

Community News

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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.

Welcome back to Courtyard Antiques who plan to open at the old Rowan Tree shop in the High Street on 23rd March with an official opening on 1st April. Good to have you back, Andy !!

Special Offer at the Hat Shop for Mothering Sunday 31st March - special menu - 3 courses for £19.50 - with flowers for all the mums !

Have you already discovered Presteigne Freegle?downsizing or having a clear-out?....do your unwanted - but still useful - items need new homes?....or are you looking for something? Freegle helps people give, and get, things for free in their local community. It is the UK's biggest and friendliest free online re-use network with over 2.7 million members. Our local group is Presteigne Freegle with over 2,800 members, primarily serving communities within 15 miles of Presteigne, so including Kington, Knighton, New Radnor etc. It's FREE to join, FREE to use, and everything on it is FREE. And it's really simple to use: * post an OFFER message describing an item * other members see it and reply to you *you choose who to give it to * they collect from you. Simples ! Or you can post a WANTED message.

Join now at www.ilovefreegle.org/presteigne

Swifts should be returning in late April/May from their winter bases in Malawi, Tanzania, Congo, South Africa. Can you buy them a present and put up a nesting box ready to welcome them back?

Property repairs often result in the nooks and crannies under roof tiles and eaves being sealed up causing a loss of nesting sites. Get your Swift nesting boxes from the Men's Shed - only £15 (they make other nesting boxes & bird tables too - see item below). For info and to order call 01544 232750.

Have you lost a bike or had one 'borrowed' ? Another bike has been dumped on Went's Meadow, this time thrown in the hedge on the pool side of the allotment car park. The bike has been rescued. If you think it's yours, please contact Nick on 07966 982061.

Raise money for Guide Dogs ! by recycling any brand of crisp packets at 46 Wine Bar in the High Street. Drop off your empty crisp packets anytime during opening hours (n.b. no pretzel, popcorn or meat snack bags or Pringles tubes please). **Well done to Sam and the Wine Bar for promoting this!**

Knighon Men's Shed is a registered charity that aims to address isolation issues in men by providing a friendly environment for men to meet, make new friends, offer help and support to one another and join together in communal projects. This not only give them a feeling of purpose but also helps the wider community in offering access to a variety of services and expertise. We have a fully fitted joinery workshop and the guys meet every Monday and Wednesday between 10am and 2pm at Teme Mill, Station Yard, Knighton LD7 1DT. We make a range of products that we sell at our premises and have recently manufactured 15 geo cache boxes that are positioned along Offas Dyke footpath and 20 swift boxes that have been sold by the Presteigne Swift Society to encourage the dwindling swift population. **We are holding an Open Day at the Shed On Saturday 23rd March 2019** where we will be operating our tool sharpening and

renovation service and selling our wares. Anyone can bring their garden tools in for sharpening ready for the summer's work. Light refreshments will be available. Do please join us at The Men's Shed !!

Community Orchard Pruning: a message from Emma *"...thanks to all who turned out on Sunday 24th for the pruning of our community orchard. About 20 people pruned away under the guidance of Dani Davies from Skyborry Cider and in just a couple of hours managed to give all the trees on Went's Meadow a 'hair-cut'. Here's hoping for a bumper crop of fruit and for the same glorious weather again next year!"*

Picture Framing in Presteigne is back! Having recovered from prolonged cancer treatment, Paul Taylor GCF (a Fine Art Trade Guild Commended Framer) is once again offering a picture framing service in Presteigne. Established in 2003, Paul frames Fine Art, Photographs, Memorabilia and all types of Needlework with the utmost care. Based in the heart of Presteigne in Broad Street, INTAFRAME is well placed to serve the whole local community. Please ring Paul's mobile [07703 604925](tel:07703604925). For further information visit www.intaframe.com

The Town Clerk has advised there is a grant available to small peer support groups through Mind Cymru, called Side by Side. It's restricted to groups that have no paid workers at all, and it doesn't matter if you have no structured organisation and bank account. Money, up to £250, will be paid directly by Mind. The money can be spent on equipment, venue or materials. If you have contact with a group who might want to apply, please have them email us on pacdg@icloud.com and we'll put them in touch with others in Presteigne who are applying, as a small amount of training is involved and it makes sense for this to be done jointly.

A message from Gaby...The Judge's Lodging is finally in the hands of the Community...but work is needed before it opens at Easter. St David's Day celebrations usually mean an additional something in Presteigne - the opening for the season of its multi award-winning museum. But this year, something is afoot - the doors are still shut. Do not worry - the building, its dedicated staff and volunteers are still all fine, working hard behind the scenes for a 2019 opening for the Easter holidays.

It is just that something very significant for them has just happened...at last, The Judge's Lodging is in the hands of the community, following a long process of transfer from Powys County Council ownership to that of a charitable trust - The Judge's Lodging Trust Ltd. It's a wonderful asset for Presteigne - a grade 2* listed early 1800s house, packed with original artefacts, and housing the Presteigne Community Collection.

Many people will remember the painstaking 1997 restoration that opened the building up to the public, revealing its original décor and gas lighting, dining and sitting rooms, bedrooms, kitchens and courtroom. So much at the Judge's Lodging embodies the heritage of Presteigne as the commercial/social hub of Radnorshire. The asset transfer was initiated by Powys County Council in 2013 as its budget decreased. Even at that point, Powys was failing to keep up with the building repairs needed. The Lodging's managers and trustees had to decide whether to take it on or to risk it being wound down and closed by the local authority. It has been a difficult process to complete the transfer but it is now done.

With support from the Welsh Government, work is starting to upgrade the audio experience for visitors and create a new welcome area and shop. In April, work will start on the building's roof, making it sound for the future and then repainting the front - what the staff are calling 'it's having a hair do and facial!'

The building's manager, Gaby Rivers, has been looking after this historic gem since its opening to the public and is truly excited about the future "It's exciting, challenging and scary - probably in equal measures! We're proud of its achievements of the last 21 years and will work to build on these - we aim to keep up the fun levels!"

"There are indeed many challenges to face, to take The Judge's Lodging forward to its rightful place as a developing, living part of Radnorshire again and the next couple of years are critical to securing a working, living future for the Lodging and we hope people will support us in this journey into a new future" says Diane Gwilt, Chair of The Judge's Lodging Trust, when not doing her day job as Keeper of Collection Services for the National Museum Wales.

If you want to be involved with the The Judge's Lodging, there are plenty of volunteering opportunities – they could really do with extra pairs of hands to help with visitor welcome and services, or keeping the house and gardens up to scratch. The volunteer team is a growing, enthusiastic body and everyone is welcome. Either talk directly to Gaby or email volunteering@judgeslodging.org.uk if you are interested in getting involved.

Learn another language.....have fun with Simple Signing. Free Taster Wed 27th March 6 - 7pm at The Barley Mow, Hereford St., Presteigne. Followed by a course of 6 sessions, 1 hour a week, £30. Time, dates and venue to be arranged. Easier communication for everyone, of all ages, including those with hearing loss, autism, or dementia, and also carers, family and friends. A simple system of signing, combining different methods. Tutor Katie Evans. See you there or for more information, contact Rolly 01544 260766 or Kate 01544 267227

Sunday 17th March - Craft Activities Afternoon @ Walton Hall from 2 to 4pm. Free Entry. Try your hand at all types of craft – or just bring your craft with you. For more details tel: 01544 350511

Wednesday 20th March - Evergreen Club Trip to Three Cocks (The Old Railway Line Garden Centre).

Depart Norton 9.50am, Presteigne 10am. £10pp. Call Judi for information/booking 01544 267420

Friday 22nd March - MBA presents " Terence Blacker" who returns to The Assembly Rooms fresh from the success of his critically-acclaimed new CD 'Enough About Me". Whether finger picking his guitar or strumming a ukele, his gently humorous sketches are witty and touching. A delight in every way - precise and with compassion - a rare delicacy to be able to combine expert satire with the longing of humanity. 8pm. Tickets £10 from the Workhouse and www.wegotickets.com

Saturday 23rd March - Don't Go Into The Cellar presents "The Singular Exploits of Sherlock Holmes" at The Judge's Lodging. Take a step back in time - to Baker Street and beyond. 7.30pm tickets £12.

Limited space so get yours early !

Saturday 23rd March - Zani Lady's Belle Brocante, St Andrew's Church Hall. 10am-3pm 07968 842219

Saturday 23rd March - Open Day at the Men's Shed. See item above.

Wednesday 27th March - Learn Signing - FREE taster day. See item above.

Friday 29th March - Presteigne Screen presents "Heal The Living". 8pm at The Assembly Rooms.

France/Germany 2016 103mins 15. Two families are thrown together by tragedy, this time on opposite sides of a heart-donor crisis - an exuberant young teenage surfer at first revels in his skills and the delights of first love, while a middle-aged former musician slowly comes to terms with her degenerative heart condition.

Saturday 30th March - Machaut and the Magic of the Medieval. A Workshop/Dinner/Recital at The Assembly Rooms by Elizabeth Gutteridge, tutor and live loop recital performer. Promoted by Border Marches Early Music Forum. See www.bmemf.org.uk for more information and to book.

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