

Community News

Issue 350 mid-MARCH 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 Saturday 29th March
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

...**St Andrew's Parish Magazine** - just an early notice that submissions for April's magazine are due in next week - the deadline is Wednesday 19 March, but early submission are greatly appreciated!

...**Mid Border News - Brand-new Spring issue** (under new editorship) out now! Stocked in cafes, pubs, shops, village halls, libraries and lots of other local businesses. Let us know what you think.

...**Mid Border Arts is delighted to announce: Weekly Lloyds Banking Hub.** Every Tuesday, downstairs back room Presteigne Assembly Rooms, 10am - 1pm, starting Tuesday, 18th March. Following the closure of Lloyds Bank, the community banking hub will provide banking support to the community. Community Bankers do NOT provide cash services but can perform basic transactions such as account balance, direct debit, standing order and bill payment enquiries for both personal and business account customers. They are also there to help customers understand what alternative banking channels are available, provide financial education/support, & help customers stay safe online.

THANK YOU

...**from Bev Baynham.** Well done to all the young people in Powys who have taken part in Young Farmers Pantomime's these last weeks. It's been a massive showcase of the fantastic talent we have in our rural communities. I thoroughly enjoyed the pantos I've seen this last week from Radnor YFC. To all the parents & helpers who've worked so hard making costumes, scenery and backstage you were fantastic. Congratulations to each and every one of the performers who were simply wonderful, but special congratulations to Penybont YFC and good luck for the Wales Finals.

COUNCIL NEWS

...**from PNTC - Nant Mithil Proposed Wind Farm: Message from developer** - "Following our previous emails to you on 20 December 2024 and, to some of you also, 10 January 2025, we've received some correspondence recently requesting a further update. During the statutory consultation period in 2024, we received more than 400 email enquiries and responses, and 138 feedback form submissions. We have reviewed each of these individually. The feedback has helped inform our final planning application. All questions and feedback have been read and considered, and a summary of all issues raised are addressed within a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report. Due to the high volume of feedback received, we are unable to respond to each of you individually. As a reminder, the next stage of consultation for Nant Mithil Energy Park will be managed and led by Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW), which manages Development of National Significance casework on behalf of the Welsh Government. When PEDW is ready to consult and receive consultation responses on the application, including on the PAC Report, we will update the website, our FAQs and communicate with you to inform you. We will signpost you to the appropriate documentation on the PEDW website, which will host a single version of up-to-date information on the application."

SCAM ALERT

...**Which? How scammers can clone your voice.** A deepfake phone call is where the caller's voice has been created with or manipulated using artificial intelligence (AI). This is sometimes done through voice cloning, which uses recordings of someone's voice to copy it. Scammers typically use deepfake calls to impersonate family members, companies or government bodies to trick you into paying them. See Which? website for [common examples of this type of scam, and what to do if you're targeted.](#)

EVENTS & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

...**Presteigne Repair and Share** - Saturday March 15th Youth Centre 10 til 12noon. Come and find out more about how to fix small household items. Please empty Hoover bags & toaster crumbs beforehand!

...Groove with Elly - new dance exercise class at the Old School! Trial classes for 4 weeks starting 7pm Thursday 27 March at the Old School/Youth Centre, Presteigne. Groove is the easiest dance class in the world, even if you have zero coordination, no rhythm or two left feet! No previous dance experience is required. In Groove, you dance as YOU want, in unity with everyone else, following simple steps, guided by me, and it's literally impossible to make mistakes. Make it big and energetic or keep it gentle and calm, you get to choose how much energy you use. Adjustable to suit all fitness levels, and can even be done sat down. Come and have a dance, have fun and get fit. You'll never know unless you give it a go! £8 per drop-in session or £30 for all 4 sessions. Contact Elly 07792 743894

...KCS presents Rossini's unique and gorgeous "Petite Messe Solennelle"- Saturday 22nd March, 7.30pm in St. Andrew's, Presteigne featuring the Kington Choral choir directed by Simon Harper with brilliant young soloists Naomi Sturgess (soprano), Hannah Beddoes (mezzo), James Beddoe (tenor) and Robert Pritchard (bass), accompanied by Simon Peberdy on organ and Paul Roberts on piano. £20 (<18s free) tickets from Salty Dog (Presteigne), Tower House Gallery (Knighton), Border Bean (Kington) or online from www.kingtonchoral.org.uk or www.trybooking.com.

...MBA presents 'Touki'. Presteigne Assembly Rooms Saturday 22 March 20:00 – 23:00. Amadou Diagne has centuries of West African music at his fingertips. Cory Seznec is a musical wanderer and uncertified ethnomusicologist. A chance encounter while busking in Bath planted the seeds of a collaboration that's been fermenting now for over a decade. Tickets - £15. Under 25s - £10 (limited tickets). Available from The Workhouse Gallery, Presteigne or online at wegottickets.com/event/642743

...MBA presents 'The Beth Porter Trio'. Presteigne Assembly Rooms 26 April 8pm. A master collaborator, songwriter, cellist and artist in her own right, Beth Porter has integrated herself into many areas of the music world. She has been likened to Cat Power, The Beatles, REM, This Is The Kit, Penguin Cafe Orchestra, Radiohead, Sandy Denny, The Incredible String Band and The Kinks. With a classical background, a venture into folk music, and a love of simple pop songs, there's nothing quite like Beth's songwriting. It is quintessentially English yet understated and original.

...Presteigne Baptist Church. An illustrated free talk by Michael Tavinor - all welcome. Friday 21 March 2.30pm. 'Roman Catholicism in Radnorshire since the Reformation'. An Anglican talking about Catholicism in a Baptist chapel - is this a first!? Do come and hear this fascinating story about the history of one of our denominations in Presteigne. No charge but donations welcome.

...The fabulous Friends of John Beddoes are hosting a Bingo night on 22nd March at John Beddoes Campus, doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm. Bar available, David Weale bingo caller. All proceeds raised will be used to enhance opportunities for students at our school so please come along, have a fantastic evening and hopefully win some fantastic prizes. If you would like to donate prizes for the evening (Easter egg, bottle of wine, box of chocolates), and help raise even more for our children, please bring items to the school office. Spread the word!

...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 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 will raise money for the East Radnor Care Centre in Presteigne.

...Film "Remembering Barrie" Saturday 29th March, 7.30pm. Doors 7pm, The Assembly Rooms, Presteigne. Two films celebrating the life and creativity of Barrie Gavin. Donations in aid of MBA

...Presteigne Fire Station - Our annual car wash on the 29th March from 10am-3pm at John Beddoes School raising money for the fire fighters charity and Papyrus UK in memory of Tom Hooper and Elsa Layton-Jones. We have some great vouchers from Daphne's and The Royal Oak which will be given to cars 14 and 21 respectively. We will also be having some form of raffle/draw if you'd like to donate a prize please get in touch! Thank you for your support as always.

...Judge's Lodging - still a few tickets left for our forthcoming Folk Horror evening on 28th March, with the ever-popular Don't Go Into The Cellar! Theatre Company. An eerie and unsettling anthology of tales that explore the mystical and sometimes threatening hold our agricultural past exerts over the present day. Do join us, then make your way home as the clouds gather in the dark sky and the owls shriek suddenly...<https://wegottickets.com/event/641797/>

...Lingen & District Gardening Club - Tuesday 1st April welcomes Ben Mathews from Shrewsbury to talk to them about everything Hostas. Talk starts 7.30 pm at Lingen Village Hall. Visitors welcome for £4. **M** on Saturday 22nd March, 12 noon til 1.30pm or until the soup runs out! Please join us if you can.

...East Radnor Ramblers - walks in the 2nd half of March. Sat 15th March Red Hill and Llanbedr Hill, 7.5 miles. Weds 19th March " Two castles" and moorland in the Golden Valley, 7.5 miles. Weds 26th March Llanfair Waterdine and Wernyeufron Hill, 7.5 miles. Sat 29th March Whitton - Litton Hill circular, 8.3 miles. For more details see www.ramblers.org.uk/east-radnor or call 01544 260524

NEWS FROM THE HIGH STREET & LOCAL BUSINESSES / ORGANISATIONS

...coming to Presteigne in early April 'Flower and Found' - a new business selling seasonal fresh and dried flowers. Find Beth at No. 5 Broad Street for gift bouquets, arrangements for your home, eco funeral flowers and bridal work.

...Art and Craft groups at the British Legion - every Tuesday. 10-12 Art, 1-3 Craft. Phone Kay 07724379335 and leave a message

...Walton Village Hall - Book & Jigsaw Swap every 2nd Tuesday each month 10am - 1pm, including refreshments and homemade cakes. **AGM** (open to the public) April 15th at 2pm. Hall Bookings 01544 350511 (Mrs K Peachey)

...great news from the Old School/Youth Centre in Presteigne! Thanks to generous funding from the National Lottery Fund (Wales), work has now started on fitting and equipping a completely new kitchen, replacing ceilings, constructing a new store cupboard, and other works to improve the function & appearance of the Old School. This is Stage 2 of our planned improvement works to this much-loved and well-used community building, following on from the heating and double-glazing work funded by a PAVO-administered Rebuilding Community Foundations in Powys grant. Subsequently, if/when we get funding, future plans include new chairs, blinds or curtains, replacing and properly insulating the complete roof, fitting a new main hall ceiling, and repaving and fencing the grounds. If you could dedicate a few hours occasionally to support this work and would like join the small team of volunteers looking after the Old School to provide a welcoming space for the many local groups and organisations using the building, we would love to hear from you. We would especially welcome the involvement of anyone with experience of grant applications, project management, architecture and construction etc to help specify and progress future improvement works. For more information, contact the Presteigne Youth Project PYP Chair on 07769 824537 or claireepowell@aol.com

...NGS - The Hymns, Walton, Presteigne. Open by arrangement for visits from Monday 31 March – Tuesday 30 September. A beautiful setting in the heart of the Radnor Valley. Traditional garden reclaimed from the wild, wildflower meadows, herb patio, woodland walk. The jubilee orchard, tree plantings and honeysuckle and Rosa Rugosa filled hedgerows planted in recent years are maturing nicely. The garden is also open each day from Saturday 6 – Sunday 14 September from 11-5pm. This opening is timed to coincide with an exhibition of local artists as part of Herefordshire Art Week, when there will also be botanical art classes, a local history talk, and evening dinner in the garden or exhibition taking place and open to NGS visitors. Adults £6, children free, dogs welcome, plants and other garden stuff for sale. Information/book: <https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/34145/the-hymns>

...Presteigne St Andrew's Football Club Juniors Update! Presteigne Juniors will be expanding from next season following confirmation. At present there will be 2 new age groups which will continue to grow the successful reintroduction of the junior section. More information will be posted on the group but any questions can be directed to any committee members or email presteignejuniors@gmail.com

...Royal Oak, Presteigne - we finally have a new phonenumber working, our apologise to anybody who's tried to book the last few weeks and been unable. We are taking bookings on 01544 329503.

...St. Andrew's Church, Presteigne - Work on the church tower, over the last week or so a team from WallWalkers of Bristol has been working on St Andrew's church tower removing the weathervane, made & installed by Pete Smith in 2000 for repair and refinishing, and removing the clock dial, which has weathered over the years and needs work to make it serviceable for years to come.

...EG Fitness and Dance has spaces available for children aged 3-16 in Kington, Presteigne, and Knighton! We provide fun and engaging dance classes focussing on many styles such as modern, tap, jazz, hip hop, acrobatics and musical theatre! All taught by Emily- an experienced, insured and qualified instructor! We offer at least 2 optional performances per year which are huge amounts of fun as well as increasing your child's confidence, enjoyment and performance skills! Contact Emily on:07447916646, egeorge95@icloud.com or on FB at EG Fitness and Dance

...Summer Soccer School - Hi Everyone. We're back for the Easter Break! Monday 14th April; Tuesday 15th April ; Wednesday 16th April. 30 spaces are available each day, ages 6-12, first come first serve basis. £20 a day per child. 9am-3pm - drop off from 8:30am. Please message the soccer schools FB page privately to book your child's place! We'll get back to you with forms, payment details and confirmation of place once all is complete! We look forward to seeing you in April!! Lewis and Chloe.

...from the St Michael's Hospice Shop Volunteers - referring to last month's article, volunteers have always covered for staff shortages due to absenteeism. There are a few long serving volunteers, one being there 25 years. Should the shop close, which is very likely, the blame lies with the paid administration in Hereford. The shop after paying overheads has always made a considerable sum for the Hospice. We receive good donations and are very disappointed about the closure and that they think they don't need money raised by the good people of Presteigne.

...Adults Dance Fitness with EG fitness and dance!! A fun dance class for all ages and abilities set to popular music from the 70s all the way up to modern day! Easy to follow routines and huge amounts of fun! Presteigne Legion 6:30pm-7:10pm Mondays. £6 per session or discounts available for block

booking! Contact Emily to book in: EG Fitness and Dance on Facebook, mobile 07447916646 or email egeorge95@icloud.com

...Radnor Oak - boxed oak kindling, oak firewood & oak briquettes - £1 per kg. If you are a pensioner with a log burner who has lost their Winter Fuel Allowance and live in Presteigne please get in touch and we will deliver you some oak briquettes completely free of charge. Call our office for more information: 01544 260727. Please share this with friends and family to inform our older community!

...Winners for the March draw of the Norton Hub 100 Club: 1st - £40 - no 85 - Paz Clee Powell; 2nd - £25 - no 14 - Jane Perks; 3rd - £15 - no 60 - Bob & Sue Taylor

...Following winter hibernation, the Guerilla Gardeners are back in business! If you like gardening, care for your community and have two hours to spare on Wednesdays from 10.00-12.00 do come and join us. All you need to bring are your gardening gloves and hand tools. The GG team plant and maintain areas in town not looked after by other authorities. We are a friendly group of about 8 at present and would love to have others join us. You don't have to come every week, just when you can and a message is sent out on the Monday in advance of Wednesday work to advise on the location that week. Hope to see YOU. Contact Annette on simplynetty@gmail.com or 01544 260151

...The Pop up Shop opposite the Library in Presteigne is taking short term bookings (a week, a fortnight or a month). If you would like to rent it to raise funds for yourself or for your chosen charity do get in touch to choose a time to reserve it. bTel. 07952 972746

...Springboard - Presteigne Festival will stage a weekend of events May 10 and 11 to celebrate the approach of summer. The weekend will feature talks on Welsh food history with author Carwyn Graves, and on the art of the 'bestseller' book with two celebrated novelists. There will be a soprano and harp recital at St Andrew's, an album launch with Dave Luke and Alex Valentine in The Dukes, free drop-in music at Presteigne Library, an expert-guided nature walk and two 'Exhibition on Screen' film showings. We are delighted that Presteigne Plenty and the Community Gardeners will be holding Plants Plus, a plant and goodies sale with nature activities for children, in Daphne's Yard on the Saturday morning. Brochures are now appearing around town and can be seen online at <https://presteignefestival.com/springboard2025/> where you can also book tickets, or call box office on 01544 267800.

..... Grand Spring Sale - Saturday 5 April, 10am-2pm, Presteigne Assembly Rooms. Fabulous clothes, vintage, collectables & jumble; pop-up cafe selling tea, coffee & cakes. Come and browse, bag yourself a gorgeous bargain, and meet up with friends over coffee and delicious homemade cake. Entry £1 in aid of Shelter Cymru + Knighton & District Refugee Support. More info: Kate Bull 01544 370637 / Sabina Ruber 01544 262864.

OTHER NEWS

...from A F Hughes & Sons, Funeral Directors - Headstone Notices in Cemeteries & Churchyards.

Many of you are aware that PCC and also Church in Wales have recently been carrying out Health and Safety Checks on headstones fitted in their churchyards and cemeteries. They have marked headstones that are "unsafe" with the following notice or similar. What this means is they are giving notice to the families to get the stones rectified, we are of the understanding that if the stones aren't rectified then they will be lay down in the future due to being "unsafe". The rules and regulations are constantly changing and this is the first time we have come across it being dealt with in this way. For the families what this means is the stones will need to be looked at by a monumental mason to see what work is required, a lot of these stones will most likely need to be drilled out to allow for a Ground Anchor to be fitted to bring the stone up to the current regulations. We realise this may be unexpected and can also understand families frustration as we also have family stones that fall into these categories, we are on hand at the end of the phone if you need us to explain in further detail the way forward. We will need to assess each stone, to enable us to establish the amount of attention it needs going forward to rectify the issue, we will do our very best to keep this as cost effective as possible. If you have any further questions or would like us to meet you to discuss anything further please don't hesitate to contact us. Presteigne Office: 01544 267778

...from Nick - Presteigne has a brand new elegant bus stop to replace the horrible eyesore that was there before which will be warmly welcomed by local bus users. Congratulations to whoever organised this. Did you know that it is possible to travel from Presteigne to Cardiff, Birmingham, London, international airports and many other destinations simply by changing from the 41 bus from Presteigne at Kington to catch the 461 to Hereford? Leave your car at home and go green! The arrival of the new bus stop is a moment to promote environmentally friendly travel.

...Recycle Now - Great news for blister pack recycling! @BootsUK have launched a blister pack recycling scheme at 800 stores across the UK after their successful pilot. Plastic packaging in the UK accounts for nearly 70% of our plastic waste so this is a big win for recycling. The empty blister packs taken back to Boots stores will be recycled into playground equipment and furniture. If that's not incentive enough, those who have a Boots Advantage Card, can earn 100 points (worth £1) for every five empty blister packs you recycle at store! <https://bit.ly/3CUxRqA>. [ed. someone check Knighton Boots please]

...from Stu - cycling group. Last year I advertised for people who would be interested in joining an "older persons" mens cycling group. We had some success, and weather permitting managed 15 - 25

mile ride outs at around 10 - 12 mph most weeks, (includes a stop over for coffee and cake). Usually sometime during the week and starting at Presteigne Leisure Centre around 10am. We currently have 6 regular members, (not everybody rides each time). Some ride "manual" bikes, some on electric, and anybody is free to suggest a route. If you'd like to join, please contact me.....Stu 01544 260 354

JOBS & VOLUNTEERING

...**1st Presteigne Scouts** - Sadly we currently have 11 Cubs and 9 Beaver age children on our waiting lists. The Young People of the community want to experience Scouting but sadly our team is too stretched to open new sections and we are at maximum capacity, we have our own hut, kit, management team, we just need people to step forward and join the team as leaders. We cover from Norton, to Bleddfa, Shobdon, New Radnor and, now, Kington, which has lost its group because of lack of Leaders, don't let that happen here! Our leaders travel from as far as Knighton, Hereford and Kington, sometimes Wiltshire! To apply contact us via our FB page.

...**Samaritans welcomes new volunteers** - Samaritans provides emotional support to anyone in distress or at risk of suicide. Powys Samaritans is looking for new volunteers and will be running a training course in Llandrindod Wells starting on 23rd March 2025. You don't need any previous experience to become a "listening volunteer" as the training is comprehensive. After training you will work with a mentor. If you think this is something you could do, google "samaritans volunteer" and then email recruiting@powyssamaritans.org.uk or leave your phone number/name on 07907192590 and Pauline will call back. NFor emotional support day or night please call our free number 116123.

...**The Warden Guardians Foundation** - We are a small group of volunteers who help to keep The Warden accessible for people while encouraging diversity in wildlife and plants. We meet every Thursday morning, weather permitting, and do various jobs such as clearing brambles, keeping the paths clear, removing fallen wood, painting and repairing in general. We would love to hear from anyone who could spare a couple of hours to help keep our lovely Warden as beautiful as it is now. Full training will be given by Powys County Council. If you'd like to have an informal chat and see what we do, pop up on a Thursday morning at 10 o'clock, we meet just by the bottom gate.

...**Presteigne Festival - Festival Producer**. After more than 15 years, Alison Giles gave notice that she will leave her role as Festival Producer late last year. To replace her, Presteigne Festival is now offering an exciting opportunity to work at the heart of an internationally renowned arts festival and to contribute to its continuing success. The role is largely a home-working one. It is on a freelance basis and requires approximately 2.5 days per week year-round. The contract is annually renewable with a fee range between £12k-£14k per year. The key role of Festival Producer centres on four main areas: Festival Management, Fundraising, Programme Development and General Administration. We are looking for someone with a proven track record in delivering events within the performing arts sector and a deep understanding of the unique demands of intensive activity required for successful festival delivery. The Festival Producer role requires work flexibility – our annual programme is well-structured but not evenly distributed. The successful candidate will act as the year-round representative of the Presteigne Festival, connecting with the local community through in-person and online meetings and representing the organisation at arts sector events as required. The start date is Monday 2 June. If you are interested in applying, the closing date is Wednesday 21 March 2025 and interview date Monday 31 March 2025. To apply send CV and covering letter listing two referees by email to: alisongiles@presteignefestival.com For more information please see: Advertisement <https://shorturl.at/cP2Dh>; Person specification <https://shorturl.at/uxIEc>; 9Festival Producer role description <https://shorturl.at/usBL1>

...**Cartrefi Cymru - Support Workers in Presteigne & Llandod**. Full and part-time roles £12.14ph. Flexible shift patterns, support to achieve necessary qualifications, pension scheme, employee assistance programme. As a support worker you will be supporting individuals to maintain and develop their independence as well as access the community around them. You must be determined and committed to make a difference to the lives of those we support and have caring empathetic nature.

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

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