

# Community News

Issue 328 February 2024



The Community News is an information service from the Presteigne Area Community Development Group  
"Working Together For Our Community"

**Next Issue - deadline for contributions 10am Wednesday 14th February  
email [news@pacdg.org](mailto:news@pacdg.org)**

- 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](http://www.presteigne.org.uk/calendar)

## THANK YOU!

...**Read Easy Shropshire Hills - on our 5th birthday** we'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has been with us along the way, helping us to improve the reading ability of 35 local people who have been involved in our coaching programme. That's 35 people who without our support would have gone through life struggling to do many of the things we often take for granted. Thanks to all our volunteers who give their time, commitment and expertise. Thanks to our sponsors and donors who help us buy reading materials and train our coaches. Thanks to our reading venues who allow us to coach for free. Thanks also to the local organisations and individuals who know someone who struggles with reading and have encouraged them to make the brave step to get in touch with us.

## TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

...**Presteigne & Norton TC - Congratulations to our two new Council members for 2024.** Following the resignations of Cllr Bamford and Cllr Poster, the Council has now co-opted Colin Kirkby and James Ramsay to the Town Council. Their first meeting will be 21st February.

...**Presteigne & Norton TC - next main meeting** Wednesday 21 February 7.30pm at the Assembly Rooms. Meeting papers available from 15 February on the Town website [www.presteigne.org.uk](http://www.presteigne.org.uk) together with Draft Minutes from the January meeting.

## EVENTS & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

...**Presteigne Local Food Market - Saturday 3 February 8am - 11.30am** at the Old School/Youth Centre in Hereford Street. Fresh local produce including bread, meats, cakes, honey, pies, apple juice, mushrooms, herbal cosmetics, chocolate and more.

...**Live music at The Hub @ New Radnor - Home of the Free & Jessica Rising** - following on from their success in Presteigne, Home of the Free (Dave Luke and Alex Valentine, special guest John Hymas) supported by Jessica Rising will be at The Hub, New Radnor (LD8 2SS) on Sunday 25th February 7pm (doors open 6pm). Tickets £12 from 01544 350559 or 07870752325

...**Presteigne Screen presents "The Old Oak"** Friday 2 February (UK/Fra/Bel 2023 113 mins 15). The Assembly Rooms. Doors open 7:30pm for Bar, Coffee, Tea and Cakes. Films start 8:00pm. A deeply felt swansong from 87-year-old Ken Loach whose career dates from his renowned 1960s debut feature *Cathy Come Home*, and progressed via *Kes* and *I, Daniel Blake*. Buy tickets with [WeGotTickets](http://WeGotTickets). We have at least 30 seats for online purchase before each film. Seats are unreserved, so to get the best seats it helps if you arrive early. We can accept contactless card payments at the door

...**Concert at St Andrew's Presteigne** - We have a real treat coming up at St Andrew's on Friday when the Chelys Consort of Viols and Helen Charlston - Mezzo Soprano present their consort programme 'The Honour of William Byrd' at 3.30pm on Friday 2 February. The viol consort's last visit to Presteigne with the Fieri vocal consort a couple of years ago was extremely enjoyable, and we are really privileged that their guest this year will be Helen Charlston, who is one of the country's most remarkable young singers ... her recent recordings and concert performances have been highly praised, particularly her album *Battle Cry*, with the oboe player Toby Carr, focusing on the stories of strong women such as Dido and Ariadne. Tickets priced £22 will be available on the door or can be ordered in advance from 07989 091949 or [info@EarlyMusicInTheMarches.com](mailto:info@EarlyMusicInTheMarches.com)

...**Music in New Radnor MINR - The Kassia Trio.** Saturday 10th February. Music for two saxophones and piano. Tickets £15 (under 14s, £3). New Radnor Community Hall. All performances start at 7.30 pm (doors open at 7.00 pm). Box office 01544 350746 / 07493 940683 unless otherwise stated (please

note: these are different to previous seasons). We can now take card payments on the door. Why not join our facebook group...

**...Lingen and District Gardening Club's first talk of the year** is on Tuesday 6 February at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. The subject for this month is "A to Z of Vegetables" with Bob Oliver. He is an experienced judge in shows hosted by the Vegetable Society and welcomes your questions about growing vegetables. Subs are due: £20 for an individual, £30 for couples or visitors £4. There is a full programme of talks, garden visits, a garden party and a plant sale in May.

**...Gather Round and Sing for Fun with Marion Rowlett** is on Saturday February 17th in the Baptist Church, Presteigne at 11oclock.

**...Date for the Town Diary. " The Hidden Gardens of Hereford Street"** Sunday afternoon 26th May. Six gardens in Presteigne open in aid of St. Michael's Hospice.

**...Marion Evans - Interested in local history?** I will be doing a talk for the New Radnor WI at 7pm on Monday 5th February in the New Radnor Community Hall. All welcome - non members £3 to include talk and refreshments. In this talk I cover Sheela Na Gigs - including medieval ideas of sex and the dangers of women (!), I explore an odd Radnorshire word, a New Radnor church run in with Henry V111, strange traditions, and a medieval mystery centred on New Radnor and Llanfihangel. It's a jolly sort of talk!

**...Chatterbrook WI** – members are reminded that our next meeting, on Thursday February 8th at 7pm in St Andrew's Church Hall, is our AGM. It will be followed by wine / soft drinks and cheese refreshments and – just for fun – a beetle drive. Further information 07536 979665 and see <https://facebook.com/ChatterbrookWI>

**...Presteigne Floral Art Society:** We meet in Lingen Village hall on Wednesday February 14th at 7.30. Our demonstrator will be Bridget Manton with the intriguing title ' Brolliology Aolligy'. The competition, bearing in mind the date, is 'Share the Love'. Visitors, as always, are welcome - £6 on the door. Contact the Secretary for further details on 01544 340453. See our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/610659036597894>

**...Flowers for Fun:** Maybe you would like to know how to arrange flowers? Join our friendly group to see what we do - at Whitton Community Hall on Thursdays 1st, 8th and 29th February from 12 – 2 pm (more dates to follow) . Come for a coffee and a chat – all welcome - first visit free! Phone Sue on 07368350379 for more details, or just come along.

**...from Ken Rodmell. Beginners Astronomy Course.** The Marches Astronomy Group and The Spaceguard Centre are running a Beginners' Astronomy Course on Thursday evenings at the Spaceguard Centre, Knighton, March 7 to May 9, 2024. Start time will be 7:30pm and each session will last for about 1 ½ hours. Course fee - £15 for 10 sessions. Booking a place is essential as numbers are limited. For details of the course content and/or to book a place: E-mail [mail@spaceguardcentre.com](mailto:mail@spaceguardcentre.com) or call 01547 520247 (Closed Mon & Tues.)

**...Presteigne Repair** - Saturday 17th February 10am till 12 noon in the Old School/Youth Centre, Hereford Street for getting things fixed! Small household/garden items Presteigne Youth Centre. Mechanical, electrical, ceramics, toys, textiles & more!

...Followed by a **Stitching Workshop** in the afternoon 2 till 4pm. Sharing new & old skills, help & ideas. Sewing, crochet, knitting, crafting. Making, mending, altering, finishing. From basics - zips, buttons, hems - to 'fashioning'. Drop in & join in - its free! For more information call 01544 260766

## **NEWS FROM THE HIGH STREET & LOCAL BUSINESSES / ORGANISATIONS**

**...Pill blister packs - disposal. Just a reminder.** Blister packs should no longer be left at the Old School recycling area. This facility ceased on 13 November 2023 after Powys County Council advised that blister packs could now be added to your black wheelie bin or purple bin bag for kerbside collection, all such waste now going for incineration-for-energy. The previously advised Aldi-Terracycle recycling scheme where blister packs could be returned to Terracycle for recycling is currently on hold.

**...Art for All at The British Legion Hall,** Presteigne. Every Tuesday 10am -12noon, cost £5.00. Email Kay at [kayyendole@rocketmail.com](mailto:kayyendole@rocketmail.com)

**...Results of the Norton Hub January 100 Club draw:** 1st - (£40) No.69 - Gerry Farrell; 2nd - (£25) No. 81 - Jack Ruby; 3rd - (£15) No.98 - Michael Brisbane

**...Powys Teaching Health Board - Flu vaccinations** - flu is still circulating in our communities and vaccination continues to be the best way to protect you and your family from the consequences of flu this winter. If you are eligible to receive the flu vaccine and have not yet done so, it is still available from •Your GP Practice •Your local community pharmacy •Our Main vaccination centres in Bronllys and Newtown (no appointment necessary, find our drop-in clinic times on our website <https://pthb.nhs.wales/staying-healthy/flu-immunisation/>). If you are unsure whether you can have a FREE NHS flu vaccination, please check your eligibility here; <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/flu-vaccine/eligibility/>

**...RNID - we have a drop-in session once a month** at the Old School/Youth Centre in Hereford every 4th Wednesday of the month, 1pm-3pm. The purpose of the drop-in is small hearing aid repair, supply free hearing aid batteries and offer information & advice regarding hearing loss.

**...New Radnor Community Broadband Scheme - Update:** Gavin Jones from BT will be in the village on 20th February and from 11.45am to 1.45pm he will be in the village hall to answer any questions or queries you may have on the full fibre broadband project. BT tells us they are halfway to the number needed for the scheme to go ahead and if they get the numbers plan to start surveying in the Spring. Please do pop in to find out more. Not registered yet and want to do so? See the link on our FB page.

**...Presteigne Bowling Social Club Thursday night Cash Bingo** - every Thursday 8pm start. New players welcome

**...Like to see the Knighton Town Calendar which promotes Knighton events?** A regular extract is posted on Facebook but, for those not on social media, the Town Calendar can be found on <https://www.knightoncalendar.wales/home> where there are also more details about booking and prices. Follow this link to sign up to receive regular emails of the Calendar <https://www.knightoncalendar.wales/sign-up-for-regular-emails>. If you know anybody who can't do that but would like to be added to the subscriber list, please email me [ruthforrester@btopenworld.com](mailto:ruthforrester@btopenworld.com).

**...Guest Coffee Week at Wild Thyme Italian** - we pride ourselves on serving the best cup of coffee we can, and have been happily grinding our house Nicaragua Jinotega blend of coffee beans from The Welsh Coffee Company since the very first day we opened. This won't change but, starting Wednesday 31 January we will temporarily switch to the first of our Guest coffees... a pure Arabica from the wood fired Pienza coffee roasters near Siena, Italy. Come and try it for yourself... very limited supply.

**...Borderlines Film Festival - Presteigne Screen - 2024** Festival runs from Friday 1st to Sunday 17th March. Each year Borderlines Film Festival, the largest rural film festival in the UK, centred on Hereford's Courtyard Arts Centre but also spread across numerous venues in Herefordshire, Shropshire and Powys, brings us a vast selection of new and old films. Presteigne Film Society participated as a venue for many years and Presteigne Screen will continue this association by featuring three films under the Borderlines umbrella - Anatomy of a Fall (Friday 1st March), The Nettle Dress (Friday 8th March) and Typist Artist Pirate King (Friday 15th March) details in the programme here: <https://www.presteignescreen.org.uk/winter-films-presteigne-screen.php>

**...MJS Energy (Presteigne) is committed to our community** and the picturesque countryside we call home. Engaging with local farmers, business owners, and all community members is at the heart of what we do. From installing heat pumps for efficient heating to implementing solar panels and EV charging systems, we're dedicated to enhancing energy efficiency and supporting our clients. Our expert teams also specialise in Biomass installs and professional servicing. Big or small, we're your renewable one-stop-shop! Get in touch this week to kickstart your renewable journey with us!

**...Judge's Lodging - thinking of getting married this year ?** Looking for a completely unique venue for you Civil Ceremony that is somewhere you and your guests will never forget ? We are licenced to hold Ceremonies in our beautiful historical building. You will find no other venue to be as atmospheric as ours. Huge Victorian rooms and magnificent Courtroom. Please see our Website for details. Ring and check your date with us, book your Registrar then confirm and pay your deposit to us. Share with family and friends and book a Wedding day to remember.

**...interested in bell ringing?** We are looking for new recruits to learn to ring locally. We are a friendly group of people keen to teach others to learn this traditional activity. We practice at Knighton and Presteigne - we will be at Knighton church this Thursday evening 1st February from 7.30 pm, pop up and see what we do. You can be sure of a warm welcome!

**...February issue of Broad Sheep - out now and online** - [www.broadsheep.com](http://www.broadsheep.com)

**...interested in great golf membership that offers year round playability** please see what is available immediately at Kington GC. <https://www.kingtongolf.co.uk/join-us/become-member/>. Union fees are included and there are no additional admin or joining fees. If you think you don't play often enough to justify the cost of full membership please consider our Trial and Flexible Membership options - come and see what Kington GC has to offer. Contact [membership@kingtongolf.co.uk](mailto:membership@kingtongolf.co.uk) for more information.

**...East Radnor Ramblers - Walks in February** - Weds 7th Whitton and Pilleth, 7.7 miles. Weds 14th Holmer breakfast walk, 6.5 miles. Thurs 15th Priors Halton Circular, 5.3 miles. Weds 21st Leysters 7.5 miles. For more details see [www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/east-radnor-group](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/east-radnor-group) or call 01544 260 524

## OTHER NEWS

**...The shop opposite the Library and adjacent to St Michael's Hospice Shop is still vacant.** If anyone (or any group of people) in the area is thinking of starting a new venture it is available. It has been successfully used by people in the town as a short-term 'pop up shop'. Until a long-term tenant is found this usage could continue. It can be taken on for a week or fortnight for private fund raising by individuals or by local charities and organisations. Please contact Maggie [07952 972746](tel:07952972746) for further information, details of rent etc.



...from PACDG: **The Big Plastic Count is back!** Some of you may have taken part in the last one in 2022, making it the biggest ever investigation into UK household plastic waste. In 2024, governments will be negotiating a Global Plastics Treaty that could finally tackle over-production of plastic. So this upcoming Count is equally, if not more, important and will be used to try to convince UK ministers to lead the way and push for a really strong Treaty. The Count will take place in the middle of March. It's easy to register and you'll get full instructions on how to count the different types of plastic that pass through your household. Full information at <https://thebigplasticcount.com/>

...**Samaritans for emotional support day or night** - please call our free number 116123, email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) or write to Freepost SAMARITANS LETTERS.

...from **Annie at MidBorder News - looking for a cover pic for the Spring issue of the magazine**, so if you are a local artist or photographer, here's what we need: theme of spring, portrait orientation, hi-resolution, full colour. We offer this as free publicity for you, and of course we print your name and contact details. Please email [midbordernews@gmail.com](mailto:midbordernews@gmail.com) by 10th February. Thank you.

...<https://www.greeneking.co.uk/proud-to-pitch-in>. **This grant from Greene King** could potentially benefit a huge range of groups. You don't actually apply! The link takes you to a site named Action Funder. You create a profile and then create a Project and it matches your project do different funds that it has and basically applies for you! Please share with any sports groups or clubs you are aware of.

...**Powys Recycles - Did you know? You can order free lids / nets for your recycling boxes** via our website and we'll deliver them <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/723/Get-new-bins-or-bags>

### R.I.P.

...from **Anne about Paul Taylor from Presteigne**. Sad to say that my husband Paul lost his battle with cancer yesterday 22 January and died peacefully in Hereford Hospital. My thanks go out to all the staff who looked after us both so well in his final days.

...**Annemarie Roberts (wife to Leon) of Presteigne** passed away at home on Saturday 20 January after a long battle with cancer. The funeral will be held at Hereford Crematorium on Thursday 15 February followed by a wake at the Radnorshire Arms, Presteigne from 1pm.

...**Bea Bradley (Beatrice Nadine) nee Neville of Presteigne** passed away way on 28th December 2023 at Hereford County Hospital. Funeral Service will take place at Hereford Crematorium on Friday 9th February 2024 at 11:15am followed by a service of thanksgiving at St Andrew's Church Presteigne at 2pm. Family Flowers only. Donations, if desired, will be split between Presteigne Surgery and St Andrew's Church, Presteigne.

**LOCAL AREA JOB & VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES** [ed. for other jobs in our local area, log on to <https://freegle.in/presteigne> and see **Jobs Near You** column on r.h.s]

...**Powys Samaritans are recruiting listening volunteers now for training in March**. No previous experience required, you just need to give your time and a listening ear to help ordinary people like you and me who are going through a difficult time. Volunteers are asked to give 3 or 4 hours every week at our offices in Llandrindod Wells with free parking and travelling expenses reimbursed. To find out more about volunteering with Powys Samaritans and apply, visit <https://samaritans.org/llandrindodwells>, call 07907 192 590 or email [recruiting@powyssamaritans.org.uk](mailto:recruiting@powyssamaritans.org.uk)

...**Cambian Group - currently hiring within our Hereford and Worcester Region, Local Homes to Kington, Presteigne and Leominster**. Full training provided and exciting opportunities to continue your professional development. We currently have vacancies for full time, part time & weekend work. You must hold a full uk driving licence & be over the age of 21. Don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like further information or have any questions

...**Presteigne Tyres - Vehicle Testing Technician and MOT Tester Class 4 & 7**. If you would like to join our small and busy team please email your details to [jackie@presteignetyres.com](mailto:jackie@presteignetyres.com) or post them to Jackie at the above address or ring Nigel on 07831 615675

...**Houseworks Cleaning Services - Cleaners wanted** near Shobdon, Kington and surrounding areas.. Also possible 2 cleaners to work Saturdays at holiday let March/April. £12 ph paid on day. More on holiday let job as a Saturday. Must have good standard of cleaning, own transport and be reliable. Please txt your name to; 07955 573915 We will call you.

...**Powys Teaching Health Board - Nursing**. Thinking about a Nursing Career? NHS Wales Careers are hosting a virtual event on Tuesday 6 February from 4pm to 6.30pm. This virtual event provides the perfect opportunity to find out about the different roles and career pathways available in Nursing in NHS Wales. Find out more from the link in the comments.

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

To unsubscribe, email [news@pacdg.org](mailto:news@pacdg.org) with REMOVE in the subject line & we'll immediately take you off the mailing list.