

Community News

Issue 41 - April 2017 - TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

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

The Presteigne & Norton Town Council PNTC is made up of thirteen community councillors - four to represent the Norton Ward, and nine for the (Presteigne) Town Ward. All seats are up for election this year, and voting will take place on Thursday 4th May in the Memorial Hall, between 7am and 10pm. Nominations for the PNTC closed on 4th April and nineteen people put themselves forward, three for the Norton Ward and sixteen for the Town Ward (one of whose nominations was deemed invalid). As only three candidates put themselves forward for the Norton ward, they will be elected unopposed.

To aid in the election process and so that we all have a better idea of who is standing, and what they stand for, we contacted all candidates (even the three unopposed Norton candidates) and asked them to provide a thumbnail election address - see below listed in alphabetical order.

(Note that three people nominated for the Town Ward - Garry Banks, Beverley Baynham, and Wendy Toomey) - have also been nominated to represent the Presteigne Electoral Division in the Powys County Council Elections, also on the 4th May - see previous issue no. 40 of the Community News)

PACDG have arranged an Election Hustings with all available candidates, on Friday 21st April in the Memorial Hall from 6.30pm to 7.30pm - please put this date in your diary, this will be your chance to listen to the candidates and ask your questions. Look out for posters around the time confirming arrangements.

TOWN WARD

Rose Bamford (The Workhouse, Presteigne) - *I moved back to Presteigne 11 years ago, and opened The Workhouse Gallery and Cafe with my parents, I have been involved in various community groups, helping to organise Sheep Music in 2009, and volunteering for Tour de Presteigne, the Carnival, the Fireworks and Pantomime. These events and others are a big part of what makes Presteigne special, I feel very lucky to have grown up here and I hope some of my experience will be useful to the town if I am elected.*

Garry Banks (Hereford Street, Presteigne) - *see Garry's write-up for the County Council elections in separate Newsletter.*

Beverley Baynham (Kings Court, Presteigne) - *I have been a Town Councillor for the last 9 years and I wish to continue this role. I'm 37, married, with 2 children who attend Presteigne Primary and John Beddoes. I am a local girl raised at Home Farm, Norton. I attended Presteigne Primary & John Beddoes Schools and Coleg Powys. I have worked at the East Radnorshire Day Centre since 2001, am passionate about our community and would like to continue to work hard for you.*

Rory Bennett (Clatterbrune, Presteigne) - *I was born and bred in Presteigne and have been lucky enough to grow up experiencing first-hand the overwhelming sense of community that thrives in Presteigne. I run my own local business and have been heavily involved in Sheep Music over the years and more recently Presteigne Carnival and Fireworks. I would relish the opportunity to really get involved with the Town Council and to be your voice on the things that matter most.*

Sharon Hall Shipp (Clatterbrune, Presteigne) - *Since moving here in 2013, I've become very involved with town life. I worked on the Community Action Plan, I volunteer at the recycling site, and am secretary of Transition Presteigne. I'm currently helping to set up the Friends of the Library group. I also take part in a range of social activities in the town. I've worked as a researcher and lecturer and have a wide range of experience to bring to the Council, including working with planning documents.*

Colin Kirkby (Ford Street, Stapleton) - *Since moving to Presteigne in 1980 I have been a Town Councillor for the last 30 years. I have been a proactive community councillor initiating the acquisition for the community the WithyBeds, Went's Meadow, Silia Woods and Eddie's Meadow. I set up the Presteigne Recycling schemes in 1988 and latterly the Zero Waste project. I am an active and dedicated member of the council and would continue, if elected, to represent the needs of all the community, young and old.*

Pamela Linnett (Castle Road, Presteigne) - *I am standing for council because I love Presteigne. I have lived and worked here for nearly thirty years, am now working part-time at The Salty Dog so have spare time to work with council to keep Presteigne the vibrant town that it is. Being on the High Street I get to know how people feel, what matters, and what we can do. Please vote for me - let's all keep Presteigne buzzing.*

Trevor Owens (Pen Offa, Norton) - *I have lived in the area all my life, am married to Barbara and work for the BBC. I was chairman of Presteigne Cricket Club for whom I played for 30 years, and am an ex-secretary and player with Presteigne St Andrews FC. I have a 40-year association with the Young Farmers Club and was formerly County Chairman of Radnor YFC. I believe I have the local knowledge and drive to help ensure the Town Council defends the interests of local people.*

Fiona Preece (Greenfield Road, Presteigne) - *I originally lived in Norton, attending Whitton School, until my family moved to Presteigne and I continued my education at John Beddoes. My first job was with Walters in Knighton, then PCC for 21 years until 2016. I currently work in local hotels. I'm married with two children, and have been involved with Scouting in Presteigne for 12 years. I was co-opted onto the Council and served as a councillor since 2013. If elected I shall serve the community as best I can in these challenging times, seeking to maintain and improve local services.*

Owen Rimington (The Workhouse, Presteigne) - *I was born in Presteigne and feel very much indebted to the community I was raised in. I still feel inspired by experiences I had at John Beddoes, in Presteigne Scouts, at Landscape Studios and Sheep Music (to name but a few). Since moving back five years ago I have become a Sheep Music Trustee and have worked on the Carnival, Pantomime and Fireworks. Presteigne is clearly a wonderful place to live and I would like to help keep it that way.*

Nicholas Rogers (Upper Heath, Presteigne) - *I have lived in Presteigne all of my life. Having attended Presteigne Primary School and John Beddoes School I am now the fourth generation farming our family farm on the outskirts of town. I am passionate about Presteigne and its community, and whilst I think I will be a worthwhile representative for the youth of Presteigne I also feel strongly about doing the best for the community as a whole. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to represent you all on council.*

Margaret Taylor Sanders (Discoed, Presteigne) - *As Chair of Presteigne Area Community Development Group I have already initiated several projects from the Community Action Plan, most recently working closely with the Town Council on delivering the vital Assets and Services Consultation. I am committed to the development of Presteigne and Norton as a self-reliant, sustainable community, which uses its resources and talents wisely for the benefit of all, now and more importantly in the uncertain future. I see Presteigne as 'A Historic Town Getting Ready for the Future'.*

Wendy Toomey (Broadheath Common, Presteigne) - *Getting the Job Done for Presteigne and Norton - Protecting and enhancing what we have loved for generations - Creating jobs from Environmental projects - Promoting Presteigne and Norton as a destination for inward investment - Supporting services for children & pre-school - Defending the most vulnerable people in our community - Encouraging entrepreneurs and young people. It would be a privilege to gain your vote on 4 May. Tell me about your priorities at my Drop-in Surgeries. Email wendyforcouncil@outlook.com tel: [01544 267335](tel:01544267335)*

Lisa Veary (Scottleton Street, Presteigne) - *At the heart of Presteigne is our sense of community. We are a town lucky to have a blend of all ages sharing our town's wonderful public buildings, outdoor spaces, facilities and activities. Since living in Presteigne, my young family & I have experienced a friendliness and understanding between local people and have enjoyed making our family home and working lives here. I would like to give some of my time to our Town Council to assist with its valued work to ensure the continuation of our services and facilities for us, the community to enjoy.*

Mark Williams (Broad Street, Presteigne) - *For 30 years Presteigne has been my home, and where I've been involved in lots of community-related stuff as editor of The Brecon & Radnor Express, as Sheep Music's chairperson, with Broad Sheep magazine and various local societies. So I care hugely about our future which is increasingly threatened by the County Council's withdrawal of key services and am already working to address their stealth-like Local Development Plan which could sap the unique character of the town we love.*

NORTON WARD

Deb Edwards (Mynde Row, Norton) - *Possibly better known locally as Deb the Post due to my long term employment with Royal Mail. My passion for the local community runs deep in my blood, I have been privileged to be born and raised in this beautiful part of the world. There is no personal agenda for being on the Presteigne and Norton town council, only to represent the community and its residents honestly, fairly, and to the best of my ability.*

Chris Ruby (Corte Cottage, Norton) - *I moved to Norton in 1978 with my mother and two children. After completing nurse and midwifery training, I worked as a community midwife in Ludlow. Later I was employed at Swansea University as a Senior Lecturer in Midwifery & Women's Health - before returning to clinical practice as a midwife and nurse in both Powys and Hereford. Having recently retired, I am looking forward to devoting my spare time and energy working for the people of Presteigne & Norton as a town councillor.*

John Wilding (Old Impton, Norton) - *no information provided.*

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 pactdg@icloud.com

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