

Community News

Issue 63 - December 2017

an information service from PAC - the Presteigne Area Community Development Group.

Brilliant Panto !!!!.....still laughing, and looking forward to next year already !

Daffodil update....over the past three months or so, some lovely volunteers have planted hundreds of daffodil bulbs around Presteigne & Norton, using bulbs purchased by PAC and the Town Council, and others donated or paid for by residents and local businesses, building on the planting efforts of last year. We'll see the fruits of all that work next Spring !!! Some wild varieties have been planted on The Warden to naturalise....and bulbs have been planted in three specific locations in memory of residents - by the entrance to the Primary School as a tribute to the late Eileen Bradford (Eileen was the caretaker and lollypop lady who died suddenly earlier this year) - by the bench at the Warden Road/Bypass junction in memory of Mrs Dunne - and on the Warden in memory of Simon Arbuthnot.

Please save the stamps from your Christmas cards - there is a collecting box at the Library which raises funds for our Day Centre. Every little helps !! Note that the Day Centre will close on Friday 22nd at 3.30pm and re-open on Tuesday 2nd Jan at 9am.

Christmas Day Lunch.....would you enjoy some company for lunch on Christmas Day? Or maybe you know of someone who may be on their own ? Lynne and Beth invite you to the Methodist Church from 12.30pm onwards. Cost only £5. Transport can be provided if needed. To book or for information call Lynne on 267253 or Beth on 267534, or call into Community Support in the High Street.

....and there's a Christmas Lunch at the Baptist Church on Thursday 14th December. For information, contact Peter Jennings on 01544 388 816

Did You Know?

.....both the Hat Shop Restaurant and the Duck's Nest in Presteigne offer coeliac / gluten-free GF meals on request. All such meals are cooked to order and as standard they also provide vegetarian / lactose-free options. When booking, tell the restaurant if there are any special dietary requirements, restrictions or allergies that they should be aware of, and then ask to speak to the chef before ordering.

.....need your watch battery replaced ? The Warehouse can do this and carries a stock of batteries of all shapes and sizes

.....in case of a minor accident needing nurse treatment there are three Minor Injury Units in our area - Kington MIU at Kington Court 01544 232 333 (8am-8pm excl. PH/BH) - Llandrindod Wells MIU Community Hospital 01597 828753 (usually 24/7 but temporarily closed 12am-7am) - Leominster Community Hospital MIU 01568 614211 (Mon-Frid 8.30am-5.30pm excl. PH/BH). If you're unsure whether to use the MIU or A&E, or to check availability, best call the MIU unit to discuss before traveling.

The Knighton & East Radnor Food Bank is extending its Winter Crisis service to cover residents of Presteigne and surrounding villages initially just for December and January, but may be extended depending on usage and funding. To find out how to help, donate food or money, or use the service, contact Helen Anderson 07731 524058 or visit www.knightonfoodbank.co.uk. You can drop-off food donations in the Presteigne Baptist Church foyer between 10 and 11.30am.

THE SPACEGUARD CENTRE, LLANSHAY LANE, KNIGHTON - What's it all about?

(thanks to Ken Rodmell for this information). It is easy to be complacent about asteroid impacts. The last really big one (Siberia, 1908) destroyed 2,000 square kilometres of virgin forest - about the area of Greater London. The more recent 2013 Chelyabinsk impact was a wake-up call. While not a direct hit, its airburst smashed thousands of windows and caused many injuries.

Spaceguard's role is basically threefold: (1) To participate in the worldwide search for Potentially Hazardous Asteroids. (2) As the *National Near-Earth-Objects Information Centre*, to provide reliable and factual data about PHAs (as opposed to tabloid sensationalism) and (3) To raise awareness of the PHA problem (and what we can do about it) particularly at governmental level.

Work on the Spaceguard observatory expansion continues apace, facilitated largely by public tour admissions, charitable donations and voluntary labour. Public tours last about 90 minutes and take an in-depth look at the PHA problem. *As such the tours require a reasonable attention span and may not be suitable for the very young.* For tour timings, bookings, charges, etc, contact Spaceguard on **01547-520247**.

An excellent YouTube presentation by Spaceguard UK's Director can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJjnr13CTY8>

Wednesday 13th December - Christmas Quiz Night at the Bowls Social Club on Hereford Street. All welcome. 7.30 for 8pm start. Bar tea/coffee. £2.50pp includes sausage rolls and mince pies. Prizes. Win Big at Backwards Bingo. Book for teams of up to four people at presteignedogman@icloud.com or text Terry on 07766 097600

Thursday 14th December - John Beddoes' "Christmas Concert" 6pm, Main Hall.

Tickets £1 on the door. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1888051717874989/>

Friday 15th December - Presteigne Screen presents "Red Turtle" Rated PG.

Assembly Rooms 7.30 for 8pm start. Bar coffee tea home-baked cakes

Saturday 16th December - Christingle at St. Andrew's, Norton 2.30-3.30pm. All invited - children and older-but-young-at-heart to make your own Christingle. All materials provided. Followed by short Christingle service.

Sunday 17th December - Royal Oak Big Christmas raffle. Over 50 prizes with several big Christmas meat hampers, joints of turkey, beef and pork plus many more meat, drink and chocolate related prizes on offer. £1 per go available at the bar. Draw to be held at 1pm. Proceeds from December's meat raffle will go the Primary School PTA.

Tuesday 19th December - Drewie's Christmas Quiz at The Royal Oak **7:45pm**. Teams of up to 4 people - £2 pp. A free pint will be given to the person with the best Christmas jumper! Proceeds to Presteigne Primary School PTA.

Thursday 21st December - Midwinter Celebrations at St Michael's Church, Discoed.

"Songs of Great Cheer" with Whitton Voices and Sue Harris. Merry Music and Wintry Tales with Benji and George Kirkpatrick. Tickets £8 - children free. Raising funds for Help Refugees. Seasonal refreshments. Booking advised - contact [01547 550158](tel:01547550158)

Friday 22nd December - Christmas Family Service 7.00-9.00pm at St. Andrew's, Norton. Come to our pretty, cosy village church - carols, readings, Nativity, songs with our Norton Village Choir, music with Leila Basletic & Co, followed by festive refreshments. A lovely way to start the Christmas weekend celebrations.

Tuesday 26th December Boxing Day - live music from Bugs Brummy, 8pm Royal Oak

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) - 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