

Community News - Issue 37

an information service from PACDG - the Presteigne Area Community Development Group

Always wanted an allotment ?.....a vacant allotment plot has come available - contact the Town Clerk (Tracey) for more information or go to the application form on the Town Council pages of the Town website. Tracey Price, Presteigne and Norton Town Council tel. 01547 528575 mob. 07866 815622

There will be detailed feedback on the Assets Transfer consultation in the next issue, but suffice to say that the response rate was good, the results positive, and three lucky online respondents won cash prizes of £50, £25 and £10 !!

On the 28th February **The Circle celebrated 5 successful years of being part of our community**. A party was held with games, fun and laughter and lots to eat and drink.

The Circle - encouraging well-being and quality of life for those who may be more isolated in our community; sharing and caring. A weekly drop-in is held at the Youth Centre, Hereford St. Presteigne on Tuesdays between 9.30am and 1.30pm. Meet old friends, make new friends. Refreshments and activities, advice and support. All Welcome. Transport can be provided. For further information contact Presteigne and Norton Community Support on 01544 267961

Did you know ?

....at the Library there is a battery recycling box just inside the entrance - a collection box for used postage stamps raising funds for the Day Centre - and the Library keeps a stock of food waste bag rolls for your kitchen waste caddies.

....you can pay in cash and cheques at our Post Office for most banks. If paying in cash, you need to present your bank card and the PO makes an electronic money transfer direct to your bank. If paying in a cheque, you need to take and fill out your bank account deposit slip and the PO will use a special cheque deposit envelope to send it directly to your bank.

Some recent Dyfed Powys Police DPCM messages....

(a) Please be vigilant regarding any suspicious activity in relation to old style 4x4's/Landrover Defenders as there have been a spate of thefts over the last weekend in other Police force areas. Make sure your vehicle is locked and secure at all times. Pass this information on to family members and friends.

(b) Officers are appealing for information in relation to damage caused to a vehicle whilst parked on Pound Lane in Presteigne between the 24/02/2017 and the 26/02/2017. If you have any information relating to this crime, please contact PC 851 Jones on 101 (there was another case recently of a car being damaged in Scotleton Street, Presteigne)

(c) Officers are appealing for information in relation to the theft of sheep from a farm in the Presteigne area. If you have any information relating to this crime or you notice any suspicious vehicles and/or persons in the area who you think may be associated with the theft of sheep, please contact Presteigne NPT on 101 or email presteigneNPT@dyfed-powys.pnn.police.uk

Did you know that speeding drivers will soon face much higher fines and stricter penalties ? On April 24th 2017, new guidelines set by the Sentencing Council will come into effect in the UK. Those caught driving at more than 101mph in a 70mph speed limit could be disqualified for up to 56 days and get a fine of between 125% and 175% of their relevant weekly income.

Although the motorway fines have taken the headlines, drivers are most likely to be affected by the new fines and penalties on slower roads. If you are caught at between 31 and 40mph in a 30mph zone you will get three penalty points and a fine of between 25% and 75% of your weekly income. Currently many drivers get away without points and a fine, by paying for a Speed Awareness course.

Why is the speeding law being changed? According to the Justice Department, the number of speeding offences has increased 44 per cent in the last five years. The new sentencing structure has been designed to produce a sufficient deterrent to reduce the number of speeding drivers.

Will other laws change? As well as the speeding fines, drivers are set to face much tougher penalties for using a mobile phone behind the wheel from March 2017. The previous penalty of three points and a £100 fine has been doubled to six points and £200.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO TOMORROW Saturday 18th March ???

Tony McManus, hailed by critics as "the finest Celtic guitarist in the world," comes to the Assembly Rooms in Presteigne. 8pm start. Tickets £12 from Courtyard Antiques and The Workhouse in Presteigne and online at <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/387160>

Presteigne Fire Fighters are holding a charity car wash at Presteigne Recycling Centre from 9:30am to 1:00pm for the Firefighters charity. Please support them.

Presteigne Bowling Club's Easter Bingo at the Memorial Hall. Bar. Prize and Cash Bingo (incl. 43" TV, £100 cash, Easter Eggs, Hampers, Wine & Spirits, and lots lots more). Doors open for 6.30pm for 7.45pm start. All welcome !

OTHER EVENTS TO COME.....

On **Friday 24th March Presteigne Screen presents "American Honey"** UK/USA 2016 - 163mins - rated 15. 7.30pm for 8pm start, Assembly Rooms. An outsider's take on that American classic, the road movie.

On **Sunday 26th March MBA presents Antonioni's classic film "L'Avventura**, This film by Michelangelo Antonio at first met with derision, then praise and astonishing success. In 1961, critics voted it best film of the year. Along with a

handful of similarly striking films it had an enormous influence on other filmmakers. The film editor, Tony Lawson will place the film in context and then screen this classic. Presteigne Assembly Rooms 7pm. Tickets on the door £6. Bar
On **Monday, 27th March, 2017.....Open Day at the new Walker's Meadow development** (Knighton Road opposite the tennis courts and scout hut). Pop by anytime between 4p.m. and 7p.m. An opportunity to look inside some of Mid-Wales Housing's newly-built homes prior to occupancy and to meet the people involved in the development. Sensible shoes must be worn. Light refreshments will be available. EVERYONE WELCOME

On Tuesday 28th March, The Royal Oak will be holding a quiz night in aid of the Town Twinning Association. 7:45pm start for teams of up to 4 people. £2 per person with Royal Oak meal vouchers for the winning team.

On Friday 31st March 7.30pm, Lingen Flix are showing 'A United Kingdom' (12A) Biography/Drama/Romance
Set against the breath-taking backdrops of the African savannah and period London, this is a fascinating and important true story. Seretse meets and falls in love with Ruth in 1940s London. All's well and good except he's the black heir to the throne of Botswana, and she's the white daughter of a salesman. The true story takes us between England and Botswana and shows the tension and outcry of the inhabitants of both nations, and the call for Seretse to stand down or divorce his new bride. One of the greatest love stories. Adult £5/child £3.50 Refreshments. Book a seat: 01544 267736

News from the High Street....

A message from the Duck's Nest....we thought you would like to know about a whole weekend of upcoming Events...
Friday 24th March - Vegetarian and Organic Wine-tasting Menu. A fully Organic evening at the Ducks Nest with Mark Hughes from Presteigne's Real Wine Company and a great selection of organic wines

Saturday 25th March - Candle-lit dinner with WWF in aid of climate change awareness - we will be hosting a candle-lit evening and the lights in the restaurant will be off!

Sunday 26th March - Mothering Sunday Brunch

Some bad news - sad to say goodbye to Candy & Sam with the closing down of Serendipity. Wonder who will take over the shop now ?

But some very good news - No.46 Wine Bar has been undergoing a renovation and will - hopefully ! - be re-opening under new ownership on Saturday 25th March. Further info to follow.

Email scam warning from a Presteigne resident.... I thought it might be helpful to some community members to be made aware of an email scam that is being sent all around the UK. It tries to draw the recipient into believing they are being offered a Council Tax rebate. Although many people would spot it as a scam straight away, some of the details may convince others that it is genuine. The details are as follows:

Hello.....(recipient's email address).....

A refund was issued for the amount of £331.04 on 2/3/17.

You should receive the refund in your bank account after you confirm your details in the FORM provided in this email.

Regards

Miss Rourke, Revenues Adviser council.tax@council.tax.gov.uk. Unity Partnership Limited 0161 770 6623

Registered in England No. 89464322. Registered Office: Tempsford Hall, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG20 2BB

This of course does NOT come from Powys County Council (I have checked with them), and YOU MUST NOT CLICK ON THE FORM - and certainly not fill in any details. Please help by circulating this information to others.

Friends of the Library meeting, 15 March 2017.....a report by Sharon and Hania

Wednesday's Open Meeting about the formation of a Friends group to support our Library was attended by 27 people.

Some background information was given about the position of the Library for the year 2017-2018. Just to clarify this, Presteigne and Norton Town Council (PNTC) will be funding 50% of the running costs of the Library, whilst Powys County Council (PCC) will be funding the remaining 50% of the running costs and also will be funding 100% of the staff costs (which is 12 hours per week of a professional librarian). **It was appreciated that PNTC had stepped forward to support the Library which is a service highly valued by many in the community.**

There was a wide ranging discussion which resulted in the decision to form the Friends of Presteigne Library as an independent group to represent the interests of the whole community with respect to the library and to liaise with both PNTC and PCC about the provision of a library service to Presteigne and Norton.

Moving forward...the Friends group will need to be established more formally, with a constitution and a small steering group comprising some elected officers, the volunteer coordinators and others either with specific roles (e.g. fund raising) or with a more general remit. In the meantime, and working towards this, it would be helpful if there was a small group of volunteers to step forward to form a working party to steer the group leading up to the formalities of the adoption of the constitution and beyond. A number of people at the meeting indicated some interest in this, but more are needed. If you are interested in helping, please email presteignelibraryfriends@gmail.com or leave a note in the Library.

Additionally, one or two people are needed to work on writing a draft constitution, based on model constitutions and informed by the discussion in the meeting. One person has already volunteered to work on this and is looking for a couple of people to join him. If you are interested in helping, please email presteignelibraryfriends@gmail.com or leave a note in the Library. We would like to thank Mid Border Arts for the use of the room.

Sharon Hall Shipp, Hania Bienkowska-Baker

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) - mail pacdg@icloud.com

Feel free to tweet or forward this to others. If you would prefer not to receive further issues of the News, please email us with REMOVE and we'll immediately take you off the the distribution list.