

# COMMUNITY NEWS

ISSUE 345 DECEMBER 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 Tuesday 14th January 2025  
email [news@pacdg.org](mailto:news@pacdg.org)**



**NOT SURPRISINGLY - THERE WILL BE NO END-DECEMBER ISSUE!**



**HAPPY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE** 🎄 🎄 🎄 🎄 🎄

- 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)

**...MidBorder News - see below for the link to the online edition of the Winter Issue:**

there's lots of local news plus our regular features including A Brief History of... and this time it's Hay on Wye. We also have the last episode of A History of the Oxford Arms, which brings us up to date and we have Brilley Flicks and Music in New Radnor as well as council and community news from Kington and Knighton and our usual Presteigne page, amongst other news. Many of our village halls are holding festive events so do try to get out and enjoy some of those; the amount of volunteer hours that go into organising and sustaining these community gatherings is nothing short of phenomenal! In this issue you will see that we are about to have a change of editor: Carla Rosenthal introduces herself on page 2 and I am confident that her plans for the future of the magazine will be a great success. I am bowing out after several years of creating, editing, typesetting and distributing the MidBorder News and am looking forward to a bit more time in the garden (if it hasn't all blown away by the spring). I hope you will continue to enjoy reading the magazine and I'd like to thank you for continuing to support us. Best wishes, Annie. [https://issuu.com/midbordernews/docs/midborder\\_news\\_winter\\_2024](https://issuu.com/midbordernews/docs/midborder_news_winter_2024)

**...The Went's Meadow Community Store** - a joint project between Presteigne Town Council and Sheep Music to build a permanent store on Went's Meadow. Went's Meadow is used as the location to hold community events put on by Sheep Music and the Carnival, as well as one off events and performances. In 2019, in an earlier joint venture between the Town Council and Sheep Music, a Community Barn was built to provide a permanent venue for their events which avoided the need to rent marquees and other equipment, such as staging and flooring, in order to put them on. The proposal is to build another smaller permanent structure next to the barn which will have the dual use of providing on-site storage for all the equipment needed to put on these events, which is currently stored off site, and to provide a space for serving hatches for either a bar or food. We would also apply to buy some new and additional equipment to encourage more community-based events down on the field by making it easier to set up and run such events. It is hope to have a decision from the Lottery and the planning permission by the end of March. Construction would start in April and it is hoped to have the new store ready for the 2025 Carnival. The plans are available to view in Presteigne library's window, and if you think this project is a good idea, **please can you sign the form in the library** and any comments are welcome.

**THANK YOU**

**...The Poppy Appeal Organiser for the local district** would like to thank all for the generous donations to this years Poppy Appeal. The grand total for Knighton and District was £8309.09 of which Presteigne and Norton contribution was £4971.01 a fantastic effort. Once again **THANK YOU ALL!**

**...A huge thank you to everyone who supported my H.A.R.T (Hay Animal Rescue Team) Pop Up shop** event. I was once again amazed by the support and donations given during the 2 days and even a storm couldn't stop us from raising £555 and over £200 in food and other donations. I was overwhelmed by a lovely man who came in and handed over £50, you know who you are, thank you. For Maggie letting me use her wonderful shop & all the coffee to keep me going. For Ruth bringing me cake and all the lovely chats I had with fellow animal lovers. The amount raised will make a difference. Thank you. Louise George.

**...St Andrew's Church - Thank you to Presteigne Little Peoples Playgroup** for their lovely Christmassy artwork which is decorating our children's corner. Don't forget anyone is welcome to come and spend some time in church with their children, and we have a selection of toys and books for them to play with.

### **COUNCIL NEWS**

Latest planning application in to be considered at the December meeting of the Town Council. 24/1682/TRE Grid Ref: E: 331565 N: 264492 Proposal: Works to mature Beech tree in a conservation area Location: St Andrews Church, Broad Street, Presteigne LD8 2AF.

### **EVENTS & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**...Presteigne Fire Station** - on Saturday 14th December 11am-3pm a crew from the station will be travelling round our local community with a very special guest on board! We look forward to welcoming you to take photos, sit in the truck and try on some kit. In exchange (if you are able to) we ask you to kindly donate a festive treat that we can then pass on to Knighton and Presteigne foodbank. Route to follow... Let us know if you would like us to visit your road/estate!

**...Presteigne Little People's Playgroup Carol Concert** in St Andrews Church 5:30 for a 5:45 start on Monday 16th December. £1 entry to cover donation for heating costs. Refreshments will be available.

**...Christmas at Norton Hub** – Join us for our “Christmas Tree of Memories” event, Saturday 7th December. Festive refreshments from 3pm with time to prepare a memorial tag for the tree, and to write and post letters to Santa in his special Norton Hub postbox. Dolau Mixtures perform at 3.30, and at 4.30 we gather round the tree for “lights switch-on”, place our memorials and join Dolau Mixtures for more singing and carolling. Donations for memorial tags to be given to local good causes. For more info 07709 603641. Christmas Door Decorations - Saturday 14th December 2-4pm – More “Christmas at the Hub” activities for our young residents – make your own door decoration to take home. FREE! – but to make sure we don't run out of decorations, please book your place with Chris on 07908 225610. Open to all children with an accompanying adult. Then even more Christmassy fun! on Saturday 21st December – From 2pm, family fun with Christmas music, Grotto, bran tub, “Count the Norton Trees” competition, and another special Christmas Hub Café with mulled wine and mince pies. For more information contact Chris on 07908 225610.

**...The Greatest Story Ever (re)Told.** The Gospels are just the starting point for the Nativity story and don't include many of the details we all know as part of the legend. Where did they come from? Discover the fascinating ways in which the Christmas story as we know it has evolved. Some surprises guaranteed! All are welcome at this talk with readings, images and live music at 3pm on Sunday 15th December at the Baptist Church, Hereford Street. Refreshments and entrance free, donations only.

**...Judge's Lodging, Presteigne - Join us for our annual festive open day**, with a chance to wander the house, discover more about Victorian Christmas, and marvel at our huge tree, then warm yourself in front of one of our roaring fires, with a warm drink and slice of yummy cake. Admission totally free for all. Small charge for refreshments. This year, another special treat awaits in the morning, as we play host to Oranges & Lemons handbell trio, who will be getting us all in the festive spirit with their beautiful renditions of Christmas favourites – don't miss them...it will be magical!

**...Peter Wright will discuss his new book, "How did I get here?** Memories of six decades in motorsport, and musings on the future of Formula 1 and the planet" with motoring journalist,

Mark Williams. Sunday 15th December at 3pm, in the Assembly Rooms, Presteigne. Copies of the book will be available for sale. Voluntary contribution to MBA will be appreciated  
[www.howdidgethere.co.uk](http://www.howdidgethere.co.uk)

**...Christmas and New Year's Day at St Michael's Church, Discoed.** Christmas Day celebration 9:15am. A short informal service with mulled wine afterwards. New Year's Day 12:00. Traditional chiming of the bell at midday with a few prayers to welcome the New Year and a social gathering. St Michael's Church, Discoed, near Presteigne LD8 2NW

**...Midwinter Concert - Merry music and cheery songs.** Whitton Voices led by Sue Harris with Benji and George Kirkpatrick plus a surprise guest. Saturday 21st December, 5pm at St Michael's Church, Discoed, LD8 2NW. £10/ children free. Proceeds to the Refugee Council. Booking essential [01547 550158](tel:01547550158) or [sumarieharris@btinternet.com](mailto:sumarieharris@btinternet.com)

**...Gather Round with Marion Rowlatt** - we will be singing the Manchester Carols as part of a "Retelling of the Christmas Story" a presentation in words and music in the Baptist church at 3pm on Sunday 15th December, followed by tea. Gather Round will meet again in the Baptist church at 11am on Saturday December 21st.

**...Radnorshire Arms Hotel, Presteigne - We will be celebrating the New Year** and you are all welcome to join in! Black & White 'Ball' dress code (as always preferred but optional). Come and enjoy the evening with us

**...Art for All at the British Legion** Hereford Street, Presteigne. Tuesday mornings 10-12. Cost £5.00. Craft group in the afternoon 1-3pm £3 plus materials £2.50 or bring your own. Aldo Art and Craft Fair Saturday 7th and 14th December tables available for craft items only or Christmas items.

**...Coming soon to Presteigne - TheFibreLodge.** Needle Felters, Wet Felters Spinners, Weavers, Fibre Artists & Crafters. Pop up shop opposite Presteigne Library from December 9th-21st. We will have a selection of Silk Fibre, Carded Blended Wool/Silk, Wool Batts, Angora Goat, Fibre Boxes, felted decorations and lots of colourful woolly fluffy stuff.

**...MINR - The Oneira Trio** - Community Hall, New Radnor - Saturday 14th December. NOTE: this concert has been **cancelled** as one of the ensemble has fallen ill and is unable to travel.

**...Gather Round and Sing - Christmas Carols and favourite Christmas songs** with Marion Rowlatt and Michael Tavinor at Presteigne Baptist church on Saturday 21st December at 11oclock. Donations to the local Foodbank.

**...MidBorder Arts - The Gin Bowlers coming to Presteigne Assembly Rooms** for a dance night on Saturday 14th December

**...The Legion Craft Group:** Tuesday Craft Afternoons in the British Legion hall, Hereford Street, Presteigne from 1 – 3 pm are being well supported, but there's always room for more participants. On December 3rd we are making Christmas wreaths, then on 10th and 17th December we have ideas for making table decorations. Easy to make, friendly guidance, everyone welcome. £5 per session to cover hall hire and up to £3 for materials, or bring your own. Further information from Libby - 01544 350333 : email – [l1bby.j15@outlook.com](mailto:l1bby.j15@outlook.com)

**...Presteigne British Legion - Grand Christmas draw** Sunday 22nd December - Mulled wine and mince pies. Coffee and teas. Bar open. Festive atmosphere 12 -4pm British Legion Hereford street Presteigne. All welcome.

**...from Michael Tavinor.** Dear friends in and around Presteigne. I thought you might like to know about some events coming up, supporting and encouraging a spirit of ecumenism in our town! First, on Sunday 15 December at 3.00pm in the Baptist Church, Hereford, a re-telling of the Christmas story in words, music and images. Then, for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, two events: Sunday 19 January, 4.00pm at Presteigne Baptist Church - an illustrated talk about my recent ecumenical pilgrimage to Rome. Sunday 26 January, 11am at St Andrew's Church, Presteigne - a united service for all Christian traditions in Presteigne. You really will be most welcome at all of these events. Warmest good wishes to all at this Advent season.

**...Christmas Shopping Evening at The Retreat.** Friday 20th December 4-7pm. Silvan Skincare, Kleen Soaps, organic face cloths, bath mitts, loofahs, Gua Sha facial tools and more. Gift sets and vouchers. Skincare consultations and gift suggestions. Cards, art prints,

calendars and gifts by Jessica Watkins. Come along, have a glass of something or send your loved one with a hint. The Retreat, Presteigne Industrial Estate (next to the Workhouse Gallery).

...**Midwinter Concert** - Merry music and cheery songs. Whitton Voices led by Sue Harris with Benji and George Kirkpatrick plus a surprise guest. Saturday 21st December, 5pm at St Michael's Church, Discoed, LD8 2NW. £10/ children free. Proceeds to the Refugee Council. Booking essential 01547 550158 or [sumarieharris@btinternet.com](mailto:sumarieharris@btinternet.com)

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...**Christmas Services for Children at St Andrew's Church, Presteigne.** Everyone is welcome at all our Christmas services at St Andrew's, but we have two that are particularly aimed at children: CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE - 24 December 5pm. Come and hear the Christmas story retold in familiar words and music, as the characters journey to the stable to see Mary and Joseph and the Baby Jesus in the manger during this atmospheric candlelit presentation. CHRISTMAS MORNING SHORT FAMILY SERVICE - 25 December 11.15am. Take a break from cooking and bring your family and friends of all ages to sing some Christmas hymns, hear the timeless Bible readings describing the Nativity, and show off some of your presents. This is a very informal service lasting around 45 minutes. St Andrew's Church

...**Walks with East Radnor Ramblers** Weds 18th Dec A + B from Kington, a pre-Christmas drinks walk, 7.7 miles (4 miles and 3.75 miles). Weds 1st Jan Bury Ditches, 7.3 miles. Weds 8th Jan Rural Herefordshire, 7.5 miles. For more details see [www.ramblers.org.uk/east-radnor](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/east-radnor) or call 01544 260524

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

...**from the PACDG team:** A huge thank you to Terry, our fabulous editor, for another year of keeping the community connected with the Community News. A huge job keeping us all up to date with the busy and vibrant life of Presteigne - thank you so much from all at PACDG!

...**PNCS - Christmas Raffle tickets now on sale** at The Charity Shop, Warehouse and PNCS Office in the High Street - this is our Annual Fundraiser, please support us to continue our transport service.

...**Powys Teaching Health Board** - You can find this week's Powys Minor Injury Units opening times on our website: <https://pthb.nhs.wales/news/features/service-updates>

...**Broadaxe Farm, Presteigne - We are open every day from now until Christmas.** Local delivery available. Trees netted free of charge

...**Presteigne Primary School needs your help!!** We are looking for a number of very kind local businesses or families to sponsor our upcoming 'Chocolate Golden Ticket' event we have planned for the children. To be held on the 20th December! By sponsoring a small amount of money towards this PTFA event will allow us to purchase the chocolate bars needed - or donations of standard sized Dairy Milk chocolate bars. Acknowledgment of all businesses and families that have sponsored this event will be shared following the event. This event was a big hit with everyone last year! So we are hopeful for the same support and fun this year! Contact Vicky on 07769113421 or the PTFA FB if you can support.

...**British Legion** - Art for All 10-12noon Tuesdays £5.00. Craft group 1-3pm Tuesdays £3.00 plus materials. Art and craft fairs 1st Saturday of every month.

## OTHER NEWS

...**NGS** - thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors we have donated over £74 million to nursing and health charities since we were founded in 1927. In 2024 we are proud to announce total donations of £3,501,227 - the highest donation in our history. To see the impact of our donations throughout 2024, click to see our impact report <https://bit.ly/NGSImpactReport2024>

## R.I.P

...**Dora Dodson formerly of Beddoes View , Presteigne.** Passed away peacefully on Wednesday 27th November 2024 aged 97 years. Dora will be making her final journey through Presteigne High Street on Friday 20th December at 1.15 for anyone who wishes to pay their final respects. Her funeral service will be held at Hereford Crematorium at 2.15pm. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to the Welsh Air Ambulance. Inquiries to Geoff Hall Funerals Knighton 01547528554

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

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