

Issue 282 December 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

NEXT ISSUE MID-JANUARY - DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS 15th JANUARY
(n.b. there will be no issue at the end of December)

Father Christmas is coming to town and will be giving away fish finger sandwiches to everyone and Lucky Dip presents to all the children on Saturday the 18th December from 11am till 2pm outside The Salty Dog, Presteigne High Street. Ho ho ho 🎅🎅🎅

...not yet entered the Christmas Decorated House Comp ? Better get a move on if you want to win that £50 !! - entries close on Friday night, for judging on Sunday. Text 07766 152000 with name/address/contact number or enter on Presteigne Carnival Facebook page.

...Bill Higginson, Presteigne resident and former Mayor of Llandrindod Wells has described it as "a day to remember" after finally collecting the MBE he was awarded by the Queen last year. Bill, a lifelong cricket fanatic who has done so much to develop the game in Powys, was accompanied by wife Liz as he finally fielded his MBE from Princess Anne at a ceremony at Windsor Castle in November. Bill is a former first-class cricketer who played for Middlesex and Nottinghamshire in the 1960s before going on to immerse himself in the game and make a huge mark off the field. In his later career he moved to Powys where he worked as a cricket development officer for Mid Wales. Then, after retiring, he changed the face of the game for disabled cricketers by becoming involved with the British Association for Cricketers with Disabilities (BACD) from 1998 until 2019, retiring as chairman and boasting a legacy of seeing the organisation transferred to the England & Wales Cricket Board.

TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

Latest planning applications to be considered at the December meeting of the Town Council tonight - [21/2046/FUL-21/2047/LBC](#) Grid Reference: E:330453 N: 267162 Proposal: Conversion of barn to form 3 dwellings, to include alterations to access and all associated works Site Address: The Old Granary, Norton. [21/2075/HH](#) Grid Reference: E:331170 N: 264361 Proposal: Proposed creation of new access including a dropped kerb and three off-street parking spaces Site Address: 20 Castle Road, Presteigne. [21/2123/HH](#) Grid Reference: E:330766 N: 264695 Proposal: Garage conversion/ rear extension to form new bedroom & utility room. Addition windows to existing dwelling Site Address: 58 Warden Close, Presteigne

THANKS

...**Chatterbrook WI** - thanks to all the kind people who donated toiletries, clothes etc for the Women's Refuge - a wonderful amount of goods - we are delighted with the generosity shown.
...**Presteigne & Norton Community Support.** Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket for our Christmas Draw. We raised £1000 for our community transport scheme. A big thank you for all our donations from the local shops, members, customers . We really do appreciate it.

COVID & FLU

...looking for more information on booster jabs in Powys ? Visit <https://pthb.nhs.wales/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination/booster/>

...**Scam alert!** Beware of emails requiring the recipient to order a Omicron PCR test. The link takes you to a fake NHS website that ask for personal details. The NHS will never ask for payment or your bank details. Forward suspicious emails to: report@phishing.gov.uk

...**from Powys THB.** 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 do not have symptoms. Protect your friends and family by testing regularly. You can collect LFT test kits from your local library [*ed. and our Pharmacy*]. For more information, please visit - <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/11928/Lateral-Flow-Test-collection-points>

...**Please accept our apologies that our Powys THB COVID-19 vaccination phone lines are very busy.** We are working at pace to respond to Sunday's announcement but in the meantime if you have received an invitation letter please do all that you can to attend the appointment we have offered you. **If you need to cancel the appointment** we have offered you can do that here: <https://pthb.nhs.wales/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination/information-about-mass-vaccination-centres/declining-your-mass-vaccination-centre-invitation/>. **If you can attend at short notice** our reserve list is here: <https://pthb.nhs.wales/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination/booster/reserve-list-for-booster-dose-appointments/>

...**from PAVO.** In light of recent government announcements regarding booster programmes, the mass vaccination centres are as you can imagine working to full capacity and are desperately in need of volunteers. You need to be aged between 16-70 and will undertake DBS checks and at present training modules - if you feel you can help or know someone who can, please contact Emma Coates, PAVO volunteering officer on 01597 822191

SCAM ALERT

...**Amazon Prime - Received an automated call about 'renewing' your Prime subscription?** Hang up immediately – it's a scam. Amazon will NEVER contact you in this way.

...**from Which. BEWARE of cold callers selling insurance for home appliances.** Callers often have personal information, making them sound genuine, but think twice – it's a SCAM.

Scammers are already sending fake emails about the new Omicron variant of Covid designed to steal your money, personal data, and bank details <https://whi.ch/OmicronTestScam>.

This is just one example, but we've seen many different variations. **Fake Primark phishing emails** promising Primark gift card 'rewards' are circulating again. They work by claiming that you need to 'activate the delivery' in order to receive the reward, and even attempt to deceive you by including 'your account information'. However, this time it appears that the scammers behind them have spoofed the domain of online retailer Wayfair in order to send them. Click here: [Here's what they look like.](#)

NEWS FROM THE HIGH STREET & LOCAL BUSINESSES / ORGANISATIONS

...**B W Roberts petrol opening hours** - CLOSED 24th-28th Dec, mornings only 29th/31st, and CLOSED 1st-3rd Jan.

...**Did you know there is a Karate Club in Presteigne - Lee Taylor Karate.** Starting from the age of 5 years with two free lessons! Please contact Lee for any enquiries 07976 91461

...**from Rose Cottage Flowers & Café.** Why not come and meet up with friends this week and enjoy our warming soups with a freshly cooked baguette or cheese scone or as more of a meal with a filled baguette or toasted sandwich, and you could always treat yourself to a homemade cake to finish. Booking is advisable as we are limited for space. 01544 260600

...**from Freedom Leisure. Want something to do on the weekends?** The sports hall is available for hire. We are open between 9-3pm on weekends. Adult hire £28 for 55 mins. Junior hire £18.70 for 55 mins. You could play indoor football or basketball. Or why not book a badminton court instead. All payments are required when booking. Phone (01544) 260302 for all enquires. **Pre-school and Swim School swimming lessons will stop** on 14th December for our two week Christmas break, restarting 3rd January. Thank you for all your support throughout the year. Enjoy the holidays!

...**about the Food Bank - did you know you can buy a voucher** in Knighton at AJ Pugh Butchers or Rhos Organic Market Garden, or in Presteigne at Carinis Butchers, the Salty Dog or Deli Tinto. Thanks for the excellent work of Helen and everybody at the Food Bank.

...**Weobley Ash Meats & Farm Shop.** 18 days till Christmas. We're still taking late meat orders - turkey, beef ribs, duck, beef topside, rolled rump and rolled pork shoulders. To order call 01544 598120 or email shop@weobleyash.co.uk. Last store collection 4pm 24th December.

...**from Crocketts. Your Mission... 'To Attend Her Majesty's Dinner Service'**. Tickets already selling fast for New Year's eve 2021, doors at 7.30pm. Email info@WelcomeToCrocketts.com or call 01544 260017 for menu and more information

...**from St. Andrew's, Presteigne. Our memory tree** is now on display - do call in and add a card with a name or a prayer if you would like someone you loved but who is no longer with you to be remembered In this Christmas season. And - if you're in town over the next couple of weeks, do pop in to St Andrew's to have a look at **the lovely Christmas drawings and paintings created by pupils from Presteigne Primary School** on display in the south aisle.

...**East Radnor Care is the new charity name for East Radnorshire Day Centre**, incorporating both the Day Centre in Scottleton St, and East Radnor Home Support. We currently run several services throughout the week. A drop in Coffee Morning runs every Monday 10-12 at the Day Centre - pop along and have a chat over a coffee - no fee, donations only! A bathing service is available throughout the week, please telephone for further details and an appointment, a small fee is applied. We also run a Lunch Club every Thursday 12-2, with a 2-course hot lunch with refreshments for £10. Booking is essential. Christmas Lunch will be served at Lunch Club on Thursday 18th December, and on Wednesday 22nd December a Christmas Lunch will be delivered to all our Day Centre members and Meals on Wheels regulars. The Home Support office will close at 5pm on Thursday 23rd December and will be open on Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th December 9am-1pm, closed over the New Year, re-opening at 9am on Tuesday 4th January 2022. The On Call Emergency Rapid Response to Care Line will operate as usual 24/7 over the whole of Christmas & New Year. For further information about any of our services call [01544 260360](tel:01544260360) or email admin@eastradnor.care

...**from Richard at The Gallery (1A High Street).** Come and visit Presteigne's latest addition to the High Street - Small is Beautiful! After a successful year online, Studer Fine Art has opened a bricks a mortar Gallery. Open Wednesday - Saturday 10.30am - 3pm in the run up to Christmas. Our December exhibition features stunning pottery and ceramics by Tony Hall and Gill Tennant Eyles, Rush Baskets by Claire Murphy, with 2D works by Peter Horrocks, Lois Hopwood and of course the 2021 Linocut collection, beautiful Linen cushions, homeware, cards by Angie Lewin, Sarah Clutton, Mark Hearld and Angela Harding as well as a menagerie of 3d cards and Pop out Birds by Alice Melvin. Original art for every budget. Plans are coming together already for 2022 exhibitions featuring both local and guest artists from further afield with an emphasis on work created in Wales and the Borders. Pop in and say 'Hi' or sign up to our mailing list for news and invites to exhibition openings. Merry Christmas!

...**from Dolly Daydream on the High Street.** All hands on deck. We are open every day during the next couple of weeks for the run up to Christmas. Thank you to all our lovely customers for choosing to shop local, we couldn't have done it without you & your amazing support! It's been a very busy but really fun time doing something so new for us. I can't quite believe we've been open for 5 months already! Seriously, where has 2021 gone? It's flown by, throw a baby into the mix & the weeks all roll into one! Anyway, we hope the opening hours will cater to most people's needs for a little visit, lots of Christmas cards, wrap, decorations & gift ideas inside for your perusal! We look forward to seeing you all...

...**from Stitch Embroidery.** We will be closed from Frid 17th December noon through till Tues 4th January 2022. We wish all our old and existing customers a very Merry Christmas & prosperous New Year!!! Thanks from all of us here at Stitch for your custom throughout 2021!!

...**from Emily George. Children's dance classes!!** We are accepting new pupils to start in January!! We cater for all ages 3+ and abilities and we have classes available in various dance styles such as hip hop, tap and others! Classes available in Presteigne and Knighton, get in contact to know more!! Find us on FB at EG Fitness and Dance for more info on our classes!

...**1st Presteigne Rainbows (5-7 year olds), 2nd Presteigne Brownies (7-10 year olds) and 1st Presteigne Guides (10-14 year olds) will be returning** to face-to-face meetings from mid-January subject to latest covid-19 regulations at the time. There are plenty of spaces available at all three units and we are happy to offer taster sessions before committing to the term, if

needed. Fun, friendships and unforgettable experiences are at the heart of Girlguiding, helping every girl discover her full potential. You can register your daughter here: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/> or email knightonrainbows@hotmail.com. **There is also plenty of volunteering opportunities** to be had within the different units, where you can meet new people, gain skills and help girls discover their full potential. There is a wide range of roles available including **Unit Helpers, Assistant Leaders and Unit Leaders**. If you would like to find out more about the roles head over to the Girlguiding website: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/ways-of-volunteering/> or email knightonrainbows@hotmail.com

EVENTS & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

...**Presteigne Pop Choir - Christmas Concert**, Sunday 19th December 3pm at the Community Barn on Went's Meadow. Wrap up warmly and bring a chair. FREE entrance - donations for mulled wine and mince pies.

...**The Barebacks at PSA Football Club**. Friday 17th December. Doors open 7pm. Band starts 9pm FREE entry. All welcome

...**Presteigne Plenty** will be holding its Xmas stall on the High street next to the Salty Dog this Saturday December 18th between 10 am -12.30. We will be selling local apple juice, Xmas mincemeat and other wonderful jams etc. As always, these products are made from gifts of locally grown fruit and produce that generous people have donated. Made by the community... for the community

...**from The Royal Oak. Drewie's quiz is back** for the Christmas quiz next Tuesday 21st December at 7:45pm. All proceeds from the quiz will be going towards the Presteigne Co. Responder Fund. Limited tables available so booking a space is highly recommended!

...**from Presteigne Repair**. Just a reminder that there is no event in December but we're back again on Saturday 15th January, ongoing every 3rd Saturday of the month, at the Youth Centre

...**Welsh Blood Service**. If giving is in your blood, please help. Book your blood donor session for 18th or 19th Jan in Presteigne <https://wbs.wales/PowTrgHB> or call 0800 25 22 66

...**(the MBA concert by Josh Doughty**, Kora player, has been **postponed**)

..**Little Rumba** Saturday 22 January, Assembly Rooms 8 pm. Little Rumba's sound has touches of Eastern Europe and South America, as well as jazz and blues; with beautiful melodies, infectious beats and songs that tell stories. Audience members will need to show either a valid NHS Covid pass, on phone or printed, proof of a negative PCR Test, or confirmation of a negative Lateral Flow Test. Tickets £12 The Workhouse (cash only) and <https://www.wegotickets.com/event/531691>

...**Whitton Voices - a Mid-Winter Concert** at St Michael's Church, Discoed. Heart-warming songs with merry music and tales. Tuesday 21 December at 7pm. Tickets £10. To book please contact Sue 01547 550158. Raising money for The Refugee Council. Entry with vaccination card or negative test result. Come well wrapped up!

NGS Open Garden - Tranquility Haven in Whitton (near Knighton) - a special evening opening giving you the opportunity for a completely different experience in an illuminated night time garden 4pm - 6pm Saturday and Sunday 18th/19th December. Visit NGS website to book.

...**Join us at PSAFC @ Llanandras Park** on Friday 17th December **for some live music with the Barebacks!** Free entry. Discounted members bar prices. Pre-music games. A shuttle bus through town to save those legs for dancing (times and pick-up locations to be confirmed closer to the time). 7pm start, music starts 9pm. All welcome.

...**A Spanish New Years Eve! Leon's Supper Club** will be cooking and hosting a celebratory 4-course Spanish dinner above The Salty Dog on Presteigne High Street on Friday 31 December - eight till late, £35 per person. Bring your own drinks. Reservations: 07805 727486

...**The Royal Oak will be holding our big Christmas raffle** on Sunday 19th December at 1pm. Over 40 prizes including meat hampers, various joints of meat, hampers, spirits and many more. Tickets are £1 a go and available at the pub, via one of our local firefighters or bank transfer (enquire for details on how to do this). All proceeds from the draw will go towards the Presteigne First Responder Fund. Any prize donations to the draw are greatly received.

...**Presteigne Screen presents "Deerskin "** on Friday 17 December 2021, 7.30 for 8pm start at The Assembly Rooms. Tickets £5 at door, or buy online at [WeGotTickets](#).

...**from Rolly**. There are two Powys consultations open at present that we would encourage you to fill in. **The draft POWYS 2021 Wellbeing Assessment Survey** closes this Friday 17 December at <https://www.haveyoursaypowys.wales/well-being-assessment>. Notice pp137-138 of the Full Version DRAFT has responses to climate change questions. There is an opportunity to have your say on it, on the same website page where it says "Take Survey" it is a very short form - 5 questions - asking priorities with climate on the list, fairly low down. NB Take screenshots if you want to keep a record. **There is also a Budget Survey** closes this Sunday 19 December at <https://www.haveyoursaypowys.wales/budget-survey>. This states that the council has just got £1m for climate action through the community renewal fund and asks if the council is doing enough on climate change. If you need any ideas here are some: Deploy renewable energy and the income generation this can provide. Realise the cost savings from switching to electric vehicles. Consider social return on investment, use life time costing and consider the costs of inaction. Use the high level position of finance to bring together departments and find lowest cost solutions through integration. Improve energy efficiency and the long term cost savings this can bring

OTHER INFORMATION

...**from Powys Recycles**. **There will be no planned changes to the normal kerbside collections** for recycling and waste over Christmas and New Year this year, with all collections scheduled for bank holidays taking place as usual.

...**from Citizens Advice**. **Has your energy supplier gone bust?** @Ofgem will move you to a new supplier but you should: *take meter readings *keep any old bills *make a note of your account balance. For more info see <https://bit.ly/2ZpFdyI>

...**Bye Bye Big Bins in Herefordshire**. Major changes to how waste and recycling is collected in #Herefordshire could come in by 2023. Homes will have separate bins for food scraps, garden waste, paper/card, glass/cans/plastic and rubbish. Black bags will be collected every 3 weeks instead of every 2. The council wants to double how much is recycled and save money.

...**from Making Learning Fun**. **Don't forget those letters to Santa**. Here's the address: Santa/Father Christmas, Santa's Grotto, Reindeer Land XM4 5QH. Don't forget to stamp your envelope! Writing letters to Santa helps children practise writing with purpose. It is engaging, exciting and whatever the age of the child, they always try their very best - after all, this is going to Santa! An opportunity which encompasses many areas of learning

...**Did you enjoy a Black Friday bargain or a Cyber Monday superdeal?** Do something good with your outgoing electrical items. It's estimated that 5m unwanted electrical items will be thrown away or hoarded between Black Friday and Christmas. Instead, consider donating if they can still benefit those in need – locally you can offer items on Freegle (ilovefreegle.org) or at our PNCT Warehouse. Or if they are truly at the end of their life, don't throw them away to go in landfill but recycle them at the HWRC. And enjoy your new stuff even more!

...**from Presteigne Freegle**. Only 10 days until the big festive day! Most of us could probably do with having a bit of a pre-Christmas declutter. If you're wading through the loft, garage and cupboards and don't know what to do with it all then 'Freegle to the rescue'! List your unwanted stuff on your local free reuse community, you'll be amazed at what can be re-homed and you'll be avoiding a bin, a skip, the tip, landfill and incineration-yay!! Head on over to our website <https://www.ilovefreegle.org> to get started or download our #Freegle sharing app for free from here <https://www.ilovefreegle.org/mobile>. Buying less brand new stuff and reducing your waste is one really easy thing you can do everyday to reduce your carbon footprint and to be a bit kinder to our one and only little planet p.s. you'll also save lots of money !

...**Recycle Now**. **Be honest, who had their first mince pie in October?**Just us? Whenever you start your mince pie munching, make sure to recycle the tin foil casing. All you need to do is brush the crumbs off and it's ready to go! Great news eh?

...**Transport for Wales**. **From Sunday 12 December, a new rail timetable** will be in place across the Wales and Borders network. It will also see the re-introduction of direct services

between Crosskeys and Newport for the first time in almost 60 years Find out more here: <https://news.tfw.wales/news/increase-in-train-services-from-december-2021>

...Powys CC Housing Services. Tenancy Hardship Grant. You can apply for this grant if you rent your home and you are at risk of homelessness as you are building up arrears of rent because of Covid-19. This could be because your income has become less during the Covid-19 period or your costs have gone up too. <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/11367/Tenancy-Hardship-Grant>

...from Bev about Defibrillators. Just to confirm the defibs have had new batteries and the pads replaced and are now all operational. They are located outside the Day Centre, Lorna's Sandwich Shop, & John Beddoes School. There is also one located inside at the Bowling Club. In Norton there is one in the Old Telephone Box opposite the Church and there is also one at Norton Manor Park. Hopefully we won't need to use them anytime soon!

...from Recycle Now. When recycling your glass bottles and jars, remember to put lids and caps back on - reduces the chance of the lids and caps getting lost during the sorting process.

R.I.P.

...Pam Linnett of Castle Road, Presteigne passed away peacefully at home on 1st December 2021 aged 68 years. Much loved and greatly missed by her family and many friends. Funeral Service at Hereford Crematorium on Monday 20th December 2.15pm. The hearse will leave the lay-by on Boulthbrooke straight at 1.05pm, along Presteigne High Street and up to the Memorial Hall, then on to Hereford. Family flowers only please. Donations to St Michael's Hospice. Enquiries Geoff Hall Funerals 01547 528554

LOCAL AREA JOB & VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

...Orbis Education and Care are currently looking for support workers in Presteigne area. We have a few vacancies within one of our residential homes for children with autism - full time contracts, and a range of benefits, including nationally recognised qualifications - flexible with hours - morning/afternoon shifts, nights - or full working rota www.orbis-group.co.uk

...Herefordshire Language Network is delivering it's interpreter foundation training course over 6 remote sessions from 22 January 2022. All languages are welcome no matter how rare - or how common - you think it might be. Completing this course could lead to paid work in the county. The deadline for applications is Friday 14 January, & it only costs £30 to take part. Find out more & download the application form: <https://orlo.uk/zStHR>

...Knighton Community Centre needs two Youth Workers – 20 hours a week and a Coordinator – 9 hours a week. Funded by the UK Renewal Fund until 30/6/2022. Applications by 29/12/2021 to ruthforrester@btopenworld.com. Shortlisting Meeting 30/12/21. Interviews will be held on 6/1/22 after 17.00. <https://www.knightoncommunitycentre.com/job-vacancies>

...Dyfed Powys Police Officer Recruitment January 2022 an opportunity to register an interest in becoming a Police Officer in readiness for our next Police Officer campaign in January 2022. Following registration, there'll be an online familiarisation session on Mon 20th December or Tues 21st December. Register https://orlo.uk/register_your_interest_MAw4I

...from The Stagg. Bar and Front of House Work available for some shifts over the festive season. Good hourly rates and gratuities to top up your Christmas funds! Washing up also available for the more shy amongst you. Telephone Shan on 01544 230221

...from Herefordshire Council. We're looking for more vaccinators and volunteer marshals across Herefordshire to be part of our local response to the pandemic. If you are a registered (or recently retired) vaccinator looking for full-time or part-time roles, please contact us. We're also looking for volunteers to support additional roles such as marshalling people on our sites. If you are interested or want more details please contact hw.recruitment@nhs.net.

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR !

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.