

# Community News

Issue 42 - April 2017

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

**TONIGHT !!!!! ELECTION HUSTINGS at the Memorial Hall, starts 6.30pm sharp. Organised by PACDG. Candidates for both our Town Council and Powys County Council elections will be there. This is your chance to see and hear the candidates, and ask questions, followed by informal chat with tea and cake.**

**A reminder on unwanted daffodil and narcissi bulbs, and Plant Swap....** please bring bulbs, and any other perennial plants along to the Local Food Market on the 6th May. There will be a collection box at the door. The PACDG Guerrilla Gardeners can make good use of these in brightening up our town. Thank you ! There will also be a Plant Swap - Bring Some/Take Some with proceeds to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust

**Were you at Audrey's on the High Street last Friday ?....** the town was celebrating 50 years of Audrey's shop. What an achievement and commitment to our main shopping street ! Audrey's special day was marked by balloons and a large crowd of residents, effectively closing the High Street for a short while, speeches and a presentation by the Mayor, and was covered by an interview with BBC Radio Hereford & Worcester - see video on the BBC H&W Facebook page, link <https://www.facebook.com/bbcherefordandworcester/videos/1498910026848067/>

**Have you seen the spanking new Noticeboards in the alcove at the Library entrance ?** These were made by Adams Joinery - one for the Town Council to display meeting agenda, minutes and other notices - and one for PACDG to display the latest Community News etc.

**The Presteigne CoT has been revitalised....**at the recent AGM, Leon Abecasis (from The Salty Dog) was appointed as Chair, with Deputy-Chair Pete Mace (Ducks Nest) and David Tennant Eyles as Treasurer. The Chamber of Trade's focus will be on promoting Presteigne and Norton in all ways including the organisation of local community events. Good news !

**News from the Bring Site.....**Presteigne Recycling Site. The Mayor and outgoing Chair of the CoT sent this message and thank-you to Bring Site volunteers: I write to thank you, on behalf of the Chamber of Trade, for your support with this project. The Chamber is tremendously grateful for all your efforts in turning out on an ongoing basis, regardless of rain or shine, to maintain the recycling site in such wonderful condition. You may be interested to know that the Chamber has received a net income, after minor expenses on equipment required, of £1953 for 15/16, £2405.01 for 16/17, and £519.48 for the current year to date. This income has helped to fund the work the Chamber does in supporting the community, such as the Queen's Street Party and the Christmas Fair and particularly in its ability to have funded new Christmas Lights for the Town last year.

Thank you again, most sincerely, for all your hard work. James Tennant-Eyles.

**"Don't miss the bluebells!** The bluebells are out in Silia Wood and looking particularly beautiful against a background of fresh green leaves on the trees. The wood is owned by the Woodland Trust and visitors are welcome. The wood is on a steep slope with many steps so not suitable for those with limited mobility, but you can see the bluebells from the bottom path.

Please resist the temptation to pick them - bluebells look much better in their natural setting and don't last long once picked. The entrance is on the right going up Slough Road about 5 minutes walk from the primary school (very limited parking at the woodland entrance)."

**Great news for Presteigne - a Welsh Government grant provides money for new cycle paths to/from/between Presteigne schools....**In September 2015 Sustrans and Powys CC launched an

initiative to find out what communities would like in terms of cycle routes (these are funded by Welsh Government). Our Town Clerk Tracey Price and Cllr Hilary Marchant met the organisers, and encouraged local residents to fill in the questionnaire. Local teenager Stephanie Seidman test-cycled several local roads and reported back to the council on safety and ease of use; and in 2016 groups from John Beddoes school put forward their suggestions for new cycle routes. Presteigne's enthusiastic response meant our bid was the only one submitted by Powys to Welsh Government - and we've just heard that we have been awarded almost £300,000. The new path will give a safe route for cyclists and walkers going along the bypass from Kings Court to Warden Road, with safe crossing points where needed. Most importantly, work will be done to narrow Slough Road, giving priority to vehicles coming down the hill, and encouraging parents and children to walk or cycle to school rather than clogging up the road with cars. Both schools will receive new bike sheds, and there will be a bike stand at the top of Green End for cyclists going into town.

**Recent DPCM notices.....[a]** Powys Trading Standards have received reports of a Scam telephone call taking place in Powys. The caller claims to be from the Ministry of Justice and tells you that you have only a few days to avoid attending a court hearing and a fine of £5000, but you can avoid this by making a smaller payment to them immediately over the phone. **This is a well-established scam which has no link to the HM Courts System or the Ministry of Justice.** Do not respond to these calls, If someone rings you and asks for financial information over the phone such as your account details or PIN number, don't provide it.

.....[b] On the 06/04/2017, the barn on Wentes Meadow, Presteigne, was damaged by removal of a 6ft length of slating. If you have any information relating to this crime, please contact PC 851 Jones on 101.

**An update on Friends of Presteigne Library.....**after the Open Meeting in March, three people came forward to help form a Steering Group. The group met on 4 April and notes on the discussion have been sent out to the Friends of Presteigne Library mailing list and have been placed in the Library. Please email [presteignelibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:presteignelibraryfriends@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to the list. The Steering Group will concentrate on building up wider support for the library service and encouraging the community to think of new ideas and projects which could form part of the service.

If you would like to join the Steering Group, or have any questions or ideas, please contact us on [presteignelibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:presteignelibraryfriends@gmail.com) or through the librarian.

**Tonight, Friday 21st April 7.30 for for 8pm, Assembly Rooms, Presteigne Screen presents "The Queen of Katwe".** The final film of our 2016-17 season.vDoors open 7:30pm for Bar, Coffee, Tea, Home-baked Cakes. Film starts 8:00pm. USA -124 mins. Rated PG. Touching reality-based tale of an illiterate 9-year-old Ugandan kid, Phiona, who rises from the slums of shantytown Kampala to triumph as a world-class chess player. A real heart-warmer from Disney.

**Wednesday 26th April - Quiz Night @ The Bowls Club.** Monthly general knowledge pub quiz for teams of 4. Only £2 pp. Full bar. Prizes plus WIN BIG at Backwards Bingo. 7.30pm for 8pm start. Text Terry on 07766 097600 or email [presteignedogman@icloud.com](mailto:presteignedogman@icloud.com)to reserve your table.

**Saturday 29th April - Guides Big Breakfast at the Memorial Hall 9am - 11.30am.** Have a full breakfast and help raise money for the Guides

**3-Day Weekend coach trip to York & Harrogate....departs Friday 5th May,** coach leaves Presteigne 7.40am, Knighton 8am, returning home 8pm-ish, staying at the 4-star Fairfield Manor Hotel on outskirts of York. Cost £215 + single supplement of £40. Only six single rooms available so singles book early ! Deposit £75 payable on booking. Contact Jim on 01547 528099.

**Friday 5th May "Don't Make Me Laugh" at Discoed Church 7.30pm,** with Stephen Hollinghurst and Edward Storey. £7 on door (includes tissues and drinks !)

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](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com).

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](mailto: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.