

Community News

Special Issue - Remembrance Weekend 2018

an information service from PAC - the Presteigne Area Community Development Group

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A very special weekend commemorating the end of WW1 and remembering the efforts & sacrifices of so many.....

On **SATURDAY 10th NOVEMBER**

As part of Presteigne Remembers Homecoming, local singers and musicians will gather for a CONCERT FOR PEACE, arranged by Marion Rowlatt, starting 7.30pm at St. Andrew's Church, Presteigne. The Concert is free with donations to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Programme:

Bob Dylan's "Blowing in the wind"

Pete Seeger's "Where have all the flowers gone?"

"Dona Nobis Pacem" (anon)

Greedus & Siegel's "A little peace & understanding"

John Rutter's "Gaelic blessing"

Solo - Rev. Steve Hollinghurst

"A day to myself" (Clifford T Ward)

"We're here" (to tune of Auld Lang Syne)

"Keep the home fires burning"

"Pack up your troubles"

"It's a long way to Tipperary"

The St. Andrew's Sisters

"The best of gifts, the best of peace" (Vajda & Hyslop)

"Wherever you are" (Mealor)

"Fields of Gold" (G. M. Sumner)

"Only remembered" (from Warhorse)

St. Andrew's Church Choir

"Call to remembrance"

"Holy is the true light"

Songs and Parodies from "Oh! It's a lovely war"

"No more soldiering for me"

We've had no beer"

We are Fred Karno's army"

"They didn't believe me"

"Never mind"

"Oh! It's a lovely war"

"I vow to thee my country" (The Planets Suite by Holst)

"The world in union"

"Canon of peace"

On **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 11th NOVEMBER**

10.15am - Laying of Wreaths at the War Memorial by representatives of past and serving members of all services and other organisations, 2 minutes silence and the Last Post, then process along Hereford Street and Broad Street to St. Andrew's Church, to the sound of the muffled church bells.

10.50am - Service of Remembrance at St. Andrew's Church, led by the Rev. Stephen Hollinghurst which will include the reading of the names of those from the parish who 'gave their lives' in the Great War of 1914-18.

10am to 4pm - at The Judge's Lodging, the final day of **"TO THE FAMILIES, ONE COIN"** a Great War mini-exhibition (free entry). For those families who lost loved ones in the conflict, a memorial plaque was issued. Known popularly as "The Dead Man's Penny", over 1 million were cast. This exhibition displays a collection of these commemorative medallions, and tells the story of their production and the men who received them. Also on display will be information on every soldier from Presteigne who lost their life in this conflict.

THE DRAGON DEPARTS...

When the Sleeping Dragon leaves its position at Corton Roundabout, Presteigne, it will have been there for all of the 1,546 days that was the living hell of the First World War. Very few survived the entirety of the war, many died along the way, many have no grave.

The Sleeping Dragon, by Presteigne artist, blacksmith and sculptor Pete Smith, is an interactive representation of that disturbing fact, and during the four years of the Dragon's residence on the Welsh border, the number of Royal British Legion crosses left at the cromlech each Armistice grows. Each cross carries the name of a soldier who died, inscribed by whoever is placing the cross in an individual act of remembrance.

This year, 2018, is the centenary of the Armistice itself and it is hoped that as many people as possible, from wherever they live, Welsh or not, will buy and name a small wooden cross to be placed at the Dragon in time for the armistice so the final piece of the the Dragon's purpose can be revealed. That final purpose is that, when the Dragon leaves for his homecoming party, he will leave hundreds of little red poppy crosses randomly placed behind him, each one representing a soldier who will not be going to the party, but instead will lie in lonely silence, in a distant place.

Please join us at the Corton Roundabout for the Sleeping Dragon's homecoming to become part of the Armistice itself - bring your torches and your voices as our Dragon gets ready to leave its cromlech with ceremony, and process on its carriage to the Memorial Hall.

At **4pm** by the Dragon, the guns will fall silent, the Last Post will sound, and there will be a reading of a short poem commissioned for the day, before the Dragon leads a torchlight procession along the bypass. As the procession gets underway, the now unmuffled bells of St. Andrew's will ring out across the valley until the Dragon arrives at the Memorial Hall for his Homecoming Party.

The aim is to carpet the area around the Dragon with a thousand small wooden crosses that will over time crumble into the ground - so bring a cross with you please - they'll be available all over town in the days leading up to the weekend

5pm HOMECOMING PARTY at the Memorial Hall - bar, songs and dancing to celebrate the end of the war and the coming of peace. A café and bar will be open to lubricate both the vocal chords and the soul to aid singing with passion. The evening will end with a Silence followed by the national anthem of Wales "Hen Walden Fy Nhadau" (Old Land of my Fathers). Come dressed up for 1918 - come to party!!!!

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.

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) to pacdg@icloud.com.

The Community News is published twice per month. Feel free to tweet or forward this issue to others