

Community News

Issue 142 April 2020

an information service from PACDG - the Presteigne Area Community Group "Working Together"

You are receiving this email because you asked to receive the Community News & be kept informed about PACDG activities. If at any time you decide not to receive further PACDG emails, contact us on pacdg@icloud.com with REMOVE in the subject line & we'll immediately take you off the mailing list.

IF YOU NEED TO CHECK BACK ON PAST ISSUES FOR INFORMATION, YOU CAN SEE THESE (along with lots of other good information) ON THE TOWN WEBSITE www.presteigne.org.uk/calendar

- **Please contact us if you see or hear of anything that will be of help to other residents - ideas or suggestions for new hobbies, or things to do at home, especially welcome ! email pacdg@icloud.com**
- **and if you're self-isolating or need assistance in any way, you can also email pacdg@icloud.com and we'll pass on your message to people who can help.**

Ed. The News is taking a short break - back on Monday. Happy Easter everyone. p.s. loved the rocket, Pete...only in Presteigne, land of the free !!

Just seen on a (real!) friend's Facebook page "I'm that bored I've just rung someone in India to find out if they've had an accident in the last three years"

Presteigne & Norton Coronavirus Community Response: Our shop workers need you! If you are not self-isolating and are based in town, then we would love to hear from you. The town's volunteers are currently supporting Spar by monitoring its door every day, but we need more helpers. If you would be happy to do a couple of hours or more a week, then please let us know by emailing presteigneandnortontc@outlook.com

SCAM ALERT

There's a particularly nasty scam rearing it's ugly head and experienced by a local resident (*thanks for alerting us to this, F*).

Action Fraud confirms that criminals are sending victims their own passwords in an attempt to trick them into believing they have been filmed on their computer watching porn and demanding payment.

There have been over 110 of reports made to Action Fraud from concerned victims who have received these scary emails. In a new twist not seen before by Action Fraud, the emails contain the victim's own password in the subject line. Action Fraud has contacted several victims to verify this information, who have confirmed that these passwords are genuine and recent and probably obtained in an earlier data breach. The emails demand payment in Bitcoin and claim that the victim has been filmed on their computer watching porn. Needless to say, don't respond, don't pay, and immediately report and forward the email to Action Fraud. 'F' reported the matter to the police who already know about it and gave him the following link:

<http://www-actionfraud.police.uk.alert/alert-criminals-send-victims-their-own-passwords-in-new-sextortion-scam>

UPDATE FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES AND THE HIGH STREET

(things keep changing so, best first check information on websites or Facebook pages)

...from Spar. We are open across the bank holiday weekend if you need us for your essential shopping. If you've not been in for a bit you'll notice that we've made some

changes to our store to ensure it's as safe as possible for both shoppers and our staff. These changes may mean that your shopping takes a bit longer than normal, so please plan ahead, and thank you for your patience in advance. We hope you all have a happy and safe Easter weekend at home!

...from Weobley Ash. Stunning Herefordshire grass fed beef, joints, steaks, mince, dice, shin all here, plenty to go round. Ribeye, sirloin, rump and fillet. Sirloin Sir..Don't mind if I do guvnor ! Steaks being cut today 01544 598120 shop@weobleyash.co.uk Call 01544 598120 or email shop@weobleyash.co.uk to Order

...from Wye Valley Brewery. We wish you all a very happy and safe Easter...our online shop is closed for the holiday weekend, but should you need to restock your home supplies, we'll be back open online next week Tue-Fri, 8 'til 4.

...from Rose Cottage Flowers & Café. All today's meals delivered. Order by 9am Monday 13th for delivery on Tuesday (within 5 miles of Presteigne). See Facebook page for menu and details. Order on Facebook or by email to lesleyharvey1@outlook.com, 07548 519714 or 01544 260453... Happy Easter to you all.

...from The Salty Dog.

Easter Opening Times: Friday 9 to 2; Saturday 9 to 2; Sunday 10 to 12 (Collections Only); Monday and Tuesday CLOSED. Happy Easter to you All. Stay Safe x

THINGS TO DO WHILE COCOONING !

...from The Judge's Lodging. Day two of the 'Stay at Home' Easter trail - 5 rooms with 5 eggs over 5 days. See our Facebook page. Today's 5 are in the Drawing Room - hit the 'Haha' button if you see them all

There are several FREE live performances to lift your spirits this [Easter](#):

...Italian tenor **Andrea Bocelli** will perform a solo concert – titled Andrea Bocelli: Music For Hope – at Milan's historic cathedral, Duomo di Milano, on Easter Sunday. Bocelli's performance will be streamed live on his YouTube channel on Easter Sunday (12th April) from 6pm BST.

...**Andrew Lloyd Webber's** 'The Show Must Go On' is streaming live performances of major musicals free on youtube.com/theshowmustgoon every Friday at 7pm (available for 48 hours) over the next few weeks. This weekend it's Jesus Christ Superstar.

...**Cirque du Soleil** are streaming the premiere of a new 60 minute CirqueConnect special show tonight 10th April. Enjoy a front-row seat to awe-inspiring moments from Alegria, Kooza and KÀ on YouTube and website www.cirquedusoleil.com
(Thanks Emily for all this information)

...from The National Trust. While we all need to stay at home this Easter to keep ourselves and each other safe, as a member you can still stay connected to the places you love. On our website, we've curated a wealth of stories, podcasts and films for members to explore. There's so much at your fingertips, so keep an eye on our website and social media for upcoming ideas.

...LRB Screen at Home. Gareth Evans's renowned, never not sold-out **London Review Bookshop event series** returns in a new, weekly **#stayathome incarnation**, beginning with with **Andrea Luka Zimmerman's** latest feature, **Here for Life**. Each week, Gareth will introduce the chosen film via our YouTube channel, we'll provide details of where you can watch the film, and you'll be able to join a live post-viewing Zoom discussion at [at](#)

7 p.m. on Wednesdays. You can find more information on this week's film choice and how you can join in **here**. (thanks Sue for this information)

...from the Dean of Hereford. If you'd like to receive a live message for Good Friday, tune in to the Diocese of Hereford's Facebook page at 6pm this evening. Today is the crucifixion of Jesus. Watch Dean of Hereford Michael Tavinor, as he delivers his Good Friday service.

If you have any other ideas do please let us know - thank you !

OTHER INFORMATION

...from Powys Health Teaching Board about Covid-19 research by Zoe/Kings College scientists. We would like to hear from you. Report your health daily, even if you're well. It will help us understand more about #coronavirus and how the NHS can plan its response. Take 1-minute to self-report daily using the app, even if you are well. Help our scientists identify and be able to advise the Government on:

- High-risk areas in the UK
- Who is most at risk, by better understanding symptoms linked to underlying health conditions
- How fast the virus is spreading in your area

For more information see <https://covid.joinzoe.com> - download the app from Apple Store or Google Play.

...from PCC Jobs. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we urgently need your help. Care Assistants required throughout Powys. Full training will be given. The postholder will assist in the delivery of Powys County Council's frontline adult services, working with care providers, in care homes and for Powys Teaching Health Board. To find out more and to apply, please visit <https://recruitment.powys.gov.uk/>

...from Powys Health Teaching Board about eye care. We've worked with local optometrists to put urgent eye care hubs in place across the county during Coronavirus. Our nearest hubs are in Builth Wells, Llandrindod Wells, and Newtown. If you have an urgent or essential eye care issue please contact your nearest hub. Find out more [athttp://www.powysthb.wales.nhs.uk/news/52356](http://www.powysthb.wales.nhs.uk/news/52356)

...from PCC. Update – Free School Meal Allowance. Our teams have contacted most parents and carers of entitled free school meal pupils. This is to check that we have their contact details correct prior to issuing any vouchers or payments.

We have a voucher scheme set up, which we know will not suit everyone, the planned Pay Point option is no longer a workable solution for us. Therefore, if the supermarket voucher scheme is not suitable then parents are able to submit an online form (<https://crowd.in/4G23rR>) via the Powys website to request a bank payment

Parents will receive £15.00 per week per child, this will include last week (30th March - 3rd April) and also over the Easter break period. Then ongoing fortnightly. If you have not had any contact from our team and your child is in receipt of free school meals, please contact us on 01597 826660, or email cashless.catering@powys.gov.uk The supermarket vouchers will take a few days to reach you, our apologies that this has taken a little while to set up.

...from Marches Vets. This (*yesterday*) morning there was an ill informed, and hence inaccurate, piece of journalism on the BBC news. It advised keeping cats indoors which may have caused alarm and distress to many of our cat owners. This piece has

misquoted the president of the British Veterinary Association (BVA). The advice given for cat owners in relation to COVID-19 is as follows:

“We are NOT advising that ALL cats are kept indoors. ONLY cats from INFECTED households or where their owners are self-isolating, and ONLY if the cat is happy to be kept indoors. Some cats cannot stay indoors due to stress-related medical reasons’ (BVA 08/04/20). There have been a number of reports of dogs and cats (+a Tiger!) being infected with COVID-19 virus. All these animals had been in contact with a human with COVID-19. Numerous international organisations (incl UK government, OIE, WHO, RCVS, BVA, WSAVA) report that there is no evidence suggesting animals are involved in the spread of disease. The only advice from the Government regarding cats remains the same and is as follows: You should wash your hands before and after any contact with your cat. The expert opinion from all sources is that, touching the fur of an animal that has been in contact with an infected person could in rare cases lead to transfer of the virus. This would be the same process of transmission as touching a surface that has been touched by an infected person. Nevertheless, the consistent advice is to wash hands in soap and water for 20 seconds before and after handling animals or their food. Inaccurate reporting (as fake news) is extremely dangerous especially at this time. Please share to help put minds at rest with the correct information

...from University College London. Here's an idea for something constructive you can do to help during this pandemic, especially if you have a limited amount of time or other restrictions. A research team is looking at mental health and activities that can help protect against the negative effects of isolation. Sign-up to anonymously fill in a 10 minute survey and a follow-up questionnaire once a week. The findings will be shared from next week and could help people find better ways to cope during social isolation. You are being invited to take part in a research project about your psychological and social experiences during this period of the coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19).

This study will involve answering a 15-minute survey now and then answering a shorter 10-minute follow-up survey once a week whilst social isolation measures are in place.

It will help to inform understanding about the effects of social isolation measures on people's mental health. The data you provide will be analysed by academic researchers at [University College London](#).

...from PCC. Business Grants Update. It's been another busy week... That's £13.4m in grants out of the door to 1,266 businesses. That's ON TOP of the £11.7m in grants we awarded to 792 businesses last week in response to COVID19

Thanks for bearing with us

...from the Welsh Government. Further details about support from the Welsh Government's new £500m Economic Resilience Fund have been published today. The fund will provide additional financial support during the coronavirus pandemic and will help organisations to manage cash flow pressures. It will help to address gaps not met by schemes already announced by the UK Government, Welsh Government and Development Bank of Wales. To be eligible for this second phase of support, businesses, charities and social enterprises, must meet criteria including:

1. Micro businesses, including start-ups, employing up to nine employees could be eligible for up to £10k support. This includes sole traders employing staff. Businesses in this bracket could qualify for support from the fund if they:

- Have experienced in excess of a 40% reduction in turnover since 1 March 2020
- Can demonstrate that efforts have been made to sustain business activity
- Are not pursuing other forms of Welsh Government non-repayable grant funding support
- Are not be entitled to business rate relief grants

2. Small and medium sized firms with between 10 and 249 employees could be eligible for grants of up to £100,000 if they:

- Have experienced in excess of a 60% reduction in turnover since the first day of March
- Are not be eligible for business rate relief grants, or if they are, that amount would be deducted from their allocation from this fund
- Have a sustainable business plan to trade beyond the Covid-19 pandemic
- Confirm no future compulsory redundancies will be made as long as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is in place
- Are not be pursuing any other form of Welsh Government non-repayable grant funding support

3. Funding will also be available to support large businesses with more than 249 employees. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis to consider where funding can be deployed most effectively to compliment other sources of support.

Full details available here:

<https://gov.wales/find-out-if-your-business-eligible-support-new-economic-resilience-fund>

PACDG – the PRESTEIGNE AREA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP... “WORKING TOGETHER”

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.