

Community News

Issue 347 FEBRUARY 2025



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 Friday 14th February 2025
email 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

Presteigne & District War Memorial Hall Reopens to the Community!! We are delighted to announce the reopening of Presteigne & District War Memorial Hall, a cherished local venue, which has been closed since April 2023. The new Trustees have now taken over the management of the Hall and will be accepting bookings from 1st February 2025. There have been a number of key improvements made at the Hall including the installation of new LED lighting, a fire alarm system, emergency lighting and a range of compliance testing to ensure the Hall meets all safety standards. In the coming weeks, the Hall will also receive a fresh coat of paint, further enhancing its welcoming atmosphere. The Trustees would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported their endeavours. Your encouragement and assistance have been invaluable. We are pleased that Hall will once again be open for business and look forward to welcoming back the popular Local Food Market on Saturday 1st February. To inquire about booking the Hall, please email us at presteignemh@btinternet.com - and do please join us on Saturday 1st February for a complimentary cuppa as we celebrate this new chapter in the history of Presteigne Memorial Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!
...**February Broad Sheep** will be online and hard copies out very soon - www.broadsheep.com

THANK YOU

...**BloodBikes Wales** - Now the dust has settled on Christmas and New Year I would just like to thank on behalf of BloodBikes Wales all the people who helped or made donations to the Charity in 2024. It is always appreciated and helps to keep the service running. Powys held its head up high last year and we had some really special donations. Heather Brick ran the London Marathon and raised over £4000, Dave Barrett and the Valley crew raised over £5000 at The Llanfair Waterdine Classic Bike Show, Mike Davies Tool Sales raised £2200, we had really good donations from Knighton Rotary Club, tractor runs and various talks and of course personal donations. We have a brand new Powys bike on order at the moment which will be in service in the next fortnight hopefully and these donations allow things like this to happen. We run 365 days a year (unless it's too dangerous to ride) and a little snapshot was Boxing Day this year, I was called out at 12.45 lunchtime to pick up from Llanidloes Hospital to transport to Bronglais (Aber), when I got to Aber and delivered there they asked me to take something from there to Glangwilli (Carmarthen). Rang in from Carmarthen and went to Brecon to pick up there and go to The Grange (Cwmbran), dropped off there and came home via Newport and Hereford. Got back at 21.30 having done 280 miles. Hopefully helped some poorly people and at no cost to the NHS. None of us do it for plaudits and in my case it's my hobby, a lot of members want to give something back to the NHS for help received previously. These donations allow us to do this so thanks everyone!

...**Knighton & Presteigne Leg Club** - we are most grateful to everyone who supported our Christmas raffle, which has given our funds a much-needed boost. We are grateful to the NHS for allowing the district nurses to man the clinics, and to our local Co-op for providing tea, coffee and biscuits, but we are a self-funding branch of the national charity The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation which means we need to fundraise to meet room hire for our Thursday treatment clinic, and for any extra equipment the nurses may require. Any donations are gratefully received. Prospective patients n.b. we now operate on a drop-in basis, so there is no need to make an appointment. Thursdays 9.30am to 11.30am in the Reynolds Room, Knighton Community Centre. Information: 01547 521270 or 07773 226496.

...**Presteigne Fire Station** - We would like to wish FF Dougie Preece huge congratulations on his 20 year anniversary of joining the fire brigade - that's a lot of shouts! Well done Dougie!!

COUNCIL NEWS

...**Latest planning application** in to be considered at the February meeting of the Town Council:

25/0110/FUL Grid Reference: E:331536 N: 264264 Proposal: Change of use of ancillary domestic summer house to holiday let Site Address: 43 Hereford Street, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2AT.

...**Presteigne & Norton Town Council budget set for 2025-26.** The PNTC met on 15th January to set its budget for 2025-26. A budget for the year of £89098 was agreed. In order to hold the precept at the same level as 2024-25 it was agreed to use £13,000 from reserves resulting in a precept of £76,053.04. This represents £56 for the year for a Band D property, being no change from the previous year.

EVENTS & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

...**Presteigne Local Food Market** - Saturday 1st February - Fresh local produce including cakes, meats, honey, bread, eggs, apple juice, samosas, whole foods, herbal cosmetics, pies, chocolate, mushrooms and vegetables. PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE RETURNING TO PRESTEIGNE MEMORIAL HALL for our monthly markets.

...**Sounds Historical - "600 Years! From Hildegard to Haydn"** St. Andrew's Church, Presteigne, 3pm Saturday, 1st February. Alison Kinder returns to Presteigne with some more of her early music colleagues to give us cheer on a gloomy winter's afternoon. 'Sounds Historical' is made up of players of practically any early music instrument you can imagine including the flute, recorders, viola da gamba, lutes, theorbo, crumhorns, violin, gittern - and the human voice - an exploration of 600 years of musical form, played on the instruments that it was written for. Tickets: £22 | £2 (<18). For further information and tickets please contact me on 07989 091949 or at info@EarlyMusicInTheMarches.com

...**Natural beauty and wellness workshops by Silvan Skincare.** Relaxed, hands-on workshops in Presteigne, centred around learning new skills and natural skincare. First workshop: Gua Sha Facial Massage Workshop - Friday 21 February. Booking link here <https://silvanskincare.com/collections/workshops>. Private bookings, date/venue to suit available on request - marian@silvanskincare.com.

...**Gather Round and Sing for Fun with Marion Rowlatt.** Join us for Love Songs on Saturday February 15th at 11am in the Baptist church, Presteigne.

...**Lingen & District Gardening Club** - The new 2025 programme starts on Tuesday 4 February with a talk by Gavin Stoneystreet on the gardens at Kelmscott and how they influenced the work of William Morris. Membership is £20 per year, £30 for couples at the same address and visitors £4. Talk starts at 7.30 pm at the Lingen village hall. Full programme will be available on notice boards around town.

...**Art Fair February 1st** 10.am to 12noon at The British Legion, Hereford Street, Presteigne - tables available. Email kayyendole@rocketmail.com or 07724379335 leave a message.

...**Community Orchard Pruning at Went's Meadow** on Sunday February 16th from 10.30am (till about 1pm). Can you spare a couple of hours to help us get Went's Meadow Community Orchard into shape for the coming apple season? Adrian Jervis will be on hand to give us all a refresher and show us how to prune the trees. All welcome: bring secateurs, loppers, pruning saws and something hot to drink. The session should last a couple of hours and will hopefully – weather willing – be fun! There will be cake...

...**The Royal Oak, Presteigne - with the 6 Nations Rugby now upon us**, and our stocks of Guinness replenished, we will be charging £4.50 a pint during every game of the tournament, So come join us from this Friday 31st January for the first match Wales v France (K.O. 8.15pm). New Menu Alert - starting January 31st 5pm-8pm. Book your tables on Facebook or give us a call on (01544) 260842. Food service hours: Thursday~ Friday 5pm- 8pm; Saturdays 12-2.30pm 5pm-8pm; Sunday Roast Menu 12pm- 3pm. Keep posted for our Steak Night Wednesday Nights Coming soon!

...**Flicks in the Sticks - "Golden Years - Grand Theft OAP"** - Friday 21 February at Lingen Village Hall at 7.30pm. Fate, the pensions crisis and a steadfast refusal to accept the injustice of old age, forces a retired couple into a life of crime. A good laugh. Tickets £5.00. Bar and Ice Creams

...**FIX it FEB ! Presteigne Repair and Share at the Old School/Youth Centre** Saturday 15th February 10am to 12noon. Look out those broken items we will see if we can fix them ! In January 27 items were bought in, 4 needed more work /spare parts and were taken away to fix, only 6 were not repairable. For more information see our new Facebook page: Presteigne Repair.

...**March Xtra Special - Toy Hospital** Saturday 1st March at Presteigne Library 10 til 12 noon (free) A Presteigne Repair & Share event. For children, accompanied by an adult, to bring in toys that are broken/ not working, which stitching, glueing, other fixing can help mend: 01544 260766

...**East Radnor Ramblers - Walks in February** Weds 5th Wapley Hill Fort, 8 miles (two connecting 4 mile circuits). Sat 8th Circling the Begwns, 8.3 miles. (The Roundabout and St David's Church). Weds 12th Figure of 8 from The Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, 8 miles, (two short options available). Weds 19th Hills above Cregrina, 8.5 miles. See www.ramblers.org.uk/east-radnor or call 01544 260524.

...**Breathwork For Health** with Elisabeth Reissner - I'm offering a series of 3 workshops whose focus will be the breathwork practice of coherent breathing. You will be guided in a slow, rhythmical way of breathing that research has shown improves physiological and emotional resilience: heart health, blood pressure and our ability to cope with stress. There will also be time to explore how to breathe more optimally in our daily lives, and to try out other breathwork practices that aid relaxation and sleep. Saturdays February 15th and March 1st & 15th 2.30-4pm in the Old School/Youth Centre, Presteigne. Numbers are limited. £45 for the 3 sessions wingsofchange24@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE HIGH STREET & LOCAL BUSINESSES / ORGANISATIONS

...**The Welsh Blood Service** aims to have at least seven days of each blood type at all times to help patients in need across Wales. Can you help us by giving blood? Book today! <https://wbs.wales/KnightonCommunityCentre>

...**Presteigne Repair** - The clever fixers were kept very busy at Presteigne Repair on the 18th. We were visited by the local MP David Chadwick (& son!), who were shown how things got mended. Lots of broken stuff went home in good order - radio, blender, stove fan, slow cooker, several toasters, an electric blanket, to name a few. A moth-holed jumper was darned & the inevitable vacuum cleaner mended (we do get a lot of them!!). Some generous donations too from happy 'customers', which go towards venue hire & insurance. Every 3rd Saturday, so next one: 15 February. Don't bin it - Bring it!

...**Norton Hub 100 Club winners - January draw:** 1st -£40 - Number 45 - Richard Wilding; 2nd - £25 - Number 20 - Jane Hutchinson ; 3rd - £15 - Number 72 - Daniel Price

...**Lockdown Dhaba** - Remember us?? - fortnightly deliveries are BACK! Menu available to order now, for delivery 1st February - numbers are limited as we get back into the swing of it so order soon to avoid disappointment! In case you've forgotten...3 courses of home cooked vegetarian & vegan Indian food - cooked by us, chilled, delivered to you on Saturday, with instructions to reheat. See our FB.

...**Art and craft sessions at the British Legion Presteigne**, every Tuesday. Art 10-12.noon Craft 1-3pm. Non-profit making groups £5 art session £3 craft session plus materials. Email kayyendole@rocketmail.com or 07724379335 leave a message.

...**Christmas Trees in Norton** - we hope that you all enjoyed the trees and decorations scattered throughout the village over Christmas. Many of you may be more than happy to pack the festive season away until the shops and commercials remind you in September that it's here again but before your seasonal thoughts fade completely I have started a list for those who would like to sponsor a tree for next time. We are hoping to add around a dozen down through the village to fill some of the areas that had less coverage. So if you would like to be on the list, or discuss, contact djnortonlights@gmail.com. All payments received go to the running of The Norton Hub. Thanks to all for the support over the last two seasons and for the many volunteers who make it work.

...**Presteigne Junior Hockey** - 'Minis' Sessions with Leanne at the Leisure Centre in Presteigne - this is a lovely friendly little group welcoming both boys and girls of any ability between the ages of 6-9yrs. Come along and have some fun! Once again, we are getting a fantastic turnout on Monday nights for our first Junior session back! It's great to see so many kids wanting to play sport. See our FB for info.

...**MidBorder News - New Year, New Boss!** As you may have heard, MidBorder News is changing hands. After six years, the current editor, Annie Vickerstaff, is handing over to Carla Rosenthal who is now working on the spring issue. Deadlines remain the same (10 Feb for spring, 10 May for summer, 10 Aug for autumn and 10 Nov for winter) and the magazine will still be a community non-profit publication focused on all your local news and events. Please n.b. new email address: info@midbordernews.com for all your news submissions and advertising enquiries. I (Annie) will still be doing the social media for a while and will of course continue to share your posts to reach a wider audience.

...**from the romantics at the Norton Community Hub: Valentines Big Quiz!** Friday 14th February (of course!) 7pm for 7.30pm start. Teams of 4 - singles and pairs very welcome, we can team you up on the night. Bar and refreshments. £10 per team, under 18s FREE! Book your place - Dave 07709 603641

...**Presteigne Carnival** - It's that time of year again when we are looking for sponsorship for the Carnival on 12th July. This can be sponsorship of money, donation of raffles prizes or donation of services - all are very gratefully received. We were thrilled last year at the generosity of the local community who despite hard times, continue to support the annual town Carnival, and we can't thank you enough for your continued support in making this such a lovely event for the whole town and surrounding community. Please contact us through our FB page, message us on 07766 152000, or speak to one of our committee. Thank you so much in anticipation.

OTHER NEWS

...**Powys Household Waste Recycling Centre booking system and charges for DIY waste disposal.** On 22 February 2024, the council's medium-term financial strategy 2024-2029 was approved by full council. Within that strategy there is a proposal to introduce a booking system for the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) and charges for DIY waste disposal. These changes will be introduced from 1st April 2025. Details of the booking system and charges will be available on the website and promoted to residents prior to implementation. Important notice on Mixed Waste: In order to ensure that we maximise recycling at our HWRC's the Council operates a 'no mixed waste' policy where residents are required to sort their waste before visiting, removing all recyclable material. Any resident bringing mixed waste will be asked to sort this on site. If you're bringing excess residual waste from a missed kerbside collection, please remember that many more materials e.g. plastic film and electrical items, can be recycled at the HWRCs. These items must also be sorted into the different recycling containers on site & not included in any residual rubbish bags.

...**'dead' bees** - if you see a bee of any description on the floor or not flying other than on a flowering plant, it is STARVING! You can help by mixing 2 parts sugar to 1 part water & offering the syrup to the

bee. She (and they are mostly ladies) will happily drink from a teaspoon. You'll see her little black tongue as she drinks. It will take about 10 minutes for her to convert the syrup to energy, but she will fly away if you've helped her in time. The feeling you get on seeing her recovery & flight is well worth your time. n.b. this is a temporary measure, 'First Aid' only. The Bees need diversity in their diet & need to pollinate plants in their search for food. I'm not suggesting we feed sugar to Bees as a regular thing. No honey please!! Disease can be spread between colonies through this practice and you will do more damage than good. White sugar and water only please. They can't thank you, so I will on their behalf.

...Powys CC - a six-week online consultation on changes to the local Powys bus services has begun. This follows an initial online engagement exercise, and a series of engagement events held across the county, where we sought feedback on the current local bus network and the wants and needs of bus users. To have your say on the proposed new timetables and other aspects of bus travel, including fares, please visit: <https://www.haveyoursaypowys.wales/powys-local-bus-network-consultation>. The closing date to provide us with your feedback is: 13th February

R.I.P

...Gillian Mary Joyce Preece of Presteigne - passed away suddenly on 6th January aged 80. Funeral service at Hereford Crematorium on Tuesday 4th February at 12.15pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Presteigne Co- Responders. Inquiries to 01547 528554

...Elsa Layton-Jones of Presteigne - tragically taken from us on Sunday 5th January aged 14. Funeral Service will take place at St Andrew's Church, Presteigne on Saturday 8th February at 11am. Private burial. Please wear a touch of Pink. Flowers welcome. Donations to The Lullaby Trust & The Dogs Trust. Inquiries to 01544 267778

JOBS & VOLUNTEERING

...Sidney Nolan Trust - Bleddfa Centre - Artist Residency 2025. With generous support from The Ashley Family Foundation, we are offering a 9-month artist residency commencing spring 2025 and completing by December. The residency is aimed at artists with a strong socially engaged practice and who are interested in working collaboratively with individuals and community members and regional partners to help generate and promote new creative activity at the Centre. The Artist will receive a bursary of £5750. A further £1000 is available for working with Sidney Nolan Trust to support public-facing events, workshops, and engagement activities. The Artist will have sole use of a dedicated studio space in the former village Schoolhouse building, which can be flexibly accessed. The Hall Barn venue on the site provides further scope for working with groups, workshops, and events. Applications are invited from artist/s living and working in the Mid Wales and borders region who are within 15 years of starting their practice. The opportunity is not limited by art form instead we are seeking an artist/s with a strong interest and prior experience in co-production and community engagement. Application deadline Tuesday 18 February. For more details or to apply, see our website. <https://www.sidneynolantrust.org/about/bleddfa/>

...Broadaxe Timber Frames - Workers needed to join us in our timber frame house manufacturing workshop in presteigne with possibility of joining our on site teams to install. Previous experience in this field would be ideal, general woodwork experience also good. Full training given. The job requires manual handling so needs physical fitness. Hours 7.30-4.30 (2 x ½ hrs breaks). Pay negotiable. Email jamie@broadaxetimmerframes.co.uk

...Volunteering Opportunity: Kington Walks Festival Manager to co-ordinate our festival programme of walks, led by volunteer walk leaders, and work with our website & publicity managers to engage with festival-goers and local community. We will pay expenses and an honorary stipend in recognition of the role. You would be joining a friendly and supportive group of people who regularly go the extra mile to ensure our festivals are adventurous and fun for walkers across a range of abilities and interests. Our next Walking Festival is in September 2025. Visit our website at kingtonwalks.org/index.php/home/ volunteer or contact us at: festival@kingtonwalks.org

...Presteigne Building Supplies PBS - Cleaner (5.5 hours a week). Call in to apply or for more details

...MidBorder News is in the process of creating a website and can offer a chance for someone to improve/ practice their web skills in a volunteering position so if you are interested email Carla.info@midbordernews.com.

...Mayglothling - Sales and Customer Service Assistant. Full time, permanent. Essential skills/ experience: Minimum 2 years' experience in customer service. Proficiency in Microsoft 365. Strong organisational & multitasking abilities. Contact: vickys@mayglothling.com, 01544 230364

...Firth Construction - Join the team! project manager/multi-site manager, carpenters, semi-skilled workers to work on residential & commercial projects in Herefordshire & mid-Wales. For info lisa@firthconstruction.co.uk

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

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