

## Election Special - April 2022

*The Community News is an information service from PACDG - the Presteigne Area Community Development Group - "Working Together For Our Community"*

### POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION PRESTEIGNE WARD

#### **USE YOUR VOTE! Elections take place on 5 May for our town and county councillors.**

Whatever political colour you are, use your vote to have your say. If you can't go along to vote in person on the day, you can ask to vote by post or proxy (which means someone you trust to vote on your behalf). If you want to vote by post, you must ask for it by 19th April, and for a proxy vote you must ask for it by 26th April. You can ask by phone to Powys Electoral Services on 01597 826202 or there's a form to do this at [electoralcommission.org.uk/voter](http://electoralcommission.org.uk/voter).

Changes to Powys County Council Ward boundaries since the last election have resulted in Norton being removed from the Presteigne Ward and included instead in a new Ward entitled 'Llangunllo with Norton'. See separate Community News issue for information on that Ward.

#### **Three candidates have been nominated for the Presteigne Ward:**

Leon Abecasis	Welsh Liberal Democrats
Beverley Jane Baynham	Independent
Richard Crispin Shipp	Green Party

All three candidates were asked to provide a brief election statement, and here they are ((in alphabetical order):

#### **LEON ABECASIS**

Born in Gibraltar, arrived in the UK at the age of 10 (with my parents), attended St Mary's primary school for one year, moved on to Elliot secondary school where I found it difficult to learn, this was probably because English was my second language, left at the age of fifteen and three months and enrolled into the University of Life, I have a master's degree in the art of survival.

I moved into Presteigne 15 years ago and I have never felt more at home than I do here, that is down to the wonderful people who live and work here. Me and my partner Annemarie have been working at The Salty Dog for the past 11 years and during that time \*I have been involved in; fund raising for the Presteigne Little People Play Group \*I have organised (along with the members of Connect) The Presteigne Food and Flower Festivals \*fought the ongoing fight against the town parking charges, \*the adoption of the recycling centre whilst cooking some scrumptious food.

We are now facing challenges that some of us have never faced in our lifetime, the impact that our daily lifestyle has on the environment and the small changes that we can make to help reduce or carbon footprint - I will champion how we can make small changes that collectively can make a big difference.

I am concerned about the needs for our elderly community - whether it's transport, home care or a hot meal, I will champion this.

I worry about the needs of our young community - I will make it one of my priorities to talk to them

I am not academic or intellectual, but I am a man of the people, who understands the basic needs, someone who will be your eyes, ears and voice, I will not make any promises that I can't keep, but I do promise you this, I will listen to you, I will understand your frustrations and needs, and I will fight your corner.

## **BEVERLEY BAYNHAM**

My name is Beverley Baynham, I am 42 years old, married with 2 children & live in Presteigne. I am currently the elected County Councillor for Presteigne & Norton. I was raised at Home Farm, Norton, where generations of my family have lived & worked. I attended Presteigne Primary & John Beddoes Schools & Coleg Powys.

I have worked at the East Radnorshire Day Centre since 2001. My children attended school in Presteigne, & I am passionate about retaining & improving secondary education in Presteigne. I have served as a Town Councillor for 14 years. I consider myself to be committed, hardworking & approachable. I was fortunate enough to have been elected as Mayor, a role I carried out with great pride & dedication. It was a true honour and privilege.

In my time as a Councillor, I have been involved in many projects, including: -

- Resurrecting Presteigne Carnival – something I am immensely proud of
- The extension & new car park at the Cemetery
- Securing affordable housing
- Providing allotments
- Co-ordinated the purchase & installation of two defibrillators
- Transferring assets from Powys to the Town Council
- Refurbishing the Tennis Courts to a Multi-Use Facility
- Fundraised over £11,000 for various local charities including Radnor Young Farmers, Powys Samaritans, Mid Border Arts, Judges Lodging, East Radnor Day Centre, Presteigne Playgroup, and other small projects.

Since being elected I have held many positions at Powys County Council including Chairman of Radnorshire & Chairman of Powys County Council. I believe my record speaks for itself, but I would like to ask for your support in the upcoming elections as I have unfinished projects, I would like to complete to benefit our community, my biggest ambition being a new school at John Beddoes. I am standing as an Independent rather than for a political party as if elected I would like to vote for what I believe in not how I am told to vote by a party. I have always tried my best to help whatever the situation. I am passionate about the community we live in and wish to continue represent you for the next 5 years.

## **RICHARD SHIPP**

My name is Richard Shipp and I am standing as the Green Party candidate in the election for Presteigne's County Councillor.

Since moving to Presteigne in 2013, I have enjoyed supporting the local community in numerous ways. This has included working for Powys County Council as a relief library assistant at Presteigne Library, to ensure we can maintain facilities accessible for both young and old within our community. I strongly believe we need to work together to get things done and keep our community thriving, using both public resources and where necessary our own personal skills and effort.

In the past I have worked promoting recycling in schools and at public events. More recently I was one of the volunteers maintaining the recycling bring site on the by-pass – a hands-on solution to waste, which is one of the on-going issues Presteigne and other rural communities face.

I am also currently a volunteer moderator for Presteigne Freegle, the local free goods swap platform, and one of the team at Presteigne Repair & Skill Share.

Before I moved to Presteigne I volunteered with Forestry England's education team at Bedgebury National Pinetum, and I am now about to begin training as a Powys Countryside Volunteer, to help maintain the footpaths and common land around our area.

I have practical experience of working in the public sector, having worked at East Sussex County Council for almost a decade. If elected, I can bring my inside knowledge of local government operations to bear on my work as a County Councillor for Presteigne.

If you elect me, I promise to work hard, year-round, both continuing actively to support projects within Presteigne, and in Llandrindod to ensure that Presteigne voices influence decisions at County Council level.

**PACDG – the Presteigne Area Community Development Group ...“Working together for the Community”**

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