

Community News



Issue 247 March 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

...a reminder that the free Book exchange is still running in the porch of St Andrew's church in Presteigne, by kind permission of the church. Take as many books as you need - they're free ! Once our local charity shops re-open, the exchange will close down and the books transferred to the charity shops.

...from Mark. There is no obvious forum for local residents to discuss, comment on or flag up developments that affect them, such as those that often appear in the Newsletter. A modern-day and therefore probably digital 'parish pump' could usefully fill that gap, but something more publicly accessible than a FaceBook or WhatsApp group. I'd be willing to edit and manage such a medium, but would be interested in suggestions as to the format, and for any offers to set it up by someone more digitally-savvy than I. Please contact williams.mark1@gmail.com. Cheers – Mark

...looking for office space in Presteigne ? A couple of issues ago, we included an appeal from Jon looking for a room in Presteigne to use as an office. He found his office space on the industrial estate, but If anyone else is looking, both Leon and Neil responded to his request - contact Leon on [07805 727486](tel:07805727486) and Neil on [07970 108849](tel:07970108849). Office rooms to rent are also being offered on FB by Claire, contact [07969 569140](tel:07969569140).

...from Powys CC Highways. Temporary Road Closure: B4355 Presteigne Road, Knighton will be in place on the 22 Mar - 2 Apr 2020 (7am-5pm) on behalf of Balfour Beatty, while they do works to a gas mains replacement.

...from PACDG - we nearly missed this! In January the Welsh Government launched a consultation on how best to **crack down on littering and flytipping in Wales**. We know many Community News readers are really concerned about this issue - it really is worth having a look at this and sending in your comments and ideas. The **deadline for comments has been extended to 22nd April**. The good news is - it's really easy to comment online. Just go to <https://gov.wales/litter-and-fly-tipping-prevention-plan-wales> - scroll down a bit and click on the green box "Respond Online". Or you can download the response form (which is on page 39) and send it in by email or by post. You don't have to read the whole consultation document if you don't want to - but if you do it's at the same link. There are some actions already suggested including incentives for businesses, new penalties, and better reporting of these offences, but also the chance to offer your own ideas. Maybe this is a step towards getting rid of this antisocial behaviour.

...from Helen and Plastic Free Presteigne. Tesco's have started rolling out "soft plastics" recycling points so that customers can recycle old packaging such as bread bags, pet and baby food pouches, fruit, vegetable and salad packaging regardless of where they were bought. The Llandrindod store has a soft plastics recycling point. This will be collected and sent for recycling where it will be washed, sorted and processed and then turned into new packaging for food, household and beauty products. *[ed. this is also being done at larger stores of other major supermarkets including Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, The Co-op and Waitrose.*

Ask at your supermarket next time you visit. n.b. for online shopping deliveries, many supermarkets also allow you to hand your unwanted carrier bags back to the driver for recycling - ask your driver]

...from Cllr Baynham. Wildflower Verges. Following on from last years trial of encouraging wildflowers to grow in the verges around Presteigne, Powys CC in agreement with the Town Council have agreed a new cutting schedule for the coming year to build on the work we started last year. I hope you will remember the wonderful display of wild flowers that grew in the verges and especially along the stretch of bypass between the Play Park & Warden Road. This year we hope to build on this programme and have expanded the areas of verges not to be cut to include Norton also. Wildflower verges are not only attractive they have significant ecological and environmental benefits, supporting crucial pollinators and also protecting species threatened by climate change and habitat loss. All the verges will be mowed once a year in October when a group of volunteers kindly rake and collect the cuttings to encourage growth for the following year. Many thanks to these wonderful volunteers and if anyone is willing to give up a little of their time to help later this year please do let me know.

...from Helen in Norton. Graveyard Volunteers. Do you have a few hours a month to spare ? We are trying to get together a small group of volunteers to help out in Norton churchyard. Either individually or in small groups (Covid-compliant). This group would ideally meet once a month when refreshments and hand sanitiser would be provided. Jobs will include • adopt a grave * trimming back vegetation on road walls * hedge cutting * clearing ivy off trees and gravestones. Please contact Helen at hgooderham29@gmail.com or tel. 01544 267 073

The new Lugg Spring Blogg is out...Lighter, longer days are ahead. Intro and great new video by Pete plus contributions by John Jones, Ian Marchant, Lois Hopwood, Nigel Dodman, Sabina Rüber, Tony Lawson, George Vass, Dave Luke, Hugh Colvin, Helena Attlee, Andrea Gilpin, Christine Hugh-Jones, and quiz from Terry. <https://www.luggblogg.co.uk/blog/the-spring-blogg-from-presteigne>

TOWN COUNCIL NEWS (see Town website www.presteigne.org.uk)

[ed - a correction] in the last newsletter I said that the members of the public couldn't speak at council meetings....but Kate has reminded me that if there is something important you want the TC to consider, you may be allowed to address the meeting ahead of normal business - you have to contact the Town Clerk well in advance (email presteigneandnortontc@outlook.com) and if they agree, you can have a timed slot at the start. Thanks for the reminder, Kate.

...some notes from last Wednesday's TC meeting (full Minutes will be published on website).

- * Hereford Street - the signs etc for the one way trial will be put in place as soon as PCC can do so. Cllr. Baynham confirmed that the one way direction will be heading into the town centre.
- * Dark Skies - the lighting trial is ongoing for several columns in Broad Street and High Street and will remain in place for approx a month. Residents' comments welcome. The trial will help determine the exact fittings to be used when the lighting for Presteigne and Norton is upgraded in the next financial year and will also help with the application for Dark Sky Status. Thanks to Kerem Asfuroglo of Dark Source, PCC Lighting Manager and engineers and to Cllr. Baynham for their support for the project.
- * Planning (1) Erection of single storey side extension, Site Address: 27 Townend, Presteigne. Resolved no objections be raised (2) Change of use, and Internal and external works and alterations in association with redundant church to create a community hub, Site Address: Former Church Of St Andrew, Norton. Resolved to support the application.
- * Continuing concerns over the Stocken road on Stonewall Hill. Users are encouraged to report potholes, surface issues to Herefordshire Council - [Report a pothole | Herefordshire](#)
- * A donation towards the re-painting of the benches around the town has been gratefully received and work will be carried out over the coming months.
- * Some small areas on Went's Meadow to be left to grow in order to promote biodiversity - areas will be below the bike track and in between some of the trees in the adjacent community orchard.

* Presteigne Cemetery - Work has now started on the site extension. The work is expected to take 6-8 weeks but groundworks will need to wait until the ground is drier.

THANK YOU

...from Julia. Please say a big thank you in the next Community News to the lovely volunteers who've been standing outside Spar and Premier in all weathers monitoring the entrances and helping us to be able to stay socially distanced. And also to everyone who has helped with planting the daffodils and other flowers over the years, and for the lovely labelling of wild flowers in the verges. Flowers in Spring - so cheering in these times especially!

COVID

...from Powys Teaching Health Board

Please don't call your GP to find out when your vaccination will be as they are extremely busy looking after their patients as well as delivering vaccination. The health board is currently sending out appointments for vaccination and everyone aged 50-64 or with an underlying health condition will have been invited for vaccination by mid-April. Please wait for your letter and do not call your GP or the health board. If you are aged 65+ and have not received your invitation please use the online form to let us know. <https://pthb.nhs.wales/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination/age-65-to-69>

Our reserve lists for COVID-19 vaccination are currently open for people aged 60-64, people aged 55-59, and people aged 50-54. <https://pthb.nhs.wales/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination/reserve-lists/>.

If you receive an invitation for COVID-19 vaccination and you wish to decline the invitation then PLEASE LET US KNOW so that we can offer the vaccine to someone else. <https://pthb.nhs.wales/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination/information-about-mass-vaccination-centres/declining-your-mass-vaccination-centre-invitation/>

...from Herefordshire CC/NHS England

People aged 50 & over can now book their COVID-19 vaccine. Check if you meet the current criteria to book your vaccination online. Even if you have not had a GP letter you could be eligible to book. To find out more: <http://orlo.uk/0LOlw>

SPAM / SCAM WARNINGS

...from John. Text message pretending to come from Lloyds. A payment was attempted from a new device on 17/3 at 11:28:00. If this was NOT you please visit <https://lloyds.verify-activity-mobile.cxx> which leads you to a very convincing Lloyds look-alike web page. It is a scam. Texting number reported (to 7226).

...from Powys CC. Latest news: Residents warned about council tax reduction scam. One persuasive email currently doing the rounds is disguised by government branding, the use of similar wording to government communications, and is signed "The Government Digital Service Team". This is a scam and residents are urged not to click on any links or give away any personal details. PCC does offer council tax payment breaks and reductions for those struggling with financial difficulties due to Covid, but residents need to apply for this on the council's website. If you are targeted by one of these scams report it report@phishing.gov.uk or for suspicious text messages, forward the message to 7226. This is a free message which alerts your service provider who will then look into the origin of the text and block the number.

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

...from Russell Fletcher, Presteigne Driving School. Waiting on next review from Welsh government but hopefully looking at starting back 12th April, as soon as i have confirmation i will be in touch with you all

...from Downton Delights. Easter bundles. have arrived on the website from bunny in a box to sweet filled baskets. Limited stock on some items, grab them while stocks last! Check them out on the home page <https://www.downtondelights.com>

...from Knighton Community Market. Hi Everyone - hope you've had a lovely weekend and are enjoying this sun today!! As you are all probably aware, the latest lockdown updates show that all non-essential shops cannot reopen in Wales until 12th April - so that means we won't be holding any indoor markets until the 24th April at the earliest - obviously dependent on how the figures go. I am looking into other options and will update as and when.

...from Weobley Ash. Easter orders. Book you Easter orders for a great Easter meal. Pre order whole legs, bone in or rolled, shoulders bone in or rolled, lamb, hogget & mutton. Turkey whole birds, crowns or legs. Free range duck and chicken. Call 01544 598120 or email shop@weobleyash.co.uk to book. Free delivery on all orders over £40 in the UK.

...from Hannah. Hair by Hannah is now taking bookings for Norton/Presteigne and knighton areas. Fully mobile service inc cuts, colours and blow dries with OAP rates. Contact me on [07508316692](tel:07508316692)

...from the Judge's Lodging. Our Community Survey is well underway. If you live locally, or have a connection to Presteigne, please do take the opportunity to have your say, if you haven't already done so. It only takes a few minutes and would help us hugely: English <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SDYMB8W>

...from Intaframe Picture Framing. New Spring Offer. We are slowly and cautiously moving out of lockdown here in Wales. In order to celebrate this event I am re-introducing my Spring Offer. 15% OFF all picture framing work until Sunday 30th May 2021. Until we can open properly, I'm happy to accept your artwork at my front door. If you have an idea how you would like it framed I will put together some samples and send you photographs on email for your consideration. 01544 267733

...from Katie at Holding Umbrellas Foundation. We are back to baking cakes for Weobley Ash Farm Shop. Delivered each Thursday, to help towards donations for needy people in Myanmar. This week we have made these yummy muffins in 3 delicious flavours, lemon drizzle, ginger and chocolate chip. Only £1 each. <https://www.facebook.com/Weobley-Ash-Meats-Farm-Shop-100432788164206/>. Check out our page to see the people that we are providing food aid to in Myanmar.

...from the Royal Oak. Well it's one year today since we had to close our doors for the first shutdown and who thought we'd still be living like this. Hopefully now there's light at the end of this tunnel with the ongoing hard work being done by the NHS vaccination programme. Just to keep you all updated if you can't keep upto date with it all. Currently Wales is still on a different path for reopening hospitality to England. It looks like our next review date is the 22nd April, for which we expect them to open up outdoor hospitality end of April/early May at the earliest. Then all being well indoors will reopen shortly after and we can all look forward to a good 'normal' summer! Stay safe everyone. We look forward to welcoming you all back

...from Leon's Food to Order. Easter Sunday 4th April. A special menu for a celebratory Easter Sunday lunch. £13.95 per person. Brisket of beef cooked in a rich red wine gravy OR Turkey crown with a cranberry and port gravy, served with Cauliflower cheese, Honey roasted root vegetables, Roasted Hasselback new potatoes, plus choice of desert. For full details and to order online go to <https://thesaltydogpresteigne.com/order-cooked-food/> or phone 01544 262164 or 07805 727486, and choose to collect on either Friday 2nd or Saturday 3rd April. Orders must be in by 1pm on Thursday 1st April.

...from Rose Cottage Flowers & Café. See our FB page for my afternoon tea menu for Easter Sunday - orders will be limited so book early to avoid disappointment. Delivery in Presteigne or collect from the café between 1 and 2pm. £12 pp. 01544 260600

...from Wild Thyme Italian. See our FB page for the full takeaway menu but if you would like to order the braised lamb shanks for Easter weekend please let me know this week. 07854 428668. Order by 10pm Wednesday and Thursday for collection between 6 and 7pm on Friday and Saturday respectively. Thank you!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY & OTHER INFORMATION

...from Presteigne Local Food Market - Easter Saturday Local Food Market 3rd April. 9-1 at Presteigne Memorial Hall. An Easter special WILDLIFE TREASURE HUNT on the Stalls for all Children up to 10 years of age! A small gift will be presented to all Children completing the competition correctly, so please all note this date in your Diary, not only to entertain your Children, but also to enable you to purchase some of our delightful local products on offer!

...from Powys Libraries. Following the Prime Minister's announcement, we are looking forward to welcoming you back, and we are preparing our libraries so that we can re-open safely, as soon as we get the opening date. While we wait to hear when we can reopen, remember that you can still order online and collect your books from the library entrance. Order books from the library catalogue, or through our Order and Collect service. More details about Order and Collect from our website www.powys.gov.uk/llygfrgell or call 01597 827460

...for Herefordshire residents. Elections | If you are a registered postal voter, your postal ballot packs for the Police & Crime Commissioners Election are on their way. If you need a postal vote & haven't yet applied, there is still time. You have until 5pm on Tues 20 April: <http://orlo.uk/195Tt>

...from Powys CC. Keep an eye out in the post for your poll card, which will be arriving soon. Your poll card will tell you where you can go to vote in person in the Senedd and Police and Crime Commissioner elections taking place on May 6. You don't need your poll card to vote. Just go to the polling station and give them your name and address. For more visit <https://en.powys.gov.uk/elections>

LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

...from The Stagg. Person required to serve breakfast to up to 12 guests, clean the public areas of the Inn and service the bedrooms. 8am start approx 30 hours per week Weds to Sat.

...from Mangar Health. We're on the hunt for a new Designer Engineer to come and join our R&D team. The design engineer will play a key role in developing the next generation of medical device products, leading a small engineering team contributing to the development of the products, with a specific interest in electronics. If you'd like more information regarding the job role or to submit your CV please email cbirt@mangarhealth.com

...from Hereford Indie Food Festival. MUSICIANS WANTED. We're on the lookout for local musical talent to be a part of an exciting lineup for this year's Hereford Indie Food festival. We're looking for a range + style of artists as there will be acts on throughout the day. If you're interested get in touch at hello@herefordindiefood.com. Facebook Event: <https://fb.me/e/3KSCU0ch>

...from Powys CC. Specialist Teacher SEN/ALN, County Hall Llandrindod/home working. Powys Inclusion and Youth Services work in partnership with schools to support pupils with special educational needs (SEN) / additional learning needs (ALN). This is an exciting time for SEN/ALN in Powys, as we are starting to implement our new strategy. We are seeking to appoint a teacher with significant experience in working with pupils who have SEN/ALN. Ideally, you will have an additional qualification in an area of SEN/ALN. You will need to be an effective team player who is able to build close working relationships with schools and other stakeholders. You will need to be flexible and able to work under pressure, with a proven record of meeting deadlines. An ability to travel across Powys is essential. For more information and to apply visit www.powys.gov.uk/jobs

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.