

# Community News

Issue 348 mid-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 Thursday 27th 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)

... **the future of our Fire Station is under threat!!!** How important is Presteigne Fire Station? Are response rates in rural areas important? If these questions are of interest to you please take the time to complete the consultation questionnaire at <https://shorturl.at/EXjyK>. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service need your help and input to help shape the Community Risk Management Program (CRMP) 2040. Join us to identify the risks and challenges faced by our communities and how to address them. If you are able to please also attend the drop-in session at Whitton Hall, Knighton on Thursday 20th February between 10:00-14:00. Thanks in advance for your support

...**Mr Pernickety's food review featured in the February issue of Broad Sheep.** Out now and online - [www.broadsheep.com](http://www.broadsheep.com)

## THANK YOU

...**Presteigne Bowling Club and Presteigne St Andrews Football Club** - many thanks to local company MJS for the instalment of solar panels on our clubhouses and to Sports Wales for the grant money towards it which will be a great help towards energy costs in the future!

## COUNCIL NEWS

...**Powys CC - VE Day 80th Anniversary Street Parties and Celebrations.** We are inviting communities to apply for road closures, free of charge, to allow them to hold communal street parties in celebration of the VE Day 80th Anniversary. More: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/17886/VE-Day-80th-Anniversary-Street-Parties-and-Celebrations>

...**Powys CC - Garden waste recycling collections.** Registrations for the 2025 garden waste recycling collections are now open, with collections to be held from the beginning of March see <https://cy.powys.gov.uk/article/17907/Casgliadau-ailgylchu-gwastraff-gardd>

...**P&N Town Council - latest planning application** in to be considered at the February meeting of the Council. [25/0199/TRE](#) Grid Ref: E: 331511 N: 264279 Proposal: Felling of a sycamore tree Location: Appletree Lodge , Hereford Street, Presteigne LD8 2AT.

## SCAM ALERTS

...**from PCC - Winter Fuel Payment scam!** We've been made aware that text messages about a winter fuel payment are circulating. The text message, from the number 07479 500214, instructs you to click on a link and pay a £1 deposit to release the funds. This is a scam – do not click on the link in these messages. Forward suspicious text messages for free to the National Cyber Security Centre on 7726. For up-to-date information on changes to winter fuel payments, visit <https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment>. Need assistance with your finances? Contact our Money Advice Service on 01597 826618 for a range of money advice and support.

## EVENTS & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

...**FIX it FEB ! Presteigne Repair and Share at the Old School/Youth Centre** in Hereford Street this Saturday 15th February 10am to 12noon. Look out those broken items we will see if we can fix them." You can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, and chat to your fellow neighbours while you wait. We'll even show you how it is done too if you like! The best way to reuse and recycle there is. In January 27 items were brought in, 4 needed more work /spare parts and were taken away to fix, only 6 were not repairable. Typical repairs include; basic bicycle maintenance, electrical appliance repair, computing assistance, sewing, ornament repair, and woodworking; though we will have a look at most things, except Microwaves as they are too dangerous. Got any questions? Just drop us a message on Facebook or Twitter, and we will do our best to ensure a repairer is available to fix your item. More

fixers are always welcome - come along even if it is just to find out what is going on, and tell your friends! See you there! For more information see our new Facebook page: Presteigne Repair.

**...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.

**...MBA presents 'Hannah Reed, Vera Van Heeringen & Michael Starkey'.** Presteigne Assembly Rooms, this Sunday 16 February 20:00 – 22:30. Three unique musical voices unite to deliver a powerful yet intimate blend of Appalachian old-time songs and tunes, alongside a collection of beautifully crafted soulful originals.

**...Community Orchard Pruning at Went's Meadow** this 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 your secateurs, loppers, pruning saws and something hot to drink. The session should last a couple of hours and will – weather willing – be fun! There will be cake...

**...Borderlines Film Festival 2025 runs from 28th February to 15th March.** Each year the 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 this association continues as Presteigne Screen features three films under the Borderlines umbrella at the Assembly Rooms over three consecutive Fridays: "Conclave" 28th February, "All We Imagine As Light" 7th March, and "My Favourite Cake" 14th March. Info/booking <https://www.presteignescreen.org.uk/>

**...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 you) also available email [marian@silvanskincare.com](mailto:marian@silvanskincare.com).

**...Roger Curtis' fascinating story of WW11 POW camp no.48 in Presteigne "Held in Presteigne"** on Saturday March 22nd 3pm at Kinnerton Village Hall - teas, coffee and cake. Tickets £6 from Angela : [kinnertoncourt@icloud.com](mailto:kinnertoncourt@icloud.com) or 01547 560 132. To be collected and paid for on the door. Many prisoners descendants still live in this area and have their own stories to tell. The talk replaces one scheduled for that fateful day of December 7th when storm Darragh raged havoc with fallen trees and flooding cutting Kinnerton off. It lost power for up to 60 hrs . Fingers crossed the weather gods will be kinder this time. The talk will raise money for the East Radnor Care Centre in Presteigne.

**...MBA presents 'Martin Harley'.** Presteigne Assembly Rooms Saturday 22 February 20:00 – 22:00. Martin has been making music and touring the world for over two decades. His sound has never been more down to earth. Exploring roots, blues and slide guitar which The Guardian said was 'Spellbinding'

**...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

**...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

**...Calling all Powys Veterans - Visit the Veterans Roadshow!** We're hitting the road to bring the support and camaraderie our older Veterans deserve, including: Veterans MOT, Cost-of-Living Support, Wellbeing Checks, Benefit Checks, Help at Home, Veterans Services, Camaraderie Club. And so much more... Presteigne & Knighton Area. Thursdays: 20 February & 20 March. Come along for a cuppa and a chat with Gwyneth Davies, Age Cymru Powys' excellent dedicated Veterans Officer. Get in touch: 01686 623707, [enquiries@acpowys.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@acpowys.org.uk). \*\*\*Please share this info with local Veterans who are not online\*\*\*

**...Free talk for all – children welcome: "River Bugs & Beasties – and why they matter".** Wildlife ecologist Phil Ward reveals the unseen world of freshwater beings and what they tell us about the state of our rivers. Join us for an inspiring talk – you'll never look at a river the same again. Thursday 20 February, 7.30pm (doors 7pm). The Assembly Rooms, Presteigne. Free entry / donations. All profits to Friends of the River Wye. Organised by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales

**...Cultivate is a once-a-month arts programme for 11 – 18-year-olds.** Cultivate's Spring/Summer theme is Social Action and we will explore artists and artworks that operate creatively in this way and create our own social actions. We will be working with a range of different artists, makers and experts to bring their experiences and skills to the sessions. The first three sessions of the year are 15 February, 10am – 2pm, The Rodd; 8 March, 10am – 2pm, The Rodd; 5 April, 10am – 2pm, The Rodd. Anyone interested in joining the sessions should contact us at [info@sidneynolantrust.org](mailto:info@sidneynolantrust.org)

**...The Practicalities of Death and Dying.** During March, Presteigne Library in conjunction with Wings of Change, will be hosting a month-long event on the theme of *The Practicalities of Death and Dying*. Throughout the month there will be information, leaflets and books available at the library and the facility to leave your questions to be answered. In addition on the afternoons of Friday 14th, 21st and 28th March (1.30-5pm) Dorothy and Grace will be offering short presentations on subjects such as: how to talk to loved ones about death, what happens to the body as we die, what funeral choices are

available, what are our obligations after a death, what are the practicalities we need to deal with, where can we get support and information? More information from [wingsofchange24@gmail.com](mailto:wingsofchange24@gmail.com) or the library. No need to book. Please come along, we look forward to seeing you.

**...Radnorshire Arms, Presteigne** - We have extended our carvery serving hours - now 12noon - 6pm. We have so many compliments and demand, therefore the change. A specially designed menu for Valentines Day is available. All are invited to treat their loved ones to a lovely, 2 or 3 course meal and a complimentary glass of prosecco. On 1st March 2025 we celebrate Saint David's Day with a delicious Cawl (Welsh stew made of lamb and vegetables) on the menu. Te Bach (tea) with bara brith (a traditional fruit cake made with tea and mixed spices) and pice bach, or Welsh cakes, all of which are traditionally eaten on this day .. a reminder too that Mothering Sunday is on the 30th March. Book our carvery early to avoid disappointment

**...Border Marches Early Music Forum - "The Many Faces of Orlando di Lasso" - a Workshop for Singers.** St Andrew's Church Presteigne, Saturday 5 April 2025, 10.00 - 16.30. The workshop will explore the multifaceted world of di Lasso's music, from grand double-choir works to humorous chansons, Latin motets both penitential and celebratory, mysterious chromatic songs, spiritual madrigals and songs of human desire. James Weeks is a composer, conductor and artistic director, based in NE England and London, the founder of the vocal ensemble EXAUDI. In the early music world he performs regular programmes of Gesualdo and other Italian madrigalists, Machaut and Ars subtilior, and English Renaissance repertoire. Prior booking is essential. For further information and booking, see [www.bmemf.org.uk](http://www.bmemf.org.uk) or contact Marna Gowan on [marna.gowan@btinternet.com](mailto:marna.gowan@btinternet.com)

**...Presteigne Floral Art Society: Flowers for Fun:** these informal classes continue on Thursdays, from 12 till 2pm, in Whitton Hall. Dates for this term are 27th February, 6th 20th and 27th March. All welcome – especially beginners. Come along and see what we do - first session free, then £5 per session. Further details from Ann, our Secretary, on 01544 340453

**...the Legion Craft Group: Tuesday Craft Afternoons** in the British Legion Hall, Hereford Street, Presteigne from 1 – 3 pm continue. We are a friendly relaxed group, and especially welcome anyone who has never crafted anything before! On February 18th we are making snowdrop gift cards and on February 25th a hanging decoration to anticipate Spring - all materials supplied. Easy to make, friendly guidance, everyone welcome. £3 per session to cover hall hire and up to £3 for materials, as needed. For further information contact Margaret – [mail@galliers.org.uk](mailto:mail@galliers.org.uk)

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

**...Love to sing? Come and join Pop Choir** on Thursday evenings at the Assembly Rooms in Presteigne. We're a friendly bunch singing and perform an eclectic mix of songs from the 50s to the present day arranged in four part harmony and led by John Hymas. We're currently working on songs by Taylor Swift, Elvis, Ed Sheeran, Roy Orbison, Billy Eilish, Pet Shop Boys and others, getting ready for our next gig here in Presteigne on Sunday 13th April. Want to hear more? Contact John 07969 440183.

**...MIC - an investment club with a difference!** At Marches Investment Club we might not be quite what springs to mind. We do our best to navigate the financial world and make a bit of money. And to tell the truth, some of us are not very good at it! But we're having great fun learning. We do our best to be "ethical" with our investments – and yes we have some very interesting discussions about that! And we're not all grumpy old men – we are currently a really mixed group of lads and lasses who enjoy getting together once a month on Tuesday evenings for a drink and chat about investments, plus a few purely social get-togethers as well. We're currently open to new members and would love to meet you if you'd like to come along and find out more. Contact the MIC Secretary at [c3utler@googlemail.com](mailto:c3utler@googlemail.com)

**...There are rumblings of change at Mid Border Arts and the Assembly Rooms** as we anticipate saying goodbye to Owen Rimington in mid-March. Owen has been our brilliant Arts Coordinator for the past few years; we will miss him and his incredibly varied skill set. Thank you, Owen, for being the much loved face of MBA. From mid-March, the main point of contact will be Julia Doggart who has taken on some of the administrative tasks: [julia@midborderarts.com](mailto:julia@midborderarts.com). Jenny Ellison will continue to organise volunteers and serve as Friends' Coordinator. We are lucky to have a vibrant arts centre, but these are tough times. Although MidBorder Arts is run primarily by a team of volunteers, we need to raise £1000 a month just to survive. From as little as £3 a month, you can join our friends' scheme. Any donation small or large will help secure the future of MBA. You can find the link for donation on our website: <https://www.midborderarts.com/support>. Please also consider becoming an active volunteer. It's a great way to meet new people and access inspiring arts events. Contact Jenny: [tacomajenny@gmail.com](mailto:tacomajenny@gmail.com) Last but not least, consider booking the Assembly Rooms for your own ventures. Our lovely main room is a great venue, and our back room offers a warm environment for classes and workshops. Thank you to all those who already use the Assembly Rooms and who support MBA in a myriad of ways

**...Need things? Want to get rid of things? Join our over 4000 strong local Presteigne Freegle community** to offer or ask for items FREE. You can find or pass on almost anything rather than sending unwanted items to the HWRC for landfill or the incinerator. Need to de-clutter or clear a house or garden shed? Freegle is the fuss-free solution. These items have found a new home - absolutely free! - over the last few weeks: beds & bedding, rugs & carpets, cardboard moving boxes, moses basket,

sofas and chairs, electrical goods, tables, cupboards, fire bucket, concrete lintel, hardcore, top soil, magazines, bikes, polytunnel, kitchenware, clothes, tiles, envelopes, crates, guttering, water butt, high chair, car seat, pc & printer, bookcases, insulation, paint, and more - if it's legal and you need it, if you're not in a tearing hurry the odds are that somebody on Presteigne or surrounding Freegle groups needs to get rid of it. Dating for stuff on the biggest free shop in the world. A match made in heaven - it's free, and the person taking the item collects! Download the Freegle app or go to [www.freegle.in/presteigne](http://www.freegle.in/presteigne)

**...The Harp Inn at Old Radnor** - will be closed from 17th - 28th February for essential maintenance & staff annual leave. We look forward to welcoming you back on March 1st.

**...Join Presteigne Bowling Club PBC** - Looking for a fun and social sport? Come and try lawn bowls – a great way to meet new people, stay active, and enjoy friendly competition! No experience needed – all ages welcome! Coaching available for beginners. Friendly and social atmosphere. Competitive and casual play options. PBC's bowling green is on Greenfield Road, with a Social Club on Hereford Street. The green will be opening in April (date t.b.c.) when we will hold an Open Day for prospective new members. Equipment provided - you'll just need flat-soled shoes! Open Days: April 2025. See our Facebook page. Come along and give it a try—we'd love to meet you!

## OTHER NEWS

**...Starting in 2026, all non-black, recyclable PET or PP plastic plant pots will be accepted in household kerbside recycling in England.** DEFRA confirmed this move following a successful long-term advocacy campaign from the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA), which will help reduce plastic waste and promote environmental sustainability. *[ed. we wait and see if Wales will follow suit!]*

**...John Beddoes Campus - our congratulations to one of our students, Owen B,** for becoming the Junior Specials British Autograss Series Champion, winning 12 out of 16 races. These races took place in Leominster, Gloucester and South Wales. British Autograss Series. Our British Champion, Owen, started racing thanks to his Grandad and has been racing for 4 years, aiming to race next year to retain his title before moving up to the men's category. He has placed 3rd in both the U21's and the Ladies & Juniors National Championship races. Owen's goal is to win the British and National Championship. Well done and the best of luck with your aspirations.

**...National Garden Scheme NGS** - From this month you will be able to pick up the Powys NGS 2025 brochure from garden centres, supermarkets, tourist information centres and other places across the County. This features 75 gardens that are opening (including those in village openings). You will be familiar with many of them but we also have nine standalone gardens opening for the first time and a further 20 that are new to the NGS in village openings. See the NGS website <https://ngs.org.uk> which has now been updated for 2025 openings.

**...Powys CC - Regional Transportation - Your Voice Matters!** Help us create a sustainable and efficient transport network in Mid Wales. Participate in our survey and influence the future of regional transportation: <https://bit.ly/MWRTP>

**...Throwing away coffee grounds is a real waste** - they are a versatile household and gardening essential, serving as a natural fertiliser, pest repellent, and deodoriser - an invaluable resource for both home and garden. Rich in potassium, they enhance plant resistance, and are excellent for composting. Additionally, they attract earthworms, improve soil health, and help repel pests like slugs and moles. In the home, coffee grounds effectively absorb odours, making them useful for freshening the refrigerator and other areas. When mixed with essential oils, they also provide a pleasant aroma. Furthermore, they can cover scratches on furniture, naturally darken hair, soften hands, and help maintain the colour of dark clothes in the wash.

## JOBS & VOLUNTEERING

**...Warehouse Operative – Hangan Ltd. in Leintwardine.** The role involves: picking/packing orders, loading & unloading lorries using a forklift, assisting with deliveries & dispatch, Warehouse management including stock and inventory control. No experience needed, need to be physically fit, able to lift and move stock safely. Forklift training & license provided. Call 07970 875499 for more details.

**...Age Cymru Powys - Simply Nails** - Small Acts, Big Impact. Did you know that something as simple as nail care can improve an older person's quality of life? Our Simply Nails service provides basic nail care to older people who can no longer manage it themselves. But we need your help to keep it going! Volunteering just a few hours of your time each month can make a world of difference. You'll be providing more than a service—you'll be sharing kindness, connection, and care. Interested? Message us or call 01686 623707 / email [enquiries@acpowys.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@acpowys.org.uk) to find out how you can get involved.

**...S Kay Construction Ltd - Cladders and Labourers** - due to securing long-term contracts throughout 2025 and beyond. We offer comprehensive training for the right candidates. Please message or send your CV to [S.Kayconstructionltd@gmail.com](mailto:S.Kayconstructionltd@gmail.com).

**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.