

Community News

Issue 93 - January 2019

an information service from PAC - the Presteigne Area Community Group

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

Did you know about the brilliant Royal Oak Meat Raffle ? Dale says...*"we started the Meat Raffle back in October 2014 and hold a draw every Sunday (even including a Christmas Day one not so long ago). Every Sunday we have 10 prizes on offer from joints of meat to steaks and burgers. After paying for the meat, all the profit after that goes to the charity chosen for that particular month and so far we have donated £13,901.80 to various causes locally and nationally. I try to rota it around various local causes but I'm always open to new suggestions from anyone. We're overwhelmed with how well it's been supported in the last 4 years and thank everyone that has bought tickets and continues to do."* (Ed. £14,000 over 4 years is an incredible amount - thank you Dale !)

So if you're passing the Oak, even if it's not your usual watering hole, do please call in and buy a meat raffle ticket - it all goes to very good causes.

Thanks again to Tessa and the PAC litter-picking teams who braved the weather this month to clean up the whole of the Norton-Presteigne road (decades of accumulated rubbish !) and the monthly litter-pick around the centre of town. If you see areas in our immediate location that badly need a litter-pick, do please let us know.

Things are moving with work expected to start soon on both the new Community Barn on Went's Meadow, and with the extension of the Active Travel Route (cycle/footpath etc) from Kings Court along Greenfield Road and Hereford Street (see indicative plans on the Town Council page of the Town website www.presteigne.org.uk) - watch this space for more information.

A message from Maggie & Terry about the Great Big Christmas Quiz... Thanks to everyone who helped by selling the sheets, and to everyone who bought a quiz sheet - we hope you really enjoyed it. Forty-eight people sent in completed answer sheets, twenty-two of those were all-correct (you clever people !) and the winner was June Barker (from Garth) whose name was pulled out of the hat by Sharon at the PNCS office. The Quiz brought in a brilliant total of £290 which has been equally divided between The Circle and the Little People's Playgroup. Maybe we'll do it again in the summer !

Great British Garden Bird Watch 2019 - get ready for this weekend 26th-28th January. Sign-up today at www.rspb.org.uk - you may be too late to obtain a FREE postal pack, but you can take part online, and get access to Big Garden Extra. Here you can also access exclusive articles, downloads and celebrity interviews. Read more at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/#i2tgLIOfKvjOUIfG.99>

A message from the Powys Councillor responsible for Young People & Culture about our libraries...*you will be aware that Powys County Council is facing unprecedented financial pressure, as we endeavour to maintain critically important services for the residents of Powys. Following another reduction in our budget settlement from Welsh Government, we are in the unenviable position of needing to find savings of £14m during next year (2019/20) and a further £20m for the following three years up until 2023. As a result of this, we are having to look again at how to reduce costs across all service areas - services such as highway maintenance, environmental health, our schools service, arts and cultural services and the library service. We are thus seeking your help to identify ways to sustain such services locally. We understand and know that our libraries in particular are hugely valued by residents, and play a very important role in connecting individuals and*

communities to the wider world in so many ways. We want to be able to maintain these benefits, but Powys County Council can no longer run these services alone. Powys County Council is very grateful to you for your support with maintaining the library over recent times. However, we are now in a position where we have to ask you once again to work with us to find new ways of sustaining the service locally.

Please contact Kay Thomas, Principal Librarian kay.thomas@powys.gov.uk to put forward your ideas and to initiate local discussions. We will also be running a public consultation to gather wider suggestions and proposals, and there will be a drop-in session at the (Presteigne) library on Wednesday 6 February, 1.00 - 3.00pm.

Sadly, Courtyard Antiques has closed its doors - Andy will be a great loss to the High Street in all respects! However, at least we don't lose them altogether, as Courtyard Antiques will be showing their wares at The Assembly Rooms one Saturday of each month - first one on 23rd February 9am - 2pm.

A message from Leigh and the Dark Skies team - help us reclaim our dark skies by taking part between 2nd and 23rd February in #StarCount2019 to map light pollution, to ensure more of us can enjoy the most magical sight the countryside has to offer. Dark, starry skies are one of the most magical sights the countryside can offer. But light pollution means many of us can't see the stars. We want to reconnect people with the wonder of our glorious night skies. The CPRE Star Count will take place this February, with support from the British Astronomical Association, and we'll be asking you to look up at the night sky and tell us how many stars you can see in Orion. You can do this from anywhere in the country. The results will help us to create a new map to show how light pollution affects everybody's views of the night sky.

Enjoy reading something different ? Presteigne Library BOOK CLUB meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 4.30pm in the Library. Come along to one - or all. You'll be very welcome !

Put these dates/books in your Diary: 30/1 The Book Thief (Marcus Zusak), 27/2 The Lost German Slave Girl (John Bailey), 27/3 The Heresy of Dr. Dee (Phil Rickman), 24/4 anything by Alexander McCall Smith, 30/5 Orlando (Virginia Wolff), 27/6 Ancillary Justice (Ann Leckie), 31/7 The Pursuit of Love (Nancy Mitford)

Seen the new big screen at the Memorial Hall? - thanks to the initiative of Presteigne's Chatterbrook W.I. and a contribution last year from the Community Grant Fund, the Norman Raey room at the Memorial Hall now sports a big 1.8m (nearly 6ft) square wall-mounted projection screen that can be used by anyone hiring the hall.

Were you an extra for the filming last year in Presteigne of the documentary 'Dark Son - The Hunt for the Serial Killer' about the 1920's Abertillery child murderer and possible serial killer Harold Jones? If so and you missed its first airing on BBC2 Wales on Saturday, 12th January, it is now available on the iPlayer (blink and you'll miss your moment of glory, but fascinating what goes on the cutting room floor!). Use this link to the programme's website for further information - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0c062xj>

(Maggie James sent this in from Plantlife magazine, noting that there are already lots of snowdrops all over Presteigne and Norton !!). **The first snowdrops of the year have been spotted across Wales ready for St. Dwynwen's Day on Friday 25th January.** This celebration of love goes back centuries to a 4th century Welsh princess who lived in what is now the Brecon Beacons. Dwynwen was unable to marry the man she loved but made a wish for God to fulfil the dreams of all true lovers. You can read the full story [here](#). St. Dwynwen's Day is celebrated in a similar way to St. Valentine's Day with some people in Wales choosing to send cards, flowers or gifts to loved ones. Snowdrops seem an appropriate flower for St. Dwynwen's Day. In the language of flowers, they represent both consolation and hope which reflects both the sorrow in Dwynwen's life and her wish to give love to others.

East Radnor Ramblers walks - more information available from each walk's leader but all welcome - bring a drink and a packed lunch and wear suitable footwear and warm clothing. Information on walking with us in general from Marion Cox [01547 530120](tel:01547530120)

Saturday 2nd February, Lingen, Harley's Mountain (10 miles) starting at Lingen Church at 10am (Sheila [01568 610157](tel:01568610157)) - Tuesday 5th February, Short Walk, Shobdon Hill (4 miles) starting at Shobdon Church at 10am, Christina [01432 820548](tel:01432820548) - Wednesday 6th February, Fishpools Circular (7 miles) starting at Fishpools Forestry Car Park at 10am, Mags [01547 529084](tel:01547529084) - Saturday 9th February, Twmpath, Wye Valley, (9 miles) starting at Erwood Craft Centre at 10 am, Rob [01982 560471](tel:01982560471) - Wednesday 13th February, Llynheilyn, Llanfihangel Nant Melan, (7 miles) starting at Llynheilyn, lay-by on A481 at 10 am, Brendan & Felicity [01544 260739](tel:01544260739)

Friday 25th January - Important meeting at the Legion 8pm to discuss the future of the Royal British Legion Club. If you use, or have any interest in the Club, please attend !!!!

Saturday 26th January - Interested in learning all about coppicing and green wood crafts ? Come along to a Coppice Open Day on at Castlering Wood, Beggars Bush LD8 2PB. The day is free and open to all. Come and work alongside professional coppice workers. Learn how to restore a coppice woodland and how to add value with green wood crafts: Coppice management - Greenwood craft workshops - Charcoal making - Refreshments - Bean pole and Pea stick sale. Booking is essential please - for further information contact richardthomason@smallwoods.org.uk

Friday 1st February - Presteigne Screen presents "Summer 1993" - autobiographical debut drama by young Spanish film director Carla Simón - "*beguiling*" & "*a jewel*"; *The Guardian*. £5. 8pm at The Assembly Rooms.

Saturday 2nd February - the wonderful Local Food Market returns 9am-1pm at the Memorial Hall. The first Market and Community Cafe of the new year is a great opportunity for everyone to meet again - the best artisans and regular and faithful customers. The Market hopes to welcome new customers too. Also there will be the first Seed Swap of the year. Either please bring any unwanted seeds to swap with something different or leave a donation which will go to The Heritage Seed Library. Garden Organic have as usual donated a range of mainly heritage seeds. Please don't forget to visit the Community Cafe to meet and share with friends a cup of Fairtrade tea or coffee and delicious homemade cake.

Don't forget, if you want to raise anything with the Town Council or Powys CC, County Councillor Beverley Baynham and Councillor Bennett will be on hand during the morning in the Norman Raey Room to answer your questions.

Wednesday 6th February - Sharpp Chart is back...."Eating the Planet: Rethinking our food production" at 7.30pm, Assembly Rooms, with Helen Hamilton, Planning Consultant, member of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, and the Environmental Law Foundation. All welcome.

Wednesday 6th February - consultation / drop-in at Presteigne Library 1 to 3pm - see above.

Friday 8th February - Lingen Flix presents 'The Children Act' 12A British drama starring: Emma Thompson, Stanley Tucci. As her marriage crumbles, a High Court judge must decide a case involving a teenage boy who is refusing a blood transfusion on religious principle. *We all make choices - hers makes history.* Adult £5/child £3.50 Refreshments Book a seat: [01544 267736](tel:01544267736)

Saturday 9th February - MBA presents "Me & My Friends". Assembly Rooms 8pm. These talented musicians play soulful, poignant and gloriously danceable music, including vintage Ghanaian highlife, Jamaican roots and Afro-Brazilian folk. They perform with an infectious energy and the result is highly original and genre-defying. *'A sublime fusion that combines pastoral dreaminess with the heat of reggae, highlife and Afrobeat sounds'* - *Songlines Magazine*. £12 from the Workhouse & wegottickets.com

Wednesday 13th February - Quiz Night @ The Bowls Club. Pub quiz with a twist. Teams of 4. £2pp. Bar, refreshments. Prizes. Text Terry 07766 097600 or email presteignedogman@icloud.com to book your table.

Thursday 14th February - Chatterbrook WI "Compatibility in Handwriting" a presentation by Anne Cummings. 7.30pm Memorial Hall. A Valentine's Special - visitors and new members very welcome !

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