

Issue 352 mid-April 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 Tuesday 29 April
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

What a gorgeous couple of weeks of glorious weather - the song thrushes are trilling away like mad, stunning display of bluebells in the Warden, and a delight of daffodils everywhere around Presteigne & Norton. A massive thank-you to everyone who has contributed to that over the past few years, donating and planting bulbs - the Guerrilla Gardeners and other volunteers, town council, residents and Radnor Hills!

THANK YOU

...from **Angela - Kinnerton talk on POW camp Presteigne, March 22**. Many thanks to all who came and profound apologies to those who came and were not able to get seated. We raised over £460 for ERC Ltd Presteigne. Again, thanks go out to all helpers, Richard Haymer who opened his adjacent field for car parking and of course Roger Curtis for his enthusiastic talk.

...**1st Presteigne Scouts - Beavers** had a lovely session with the volunteers of the Rodd Community Garden. They learned how to create a no-dig bed, planted potatoes, sunflower seeds and onions. We will be going back again to help maintain the beds and watch the garden grow. Thank you to the fabulous volunteers who hosted us.

...**Presteigne Little Peoples Playgroup** - massive congratulations to Abbie who has recently completed her Level 4 qualification and Sian who has completed her Level 2 qualification! We are SO proud of our girls! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication, we appreciate you so much.

SCAM ALERT

...**Which? How to spot a WhatsApp scam**. WhatsApp allows users to message friends and family all over the world for free, but these features are sometimes exploited by scammers. In fact, fraud on the app accounted for 21% of all reported scams in the UK in 2024 according to recent data analysed by Revolut. If you haven't done so already, add an extra layer of security to your WhatsApp by setting up two-step verification. [Check out Which? step-by-step instructions on how to do so](#), and take a look at the top six most common scams on the app.

...**Which? Amazon customers continue to be targeted by phone scammers** who claim that iPhones or other expensive items have been added to their shopping baskets. Reports of this scam continue to come through on our scam sharer tool – [take a look at the latest tactics being used](#) and find out how you can secure a hacked Amazon account.

EVENTS & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

...**Walton Village Hall AGM** Tuesday 15th April 2pm. New committee members always welcome.

...**Join Marion Rowlatt on Easter Saturday morning** April 19th at 11am in the Baptist Church for a gentle Gather Round, revisiting favourite songs. There will be chocolate!

...**Presteigne Baptist Church. Summer Recitals and Talks:** Sundays at 3.00pm followed by tea and cake. Sunday 27 April - "Dean's Delight". Michael Tavinor gives a light-hearted account of a life in music and ministry, through piano, singing, poetry and a life-time of diaries. No charge, but donations welcome, divided between church funds and St Michael's Hospice.

...**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, 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 quintessentially English yet understated & original.

...**Presteigne Little People's Car Boot Sale** - Sunday 4th May. 10am to 1pm Presteigne Primary School Carpark £5 Car/ £10 Van. Raffle & Refreshments available. Book 07837390441

...**Household Repair and Bike Session**. Saturday April 19th 10 til 12 noon. Presteigne Repair and Share as usual in the Youth Centre for broken household items. Plus, at the same time, in the forecourt, a FREE Easter special for all ages. An opportunity to get bikes up to speed with maintenance help and tips (not e-bikes). See Face book Presteigne Repair tel 01544 260766

...**Lingen Village Hall. Herefordshire Reuse and Recycle drop off** on Wednesday 30th April 10am-12 midday

...**Rhayader Male Voice Choir. VE Day concert** at the British Legion, Presteigne. Friday 9th May. Doors open 6.30pm. Tickets £7.50 email kayyendole@rocketmail.com or text 07724379335. Raffle. Cash, cheque or bank transfers. No card facility. **N.B. this is a change from the previously-advertised date of Saturday 10th** - apologies for the late change - tickets can be exchanged or refunded. Contact Kay Yendole 07724379335

...**Norton Community Hub - Whist Drive!** A fun evening for beginners or experienced players, all welcome. Wednesday 21st May, 7pm for 7.30pm start. £5 includes refreshments and raffle ticket. For further info contact Ann 01544 267221.

...**Grace Loveday & Henny Flynn are co-hosting a gentle and reflective walking retreat** on Sunday June 1st, for anyone who is navigating loss or change, feeling stuck or simply needing time away from the pressures of life. As we walk a 4.5 mile stretch of the Mortimer Trail there'll be time to connect with nature and yourself, to share and be quiet, to reflect and write a little and participate in simple ceremony. A wholesome lunch is included. Just bring yourself, good walking shoes and an open heart. We'd love to walk alongside you. More information and booking details at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/half-day-walking-retreat-being-with-what-is-tickets-1307872504869?aff=oddtcreator>

...**Presteigne Festival Springboard** - on May 10th and 11th Presteigne Festival will be celebrating the approach of summer with a special weekend that combines free, drop-in events with a programme of music, talks and film. Talks will cover Welsh food history with author Carwyn Graves, and the art of the 'bestseller' book with celebrated novelists Michèle Roberts and Patricia Duncker. There will be a summer-themed soprano and harp recital at St Andrew's Church and an album launch with Dave Luke and Alex Valentine in The Dukes. We will also have free drop-in music at Presteigne Library, an expert-guided nature walk and two 'Exhibition on Screen' film showings, exploring the Art of the Garden and Van Gogh's famous sunflower paintings. Presteigne Plenty and the Community Gardeners will be holding *Plants Plus*, a plant and goodies sale with nature activities for children in the town centre on Saturday May 10 and St Andrew's Bellringing Team will ring a special quarter peal on the afternoon of Sunday May 11. We hope you can join us. All details and booking online at <https://presteignefestival.com/springboard2025/> or call the box office on 01544 267 800.

...**Helen Davies is running a Cancer Champion training session in Presteigne** on Wednesday 23rd April 1 to 4.30pm, and has a couple of spare spaces available. To book your place or to find out more please contact: Helen Davies, Powys Cancer Champion Coordinator at helen.davies@lingendavies.co.uk or 01686 449464 (Cronfa Ganser Lingen Davies Cancer Fund) www.cancerchampions.co.uk. Please spread the word.

...**Warden and Nature Reserve Family Day.** Saturday May 31st. 2p.m.- 5p.m. Come and explore the wild and green spaces in Presteigne! Minibeast Hunt , Wildflower Trail, Meet the Heron, Bio Blitz. Free Admission- cakes and drinks or bring your own picnic!

...**Be Brilliant Dogs - only two spaces remaining on my beginners Scentwork Class,** starting on April 30th in Evenjobb Village Hall. 5.30pm. Have you been inspired by Crufts to do something fun with your dog? Like the idea of agility but don't fancy all that running (or the lycra)? This is a 6 weeks course just £80. Maximum of 4 dogs. Come and join the training class your dog will LOVE! Find out more and book here: <https://bookwhen.com/bebrilliantdogs/e/ev-swlm-20250430173000>

NEWS FROM THE HIGH STREET & LOCAL BUSINESSES / ORGANISATIONS

...**from Kathy - the handover in Premier** is complete, I'm sure many have already met Thanu and Pawa, they're a lovely couple. I will be continuing to work in the shop/post office and supporting them as much as I can, I hope you'll all continue to support us too. Happy times ahead! Please note that the PO will be closed over Easter 18th to 21st - reopening 22 April.

...**Our new local Bank Hub.** Tuesdays, 10am - 1pm. Downstairs at Presteigne Assembly Rooms. Please come along and use the services of our new local bank hub. It's a great environment for friendly advice, banking support or reassurance. No stairs involved - the location is ground floor. Help spread the word - we need to use this service to keep it going.

.....**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! Groove with Elly at the Old School/Youth Centre, Hereford Street, Presteigne - Thursday evenings 7pm. Contact Elly at groovekington@hotmail.com or 07792 743894. <http://www.groovewithelly.co.uk/>

...**Tapas at Leon's Supper Club.** Starting Friday 2nd May 2025, we will be serving up tapas every Friday and Saturday night. Open from 6 till 9pm. Please note that this a bring your own drinks venue!! For reservations, please call Leon on: [0780 5727486](tel:07805727486). Leon's Supper Club is above The Salty Dog, 14 High Street, Presteigne

...**Norton Hub 100 Club - April Draw.** Winners: 1st -£40 - No.30 - John Wilding, 2nd-£25 - No.21 - Jackie Stark, 3rd - £15 - No.64 - Jan Maynard

...**Fancy a new bench in your garden for 2025?** Presteigne Community Garden, in conjunction with Presteigne Plenty, are holding a raffle. The prize is this lovely garden bench which has been constructed using recycled end pieces and sapele wood slats. You'll see it at the local market on Saturday where you'll be able to buy a ticket. The draw for the winner will take place at 3.30pm on Saturday 10th May as part of the Presteigne Festival Springboard weekend of events. Presteigne Plenty and Community Gardeners will be running a Plants Plus event on that day in Daphne's Yard.

...**Drum & Bass Fitness has moved outdoors to Went's Meadow** in Presteigne now that we are coming into the warmer months. Class will now start at 6.15pm-7pm every Tuesday! This is a full body (body weighted) workout to the beat of the music with a set playlist that will change monthly. Class is suitable for everyone! Feel free to bring kids along for free just for a lil

boogie. This is a great way to get fit, move to music, make friends and socialise. £7 per person if you pre book! Please message me on FB with any questions

...**Let me introduce myself, I am Susan Jones, a professional counsellor** and a Registered Member of The British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists (BACP). I am now delighted to have joined the lovely team at No 7 Clinic at the Broadaxe Business Park in Presteigne, to offer face to face counselling. Counselling can help and support you to access your inner resources, which are often overwhelmed by the stresses of life. If you feel that this would be of interest to you, please contact me at: bluemooncounselling4you@gmail.com

...from Sheep Music - with planning permission for the Community Store-Barn granted, we are ready for construction! We were joined at the groundbreaking ceremony by generous donor Mike Jones and the Advantage Automotive team. The Community Store-Bar is a joint project between the Town Council and Sheep Music. Sheep Music will take responsibility for its building and, like the Community Barn, it will be built by the same mix of experienced builders and enthusiastic amateurs who all live in our community. Where are we now? All that's left to do, apart from building it, is to raise the last £2,000 to get to the £30,000 budget. Please help us to raise this final amount! Our JustGiving page, Sheep Music Fundraiser is here: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/sheepmusic2025>. Thank you! The Sheep Music Team

...Update on Spaceguard Centre, from Jay - as some of you may have heard Anne and I are finally moving on. After 24 marvellous years, and a significant body of achievements up here at the Spaceguard Centre, a combination of factors have recently come together to make it clear that our time up here is coming to an end. Consequently we are moving back to Wiltshire at the beginning of June to begin "the third age"! I have ensured that Project Drax will continue undisturbed, and the project is safeguarded. The same team that has been working on the project for the past 15 years is going to carry on with the telescope and the dome, finishing it and then using it as planned. After a decade and a half it's a wrench to leave before everything is up and running, but I have the utmost confidence in the team and the new leadership to do a cracking job! What will happen to the rest of the observatory I know not. The last "Spaceguard" tours will be on 27 April, and thereafter the observatory building (not Drax) will revert to the control of Universal Observatory Ltd, the company that we and the owner set up 24 years ago. We will be resigning as directors. As at now there don't seem to be any firm plans on what to do with the observatory once we have left, but keep an eye open! To all of you who have followed what's been going on up here over the years I pass on my heartfelt thanks for your interest and support. It's been so heart warming to see how much many of you care, and to see the support that you have given to me and my incredible team over the years. But this is nowhere near the end for Drax, so keep an eye on the Facebook page that will continue to update everyone (including Anne and I) on progress! Nobody is indispensable, and we are about to prove that. So, farewell from Anne and I, and we wish you all the best of good fortune in the years to come. Signing off

OTHER NEWS

...Ground floor shop available to lease in lovely building in the centre of Presteigne.

Previously the St Michael's Hospice Shop. Please message if interested, Maggie 07952 972746

...IMPORTANT. Please sign and share this Petition. NO!! to Powys Health Postcode Lottery NO!! to extended waiting times for planned care for Powys patients attending English hospitals <https://petitions.senedd.wales/petitions/246579>

...from Powys CC. From 1 April, you must have booked a time slot to visit the Household Recycling Centres. Bookings for visits from 1 April can be made now: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/HRC>. Simply follow the online instructions to book a time slot at your chosen Household Recycling Centre. You will need to provide your name, address, email address and the registration number of the vehicle you will be using for your visit. You can book a time slot up to nine days in advance. Book a time slot over the phone by calling: 01597 827465

...Powys Teaching Health Board - If you have any unwanted equipment issued by Millbrook Healthcare or NRS Healthcare, you can arrange for it to be collected by contacting 0345 123 6350. By returning unwanted equipment such as walking frames, wheelchairs, beds, bed rails, and chairs you're contributing to a more sustainable environment by reducing waste and supporting others in maintaining their independence at home.

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

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