

Community News

Issue 84 - August 2018

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

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The next PAC volunteer litter-pick around the centre of town will be held this Monday 20th August ahead of Presteigne Festival. We are planning to hold such litter-picks on a monthly basis from now on, with a large litter-pick every 3rd month to cover the rest of the town and the approach roads and verges. Going on a litter-pick is good fun, very sociable and rewarding, and all equipment - grabbers, hoops & bags, and hi-vis vests - is provided. ***If you'd like to join the gang for future litter-picks and help with this essential work to keep our town looking good, please email pacdg@icloud.com or call Tessa on 07788 567631.***

As a trial, we will supplement the regular litter-picks with a paid volunteer dealing with the heavier work of pavement/gutter weeding and sweeping, and this cleaning work will be funded from a small initial grant from the Town Council. ***If you're reasonably fit and would like to help, while earning some pocket money working just a 1/2 day a month or so on a self-employed basis, please email us asap on pacdg@icloud.com or call Terry on 07766 097600.***

The 2018 Presteigne Festival (in association with Presteigne Screen) will again include a film series, this time reflecting the Festival's Nordic programming slant. The series is curated by film editor Tony Lawson who will introduce each screening. All films will be shown in The Assembly Rooms, starting 8pm, tickets £7, with bar: [Friday 24th August "Wild Strawberries"](#) 1957, the film that cemented Ingmar Bergman's reputation as a major director: [Saturday 25th August "Pelle the Conqueror"](#) 1987, an Oscar and Palme D'Or winning period film which revels in the beauty of its 1900s Danish landscape: [Sunday 26th August "Festen"](#) 1998 part farce - part tragedy, the story of a family weekend birthday party from hell. Tickets 01544 267800.

Good news also that Open Studios will also be running this year again in parallel with the Festival, from 25th to 27th August, showcasing the work of local artists in studios all over town...painting, photography, sculpture, installations, ceramics, pottery, furniture. Look for trail maps & leaflets nearer the date.

To see the full Presteigne Festival programme and to book, go to www.presteignefestival.com, phone 01544 267800 or drop into the Assembly Rooms Box Office open 11am - 2pm until Aug 18th, then daily 10am - 5pm from Aug 20th to 28th.

Wondering what's happening in the depressing saga of the Rad and the Knighton Hotel and The Castle in Wigmore etc etc. ? Well, thing's are afoot and, as Jac o' the North colourfully puts it in the latest edition of his blog Weep for Wales 8, although 'the fat lady's not ready to sing just yet, she's in her dressing room applying make-up, for the curtain has gone up on the opening scene of the final act' - see www.jacothenorth.net. The immediate good news is that the Rad seems to have been put into administration, hopefully leading to the sale of the hotel to someone who's committed to Presteigne & can bring this critical community asset back to life. Fingers crossed - we need The Radnorshire Arms and mustn't loose this iconic building !!

Presteigne & Norton Community Support have their AGM on Thursday 30th August at the Memorial Hall, 2pm. Everyone Welcome.

Encouraging news from the Judge's Lodging....as the charity moves towards taking the building over entirely from the County Council, the Welsh Government has shown its support of this immersive award-winning Victorian museum through its new Transition Grant Programme and are funding £120,000 towards a £146,000 capital project with three aims: Firstly, work will be done to stabilise the roof structure of this Grade 2-star building, with new lead-work, slate repairs and a repainting of its front facade, making the building watertight for the future and sprucing up its appearance to visitors and residents of the town alike. Then a new, enhanced Shop and Tourist Information Point, creating a more welcoming and accessible space for everyone. Finally, a new audio system to replace the much-loved, but sadly no longer functioning Walkman system, used to run the popular character-based audio tour for visitors. As the local authority moves away from supporting the museum, staff are having to work hard to raise funds to keep the building moving forwards. To this end, they have just opened up a pop-up Welsh Tearoom, with locally sourced teas, coffees, drinks and cakes, all served in vintage china - open Tuesdays to Sundays and Bank Holidays 10am to 5pm during the summer. The museum has an active volunteering programme so, if you fancy helping The Judge's Lodging, do pop by, find out more, sign up to be part of the team...or even buy yourself a nice cuppa!

'My Generation' is a free MIND programme to help those of us over-50 look after our well-being together. We know that getting older had its challenges - e.g. leaving work, money worries, bereavement - and all these can affect our well-being. You can find out about staying mentally well while enjoying activities such as TaiChi, basic computer skills, and spending time with others. Anyone over 50 living in the mid-Powys area can take part free-of-charge. **The next course is at The Memorial Hall, eight sessions starting Friday 7th September 10am- 12noon.** Booking essential - call 01597 824411 or email mygen@midpowysmind.org.uk.

Good news in that the annual VSCC vintage car trials are going ahead as usual, on the weekend of the 13th of October. The loss of the Radnorshire Arms has caused a few contingency plans to be put in place but most things have been covered. ***The only thing the organisers are short of is a few beds to replace the twenty rooms that were in the Rad. If you can help out please email pacdg@icloud.com.***

Cycle path news from PCC..."the active travel facilities in Presteigne will be expanded after the Welsh Government agreed to provide a £400,000 grant. The latest grant for Presteigne follows on from the success of the town's 'Safe Route in Communities' project, which was completed earlier this year, and has seen more residents now deciding to walk or cycle using the new paths rather than driving a vehicle. The Active Travel Fund is part of the Welsh Government funding commitment to boost levels of active travel across Wales. The Town Council has been supporting the work of County Council Officers and Cllr. Baynham to apply for this further funding for Presteigne. Plans are being developed and full draft designs will be presented for consideration in due course. Thank you to both Officers and Cllr. Baynham for their hard work on the project."

Presteigne & Norton Allotment Association is holding its annual open afternoon on Sunday, September 2nd from 2 till 4 pm. There will be tours of the plots, tea and homemade cakes, a produce stall, and the weigh-in for the potato competition. All very welcome to come and see the results of our growing year.

Don't miss **'9 Days in Iceland' ... photographs by Alex Ramsay from 20th August to 3rd September** in The Barn, Clatterbrune Farmhouse. Info 01544 260592 alex@ramsay.net

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**