Community News

Issue 92 - January 2019 - wishing you all a very happy and healthy new year !

an information service from PAC - the Presteigne Area Community Group

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**A message from our Town Clerk** - Peggy Fraser Scott, former Town Councillor and Mayor of Presteigne and Norton Town Council, passed away on Christmas morning. Her cremation will be at Hereford Crematorium [on Friday 11th January at 10.30](x-apple-data-detectors://2) followed by a small reception at St. Andrew’s Church Hall in Presteigne [at 1pm](x-apple-data-detectors://3) - all welcome. The Town Council would like to express its sincere condolences to Peggy's family and friends.

**The Workhouse Gallery is holding its Annual Sale through to 31st January** - Rugs, Carpets, Kilims and 10% off all Gallery stock. Open Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm. Lots of bargains so come early !! For information call 01544 267864 or visit the website [www.theworkhousegallery.co.uk](http://www.theworkhousegallery.co.uk)

**Was your New Year’s resolution to take up T’ai Chi, Shibasi or Qigong - or just to get fitter and try something new ?** If so, Paul will be running beginner’s classes in The Assembly Rooms starting this month. Suitable for all ages and fitness levels. Contact Paul on 01544 262864 or email paul@indetail.org

**The Sharppp Chat discussion group will be starting again** [on Wednesday 6th February](x-apple-data-detectors://2)in St. Andrew’s Church Hall. If you’ve not been before, put this date in your Diary - last year we covered The Human; Truth; Artificial Intelligence; Faith; The Economy; Communities; Atheism; and Climate Breakdown. 2019 promises to be just as fascinating with topics covering The Real Cost of Food; Is Tax Theft?; Anarchy; and Risk - to name but a few. More info from Maggie - email [maggie@pccs-books.co.uk](mailto:maggie@pccs-books.co.uk).

**DID YOU KNOW ?....Went’s Meadow gets its name from the WENTS who were a prominent family in Presteigne in the first half of the 19th Century.** FRANCIS WENT was a blacksmith in the opening decade or so and had the contract for “ironing” the prisoners in the County Gaol. He was followed in the business by his son(?) JOHN WENT circa 1818. WILLIAM WENT 1791(?) - 1857 was a baker and inspector of weights and measures, and for a year or so, after a scandal at the Gaol, was Prison Governor 1847-8. His son JOHN WENT died in 1881 aged 17. *[thanks to Colin Kirkby/Ann Belgrave for this information]*

**Do you know anything about AmDram in Presteigne in the 50s ?** In the interesting little museum just inside the Memorial Hall, are displayed several programmes from plays performed by the Presteigne Amateur Dramatic Society (or similar title) in the 1950s. I would be interested to hear from anyone who knows anything about that society/club/group - Frank Cosgrove - email [frank.cosgrove@hotmail.com](mailto:frank.cosgrove@hotmail.com) or tel. 07776210986

**In case it had passed you by, the Wine Bar 46 High Street is doing food** and offers a Sandwich Menu (Monday to Saturday 12noon to 5pm), a Bar Menu (Wednesday to Saturday 5.30 to 9.30pm) and a Breakfast Menu (on Sunday 9am to 12noon).

**Love your Bingo ? - come along on Thursday evenings to the Bowls Social Club** (opposite the Little Shop) where David runs a regular weekly Bingo evening, starting 8pm. Cash prizes. Bar, refreshments.

**Friday 4th January - Presteigne Screen’s Spring Season starts with “The Square”** a film from Sweden (2018, 151 mins, rated 15) 8pm at The Assembly Rooms.Set in Sweden, this Palme d'Or winner is a glorious satirical take on the art world - is this art we're looking at, or marketing? As Anne, a journalist well in on the joke and determined to see through any phoniness, Elisabeth Moss (*Mad Men, The Handmaid's Tale*) is a delight, as is the object of her doubts, museum director Christian (Claes Bang). But there's more going on here than concerns about the originality or legitimacy of modern art. How about the hypocrisies of art lovers, or indeed of well-heeled liberal society in general? The title work "The Square" (a simple neon square) is, Christian claims, "a sanctuary of trust and caring". Is it? You decide.

**Wednesday 9th January sees the first Quiz Night of 2019 at the Bowls Social Club** on Hereford Street (opp. The Little Shop). General knowledge pub quiz with a twist. 7.30pm for 8pm start. All welcome. Tables of up to four, just £2 pp. Full bar, refreshments, cake ! and Win Big with Backwards Bingo. Book your table - text Terry on 07766 097600 or email [presteignedogman@icloud.com](mailto:presteignedogman@icloud.com).

**Chatterbrook WI's first meeting of 2019 is on Thursday January 10th** at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

The speaker will be local historian and archivist Gavin Hooson. His presentation is 'Who are the English, Who are the Welsh?  - when Science overturns History'. Visitors and new members will be very welcome to join us.

Copies of our full programme of meetings and activities for 2019 is available in the library. Contact Margaret Galliers, 01544267245 for any further information*.*

**Friday 11th January - “The Bookshop” (PG) a film at Lingen Village Hall**. 7.30pm. £5/£3.50. Starring:  Bill Nighy, Emily Mortimer, Patricia Clarkson. Based on Penelope Fitzgerald's bestselling novel of the same name, The Bookshop is set in 1959. A free-spirited widow, puts grief behind her and risks everything to open up a bookshop - the first such shop in a sleepy seaside town. Fighting damp, cold and considerable local apathy she struggles to establish herself - her fortunes change for the better but this brings her fierce enemies: the hostility of the town's less prosperous shopkeepers and a vengeful, embittered alpha female. They begin a struggle not just for the bookshop but for the very heart and soul of the town. Tickets on line [www.lingen.org.uk](http://www.lingen.org.uk)

**Put Friday 18th January in your Diary if you’re interested to start learning Spanish.** Mely is hoping to carry on with the Spanish lessons in the Spring, and she’s organising an initial gathering of people that want to start learning Spanish Friday on the18th January at 7pm in the Wine Bar. All welcome.

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

**Sunday 20th January - MBA presents “Putin’s Russia”** 3pm in The Assembly Rooms. This talk covers John Kendall’s recent and most unusual trip to Russia, organised by Political Tours, with Angus Roxburgh, former BBC correspondent. John met a wide variety of academics, journalists, opposition politicians and ordinary citizens, some of whom were extremely frank in their criticism of Vladimir Putin.  
This is a Fundraiser for MBA. Tickets £5 from The Workhouse & [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com)

**Friday 25th January - MBA presents “Faith i Branko”** 8pm at The Assembly Rooms. A leading Serbian Roma violinist and UK accordionist perform high-energy original Roma/Jazz influenced music. Branko Ristic and Faith Elliott form the core of this international quartet – combining the accordion, violin, effects pedal and tabor pipe with double bass, guitar and drums. They take the audience on a journey from melancholy Roma violin laments to storming jazz improvisation; swing, Gypsy Rumba, and Turkish influenced songs.  
Tickets £12 from the Workhouse & wegottickets.com