

# Community News

Issue 128 March 2020

an information service from PACDG - the Presteigne Area Community Group "Working Together"

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

**Editor's Note... so much has changed in just the last few days and is still changing as everyone adjusts !**

- **Please contact us if you see or hear of anything that will be of help to other residents - better we receive it twice or three times than not at all ! email [pacdg@icloud.com](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com)**
- **and if you're self-isolating or need assistance in any way, you can also email [pacdg@icloud.com](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com) and we'll pass on your message to people who can help.**

**Last minute information - unfortunately Lloyds Bank will NOT be open tomorrow due to staff shortages. Watch this space for updates.**

## How can you take part in Clap For Our Carers?

The idea behind this campaign is to show our appreciation for doctors, nurses, GPs and every other NHS and other critical workers during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, through a nationwide round of applause taking place on Thursday 26 March at 8pm (tonight !)

The Clap For Our Carers campaign poster reads: "During these unprecedented times they need to know that we are grateful. Please join us on 26th March at 8pm for a big applause (from front doors, garden, balcony, windows, living rooms, etc) to show all nurses, doctors, GPs and carers our appreciation for their ongoing hard work and fight against the virus. Please share this message, so we can make sure the word spreads and reaches all to join!"

Make sure to keep a safe distance from other people. People are being encouraged to live stream their participation on 26 March on social media channels.

## SCAM WARNINGS

**...a friend has relayed a warning from a police colleague that there are WhatsApp update scam texts doing the rounds.** With the increased usage of Neighbours WhatsApp groups, this was perhaps inevitable. So, if you receive a text purporting to come from WhatsApp inviting you to upgrade, receive a 'loyalty' reward, or threatening account suspension unless... - **ignore and delete !**

**...and this from PCC.** Although there is a huge amount of community spirit and camaraderie at this time, scammers have been known to take advantage of this and knock at your door claiming to offer help.

Some individuals are posing as door-to-door coronavirus testers or from the Centre Disease Control wanting to ask questions, in order to gain entry to people's homes. Nobody, and specifically not the NHS nor the police, are conducting such tests or questionnaire. If anyone attends your property and claims to be conducting such tests, please call the police on 999.

Other scams involve phishing emails from people pretending to be a trustworthy organisation. Please be aware of various emails containing links which then prompt you to divulge personal information such as login details, bank details, etc - NEVER give these details out, however legitimate the email may seem.

Remember:

- DON'T click on links from email sources you don't know - this could result in a virus being download onto your computer or device.
- WATCH OUT for emails claiming to be from the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying they have information about the virus.
- Ignore online offers for vaccinations - these are false.
- Do your homework when it comes to giving donations, whether through charities or crowdfunding sites. Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. If someone wants a donation in cash, by gift card, or by bank/money transfer, don't do it.
- Emails claiming to be from the government offering tax rebates to support people throughout these unprecedented times are doing the rounds, the Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) has confirmed. The emails, which look official, inform the recipient of the rebate amount and request they click a link to receive it. Recipients are then asked personal details, including their credit card number and address. These details allow the scammer to take money directly from the recipient's bank account.
- There are also reports of several 'coronavirus update' apps, which claim to provide updates on the virus. These fake apps contains a form of 'ransomware', named CovidLock, which upon downloading, locks the phone and displays a message demanding that the user pay a sum of money to unlock it. These apps are available to download from various unofficial websites. Phone/tablet users are advised to ONLY download apps directly from the Apple Store, or Android Play Store as these are safety-checked by the platforms.

...from Norton Show Committee. It's with a heavy heart that we have made the decision to not go a head with Norton Show this year. We know that all the charities that we support will desperately need the help, but under the current restrictions in place it would be foolhardy to continue with planning. Wishing you all the very best. Stay safe and healthy. Hope to see you all soon. Dan, Deb & the committee

**When you handle your rubbish/recycling collection bins after they've been emptied .... WASH YOUR HANDS THOROUGHLY !!** The bin men are handling a lot of bins and taking precautions with gloves etc....but you will still need to be careful... Good advice.

**If you, or a neighbour, needs one of the recently-issued Community Volunteer Support leaflets** detailing how to get support in thus crisis, and summarising services provided by local shops and businesses, three leaflet dispensers have been installed - one on the PACDG noticeboard by Spar - one by the Lloyds Bank ATM - and one on the big Norton noticeboard by Corte Cottage

**A local accountant has provided this information summary for anyone here running a small business or who is self-employed.** "There have been some huge announcements over the past week and I now want to provide you with a summary on some of the key areas and how to claim. These measures are new and getting the systems in place will take time so you will need to plan your business cashflow carefully. There has been up until now a lack of government support for the self-employed but we expect a government support package for the self-employed will be announced shortly" *(thanks to Elsa Jones for this)*

You should talk to your own accountant about what you may be entitled to and the process of applying for it.

Government Support	For Who?	How to Claim	Take note!
<b>BUSINESS INTERRUPTION LOAN SCHEME (BILS)</b>	All businesses with Turnover <£45million,	Will need to provide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financials/Management Accounts</li> <li>2-3 year forecast/business plan</li> </ul>	Loans offered up to £5 million for up to 6 years, first 12 months interest free. The government will provide a guarantee of 80% on each loan. There are 40 accredited lenders able to offer the scheme, including all the major banks.
<b>SMALL BUSINESS GRANT SCHEME</b>	All businesses in receipt of small business rate relief or rural relief	You do not need to do anything. Your local authority will write to you if you are eligible for this grant.	A one-off grant of £10,000 to help meet ongoing business costs.
<b>RETAIL &amp; HOSPITALITY GRANT SCHEME</b>	Retail, hospitality and leisure businesses	You do not need to do anything. Your local authority will write to you if you are eligible for this grant.	Rateable value between £15,000 and under a grant of £10,000 is available. Rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000 a grant of £25,000 is available.
<b>BUSINESS RATE HOLIDAY</b>	All retail, hospitality, leisure and nursery businesses.	There is no action for you. This will apply to your next rates bill in April 2020 in relation to the 2020/2021 tax year.	You can estimate the business rate charge you will no longer have to pay this year using the <a href="#">business rates calculator</a> .
<b>JOB RETENTION SCHEME</b>	All Businesses with employees on payroll	You will need to designate affected employees as 'furloughed workers' and submit information to HMRC through a new portal (not yet set up).	HMRC will reimburse 80% of furloughed workers wage costs, up to a cap of £2,500 per month. Employees cannot do ANY work while Furloughed.
<b>STATUTORY SICK PAY (SSP)</b>	SMEs with < 250 employees as at 28 Feb	Maintain records of staff absences and payments of SSP. The government will set up repayment mechanisms over the coming months.	2 weeks' SSP per eligible employee who has been off work because of COVID-19 Note from GP not required.
<b>VAT DEFERRAL</b>	All businesses	Automatic (you don't need to do anything). Customers who normally pay by direct debit should cancel their direct debit with their bank if they are unable to pay	The deferral will apply from 20 March 2020 until 30 June 2020.
<b>INCOME TAX DEFERRAL</b>	Self-employed	Automatic (you don't need to do anything). Customers who normally pay by direct debit should cancel their direct debit with their bank if they are unable to pay	Taxpayers will be given until the end of the 2020 to 2021 tax year to pay any liabilities that have accumulated during the deferral period.
<b>TIME TO PAY (TTP)</b>	All Businesses	Call HMRC TTP helpline on 0800 0159 559 with your relevant info at hand.	HMRC have scaled up their Time To Pay offer, offering deferrals without interest or penalty.

1,014 words

**A message from Anna, Presteigne PCSO, relaying the Dyfed Powys Police Neighbourhood Policing Teams NPT patrol plans.** 'In response to the situation, we are adapting our current patrol plans, and targeting them in line with the UK Government guidelines. Daily patrols will be conducted and will include key locations such as supermarkets, food shops, pharmacies, parks, GP surgeries, and petrol stations/shops. Obviously our staff and the public's health is paramount, therefore they'll be practicing social distancing guidelines (2m rule) with people wherever possible. Officers will also have their Personal Protective Equipment for use when appropriate. Dynamic patrols aimed at engaging with, and where appropriate challenging, gatherings of more than two people will also take place at areas known to be associated with ASB, and local parks where open etc. Expect to hear from your NPT's during this time".

**UPDATE FROM THE HIGH STREET (things are changing every day - sorry ! - so if you have access to the internet, please check websites or Facebook pages)**

**...a reminder. Alex Gooch will be making two bread deliveries a week during the crisis.** All bread is now pre-wrapped for safety's sake. Bread will be arriving at the usual stall in Broad St on Wednesdays and Saturdays at around 10.00 am. Lisa and staff will be taking all necessary precautions to serve customers by wearing gloves and masks.

**...from Mark at Real Wines.** APC couriers have advised that they are still able to deliver wines, but other, more essential deliveries will take priority. In practice this means it may not be next working day delivery, but 2 or 3 days. We are getting low on stocks but have orders from France and Italy being picked up this week and next. Simply type **freeshipping** in the discount box at checkout and the delivery charge will be knocked-off your order. [Click here](#) to place an order now. Thanks for being great customers and friends. Keep well!

**...from Chilvers Farm Supplies.** Message from Chilvers Farm Supplies. As the ongoing situation is progressing we have taken several steps to ensure the health and welfare of us and our families. We are well aware that this is a busy time and most customers are in full swing of lambing. If you need anything we are still open but to reduce social contact please can you phone ahead with your orders and we will box them up and leave them outside the shop at The Cloggie. Dan is on the road and is delivering - please speak with him and he will leave your items in a safe place on your farm. Chilvers also have pet food, horse food and chicken food available at their new Presteigne store (for delivery only). Call Dan (see number below). We thank you for your continued support in this difficult time. We wish you and your families all the best and please stay safe. Many Thanks, Andy Tess and Dan. Shop 01547550121, Andy 07791096941, Dan 07798928909

**...from Carini's Butchers.** Opening hours are - Monday to Thursday 7am-5pm, Friday 7am to 5.30pm, & Saturday 7am to 2.45pm.

**...and finally**

- **a message posted by Clare (echoed by everyone I guess !)** *“And finally for this morning before I get stuck in to work, a shout-out for our amazing shopkeepers on Presteigne High Street who are working so hard to keep the residents supplied with the essentials for daily living, both via the food shops, minimarts and pharmacy and through an increasing number of delivery services for those who are self-isolating. It’s fantastic!”*
- **and from Beverley.** *“To all Presteigne & Norton residents I would like to say thank you for being sensible and staying at home as much as possible. Most of us are lucky in that we have at least a small garden to sit in and enjoy the sunshine. I apologise for being a little quiet this last week or so but I have been busy expanding & enhancing the East Radnor Home Support, which I’m very proud of and would like to take this moment to thank the staff that are working for me at this very difficult time. We’re all in this together and I think it proves what a wonderful community we live in with all the WhatsApp groups that have been set up between neighbours, people offering to help & volunteer. We have a small group of volunteers doing a super job behind the scenes in town. Thank you. If you need anything at all please drop me an email as it’s the easiest way to get me [cllr.beverley.baynham@powys.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.beverley.baynham@powys.gov.uk). Seriously, thank you to you all. We can do this. Stay safe.”*

#### **PACDG - the PRESTEIGNE AREA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP... “WORKING TOGETHER”**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com).