

Community News

Issue 236 January 2021

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

"Working Together For Our Community"

email news@pacdg.org to contact the Editor

- 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 - email the Editor
 - please email if you see or hear of anything that will be of help to other residents, including local area jobs
 - if you need assistance in any way, email us and we'll pass on your message to people who can help.
- ...AND IF YOU NEED TO CHECK BACK ON PAST ISSUES FOR INFORMATION, YOU CAN SEE THESE (along with lots of other good information) ON THE TOWN WEBSITE www.presteigne.org.uk/calendar

...from the Town Clerk. Next Town Council Meeting: Wednesday 20th January at 7pm.
Meeting papers available on the Presteigne website now <http://presteigne.org.uk/>

Please remind people thinking of driving over Stonewall Hill they should be prepared to reverse if they meet anyone else as it is not always possible to pass in many places, plus the road is in a shocking state with some very bad potholes plus large drops to the sides of the road which are not always visible. Damage to cars is quite likely !

...from Hilary Rimington. have just arranged for an old laptop to be collected (for schools). The contact details are www.donateit.wales. *[ed. All brands and condition. You can request a free home collection. All laptops are securely wiped. Alternatively you can donate money.]*

...from Julie. To NOT involve us driving into Leominster or another town, would anyone know anyone local, Presteigne or Knighton, that can supply and put a new battery into my watch? Thanks Julie Field jual192@hotmail.com

...from the Town Clerk. Latest Planning application in:
20/2052/FUL Grid Reference: E:330547 N: 266049 Proposal: Erection of steel frame/ clad outbuilding for general purpose agricultural building and store, creation of hardstanding area and erection of 3 metre high boundary fence Site Address: New Barn, Norton, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2EU. To be considered at the 20th January meeting of the Town Council.

COVID

All of Wales is still at Alert Level 4. See what this means: <https://gov.wales/alert-level-4>
All of England is in full lockdown. See what this means: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

...you may find this of interest and useful, providing an overview of COVID cases in Wales <https://portalcovidcymru.co.uk/map.html> [thanks to Sally and Maggie for this link]

...home testing kits. If you are showing signs and symptoms of coronavirus but are unable to travel to a testing centre, you can request a 'home testing kit' online at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test, by phone on 119, or 18001 119 for people with hearing or speech difficulties.

...Covid Vaccination Newsletters - you can safely click on the links shown below.

NHS UK Vaccination Research Newsletter <https://elinkeu.clickdimensions.com/m/1/58255379/p1-b21018-6dca635f588a4061bf77a81d2a02b097/5/511/610c689e-3acb-4ea5-8592-a2b4f7fb2cf6>

Powys Teaching Health Board. Our weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Newsletter aims to keep you updated on the progress and next steps for COVID-19 vaccination in Powys. Our second edition is now available from our website at <https://pthb.nhs.wales/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination/covid-19-vaccination-newsletter/>

...from Powys Teaching Health Board. If you are showing signs and symptoms of coronavirus but are unable to travel to a testing centre, you can request a 'home testing kit' online at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test, by phone on 119, or 18001 119 for people with hearing or speech difficulties. #KeepPowysSafe from #COVID19

...about vaccinations if you're registered with Knighton's Wylcwm Street Surgery. A letter sent to over 80s inviting them to go to Newtown for their vaccination gave no contact details to allow for cancellations. This is the tel.no: 03456 027053. Knighton patients are being directed to Newtown because Wylcwm Street Surgery, although NHS, is privately operated. As the practice at Presteigne is part of the NHS Trust, their patients will be seen at Knighton Hospital. While Wylcwm Street awaits its 'licence'. people are encouraged to take up the Newtown offer if possible and help ease the pressure at Knighton once they are able to vaccinate. Please pass this information on to anybody who might be worried or is not on Facebook, thank you

...from Powys Teaching Health Board ref duplicated vaccine appointment letters - 'It may help for me to outline the circumstances of the Presteigne vaccination scheme. A couple of weeks ago all names of the eligible population were loaded onto the NHS Wales system for automated letters. It takes a couple of weeks lead in time for the letters to be generated etc. It was after this that the possibility of an earlier, local scheme could be put in place. The GP practice were keen to proceed and therefore patients were called. Some patients came this week just gone and some will come next week. I will double check that the practice staff have explained to patients to ignore the letter inviting them to Builth and ensure a double check at the Builth Vaccine Centre, as because they have had their first vaccine under the local scheme there is an intention that the second dose will also be delivered locally. We have aimed to get this huge endeavour up and running swiftly and in doing so we realise there will be some bumps in the road, which we hope will be smoothed out shortly. Our aim is to ensure all eligible people get access to their vaccine as swiftly as possible.'

SCAM ALERT

...Look out for a very convincing series of phishing emails pretending to be from BT. A series of emails coming from email address btcomms@info.bt.xxx saying (in sequence) "Thank you for creating a BT ID" and "Thank you for choosing " and "You're switched on and ready to start watching" and "Here's your service start date". Report to abuse@bt.com and also to report@phishing.gov.uk, then delete. *[ed. these came through today on my gmail account and I know others have got them as well].*

THANKS

...from Glenys. Please say a public thank-you to all the lovely volunteers who, once again, are assisting as stewards on the High Street controlling the numbers going into Premier and Spar and helping keep us, and the shop workers, safer. I've been nervous going into both shops as the space is so restricted and it's difficult to see how many people are in from outside, but this has really helped. You're all stars !

UPDATE FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES AND THE HIGH STREET (local businesses are still adapting to changing circumstances - so check information on websites/Facebook pages)

...from Elwyn. Bennetts Electricals shop is closed but customers can still access our services either by calling me on 01544 267477, or by shopping direct for your washing, cooking, and cooling appliances on line through the Euronics website www.euronics.co.uk

...from Kington Coop. The Kington Coop is undergoing a major refit which will have lasted for about 8 weeks by the time it's finished. On the one hand, this means some empty shelves and things not being where you expect them to be. On the other, it's a welcome investment by the Coop in one of our most important local shops. Such a comprehensive refurbishment is scheduled many months ahead and thus cannot take account of lockdowns. So please be patient: the staff have more work to do and have, unfortunately, been on the receiving end of

some stropky customer behaviour. They are doing their best and we as customers should do the same. Wear your mask, wash your hands, keep your distance and be polite. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY & OTHER INFORMATION

...from Jessica Fallon Dance. Searching for something to take your mind off Lockdown? We've got just the thing. Join us Tuesday 19th Jan at 18.30pm for our opening night of Panache Dance Fitness. Free for all new cast members. Panache Dance Fitness is an amazing new fitness brand that uses songs from the Stage & Screen. Fun, uplifting and sure to leave you feeling good. Can be done at high or low impact so it's suitable for everyone. Drop us a FB message to book classes via Zoom or email jessicaxfallon@gmail.com

...from Leigh at Presteigne Dark Skies. The Presteigne Dark Skies Masterplan continues to gain traction. PCC is undertaking a survey of the current street-lighting in Presteigne and Norton, with the results being presented to the Town Council on the 20th January. More light pollution measurements will also be taken in January using a Sky Quality meter (following Covid 19 guidelines). This is so that a baseline can be confirmed before changes are made to the street-lighting. In February 2021 a trial of dark skies compliant lighting is scheduled to take place in Presteigne. This will compare street-lights produced by different manufacturers, and will be in the vicinity of the Judge's Lodging. It will be an opportunity for residents to compare the different types of street-lights and their effect on the night time experience in Presteigne.

...from Powys CC. Re-opening day centres is still not possible under current Covid-19 restrictions in Powys, the council has decided. Day centres for the elderly and for people with learning disabilities have been closed since March due to the pandemic. Now, Powys County Council is looking to extend the temporary closure of these facilities until August, 2021 (subject to the Portfolio Holder's final approval on January 14). During this time, social care staff will discuss with citizens how best to support their needs. The majority of individuals who attend day services do so in order to meet up with and socialise with others while receiving care during the day. It is not currently possible to provide such a service due to the requirements of guidance to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. During the pandemic, people who were attending the day centres have either been supported in different ways (e.g. living with the support of carers, either full or part time, or family support) or have chosen to not receive alternative support. Staff, who normally work in day services have been redeployed to work in business-critical areas such as domiciliary care, whilst others have become part of the Council's Track and Trace team.

...from Tim Craddock. " A PACDG newsletter before Christmas covered the issue of the very poor state of the road which leads from Presteigne via Stocken Farm to the top of Stonewall Hill. As a result of the piece in the Newsletter, a number of residents subsequently wrote to the Town Council, and the issue was discussed at a Council meeting before Christmas. Since the road is a Herefordshire road, the question is how to put pressure on Herefordshire County Council, and their contractors, Balfour Beatty, to reassess the priority of the road for repair. Fay Jones, our Westminster MP, is also taking the issue up and has been in touch with Balfour Beatty. Balfour Beatty have now replied both to Fay Jones MP and to the Town Council. The reply says that the road is still not being moved up their list of priorities for repair. Fay Jones will approach them again; and the Town Council will discuss Balfour Beatty's response at their meeting on 20 January. It is ironic that the road in question is now being used as one of the main diversionary routes this week while the Presteigne - Knighton B road has works on it. There has been an increase in traffic on it. It remains in a very poor state, is dangerous to use, and several residents' cars have been damaged on the road. Please be aware of this if using the road in coming days. Any residents who have points to make about the road should do so before the TC meeting on 20 January".

...from Presteigne Freegle. If you're looking for a zany new podcast to listen to and you want to be inspired to lessen your impact on our one and only planet, then this is for you! <https://www.asustainablelife.co.uk/a-sustainable-life-podcast>. Thanks to Sustainable-ish for hosting so many brilliant conversations and providing so much motivation!

...from Newtown/John Beddoes High School. Powys County Council have produced a letter to parents regarding student engagement with learning. You can read the letter from the link below: <https://www.newtown-hs.powys.sch.uk/main/index.php/news-mainmenu-35/school-news/1073-letter-to-parents-engagement-with-learning>

...from Powys CC. Did you know pharmacists are qualified to give you clinical advice and sometimes may be your best and quickest way to access the right help? Check your symptoms online www.111.wales.nhs.uk and pop in to your local pharmacy.

...from Presteigne Medical Centre. The practice is required to undertake their annual patient access survey. This year as you can imagine due to COVID it's a little bit more difficult than in previous years. Therefore, this year we are trying to encourage patients to undertake the survey online via the practice website. The survey is anonymous and although we would encourage patients to undertake the survey online, we are happy for the attached form to be completed and dropped off at the surgery through the letterbox in the same way as prescriptions. The link to the website is - <https://www.presteignemedicalcentre.com/2020/12/01/presteigne-medical-practice-access-appointments-questionnaire/>

...from Powys CC for Powys businesses - are being offered a chance to comment on the county council revenue budget for the coming financial year. PCC is inviting businesses to comment on the 2021/2022 revenue budget as part of an online consultation exercise. Those who are interested are invited to visit the Council's website: <http://www.powys.gov.uk> and click the link to Councils Committees and Meetings/Cabinet agenda 26th January 2021 or use the direct link: <https://powys.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=6291&Ver=4> which will take you direct to the Cabinet papers with full details of the proposed Council's budget (available from 20th January). All responses to the consultation should be in writing and addressed to the Head of Financial Services, Powys County Hall, Spa Road East, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG by 19th February 2021.

...from Lyonshall Garden Centre. Veganuary is a great opportunity to learn about vegan gardening. Find out more about how to garden in a more vegan-friendly way with these top tips. <http://www.lyonshallnursery.co.uk/news/1161/get-into-veganuary-vegan-gardening-tips>

LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

...from East Radnor Home Support. Short term job opportunity! East Radnor Home Support is looking for an IT whizz to carry out IT work on a project. May suit Uni/College student as it's only a couple of weeks work. But could lead to more hours in the future on a casual basis. Project involves setting up file sharing system for several computers. Designing spreadsheets & database to record information. Rebranding and designing forms. To be paid per hour to be negotiated. Please email admin@eastradnor.care for more information

...from Dyfed Powys Police. Apprentices apply now! Would you like to get hands on experience and training – working towards a qualification after 2 years? How about getting paid while you do? Then we've got the opportunity for you! We're currently recruiting for apprentices in these teams: ICT, Governance and Change, and Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner. If you're 16 years old or over, living in Wales, and not in full-time education then you can apply to join us here at Dyfed-Powys Police. Applications are open now and will close on 20 January. For more info and to apply - visit <http://orlo.uk/XXjay>

...from Dyfed Powys Police. Could you represent a diverse group of people and help to influence decisions made in policing? If so, our Independent Advisory Group would like to hear from you...<http://orlo.uk/Vf9oW>

PACDG - the Presteigne Area Community Development Group ... "Working together for the Community"

If at any time you decide not to receive further PACDG emails, contact us on news@pacdg.org with REMOVE in the subject line & we'll immediately take you off the mailing list.