

## Bringing Alban Way to Life : 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

### PRESS RELEASE

The Alban Way is well-loved and well-used by walkers and cyclists. It's what remains of the former Hatfield-St Albans Railway Line that opened on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1865. We will be celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2015 with a wide variety of activities – all open to the public and FREE of charge.

This Celebration is being organised by representatives of local communities along Alban Way for members of local communities along Alban Way and beyond!

We want to encourage local people to -

- use the Alban Way (as walkers, cyclists) and, from there, other Public Rights of Way
- find out about and celebrate some of the history of Alban Way and their heritage
- want to find out more about their local heritage in general
- become actively involved with a local community organisation
- be better-informed about some of the voluntary work being undertaken in their area
- experience being part of their own, and a wider St Albans, community - if only for a couple of hours!
- Have a bit of fun!

### PROGRAMME

#### Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October

**10.00-16.00:** Guided Walk along the whole length of Alban Way, from Hatfield railway station to St Albans, exploring the social, natural and railway history - Book at the Eventbrite website: [www.ow.ly/Slw4n](http://www.ow.ly/Slw4n)

**19.30-21.00:** 'Bringing the History of Alban Way to Life': Evening Presentation and Exhibition at the University of Hertfordshire: Book at the Eventbrite website: [www.ow.ly/SlwhP](http://www.ow.ly/SlwhP)

Places are limited and booking therefore required.

#### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October

**10.00 - 16.00** - Events taking place throughout the day, including a range of musical entertainment still to be confirmed:

##### Walking and Cycle Tours

- Guided Walks throughout the day – look for John Darnton and our historical interpreter, Gary Fisher
- Go as you please Walking Tours – free Guide available
- Two cycle tours along the Alban Way - Book at the Eventbrite website (limited places): [www.ow.ly/SHccl](http://www.ow.ly/SHccl)
- Historic bicycles ridden by Veteran Cycle Club

##### Ellenbrook (Old Nast Hyde Halt)

- Nast Hyde Halt Photo Display
- Model Trains  
St Albans & District Model Engineering Society
- WelHat Cycling Information Stall and Bike Checks
- Bike Registration – Hatfield Police
- Entertainment: Harpenden Concert Band, Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School, Christopher Lawley
- Marshalswick Pet Shop Stall
- Hatfield Cycle Shop
- BVS Crafts Stall
- Mini Fun Fair
- Catering Van

##### Fleetville

- Fleetville School: Display of Children's Work

##### Smallford (Old Station)

- Exhibitions
  - Bringing the History of Smallford Station to Life
  - Model of Smallford Station
  - Model of Hill End Halt
  - St Albans District Council Green Space Action Plan
  - Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies
- Colney Heath Women's Institute – Food & Drink
- Miniature Railway Rides  
North London Society of Model Engineers
- Miniature Traction Engine
- St John Ambulance

##### St Albans London Road (Old Station)

- Exhibitions
    - London Road Station Photo Display
    - Sopwell Memories
    - St Albans South Signal Box
  - Watercress Wildlife Association Tours of nearby Watercress Beds
- Musical Entertainment including Young Miscellany and Chris Flegg: Folk Music @ The Great Northern Pub



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### Highfield Garden of Rest - near Hill End (Old Station)

- Hill End Halt Photo Display
- Hill End Hospital Display
- Highfield Park Trust Information
- Marconi History Display

Further Information is available at [www.smallford.org](http://www.smallford.org)

**Financial Sponsors:** The following organisations and individuals have provided financial support to make this celebration possible: University of Hertfordshire Heritage Hub, Colney Heath Parish Council, Hatfield Town Council, Village Vets Smallford, Meteor Communications, County Councillors – Dreda Gordon, Sandy Walkington, Rob Prowse and Chris White

### Thanks in particular to our many supporting organisers and participants –

'Bringing the History of Smallford Station to Life' Project Team, UH Heritage Hub, Countryside Management Service, Smallford, Sopwell and Ellenbrook Residents Associations, Highfield Park Trust, WelHat Cycling, NLS of Model Engineers, St Albans South Signal Box, St Johns Ambulance, Colney Heath WI, Watercress Wildlife Association, Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies Centre, St Albans Tourist Information Centre, Chiltern Section Veteran-Cycle Club, Marconi Instruments Heritage Collection, St Albans Movie Makers, Fleetville Primary School: Various entertainers – Harpenden Concert Band, Bishops Hatfield Girls School, English Miscellany, Young Miscellany, Katie's Jumping Fleas Ukulele Band, Christopher Lawley, Chris Flegg and others.

*All events are free – however, donations/contributions towards our costs will be most appreciated.*

*Any surplus funds will go towards the Renovation of Smallford Station and the Development of Alban Way: Our 'Bringing the History of Smallford Station to Life' Team will be working with St Albans District Council + Oaklands College students and staff to renovate the old platforms, provide historical signage and resting places (benches!) for walkers and cyclists*

Roger Gray

Press Officer: 'Bringing the History of Smallford Station to Life'