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# Making us all more sustainable

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Making the St Albans district more environmentally sustainable is the aim behind the first specially-dedicated week of its kind in November.

Sustainable St Albans, coordinated by Transition St Albans and Friends of the Earth with support from the district council, is being held from November 21 to 28 and invites local organisations to make the district more environmentally sustainable with a pledge to run an event or activity related to the subject.

The date has been chosen because it is in the run up to the Global Climate Change Conference in Paris which is seeking agreement from all nations to limit global warming.

The initiative has received a boost with news of £10,000 funding from the Big Lottery Fund.

One of the first schools to support the week is Mount Carmel Kindergarten where principal Lucia Federici, said: "We are supporting Sustainable St Albans Week as we feel it is of vital importance to promote the message of sustainability. The actions we make today will affect everything in the future and will have a direct impact on the children at our nursery."

Jane Byrne, headteacher of Redbourn Infant and Nursery



■ (Left) Mount Carmel Kindergarten and (right) Redbourn Infant and Nursery school are both taking part in Sustainable St Albans Week in November

School, which has an Eco Code of Conduct for pupils, added: "We are committed to ensuring our children are aware of how we can look after our world."

Among the organisation which have already signed up are Affinity Water, Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, the Harpenden Society, Oaklands College and St Albans CVS.

The University of Herts together with Youth Connexions and St Albans Youth Council are holding a 'Green' Jobs Fair for young people

with Cycle-Tech Herts offering bike checks at the station and Affinity Water holding an event on saving water.

Seventeen schools so far have backed the initiative, along with faith groups including St Albans Diocese, St Albans Quakers, and the Baha'i Community. They have until the Autumn to finalise their event but some have already planned their activity.

Support has also come from local businesses including restaurant Lussman's and the Christopher

Place shopping centre.

Catherine Ross, one of the week's organisers, said: "The idea of the week is really taking off. Forty six groups have taken up our invitation and we want groups across the district to get involved by running an activity."

Any groups or individuals wanting to get involved and run an event or activity during the week should email [sustweek@transitionstalbans.org](mailto:sustweek@transitionstalbans.org) or find more information on the website [www.sustainablestalbans.wordpress.com](http://www.sustainablestalbans.wordpress.com)

## Scholarship for top student

A post-graduate scholarship grant to study at a top university has been awarded to a former St Albans School student who lives in Marshalswick.

Luke Bevan, 22, has been awarded the grant at Imperial College London through the ScottishPower Foundation.

Luke, who studied physics at Balliol College, Oxford, after leaving school, will complete his post-graduate degree in MSc Sustainable Energy future after a background in energy in environment.

He said: "I am delighted to be given this opportunity to further my education and my career at such an esteemed university."

"This scholarship will allow me to play my part in shaping the future of the energy industry and I'm delighted to have the support of the ScottishPower Foundation to help me do this."

The grant covers full enrolment costs and additional living allowances of £1,200 a month.



## "Life is short. Have an affair"

The hacking of the Ashley Madison website and threats to release details of potential adulterers has made headlines for all the wrong reasons. The hackers, who have named themselves the "Impact Team", assert their motivation was to reveal the fact that it was impossible to permanently delete all traces of using the site. Even though a "full delete" service is offered by Ashley Madison, bank records and other personal information, even sexual preferences and fantasies, will remain stored by the provider.

The cynics, however, believe that theft of this amount of personal data is motivated by the potentially very large financial gains to be had from selling the information. Not an unreasonable position given the amount of media reporting on what would otherwise be a common occurrence but for the purpose of the website.

The hacking has grabbed the attention of the world's media because it provides an insight into the scale of extra marital affairs. With 37 million users worldwide the company is valued at US \$1 billion. Noel Biederman, the company's founder, clearly has hit upon an unpleasant truth in offering a service that guarantees to find someone to cheat with.

According to statistics there are 1.2 million British users, that's approximately five per cent of the married population in Britain, who are embroiled in or looking for an affair. Following this hack they will now be facing the reality that

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arranging affairs online carries all the risks of real world adultery.

Adultery is one reason the court can allow a married couple to divorce without delay. This means that sex has to have happened. It is not enough to have discovered that a spouse has been actively seeking an affair or engaged in lesser forms of sexual activity. Curiously, same sex relationships do not amount to adultery but are considered "improper association" instead.

However, discovering adultery is not in itself enough. It has to be accepted by the other spouse, who must be willing to admit to their actions.

The spouse who starts divorce proceedings, the "Petitioner", must also find it intolerable to remain married to a cheating spouse. It is important to act quickly. If you continue to live together, as a married couple for more than six months after uncovering the affair, you cannot rely on adultery as a ground for divorce. There are also other options available and the family lawyers

at Debenhams Ottaway can advise you, whether you are just seeking initial advice or have made up your mind that your marriage is over.

For more information or advice please contact:



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