking for families who have attended the pre school since 1999. Email: oldlondonroadps@gmail.com
www.oldlondonroadps.org

Cottonmill and Nunnery Allotment Association



Thanks to funding from St. Albans Civic Society, CNAA continue with their projects aimed at enhancing the biodiversity on our sites.. We've built two fantastic insect hotels, some bee nests and have sown meadow flower and plant seeds in our orchard. We've just begun to create a brand-new wildlife pond opposite our orchard.
Michelle Mackenzie

Safer Neighbourhood Team

PC Ben Kirby with PCSOs Brad Flanagan and Matthew Bennet are your local Sopwell area team, helping victims of crime/anti-social behaviour and educating to prevent others becoming victims. Contact them via 101, the non-emergency number to get advice. **Always use 999 for an emergency.**

There is a wealth of advice located at: www.herts.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/ or contact the team if your group want input on a specific policing topic.

