

Community News

Issue 119 mid-March 2020

an information service from PAC - the Presteigne Area Community Group

You are receiving this email because you asked to receive the Community News and be kept informed about PAC activities. If at any time you decide not to receive further PAC emails, just contact us on pacdg@icloud.com with REMOVE in the subject line and we'll immediately take you off the mailing list.

Disappointing news about the Radnorshire Arms which has lain empty for almost 2 years now - the Mid-Wales Journal for 6th March has reported that an offer by a local business consortium for our historic 17th century hotel has been turned down by the administrators. The MWJ report says that the consortium, made up of eight people many with a personal interest in Presteigne, submitted a 'clean' offer with no conditions but this was rejected by the administrators, who say that they continue in discussions with a number of interested parties, and the property remains on the market. Let's hope this is just a temporary setback.....

Messages from Rhiannon at the Library

....to celebrate World Book Day, (which was on the 6th of March) please help us take part in the WBD Share a Million Stories event! If you couldn't make StoryTime on 6th March, all is not lost - any story you read in the library counts - help add to our total until the 29th of March!

... and the Library Book Club selection for March is "Ticket to Ride" by Tom Chesshyre - the Book Club meets in the Library on the last Wednesday of each month, so this month on Wednesday 25th March. Anyone can drop in for as many (or as few) meetings as you like, there's no need to sign up for it beforehand. It's up to readers to get the book themselves - you can come and order it through the library (most do), or you can get it another way (if you prefer to buy a copy, read on a Kindle, etc), it's entirely up to you. Call in to see Rhiannon if you need further information.

PACDG's Guerrilla Gardeners would like to thank Lightfoot and Connect for recently funding the purchase of some badly-needed hand tools and a very smart mobile pavement sign. These have already been put to good use in the Shoppers Car Park, and for our work on the previously neglected footpath beside the Kaye's site (from the Medical Centre to the British Legion) which is now being enhanced with more plants for wildlife. We would also like to thank the Bring Site Volunteers for allowing us to share their shed ! We meet every Wednesday morning around 9.30am for approx. 1 hour, weather permitting and we'd love you to join us - email pacdg@icloud.com

EMAIL SCAM ALERT !.... some people are receiving emails made to look as if they're from PayPal or from one of the big UK banks (HSBC, Barclays etc) warning you that a suspicious payment of £xxx has been noticed on your account. It goes on to say that if you think the payment is OK then do nothing, but if you think it's fraudulent, then click on the link to cancel the payment. **DO NOT CLICK ON ANY LINK - THIS IS AT BEST A PHISHING ATTEMPT AND MAY BE A FINANCIAL SCAM !** If you don't use Paypal or it's not your bank then the scam is obvious of course, but some fraudsters are very good at mimicking the real website and the incoming email address. If for some reason you fear it may be genuine (it's not!) then log on to your bank or PayPal account to check. **Never click a link.** (Thanks to Chris Jones for this alert)

A message from Knighton Community Centre...we have compiled a Register of Local Community Organisations for Knighton, and this is now 'live' on the Community Centre website - so if you're looking for information on Knighton-area organisations, clubs, societies etc. please visit <https://www.knightoncommunitycentre.com/news.html>.

... and if you're looking for similar information and contact details for the Presteigne & Norton area, please check out the existing Local Community Organisation Register produced by PACDG for the Presteigne area, go to the Town website <http://www.presteigne.org.uk/local-organisations>

A message from SHEEP MUSIC 2020 - WE HAVE LIFT-OFF! The end of February may be cold and flooded but we have the antidote...Sheep Music 2020 is in sight and Early Bird tickets are available now through our [website](#) and [wegottickets](#). Get it in your diaries, folks! We cannot wait to unveil what we've been brewing - for updates follow us on social media.

STEWARDING....If you are 18 or over and would like to enjoy the festival but without the cost, sign up as a steward and receive a free ticket in exchange for your help. Work one 4-hour shift and you'll qualify for a free day ticket; complete two 4-hour shifts and receive a weekend ticket. Tasks will include staffing the gates, helping with the campsite, litter-picking and generally ensuring everyone has a good time! To find out more or sign up as a steward, email: stewards@sheep-music.co.uk. Sheep Music x

Repair Presteigne returns this coming Saturday 21st March from 10am to 12.30pm in the Youth Centre (Old School) on Hereford Street - household items fixed for free. Stay and help, or just to watch and see how it's done. Put it in your diary for the 3rd Saturday of every month. Extra fixers always needed ! Contact Rolly at rollybea5@gmail.com

Related to the worldwide Right to Repair movement, this was seen on the BBC News website....*New rules could spell the death of a "throwaway" culture in which products are bought, used briefly, then binned. The regulations will apply to a range of everyday items such as mobile phones, textiles, electronics, batteries, construction and packaging. They will ensure products are designed and manufactured so they last - and so they're repairable if they go wrong. It should mean that your phone lasts longer and proves easier to fix. That may be especially true if the display or the battery needs changing. It's part of a worldwide movement called the Right to Repair, which has spawned citizens' repair workshops in several UK cities. The plan is being presented by the European Commission. It's likely to create standards for the UK, too - even after Brexit. That's because it probably won't be worthwhile for manufacturers to make lower-grade models that can only be sold in Britain. This 'Ambitious' proposal is all part of what one green group is calling the most ambitious and comprehensive proposal ever put forward to reduce the environmental and climate impact of the things we use and wear. Proposals aim at making environmentally-friendly products the norm. It could mean manufacturers using screws to hold parts in place, rather than glue. Things are slowly moving in the right direction !!*

As Pete Seeger said "If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired, rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled or composted...then it should be restricted, redesigned or removed from production"

SNOWDROPS AND TREE SAPLINGS WANTED - CAN YOU HELP ?

.....thanks so much to those who've already replied, but we're still looking for more snowdrops to help further beautify our lovely town.... following up on an item in the last Community News, if you have prolific displays of snowdrops in your garden this year and are able to 'liberate' some bulbs for the PAC volunteers to plant around town - please email pacdg@icloud.com. Thank you !

....the Town Council's Climate Action Group are looking for donations of tree saplings for planting. Do you have any unwanted saplings growing in your garden? There will be a collection point at the next Local Food Market on the 4th April at the Memorial Hall. Either bring them in pots or, if they are bare rooted, please carefully wrap them in a plastic bag to prevent them from drying out. Email Cllr Rose Bamford on rosebamfordpntc@gmail.com if you have any questions on this.

Daffodils - what a lovely show everywhere around town this year - especially down Station Road !

Huge thanks to everyone who's donated bulbs in the past, and helped plant them - please look out for locations which you think could still benefit from more daffodil planting in the Autumn and let us know where, by emailing pacdg@icloud.com.

A message from Heather about The Warden... *It saddens me to say that I have stepped down as Chair of the Warden Guardians Foundation. As most of you know, it's due to ill health, I would of liked to have carried on until Jim Bell's age, but that wasn't meant to be. I would like to thank our members, whose number has risen from 20 to 110 . Thank you for helping me on the Reservoir - Mike and Terry (Warden Volunteers) - Colin Kirkby for advice - John Wilding for supplying posts - Good Brothers Oak for the information boards - Richard Lund for making the information boards - Nick Close and our never-forgotten Nigel Powell who erected posts - the PCC Volunteers who put the paths in and out of the area - and Steve Gealy and Phil Stallard from PCC for their ongoing support. We have achieved a lot in 5 years - new steps, new sign, black fence repaired and painted the length of Warden Road (with a small section we will get finished). As always, thank you to all the Warden Volunteers who will carry on keeping this beautiful woodland clean and tidy . I will miss our mornings together. Thank you"*

Do you suffer from leg problems ? e.g. varicose veins, skin tears, eczema, ulcers, wound leakage or immobility. **Then go along to the Knighton Leg Club which runs every Thursday between 9.30 and 11.30am in the Knighton Community Centre.** The Leg Club is a freely available service for people in Presteigne, Knighton and the surrounding area. No referral or appointment needed, just come along on Thursdays for advice and support. Circulation tests and measurements for support stockings also available. Contact 01547 521270 if you need more information.

Messages from two residents who will be running in the London Marathon for charity...

...(from Paula Randall) *I am running the London Marathon next month (26th April). With 8 weeks to go, the training is full on and many may see me pounding the streets. I'm fundraising for two charities special to me - Macmillan, who believe no one should face cancer alone - and Coeliac UK, who help people with Coeliac disease, which I have had since birth. I feel truly honoured to be able to run for these charities. If you could spare a small donation, the links are below. Thank you! Paula x*

Macmillan Giving Page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/paula-randell20>

Coeliac Giving Page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/paula-randell2020>

...(from Jonathan Felgate) *Keeping Scouts running! Presteigne Scouts has been helping to show young people that "There's more to life than Gaming" for some years now, using camping, climbing and mild exhaustion (mainly on the part of the volunteer leaders) to develop skills in teamwork, leadership and diligence. Ensuring that the Scouts can accomplish this within a safe and supportive environment however takes money. That's why I'm running the London Marathon for the Scout Association on the 26th of April this year. If you would like to give young people a leg up, head along to my fundraising page at [GoFundMe.com](https://www.gofundme.com) and search for "London Marathon for the Scouts 2020". If you think you have something more to give, perhaps a skill in radio communication or whittling, or just a love of singing around a campfire then contact us on Facebook about becoming an assistant leader at "First Presteigne Scouts". Thank you! Jonathan*

Walks with the East Radnor Ramblers in late March....Weds 18th March 8.5 miles from Offa's Dyke Centre, Knighton; Thurs 19th March 4 miles from Secret Hills Centre, Craven Arms; Weds 25th March 7 miles from roadside by 8. Offa's Green, Norton; Sat 28th March 8-10 miles from The Bog CP (Stiperstones); Weds 1st April 7 miles from Hillside Coppice, nr Cleobury North. Walks start at 10am. Everyone welcome! Under 18s must

be accompanied by a responsible adult. Further information, and photos of recent walks, at www.ramblers.org.uk/east-radnor or from E and S Williams on 01544 260524

EVENTS IN THE 2ND HALF OF MARCH

Saturday 14th March - Gather Round and Sing with Marion Rowlett on Saturday 14th March from 11.00am until 12.30 in The Assembly Rooms.

Monday 16th March - Music @ The Dukes. Mike and Dylan James. 8pm. Melodeon and doublebass duo from South Wales. Irish, Welsh, Scottish, Breton and English songs, ballads, tunes and dance music. "*They will take you through the green lanes of the far flung reaches of the Celtic world*". Info from maggie@phonecoop.coop

Saturday 21st March - Lent Lunch 11.30am - 1.30pm at St Andrews Church Hall

Saturday 21st March - Repair Presteigne (see item above)

Saturday 21 March - 4th Annual Grand Spring Sale at The Assembly Rooms. Fabulous clothes, vintage, collectables & jumble. Tea, coffee & cakes. 10am - 2pm. £1 Entry for Shelter and Help Refugees. Info: Sabina Ruber 01544 262864 / Kate Bull 01544 370637

Saturday 21st March - Coffee Morning and Table Sale at the Royal British Legion Social Club. 10am to 1.30pm. Come and support your local Legion ! Tea or coffee, biscuits or cake from 50p. Tables with handmade cards, toys, clothes, books etc. To book a table, contact Paul at the British Legion.

Sunday 22 March - "From Necessity to Luxury" at The Assembly Rooms. 2.30 - 3.30pm. Mark Lucas, Curator of the Welsh National Wool Museum, looks at the changing history of the wool industry in Wales. Once a widespread industry with 900 mills, only a few working mills remain. Mark's illustrated talk is accompanied by a selection of woollen fabrics and historical artifacts. £5 from The Workhouse (cash only) and wegottickets.com

Wednesday 26th March - MBA and The Sidney Nolan Trust present "Readings by the poet Manuel Iris" at The Assembly Rooms. 7.30 pm. Manuel Iris is a celebrated poet laureate whose poetry reflects his obsession with beauty, time, death and the bridges that marry them. Manuel is coming to the UK as a visiting research fellow of the University of Roehampton and will spend a week at The Rodd, immersed in the landscapes and culture of the Welsh Borders. Iris received the "Merida" National Award of Poetry (Mexico 2009) for his book "Notebook of Dreams" and the Rodolfo Figueroa Regional Poetry award for his book "The Disguises of Fire" (Mexico 2014). Tickets £5 at The Workhouse (cash only) wegottickets.com and on the door.

Friday 27th March - Presteigne Screen presents "Monos" at The Assembly Rooms, 8pm. In this chilling and highly original film set in Colombia, 'monos' (monkeys) are a squad of ill-disciplined paramilitary teenagers whose real purpose is never fully explained, but whose *noms-de-guerre* (Wolf, Rambo, Dog, Boom Boom etc) suggest a frightening focus they never really live up to. They survive on both a mountain top above the cloud line, and in a dense jungle, and spend much of their time keeping teen anarchy at bay which is, of course, especially frightening for the adult prisoner they are guarding, a woman known simply as 'Doctor'. Accidents and executions are only a heart-beat away in a film that draws inspiration from *The Lord of The Flies*.

Wednesday 1st April - MBA presents "Chamber Music for Strings" at The Assembly Rooms. 4pm. Musicians from North Wales & Shropshire present an informal concert premiering two works by recent Presteigne resident, composer John Hyslop. The programme includes a string quartet and a viola trio which are influenced by traditional music forms infused with hints of Ibero-Celtic Iron Age pop music from the Walton basin circa 2500 BC !!. Free - suggested £10 donation with all proceeds to the children's cancer charity Team Cleo

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) - email text (not poster images please) at least 3 weeks in advance to pacdg@icloud.com.

The Community News is published twice per month. Feel free to tweet or forward this issue to others 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.