

Community News

Issue 230 December 2020

The Community News is an information service from PACDG - the Presteigne Area Community Development Group
"Working Together For Our Community"

email news@pacdg.org to contact the Editor

- 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

...from the Welsh Government. Coronavirus thrives on all of the things that bring us closer; the face to face catch ups, the cwtches, the kisses. Don't pop 'round your neighbours or meet a friend for coffee. Stop thinking 'it'll do no harm' or 'nobody will know'. It's not easy. But we have to do this to keep Wales safe. Follow these rules <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance>

CONGRATULATIONS to Presteigne's own Jim Williams who has taken the inaugural MAD Welsh Championship title belt with a commanding 8-2 victory over Richie Burnett (with a 161 checkout along the way!) in the inaugural MAD (Modern Amateur Darts) Championship. Brilliant !!

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS *[email me your 'groaners' - all contributions welcomed!!!]*

...[ed.] Listening this morning to the news on the agreement on customs arrangements for the island of Ireland, I got to wondering why they were saying that the Republic of Ireland's capital has the fastest-growing population in the world? Then I realised that it's Dublin, every day.

THANK YOU

...[ed.] from me. A special thank you to Dave Luke for giving Chris & myself a warm morning chuckle with his brilliant Christmas video - click here to listen <https://www.facebook.com/805839125/posts/10160617659499126/>. Can't wait for the follow-up !

...Christine from Norton says ' Special thanks to Presteigne Repair for excellent service in going the extra mile to track down an elusive spare part for my aged reading lamp, carrying out a complete repair, and restoring it to full working order. Very much appreciated'

...from Anne & Rolly. "There is no Repair & Share in December. We hope to continue in someway/somewhere in January, our usual 3rd Saturday of the month. Meanwhile thanks to the Rad for the use of the garden with marquee; we have been very fortunate to be able to use this useful venue & the weather held up each time. None of this could happen without the volunteers, their enthusiasm, skills, & commitment, the Reception team who enable the smooth running of the event, (quite a juggling feat with all that is involved), & the amazing team of fixers, who repair on site & take items home. Finally thanks also to all who have supported us by bringing items in, donating towards the running of the project, & helping with publicity. See you in 2021 !"

...from Rolly. "Many thanks to all who supported the recent book stalls. Previously at the Apple juicing event in October and at last Saturdays Market. £99 was taken in donations altogether & given to the Food Bank, some in cash, & some in vouchers, for spending locally."

UPDATE FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES AND THE HIGH STREET (local businesses are still adapting to changing circumstances - so check information on websites/Facebook pages)

...from Colin at Connect about the High Street Christmas Lights. The start time of the lights has been brought forward from 3.30 to 2.30pm. This to account for when the Primary children come out of school and to compensate for the general gloominess of the afternoons. The new energy-efficient lights use less than a tenth of the electricity of the old coloured light bulbs and I measured the High-Street string as taking 315 watts, so the total being about 500 watts.

...from East Radnor Leisure Centre. Our Swim School will be breaking up for Christmas on [Saturday 19th December](#), restarting again on [Monday 4th January 2021](#). We really do appreciate and thank you for your support in 2020. Our Swim Program was adapted in order to follow COVID-19 guidelines and we're glad to say this hasn't affected demand for lessons, swim teacher motivation and student learning. We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you have a friend/s who are considering enrolling their children in Swimming Lessons, please share our details with them.

...from the Royal Oak. Our takeaway Christmas Dinners are proving to be very popular. They're great for a hassle free dinner and for those family members you may not be able to meet up with under the current circumstances. The following puddings are also available: Christmas Pudding & Brandy Sauce; Malteser Cheesecake; Apple & Berry Crumble with Custard. All puddings £4.50. All mains are £11 each. Get in touch to book your dinner. 01544 260842.

Due to unforeseen circumstances we are unable to do the Taco Special this coming Thursday and the kitchen will be closed. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and will hopefully rearrange it for another date.

...from Weobley Ash Meats & Farm Shop. Our gift vouchers can be used on any in-store purchases, including gifts, meat, drinks and vegetables. Valid for 12 months from purchase, a great Christmas gift. REMEMBER..Christmas Orders close on [Wednesday 16th December](#). Currently available, limited large turkeys, Turkey crowns, plain or stuffed wrapped bacon. Pork gammons and honey roast hams. Beef joints, rolled sirloin, fillet, topside and silverside. Order forms online at www.weobleyash.co.uk, call 01544 598120 or come into the shop.

...from Presteigne Primary School. Our friends in the PTFA are organising a raffle for school funds (all the money goes to benefit the children). Please contact them using the Facebook page if you would like a ticket. RAFFLE 50p a ticket. We have some AMAZING prizes - A MOT voucher for Auto works - A fuel voucher for B.W Roberts and Son - Royal Oak voucher - Lots of bubble baths, wine, chocolate, perfume and lots more. (All prizes are being quarantined)

...from The Workhouse Gallery & Café. For this week's 12 ideas for Christmas check out our newsletter (link below). Our suggestions are selling out quickly so make sure you're on our mailing list for more great ideas next week!

...from PNCS our transport office in the High Street will close on Wednesday 23rd Dec at 12.30pm and will reopen on Monday 4th Jan at 9.30am. Anyone requiring transport through the Christmas closure will need to ring their appointments to the office before Wednesday 23rd December. Thank you, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

...from The Warehouse. We will close on Wednesday 23 December at 3.30p.m. and reopen on Monday 4th January at 10 a.m. We would like to thank you all for supporting us this year. Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY & OTHER INFORMATION

...from Powys Teaching Health Board (on Thursday). 146 new confirmed cases of Coronavirus have been reported in the last 7 days in Powys ! These are the highest levels we have seen for several weeks. It is CRITICAL that we all take steps to reduce the spread by limiting our contact with others. If you have symptoms, get a test: <https://gov.wales/apply-coronavirus-test>. Call 119 (7am to 11pm) or with hearing/speech difficulties, call 18001 119 PLUS The safest way to spend Christmas is with your own household. **Don't** mix with others outside your household on the run-up to Christmas. This will help protect the people you love.

...from the Town Clerk. Next Town Council meeting - [Wednesday 16th December](#) at 7.30pm. Meeting papers available now on the Presteigne website <http://presteigne.org.uk/town-council>

...from 1st Presteigne Scouts. We will be hosting a virtual Panto this coming [Thursday 17th December](#) at 6pm. Please complete the registration form here docs.google.com/forms/d/1bj7ab8vYoyzwUJfxGNpIRtwYMDI8YleNv0somJEtHKO and a link will be emailed out at 1pm on Thursday. We will also be using the closed facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/3200807833478080> if parents would like to communicate with each other while watching the Panto, this is completely optional.

...seen on Friends of Norton Facebook. BIG NEWS, the main man himself will be in Norton on [Saturday 19th December!](#) He will be landing at the bottom of Mynd Lane approx 5pm to join his little helpers and have a run through for the big night, If you have kids in the village and would like a little visit from Santa (Sweets will be provided free of charge!!) Please message me or Chris Price to let us let Santa know you will be home. If you are an adult household he would also like to visit from the main man, he says if you could possibly donate, and he will make sure it will returned for the good of the village

...from Leon & Connect. Santa will be giving away Fish Finger sandwiches and Hot Tomato Soup on [Saturday the 19th December](#) from 14.00 till 16.00, situated between the Salty Dog and the charity shop, sponsored by the Salty Dog. We will also be giving away the left-over presents from Connect's 2019 Christmas Fair - please spread the word, any help in advertising this event will be gratefully appreciated.

...from Catherine in Norton. Christmas Carol Service in Norton Churchyard. Conducted by Rev Petra Goodband. Time: 1 pm on [Saturday 19th Dec.](#) (if it rains it will be on Sunday 20th) Due to Covid restrictions numbers are limited to 30, so please book: Tel 01544 267 421 or orourkebailey@aol.com. Masks, social distancing and no singing please

...from Tessa about the next Presteigne Litter Pick. Our merry group of PACDG volunteer litter pickers will be out cleaning up in and around the town centre this coming [Sunday 20th December](#), to get the town looking spick & span for Christmas. All necessary gear - hi-vis, pickers, hoops, bags provided - all pre-sanitised. Pickers will work in pairs on defined routes - you just bring yourself in appropriate clothing including gloves. Meet 2pm near the black double-doors by the mini roundabout at the bottom of Station Road (opp. Lloyds Bank). We should be all finished by 3.30pm, maybe earlier. New volunteers always welcome. If you'd like to join us for these events, please email tessark@aol.com or call/text Tessa on 07788 567631

...from Ken. In case you missed the Geminid meteor shower on December 13/14 then the remaining astronomical highlight of the month surely has to be the conjunction between Jupiter and Saturn, on [Monday December 21](#) - their closest angular encounter since 1623 and the best opportunity for viewing since 1226. Keen observers might have noticed the duo gradually closing up and 'hovering' over the bypass bridge when looking uphill from Green End not long after sunset. Good binoculars will easily tease out Jupiter's main moons and possibly Titan, the largest moon of Saturn. A modest telescope should just reveal Jupiter's equatorial belts and the famous rings of Saturn. Sources: Spaceweather.com and Astronomy Now magazine.

...from Clare and St. Andrew's Church. Come and Behold Him! Sadly we can't hold our usual Crib Service for children and their families in St Andrew's Church this year, because of the pandemic, but everyone is very warmly invited to our special exhibition, Come and Behold Him!, in Christmas week. The wonderful new Crib Scene made in 2019 by Ken Rodmell will get a very special make-over and the church will be open for everyone to come and see it [from 4-6 pm on Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 December and on Christmas Eve](#). Why not drop in with the children for a few minutes to share the real meaning and magic of Christmas? You may also be able to take away a little gift or two from us all at St Andrew's!

...from Hilary & Presteigne Panto. Missing the Presteigne Panto this December? Oh yes you are! But now you can re-live that experience, sing along with the songs and groan along with the jokes, because last year's show is now available in a special limited-edition DVD for only

£10. You can get your copy in Deli Tinto, or in Lorna's Sandwich Shop, or at the Workhouse. Best of all, EVERY PENNY of the money raised goes to our local Food Bank, to help people who are struggling after a very difficult year. They make excellent gifts too. So you can tick off those last hard-to-buy for people from your Christmas list and do good at the same time. Oh yes you can!

...from Powys Recycles. Will your wrapping paper be naughty or nice this Christmas? Ditch the plastic & glitter, and buy recyclable wrapping paper this year. Diolch !

...from the Bleddfa Centre. December Exhibitions: here's a direct link to the website virtual tours... come and browse online if you can't visit in person ...<https://bleddfacentre.org/gallery/current-exhibition>

...from Recycle Now about cardboard. If you've ordered goods online this Christmas, flatten your cardboard boxes before recycling to save room in your bin as we'll have lots of extra recycling over the next few weeks. The Jones family does - do you?

...from Jane at the KeepWalesSafe Campaign about contacting your local pharmacy as your first port of call for minor health concerns this winter to help Keep Wales Safe. Around 350,000 people get help from a community pharmacy every day in Wales and access services such as advice and treatment for minor conditions, free NHS flu vaccinations, emergency contraception and the Stop Smoking service. Patients are also able to access the Common Ailments Service at pharmacies, as an alternative to seeing their GP and without the need for a prescription, as pharmacists are able to diagnose and treat a range of common ailments such as head lice, indigestion, back pain, eye infections and threadworms. We don't always need a visit to the GP – we can often access many of the same treatments directly on our high street. Pharmacies are a key service if you are feeling unwell or have minor health concerns. NHS 111 Wales is also available, all day and every day. GPs are busy but if you are worried about persistent symptoms, please don't let your needs go unchecked - and remember, if you have Covid symptoms no matter how mild, self-isolate & book a test. Thousands of people use the NHS 111 Wales symptom checker every day - click [NHS 111 Wales - Check Your Symptoms](#).

...from Powys Teaching Health Board. Our pharmacy elves are working very hard to make sure everyone has their prescriptions this Christmas. #HelpUsHelpYou by allowing at least 7 days between ordering and collecting.

...from the Welsh Government. Our £340m support package has been designed to get help to businesses quickly. Many bars and restaurants will receive between £3k and £5k before Christmas, with more to come in the new year. This will help protect many more jobs and livelihoods. Read more here <https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice>

...from Powys CC about Avian Flu. New measures to help protect poultry and captive birds are being introduced across Wales, England, and Scotland following a number of UK cases of avian influenza in both wild and captive birds. New housing measures, which come into force on 14 December, mean that it will be a legal requirement for all bird keepers to keep their birds indoors and to follow strict biosecurity measures in order to limit the spread of disease. More information on avian influenza can be found here: <https://crowd.in/KWS2PJ>

...from Education Wales. Parents / carers, did you know all children in Wales are entitled to 10+ hours of early education? Find out more <https://bit.ly/2JDfYRI> #FoundationPhaseNursery

LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

...from Vaughan's of Knighton. Wanted - MOT Tester. Self-employed. £30,000. Starting 11th January full or part-time - enquiries and CV to markvaughan7@icloud.com

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

If at any time you decide not to receive further PACDG emails, contact us on news@pacdg.org with REMOVE in the subject line & we'll immediately take you off the mailing list.