

Community News

Issue 113 end-November 2019

an information service from PAC - the Presteigne Area Community Group

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Presteigne's CHRISTMAS FAIR is back...on Friday 13th December...and it's bigger and better than ever ! The Fair is jointly organised by CONNECT and St. Andrew's Church and will create a Winter Wonderland in and around the church and the church hall and yard. Starting at 3.30pm and running through to 7pm there will be food, drink and various gift stalls, plants, raffles and draws, tombola, christmas trees, and entertainment from our own John Bray with his fire show and circus equipment. Children can visit Santa in his Grotto in the church between 3.45 and 6.15pm; hot dogs and soup, or a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie will be served in the Church Hall where you will find even more stalls. The Community Café will be serving teas and coffees and there will be lots of opportunities to sing carols in the church. The children from the Primary School will be singing at 4pm to entertain you. The timetable for the events will be posted in the church. Together with late night shopping in the High Street and the Panto afterwards this is a chance to have a lovely evening full of seasonal delights. **So don't miss this fun-filled Community Event, supporting CONNECT and the St. Andrew's Heating Appeal - let's create that Winter Wonderland !!!**

Once again, in preparation for Christmas, Presteigne will become a big Advent Calendar. Paz says *"There will be 24 Advent themed windows within walking distance of the town centre, decorated but not to be revealed until the assigned date (Dec 1 to 24). We need the community's support for the event's success, so all residents, together with their friends and visitors are invited to some of the "reveals" if not all. A map of the town with the chosen windows and their number marked clearly will be displayed around town and shops. The first window will be St Andrew's Church; there may be singing, so song sheets will be provided, sweets offered and most importantly, good old fellowship. See you there!!!"*

THE PRESTEIGN PANTOMIME PLAYERS present "Hercule Poirot and the Reservoir Dog Walkers" by Wagatha Kwisty, on Thursday 12th, Friday 13th and Saturday 14th December, 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall, Presteigne. Tickets £5/£3 on Thursday. Frantic rewrites Thursday night and Friday morning, then £7/£4 Friday and Saturday. Available from Deli Tinto, High Street, Presteigne.

Belgium's top detective is stranded in Presteigne, where he becomes involved in solving the Mystery of the Spirit of the Warden. Will the knick knack get rubbed? Can the plucky children save the hilltop bowling green from being turned into a whiff-whaff stadium? Magic, music, mystery and moustachioed mayhem...

Sheep Music is back for 2020 !! Rory Bennett and Bobby Dawson are hoping to organise a 2 day weekend community, music, and entertainment festival on the 15th and 16th August at Went's Meadow, using the new Community Barn as the main stage. There will be a meeting at the Assembly Rooms at 7pm on Tuesday 3rd December to kick things off. We're looking for people to get involved (young or old - but especially young!) So if you think you might have something to offer come along to the meeting, or speak to Rory 07375 498964 or Bobby 07828 819149

Presteigne Guides have spaces! We meet Tuesday evenings at the youth centre at 7 pm to 8:30 pm. Contact us by Facebook message or call Karen on 01544267351.

Household Energy Survey ... ONLY £60! Not-for-Profit charity Lightfoot Enterprises offers independent, impartial and expert energy surveys, using thermal-imaging camera to show where heat is leaking from homes. Lightfoot has worked with over 2,000 homes, businesses and community buildings enabling them to reduce energy use and save money. They are a not-for-profit charity, existing to help people make changes to the way we use energy, to help us stay warm and save money. They provide good, reliable and impartial energy-efficiency information and encouragement. Contact info@lightfootenergy.org.uk or call [07854 458786](tel:07854458786). See more at www.lightfootenergy.org.uk

Looking Ahead.....a message from Norton Community Trust. It's good to know that we can look forward to 2020 with renewed optimism about the creation of a community facility for the benefit of Norton residents. The preferred name for the adapted building is St Andrews Community Hub we hope you approve. Work on renovating the building is unlikely get under way for several months and will require major grant funding. More details on the planning of the project will be available early in 2020. Before then, the Trust will need to secure the financial resources to maintain the church building, pay a range of advisory and professional fees, and purchase new chairs and tables to replace the redundant (and not very comfortable) pews. So please let us have your ideas on how to raise funds to cover these costs over the next twelve months. If you want to sign up to NCT's Newsletter, or have any questions or suggestions about the Community Trust's plans, please contact Brian Price (castlebank84@gmail.com) or John Refausse (jrefausse@yahoo.com)

Christmas Shopping and Pamper Day at The Retreat...Come and join us on Saturday 7th December 10 am to 4 pm. Shopping for skincare, bath and body care, teas, mugs, fitness aids and more... Taster sessions in sports massage, aromatherapy, Alexander Technique, yoga, reflexology, Kinesiology and EMMETT - a great opportunity to try something new! All taster sessions for charity donation. Please book either by email, marian@retreat.wales, or phone [07816 981454](tel:07816981454). Treatment vouchers for Retreat Practitioners. Raffle in aid of St Michaels Hospice. Tea and mince pies. Everyone very welcome! At The Retreat, Industrial Estate, Presteigne (next door to The Workhouse Gallery)

Meet old friends and make new ones ? Call in or stay awhile at The Circle Drop-In every Tuesday 9.30am - 1.30pm at the Youth Centre, Hereford Street, Presteigne. Everybody welcome. Tea, coffee and a soup lunch provided. Craft activities, music and song. Talks, trips and outings. No charge - only a pot for donations if people wish to give. n.b. Our last Circle drop in will be on the 24th December and we will open in the New Year on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

There's a COSTA coffee machine in Spar now using disposable cups - we checked with Costa (and with Powys CC) about recycling and they say that cups from the machine can be recycled along with paper waste. So no need to take them up to the ACE drinks carton recycling bins at the Bring Site, just pop them in your kerbside paper & card recycling box.

Presteigne now has a THIRD investment club - for green and ethical investments. Jonathan says "At the inaugural meeting, members agreed that a single difference between the new club and Presteigne's two existing clubs should be that only 'Green and Ethical' shares would be bought and sold. The advantages for supporting such companies, as their importance in our economy rises, could be significant. Unlike any other town of a comparable size - in the entire country! - Presteigne now has three active investment clubs. However, unlike the established (PIC) Presteigne and (MIC) Marches Investment Clubs, both of which have an extensive waiting list, at time of writing, the new investment club still has a few vacancies for new members before it, too, reaches the legal maximum of twenty and has to start its own waiting list. Anyone interested in obtaining further information should - quickly - call Jonathan Wilson on [01544 262712](tel:01544262712)".

Interested in learning more about the Presteigne Dark Skies project and perhaps to support it in some practical way?... go to this link for the Dark Skies Masterplan and a crowd-funding option: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/qsv9n-presteigne-dark-sky-masterplan>

Walks with East Radnor Ramblers during the first half of December....

[Tues 3rd Dec](#) 3 miles from Bell Square CP, Weobley; [Weds 4th Dec](#) 7.2 miles from Baron pub CP, Bucknell; [Sat 7th Dec](#) 9 miles from Fishpools CP, nr Bleddfa; [Weds 11 Dec](#) Quiet walk 7 miles from Discovery Centre, Craven Arms. Walks start at 10.00am. Everyone welcome! Under-18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Further information at www.ramblers.org.uk/east-radnor or from E and S Williams on 01544 260524

A message from the Council for the Protection of Rural Wales CPRW.... *"In December 2018, Powys CC stopped publishing any comments from "third parties" on their planning website - the Planning Portal. This is completely unacceptable. "Third parties" are Powys residents, other members of the public and environmental organisations. Consultee responses to planning applications are also frequently omitted. These representations often have important evidence for or against planning applications which should be taken into account. The third party comments show the extent and reasons for public concern or support. They should be available on the internet for EVERYONE, including Planning Committee Members, to see. The poor alternatives of viewing files in Llandrindod Wells or asking for public comments by email, penalises the public. This is simply not working. POWYS PEOPLE DESERVE A FAIR, TRANSPARENT PLANNING SYSTEM. The Town Council has been campaigning on this issue for some time with a report to the Welsh Local Government Association in September. Our Town Clerk, Tracey Price also wrote to the new Powys Portfolio Holder asking for a further Review on the matter. This Review has been held but Powys CC still say "no". Tracey is also in contact with the Powys Branch of Council Clerks to help spread the word with their Councils. If you agree this situation has to change [please visit the CPRW \(Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales\) website to sign this petition http://www.brecon-and-radnor-cprw.wales/?page_id=1840](http://www.brecon-and-radnor-cprw.wales/?page_id=1840). The petition is easy to sign and will help to show Powys CC the level of local support for this important issue and how we object to their decision to stop publishing all third party comments on the Council web-site".* Lynden Rees Roberts.

Presteigne Local Food Market - Saturday 14th December from 9 - 1pm in the Memorial Hall.

Due to the Presteigne Pantomime seating being in place, our Market food and other stalls will be in these areas: The front of the Main Hall (stage end) and the Back Hall (with kitchen), both reached through the side door, and Outside including Christmas trees from Broadaxe.

Special Christmas stalls will be in all three areas so, even if you have bought most of your presents for others by then, you will be able to find lots of fantastic and much deserved treats for yourself, or last-minute presents for your nearest and dearest! There will be signs to help you miss nothing. If you need a rest while making your purchases the **Community Café** will be serving through the kitchen hatch. We will make sure there is plenty of seating where Fairtrade teas, coffees and homemade cakes can be enjoyed.

What a brilliant result for this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal! The overall total raised in the Presteigne area was £4,299-29. The names of the competition Teddy Bears were 'Kevin' (the bear displayed in the Memorial Hall at the Community Groups Fair) and 'Matilda' (the bear on display in the High Street during the Poppy Appeal). *"I would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to raise our total this year".* P A Collins, RBL Poppy Appeal Organiser, Presteigne Area

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

....Presteigne Repair & Skill Share is now well-established since its launch in September but the volunteers are taking a break over December and will start again on 18th January. Bring along a

broken item and get it fixed for free by our clever team of volunteer fixers. You can stay & watch, maybe even learn new skills. Anything from small electrical items: hoovers, lamps, toasters, to mending, darning, zips and buttons. Small tools, broken toys, wobbly chair legs, blunt secateurs - we'll do our best to get things fixed and stop stuff going to landfill. These Repair events aim to foster a 'make & mend' revival, bringing people together to share skills old and new. Contact details: Anne Belgrave 01544 267997 email felt@cooptel.net

....**Christmas at the New Radnor Community Hub**...further information on The Hub's Facebook page.

.... **Midwinter Celebrations on Friday 20th December, 7pm at St. Michael's Church, Discoed.**

LOCAL EVENTS OVER THE COMING FORTNIGHT

Sunday 1st December - A Talk by Peter Wright: "Half a Century in Motorsport". In a career spanning half a century in motorsport, engineer Peter Wright worked for 25 years at BRM and Lotus, trying to make Formula 1 cars faster. During this time he saw too many drivers, some of whom had become friends, die in racing cars. The last 25 years have been spent carrying out research and development into motorsport safety. Presteigne Assembly Rooms 3pm. £6 The Workhouse (cash only) and online from wegottickets.com.

Sunday 1st December - Music & Merriment at The Rhodd. 3pm. Join us for music by Mandra, seasonal food, fires and festive merriment at Rhodd Court, the former home of acclaimed artist Sir Sidney Nolan, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of The National Lottery's support for arts & culture. £5 entry includes refreshments. Present a current National Lottery ticket of any kind and entry is FREE!

Sunday 1st December - EG Fitness & Dance's Christmas Showcase. The Memorial Hall starting 4pm. Come and support the cast as they sing and dance to many different styles, and help to raise funds for charity. Adults £6 (under-16s free). Proceeds to Ronald McDonald House Charities UK.

Sunday 1st December - Christmas Fayre at New Radnor Community Hub. Festive stalls, light lunches and a bar.

Tuesday 3rd December - PNCS Christmas Quiz. Starting 7:30 p.m. at The Farmers Inn, £10 entry per team (max 5 people) £50 prize money PLUS PRIZE DRAW! To book, or for further information call PNCS on 01544 267 961, go to the office in the High Street, or call the Farmers Inn on 01544 267 389

Tuesday 3rd December - Sheep Music meeting (see item above)

Wednesday 4th December - Presteigne YFC Christmas Quiz at the Memorial Hall. 6.30pm for 7pm start. Teams of 4. £10 per team. Refreshments and Bar. Prizes and Raffle on the night. ALL WELCOME.

Wednesday 4th December - Sharppp Chat 'Reimagining the Economy' with Richard Priestly from Hereford. Richard writes a weekly blog which usually focuses on how humanity could have a better, more ecologically sustainable and socially just future. This topic will be something concrete for those of you who came along to Charles Grimes' talk last year on 'Why there IS a magic money tree' when we were all desperate to hear about some alternatives to our current economy, which many think is no longer fit for purpose.

Thursday 5th December - the Cricket Club's Xmas Bingo at Presteigne St. Andrews Football Club. Eyes down at 8pm. Many prizes including bottles, hampers and vouchers. Last Quickie Ticket - £100 House.

Friday 6th December - MBA presents "The Gentle Good" with Gareth Bonello. Known for his intricate guitar playing and haunting vocals, Gareth is one of the foremost songwriters working in Wales today. Based in Cardiff, Gareth writes in both English and Welsh and has released several critically acclaimed records. Gareth's music explores themes such as love, loneliness and metamorphosing into a moth. Presteigne Assembly Rooms 8pm. Tickets £10 The Workhouse (cash only) and online from wegottickets.com.

Saturday 7th December - Christmas Shopping and Pamper Day at The Retreat (see item above)

Saturday 7th December - Mid Wales Opera presents "Mrs Peachum's Guide to Love and Marriage".

After last year's sellout triumph of *A Spanish Hour*, Mid Wales Opera's SmallStages team romps back onto the stage with a radical reworking of John Gay's 1728 work *The Beggar's Opera*. Join Mrs Peachum, her daughter

Polly and the Beggar himself in their bawdy, ballsy take on relationships and the relative virtues of virginity. A rumbustious tragi-comic tale of love, loyalty and London gin. Presteigne Assembly Rooms 7.30pm. Tickets £12 The Workhouse (cash only) and online from wegottickets.com.

Sunday 8th December - a Christmas Concert in Knill Church, 3pm, with Ruth Watson (oboe), Leila Basletic (organ) and the St. Andrews Sisters vocal group.

Sunday 8th December - Community Carol Service in St Andrew's, Norton at 3.00 pm, followed by festive mulled wine and a finger buffet ... including, of course, mince pies! Decorating of the church building for the festive season will be on Friday 6th December from 10.30 am. Festive food contributions will be appreciated for both events, as well as help with festive decorations. If you are able to help with food or church decoration, or just want more information about the event, please contact Catherine O'Rourke (orourkebailey@aol.com).

Wednesday 11th December - Quiz Night @ The Bowls Club. General knowledge quiz with a twist. All welcome. Teams of up to 4. Just £2 pp. 7.30pm for 8pm start at the Presteigne Bowls Social Club, Hereford Street (opposite The Little Shop). Text 07766 097600 or email presteignedogman@icloud.com to reserve your table.

Wednesday 11th December - Presteigne & Borders Floral Art Society meets at 7.30pm in Presteigne Memorial Hall for a demonstration by Sharon Dower. The title this month is *Christmas Celebrations*. Visitors are welcome: £5. Information from Avril, 01547 529244 or Sue, 01568 589545

Thursday 12th to Saturday 14th December - Presteigne Pantomime (see item above)

Friday 13th December - Presteigne Christmas Fair (see item above)

Friday 13th December - Presteigne Screen presents "Sorry We Missed You" UK 2019 100mins. A brilliant Ken Loach film exploring how Britain's working poor take on the pressures of zero-hour contracts as one family finds itself caught in a downward spiral of falling income and rising debt. 8pm Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 14th December - Presteigne Local Food Market (see item above)

Saturday 14th December - 'Carols and Cake!' an informal celebration pre-Christmas. All welcome! 2.30pm at Presteigne Baptist Church. Followed by Advent window opening at 6pm

Saturday 14th December - MiNR presents "The York Waits: Make We Joye Now in This Fest", Tickets £15 (<14s £3) New Radnor Community Hall. Seasonal music for Advent and Christmas by The York Waits with Singer Deborah Catterall. Box office [01544 350268](tel:01544350268). Wine & soft drinks available at the bar.

Saturday 14th December - CHRISTMAS CONCERT with Penybontfawr Welsh Male Voice Choir at Lingen Village Hall. 7.30pm (open at 7pm). £12 includes a glass of mulled wine & mince pie. Donation & raffle proceeds to Hope House Hospice for Children. Tickets available via website: lingen.org.uk or email lingenweb@gmail.com or call 01544 260865

Saturday 14th December - Seasonal Shindig in Walton Hall. 7.30pm. Entertainment followed by carol singing led by Anne Goodwin. Entry is free. There will be a bar and nibbles.

Sunday 15th December - Festive Music Day in the New Radnor Community Hub 3pm to 11pm with mulled wine. Bar open. All welcome ! 3pm 'Gather Round' the piano and sing seasonal songs and carols with Marian Rowlatt followed by tea and mince pies - 4.30pm Carol Singing round the Christmas Tree at the Memorial - 7pm Concert with Ruth Watson (oboe), Leila Basletic (piano) and The St. Andrews Sisters vocal group.

If you have any questions on what's happening – or not happening – in our community, do let us know and we'll do our best to provide an answer, or at least point you in the right direction – simply email pacdg@icloud.com.

We're happy to help publicise community and charity activities and events (but only for events in the immediate Presteigne area) – email text (not poster images please) at least 3 weeks in advance to pacdg@icloud.com.

The Community News is published twice per month. Feel free to tweet or forward this issue to others! If you have any questions on what's happening – or not happening – in our community, do let us know and we'll do our best to provide an answer, or at least point you in the right direction – simply email pacdg@icloud.com.