

# Community News

Issue 123 March 2020

an information service from PAC - the Presteigne Area Community Group

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## Editor's Note...

- \* in these really challenging times, we'll be sending out the Community News as needed to advertise help and services available in our immediate area and to pass on information useful for us all.**
- \* Do please contact us if you see or hear of anything that will be of help to other residents - better we receive it twice or three times than not at all ! email [pacdg@icloud.com](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com)**
- \* and if you're self-isolating or need assistance in any way, you can also email [pacdg@icloud.com](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com) and we'll pass on your message to people who can help.**

**Correction to previous information on registering your child for childcare provision in Powys.** Apologies, there was a mistype in the email address. The correct email address is [gofalplantpowys@ceredigion.gov.uk](mailto:gofalplantpowys@ceredigion.gov.uk)

## ...from a resident in connection with reports of panic buying in Presteigne.

Shopping in our High Street, **there seem to be no food supply problems here** - the only things I could see that were low or missing were the usual suspects, loo rolls! *(Incidentally, the petrol station has a sign up telling would-be thieves that "No loo rolls are kept on the premises" - nice one, Ian !!)*. Also, the Spar has a notice up saying if anyone can't come out to shop they can phone them on 01544 267328 - not sure what service they're offering or whether they will deliver (sorry too crowded to stop and speak to someone!). More people are shopping locally instead of travelling into other towns which is great for our High Street - something good to come out of this crisis !

**Library update...**the Library is open this morning, until 12.30pm, so if you need books please get down there quickly. As far as the volunteers know at the moment, the Library will be open through the coming week (but this could all change at short notice of course). Watch this space !

**This official advice is being widely shared...to avoid wearing gloves while leafleting.** The problem with gloves is that you cannot disinfect them as you go round as you can with hands. Evidence has shown that glove-wearing leads to a false sense of security that hand hygiene is intact, and what happens is that virus could potentially build up on the gloves as people go round. This is why the government advice to the public is frequent hand washing with soap, or sanitiser, and does not advise gloves. More info here: <https://www.mirror.co.uk/science/wearing-gloves-can-increase-your-21672074>

**HERE IS THE LATEST INFORMATION AS OF 20th MARCH FROM SHOPS AND BUSINESSES AROUND TOWN - THE SITUATION IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING SO PLEASE CHECK THEIR FACEBOOK PAGES OR WEBSITES FOR UPDATES.**

**...from Kington Choral Society KCS.** Sadly, but unsurprisingly and in accordance with Government advice, KCS has decided to stop all rehearsals for the foreseeable future.

This means that neither our May performance of Mendelssohn's "Elijah" in Presteigne nor our workshop on Hayden's "Creation" will take place as originally planned. We hope to be able to perform "Elijah" next year. We will update this page and our website, as and when we have news for you. Thank you for all the support you have shown us over the years and we will be back at some future date once the Covid-19 virus situation has been resolved. [www.kingtonchoral.org.uk](http://www.kingtonchoral.org.uk)

**...from St. Andrew's Church.** As you may have heard, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued instructions that Sunday Services in all Church of England Churches must be suspended until further notice.

Although we can't now run our Sunday Services, St Andrew's Presteigne, and the other churches in our Group of Parishes (Discoed, Kinsham, Lingen and Knill) will remain open for visitors, for anyone wishing to pray, or for those just wanting a quiet space away from it all for a few minutes. In addition, we are intending to prepare and circulate a Short Morning Service for anyone who would like to make use of it in their own homes on Sunday Mornings. You can find this on St Andrew's Presteigne's Facebook page @StAndrewsPresteigne; or you can email the Rector [revsteve.hollinghurst@gmail.com](mailto:revsteve.hollinghurst@gmail.com) so that he can send it to you by email; or you can ask for a paper copy to be delivered through your letter box by phoning Rev Steve on [01544 267777](tel:01544267777) and leaving your address; or you can pick up a copy from church.

**...from Rose Cottage Flower Shop & Café.** Just to let you know that for now the florists will be open as normal. We are still taking orders for Mothers Day and the shop will be open on Sunday for pick ups and collections. If you don't want to come out just give us a ring and we can deliver. Also if you would prefer to take food away we have a large range of cakes, both whole or slices, quiches and ready meals that can be ordered just let us know if we can help. Call [01544 260600](tel:01544260600) for a menu and delivery/collection times.

**...from British Gas.** Like all businesses, we're going to have to change the way we work for a while to protect the health and wellbeing of everyone - which may include cancelling non-essential engineer appointments. Visit our [COVID-19 FAQ page](#) for the latest information from us - we'll be updating it regularly and we'll cover topics like:

- Engineer availability for all appointments in your area
- How we're protecting our customers and engineers
- How to top-up your prepay meters when you're in self-isolation
- How to contact us during this difficult time

Remember, you can do things like submit meter readings, pay bills, top up your smart meter and live chat with us [online](#) or [on the app](#).

**...from Prostate Cancer UK.** Here is some [information and frequently asked questions about coronavirus for men who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer](#), informed by calls to our nurses and questions online. The information covers risk, treatment and more. This is a rapidly evolving situation, so we'll update this page as things progress and let you know as soon as we learn more.

**...from Freedom Leisure Centre.** Following the announcement by the Prime Minister it is with a heavy heart that we have to inform our loyal and supportive customers that your leisure centre will now be closed for the foreseeable future.

If you are a member, your direct debit payment will be suspended and no further payments will be taken. More information on your membership will be available soon.

Please bear with us, more information will be available in the next few days and we thank you for your support and understanding at this difficult time. We look forward to welcoming you back to your leisure centres in the not too distant future.

**...from Rhos Organics.** So, in these fast changing times, our shop will be closed from Saturday 21st March. Instead, we are expecting a veg delivery on Tuesday and will take orders by email [info@rhosorganic.co.uk](mailto:info@rhosorganic.co.uk). We need orders in by Tuesday evening ideally. We hope to be able to add organic groceries to your order, but not bread flour or yeast. Orders will be available for collection in Presteigne on Thursdays from our collection point at the New Weobley Ash Unit 6 Morgan, Industrial Estate (just past the Workhouse on the right). For those who need home delivery we will try to do this with the help of our kind group of volunteers. Please email if we can help [info@rhosorganic.co.uk](mailto:info@rhosorganic.co.uk). Thank you!

**...from Wild Thyme.** Following the order to close all pubs, bars and restaurants, Wild Thyme Italian will sadly not be opening from tonight for diners or drinkers. But we will be providing food to take away from tomorrow. A list of available dishes will be posted on FB and on the door of the restaurant. There will be some for immediate or short lead-time pickup and others that may require a couple of days of notice. Feel free to call for details or orders on 07854 428668. Thank you....

**...from PCC Waste Services.** To concentrate our resources on collecting waste and recycling from households we will not be accepting any more bookings for bulky waste collections until further notice. All existing bookings will still be collected as planned.

**...update from No. 46 Wine Bar.** As many of you will have seen the government are now forcing closures for the foreseeable future. Which is very sad but also very understandable in the current circumstances. Unfortunately we do not have the equipment or staff at No.46 to provide takeaways or deliveries. So for the time being we hope you all stay safe and take care of yourselves. And to all our customers... We look forward to seeing you all in a few months time, ready to have a drink with us to celebrate this all being over!

**...update from The Royal Oak.** It's quite a surreal feeling this morning but it's a necessary move to protect everyone right now. If there's anything we can help with in the meantime please do get in touch with us. Be it going to the local shop or just someone to message and talk to, we will have a lot of spare time on our hands for some time and want to help wherever we can. 01544 260842

**...from The Scouts.** While we normally love the great outdoors, we've pulled together some inspired indoor activities (if we do say so ourselves) to ease the strain on parents over the coming weeks and months. Check them out: [scouts.org.uk/thegreatindoors](https://scouts.org.uk/thegreatindoors) #TheGreatIndoors

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 - simply email [pacdg@icloud.com](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com).

We're happy to help publicise community and charity activities and events (but only for events in the immediate Presteigne area) - email text (not poster images please) at least 3 weeks in advance to [pacdg@icloud.com](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com).

The Community News is published twice per month. Feel free to tweet or forward this issue to others. 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 - simply email [pacdg@icloud.com](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com).