

Community News

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an information service from the Presteigne Area
Community Development Group PACDG

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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** - or collar one of the Steering Committee in the street and tell us what's on your mind. You can also leave a written message at the Library for us - remember to include your name and a contact telephone number !

We're happy to help publicise community and charity activities and events (but only for events in the immediate Presteigne area) - email pacdg@icloud.com

A Christmas message from the Mayor of Presteigne & Norton, James Tennant Eyles.....2016

has been the usual eventful year with many popular community events such as the Street Party for the Queen's Birthday in June, the wonderful Carnival and party on Went's Meadow in July, the internationally renowned Classic Music Festival in August, and the Vintage Sports Car Club Rally in October. The year will be rounded off by a great Christmas Fair shortly in the High Street. These events and the many other attractions in and around the Town mean that Presteigne & Norton is a wonderful place to live and visit. Accommodation providers report an excellent season.

Presteigne & Norton Town Council has been successful with a number of projects for the Community this year. It has part-funded and taken over the new Multi Use Games Area and adjacent football field at Went's Meadow. It has successfully obtained grant funding to increase the size of the car park at the allotments, and to install some new equipment at the Wilson Terrace playground. It has part-funded the installation of a defibrillator in Norton and restored two of the benches in the village. It continues to support many organisations in Presteigne and Norton with annual grants.

Overshadowing all this good news, there remains the very serious concern about the future of many of the assets and services in our community, and all across the county, due to the impact of government cutbacks. The Town Council is in ongoing negotiation with Powys County Council to try and find ways to take over assets and preserve services such as our Day Centre, the Library, the Youth Club, Community Support, the cemetery, and a host of other services and facilities. I remain hopeful that the County Council will support the Town Council in its efforts and that these services will be saved.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all in Presteigne and Norton a very happy Christmas and the very best for 2017

More news from the Town Council and the Playground Group...

The Town Clerk has reported that, in the Tesco Bags of Help grant award, we came third in the vote, thanks to everyone who voted ! The TC will therefore receive a grant of £8000 for the Little City climbing frame unit which it is hoped will be installed in the Spring.

The Playground Group themselves met recently with the Mayor and Town Clerk, along with someone from the company supplying the new climbing frame. They now have some idea of how much equipment costs and how much they need to fundraise for. They are having a table at the Christmas Street Fayre on Friday 9th selling cakes and biscuits, and a quiz night is being held in the Royal Oak on Tuesday 20th December. Money raised will go to the playground fund. Future events for next year are also being discussed.

News from the Gardening and Daffodil groups....

As part of the longer-term project to put Presteigne back on the map as a tourist daffodil-centre, the Daffodil group has recently purchased two large troughs and planted them up with old heritage variety daffodils to go on the Judge's Lodging railings.

If any of you have memories from Presteigne's heyday as a specialist daffodil growing area in the 50s and 60s (before the removal of the railway put paid to the trade) and especially if you have knowledge of the old daffodil fields and whether any surviving patches of heritage daffodils remain, then do please get in touch. Email us on pacdg@icloud.com and we'll put you in contact with the group.

In the meantime, as well as their efforts in the Shoppers Carpark and at The Scallions, the guerrilla gardeners have been planting donated mixed variety daffodil bulbs in three areas of town to provide an extra splash of colour in the Spring - well done everyone involved !

In the Spring, the Daffodil group will be undertaking a survey of Presteigne and Norton to record and map areas of daffodil planting with the aim of increased planting of both ordinary varieties to brighten up the town and to identify suitable areas for planting the old heritage varieties. More on this in a few months time.

New housing update....

We've just heard from the Town Clerk that work on the new Housing Association development on Knighton Road opposite Wente's Meadow, seems to be further delayed and will not now restart until January, with a completion date of sometime in February. All very frustrating for those people waiting to move in !

And in case you hadn't already heard, the newspapers are reporting (confirmed by the Town Council) that Outline Planning Permission has been granted by the County Council for four new houses in the Clatterbrune House area, despite the original application for six dwellings having been opposed by the Town Council. Full details are available on the PCC planning portal ref. P/ 2016/0128 and 0137

Comb-binding machine and combs for loan...

PACDG has recently been given a heavy-duty comb binding machine and supply of combs. This is available for (free) loan to any local group or organisation needing to bind documents for any reason. Just email us on pacdg@icloud.com.

Looking for part-time daytime employment ? John Beddoes needs exam invigilators

The post of exam invigilator for the John Beddoes Campus in 2017 will suit people who feel a sense of responsibility for today's young people and are able to work flexible daytime hours, and carries an hourly rate of £8.25ph. Full training will be provided and working hours negotiated in advance for each exam period.

Applications initially please to The Headteacher Mr G Harkness, Newtown High School, Dolfor Road, Newtown, Powys SY16 1JE. For further information call the school on 01686 626304. The posts are subject to DBS and PCCC Pre-employment checks.

Success with obtaining funds for the War Memorial, but volunteers now needed....

Really good news in that the Town Council's application for a grant for maintenance & restoration of the War Memorial has been approved. The 90% grant has been awarded by the Powys War Memorials Project and the remaining 10% will be met by the Town Council. Part of the project encourages volunteers from the community to come forward to take the opportunity to learn how to care for and carry out on-going cleaning etc.

If you could spare a little time to do this, please contact the Town Clerk on 01547528575, or email pntc@hotmail.com. It is expected that a short session will be held in the Spring once the current restoration work is complete

Allotments Car Park has been enlarged...

The work to extend the car park at the allotments/Lower Went's Meadow has been completed with a grant obtained by the Town Council from the Big Lottery 'Awards for All' programme.

Ramblings in Radnorshire....

A new issue of this occasional but very interesting newsletter produced by Mollie and Tom Hooper from Cascob is now available on sale for just £2 at the Rowan Tree on Presteigne High Street. If you haven't read this before, do try it !

How to contact NHS Direct Wales....don't call 111....call 0845 46 47 !

NHS Direct Wales (part of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust) provides an invaluable 24 hour telephone and internet health advice service for non-urgent medical matters - useful when you may have to wait many days for a GP appointment ! It also provides confidential advice and provides helplines on matters that you may be reluctant to discuss with your GP for some reason. See www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk.

However, do note that the telephone number for NHS Direct Wales is 0845 46 47 (and not 111 or 112 !). Thanks to Chris for alerting us to this - we certainly weren't aware either.

A message from Anna in our Neighbourhood Policing Team...

If you have any items you would like security marked or would like any crime prevention advice/ leaflets, please let us know and we will be more than happy to assist. You can email Anna on anna.bowen@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk

Please put your bins away....

The Town Council has received quite a few complaints that too many recycling bins are left out for several days following collection, creating an untidy street scene. While acknowledging that on occasions this is unavoidable, the Town Council is asking residents to put their bins away as soon as practically possible after collection.

An update on the protection of community assets...

At its meeting in November, and as referred to by the Mayor, the Town Council resolved to press on hard in negotiating with Powys County Council to take on buildings and to protect services in the community such as the Assembly Rooms and Library, the Old School and Youth Club, the Drill Hall and Community Support, and the Cemetery, together with a new cemetery extension. We're told there will be a community-wide consultation on the Town Council's proposals, including an open day to explain in more detail, to answer questions and to seek support from the community, and PACDG will be fully involved in this process.

LOCAL EVENTS IN PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON AREA OVER THE NEXT WEEKS

TODAY !!! Thursday 8th, Friday 9th and Saturday 10th December - the Presteigne panto "Well Oi'll be Buzzard" 7.30pm at The Memorial Hall. Tickets from Winnies £6 adults, £3 concessions, £15 family ticket.

Friday 9th December - Presteigne Christmas Street Fayre 4 to 7pm with Santa's Grotto, street entertainment, food and drink, stalls with all sorts of goodies, tombola, raffle, bottle stall and much, much more. Support your town and join the fun !

Friday 9th December - Book Club. 2pm Presteigne Library, all welcome. This month - Kate Adie "The Kindness of Strangers"

Friday 9th December - Baptist Church Christmas Concert "The Bells Ring Out" featuring the Clock Tower Bell Ringers. 6.30pm. All welcome. Free entry with retiring collection

Friday 9th December - "Woolies and Wellies" 7pm at St Mary's, Pilleth. Christmas music with the Radnor Valley Band, readings and carols for all to sing. Mince pies and refreshments. Parking by the church or at Pilleth Court (then walk to the church). £5 retiring collection.

Saturday 10th December - Presteigne Local Food Market & Community Café, 9am to 1pm at the Memorial Hall for all your Christmas goodies (n.b. change from usual date for December only)

Saturday 10th December - The Judge's Lodging 'Ghost Stories by Candlelight'. 7.30pm, tickets £10 available from the Judge's Lodging, either by calling in person (weekends only during December) from 10am to 4pm, telephone 01544 260650 or email presteignetic@btconnect.com.

'Dark nights and bitterly cold weather, flickering flames and strange shapes in the shadows! Christmas is the best time of year for ghost stories and, to celebrate, master-storyteller Dr. Nicolas Grimoire is making a return visit to The Judge's Lodging with an unrivalled collection of Gothic Tales to chill the blood'.

Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th December - 2 to 7pm Christmas Sale of Handmade Glass in the glass studio at Hares Green Farm in Norton LD8 2EW. Glass designed and handmade by Armel Desrues.

Sunday 11th December - "The Manchester Carols" concert with the St Andrew's Singers, led by Marion Rowlatt with Jeremy Fisher on piano, 6.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Presteigne. Entry £10 on the door (£5 students). Ring Marion 01544 260 466

Monday 12th December - Poetry @ The Rad with Adam Horovitz and Liz Lefroy. Upstairs Sitting Room, Radnorshire Arms, 7.30pm. £5 (£2 students) 01544 267 418

Wednesday 14th December - Christmas Quiz Night at the Bowls Club. 7.30pm for 8pm start, Presteigne Bowls Social Club. Christmas-themed general knowledge pub quiz. All welcome. Teams of up to 4. £2pp includes mince pies. Prizes & Win Big on Backwards Bingo. Book on 07766 097600 or presteignedogman@icloud.com

Wednesday 14th December - Floral Arts Society Workshop with Sue Hamer, 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall. Make a wreath, a garland or a table centrepiece. Visitors welcome £5 or join P&BFAS and attend meetings free.

Thursday 15th December - AGM of The Memorial Hall Committee, 11am. All welcome

Friday 16th December - Presteigne Football Club Christmas Party with 'Soul Supply' from 7pm at the Clubhouse. £10 incl. nibbles. Contact Heidi on 07967 586556 or Karl on 07920 837937 for more information

Friday 16th December - Presteigne Screen film "Eye in the Sky" starring Helen Mirren. 8pm at The Assembly Rooms £4.50 (£3 students)

Tuesday 20th December - Pub Quiz raising funds for the Wilson Terrace Playground Fund. The Royal Oak, 7.30pm start. Teams of four £2 pp.

Tuesday 20th December - "Raising the Rafters" a celebration of Midwinter. 7.30pm at St Michael's, Discoed. A Christmas Concert by Whitton Voices led by Sue Harris with revelry from Benji and George Kirkpatrick. £8 (children free) seasonal refreshments included - all proceeds to the UNICEF Children of Syria Appeal. Booking strongly recommended tel. 01547 550158

Tuesday 20th December - Christmas Music at Knill. With Ruth Watson on oboe, Nick Benda on oboe and Leila Basletic on organ. 7pm. £5 on the door includes light refreshments. In aid of Knill Church.

Feel free to pass this on to friends in the area and ask them to let us know their email address so we can add them to the distribution. If you can help spread the word and publicise this on Facebook/Twitter as well that would be brilliant !

You're receiving the Community News because you previously requested to be kept informed or have shown an interest in PACDG and town activities. If you prefer NOT to receive further emails please email REMOVE to pacdg@icloud.com