

Community News

Issue 94 - February 2019

an information service from PAC - the Presteigne Area Community Group

You are receiving this email because you asked to receive the Community News and be kept informed about PAC activities. If at any time you decide not to receive further PAC emails, just contact us on pacdg@icloud.com with REMOVE in the subject line and we'll immediately take you off the mailing list.

Beware of a two current phishing scams - (a) on your phone, you may be called and hear a recorded message purporting to be from the 'National Cyber Crime Unit' and (b) on your email, there's a very convincing message supposedly offering you a refund on your TV licence. THESE ARE BOTH SCAMS - please don't call back, press any buttons, or click onto any link in the email ! You can report suspicious email scams by forwarding the complete message to NFIBPhishing@city-of-london.pnn.police.uk, then deleting the email.

Are you free on Wednesday morning ? Tessa is organising the next larger town litter-pick this Wednesday morning 13th February. She needs a few more helpers on the day so if you're available for just an hour or so, and would like to join our merry team of litter champions, please contact Tessa asap on 07788 567631 or email tessark@aol.com. All equipment provided

URGENT Once again our library, along with others in Powys, is under serious and immediate threat. If you value the Library, missed the recent drop-in meeting with PCC staff, and would like to get an update as and when information is made available from PCC or the Town Council, please sign up to the Friends of Presteigne Library email list. The Friends are hoping that enough concerned residents will get together to discuss what we could do to keep our precious library service at least for the coming year, so, if you'd like to get involved, please sign up! Send an email to presteignelibraryfriends@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list.

Meanwhile, the formal Powys County Council Library consultation process has begun. Paper consultation forms are available in the Library but it's best to complete with the online survey which you can access [here](#). The survey runs until 28th April and focuses on three main topics:

1. Income generation - how could the library make money?
2. Additional savings - what else could be done to reduce costs?
3. Support & partner plans - who in the community could work with Powys to sustain the library?

Please also make your concerns and ideas known asap to Presteigne & Norton Town Council (PNTC) and our local town councillors by contacting the town clerk, Tracey Price, by email at pntc@hotmail.com. You can also raise your concerns and ideas with:

- our county councillor, Cllr Beverley Baynham at cllr.beverley.baynham@powys.gov.uk
- our MP, Chris Davies at chris.davies.mp@parliament.uk
- our AM, Kirsty Williams at kirsty.williams@assembly.wales

Calling all local area businesses and services, large and small....CONNECT, with the support of PAC, is intending to set up a local Business Register to enable local businesses to better advertise their services to residents for their mutual benefit. Options and details are still being explored but, if you run a business or service in the Presteigne area and would be interested in being included on the Register, please drop an email to pacdg@icloud.com with the business name, your location, type of business, contact name, telephone and email for future contact.

Over 50s Netball at East Radnor Leisure Centre. Come and have a laugh with a great group of people - oh and play some netball too! Tuesdays 9.30 to 10.30am led by Leanne. First session free, then just £2.50 a time. Great fun, great physical work out, and great mental exercise. No experience needed, just turn up and join in, or phone [01544 260302](tel:01544260302) for more info.

A date for your Diary and an invitation to get involved....CONNECT is busy organising the 2019 Presteigne Food & Flower Festival for the May Bank Holiday Monday 6th. This is a brilliant event for the town and our community but of course needs a lot of people to help out on the day in all sorts of ways. If you'd like to be involved, please email us at pacdg@icloud.com and we'll pass on your name to CONNECT.

And again, a reminder about what you can find on the Town website www.presteigne.org.uk - there is lots of useful information on here for residents and tourists - the Town Trail and other tourist information - a PAC Register providing contact details for all local clubs and organisations - another PAC Register listing local venues for hire for meetings, events etc - Town Council news, agenda and minutes of meetings - local notices and planning applications - information on Judge's Lodging, local churches, Sheep Music, Connect, PAC and MBA - local accommodation for visitors and restaurants - Things to Do and What's On - advertising by local businesses and services etc. If you haven't visited it lately you may be surprised by how much good stuff is on there !

Community Orchard Pruning at Went's Meadow on Sunday February 24th at 10.30am. Dani Davies of Skyborry Cider is giving a hands-on class in the art of pruning apple trees. Come and learn how and in the process help us get Went's Meadow Community Orchard into shape for the new season. All welcome: bring your secateurs, loppers, pruning saws (if you have them). The session should last a couple of hours and will hopefully - weather willing - be fun!

Do you have experience of and/or would you be interested to get involved in setting up a monthly Repair Café here in Presteigne similar to those operating in Kington (run by Kleen) and in Llandrindod ? If so please email us on pacdg@icloud.com when we can put you in touch with other people of the same mind. See <http://www.kingtonkleen.org.uk/repair%20cafe.htm> or <https://m.facebook.com/LlandrindodRepairCafe/> for more background.

Further sad news from our High Street - it's been on the cards for a while but The Rowan Tree finally closed for business on Saturday after 14 years trading on the High Street. The only upside is that Jilly has said a small branch of The Rowan Tree will operate from Llanandras Curios on Broad Street in a little while. You and the shop will be missed, Jilly, but we wish you all the best for the future.

Fancy a shopping trip to Ludlow but don't fancy the drive and parking hassle ? every Monday, the Celtic Travel X11 bus leaves Presteigne at 10.15am from the Police Station, via Norton/Knighton/Wigmore to Ludlow Assembly Rooms arriving 11.20am, returning 1.15pm. Time for a mooch around the market and shops, and a coffee and chat. If you're lucky enough to have a Seniors Travel Pass, it's free !!

You'll no doubt have seen, and perhaps wondered about the construction work along Greenfield Road and Hereford Street - this is Phase 2 of the Active Travel Route project funded by a special pot of money from the Welsh Government. You can see plans of the work on the Town Council page of the Town website www.presteigne.org.uk. (note - some people have been worried that development was under way on the Kaye's site, but what you see there is just the contractor's base for the Active Travel work).

Interested in birds and owls in particular ? Although primarily associated with woodland, Tawny Owls are the most frequently encountered owl in and around gardens. Despite our familiarity with these birds we know

surprisingly little about them. The British Trust for Ornithology BTO is asking for your help to learn more about Tawny Owls by listening for their distinctive calls from your garden, a local park or piece of woodland; in fact you can listen from pretty much anywhere you like for 20 minutes one evening a week, from 30 September 2018 – 31 March 2019. You don't have to commit to listening every week, but you'll be providing valuable data by recording for as many weeks as you can. See BTO Tawny Owl Calling survey <https://www.bto.org/>

A message and warning from a local pet owner.... please be aware about road salt and the effect it can have on your pets - do wash your dog pads or cat's paws if they've been walking along gritted roads or pavements. The salt can cause soreness and if they lick it off to clean themselves it can cause serious stomach upset.

New Year / New Job? Free Support for over 54s into work, voluntary work, self-employment or training. Workways+Powys is a project that gives free, individual and tailored support to help people into employment or self-employment. It's open to people across Powys who are aged 54 and older and who are not currently working or registered unemployed. Delivered by PRIME Cymru and funded by the European Social Fund and Powys County Council, the free support can include one-to-one help with on-line and traditional job-seeking, interview skills, CV writing, sourcing trial work placements, training, basic IT, voluntary work or guidance on setting-up in business. We also have some funding available for training. To get involved contact the project Development Officer Jan on [07983 097629](tel:07983097629) to make an appointment, alternatively pop into their free drop-in session in Knighton to have a chat to find out more about the free support programme. Knighton Library 10-12.30pm Thursdays 14th & 28th February

Need help or advice on your loss of hearing or problems with your hearing aid ? and/or maybe you can volunteer to help others ? Action On Hearing Loss Cymru is a national charity established in 1911, and Rachael Beech, their Hear-to-Help Coordinator, runs a hearing aid clinic in the Youth Centre between 1.30-3.30pm every 4th Tuesday (so next one on 26th February) after The Circle group, providing advice and free help with your NHS hearing aid. Currently, over 11 million people in the UK - that's 1 in 6 of the population - are either deaf or have hearing loss or tinnitus and the Charity needs volunteers to create a world where hearing loss doesn't limit or label people, where tinnitus is silenced, and where people value and look after their hearing. For information contact Rachael on 02920 333034 / 07552 165800 email rachael.beech@hearingloss.org.uk or to join our award-winning team of volunteers, email volunteering.cymru@hearingloss.org.uk

East Radnor Ramblers walks - more information available from each walk's leader but all welcome - bring a drink and a packed lunch and wear suitable footwear and warm clothing. Information on walking with us in general from Marion Cox 01547 530120. Saturday 16th February, Coed Swydd, Shepherd's Tump (8.5 miles) starting at lay-by on A44 near Llanloggin at 10 am, Jo 07498 489028. Wednesday 20th February, Clun Circular (6.5 miles), starting at Clun Memorial Hall at 10 am, Steve 07702 562240. Wednesday 27th February, Knighton, Stowe Hill (7.5 miles), starting from entrance to Kingsley Wood at 10am Brendan & Felicity 01544 260739,

What's On at Arkwright Village Hall, Kinsham.... Readers Group on Wednesdays, call Pam 01544 267762....Craft & Chat on Tuesdays....Line Dancing on Thursdays, call Carrie on 01544 267759

Can you help with information and history on Rodd Court ? As part of its 2019 exhibition programme, the Sidney Nolan Trust will be welcoming visitors into Rodd Court, the former home of artist Sidney Nolan and his wife Lady Nolan. The exhibition in the house will explain the history and architecture of this magnificent Jacobean manor house and the people who once lived there. In gathering information for the exhibition, the Trust is extremely interested in seeing any photos or documents which may help shed light on the house, the

farm and landscape, previous occupants plus Nolan's time at The Rodd. The Trust would also like to gather stories and anecdotes as part of an oral history project. Although they cannot guarantee everything will be used, if you have anything of interest and which you are happy to share, please contact the Trust's Director, Andrew Craven on andrew@sidneynolantrust.org or on [01544 260149](tel:01544260149) The exhibition is due to open on 19th April.

Thursday 14th February - Chatterbrook WI "Compatibility in Handwriting" a Valentine Day's Special. Presentation by Anne Cummings, graphologist. Visitors and new members very welcome. Info 01544 267245

Friday 15th February - Presteigne Screen presents "Tracking Edith" 8pm at the Assembly Rooms. This gripping documentary feature by Peter Stephan Jungk is based on his 2015 book about his own aunt: *The Darkrooms of Edith Tudor-Hart*. She was an Austrian-born documentary photographer and socialist, domiciled in Britain during and after the Second World War, whose work brilliantly recorded the lives of the urban working classes in Vienna, London and the Rhondda valley. However, she led a double-life, working as a spy for the Soviet Union: as an architect of the Cambridge Five spy-ring, she introduced Kim Philby to her communist handler, thus betraying the country that took her in. A fascinating and unmissable exploration of motives and beliefs.

Saturday 16th February - Mexican Night @ The Royal Oak. To book call 01544 260842

Saturday 16th February - MBA presents SPIRO with violin, accordion, mandolin and guitar, this band combine the multi-layered complexity of classical music with the melodic strength of traditional folk tunes and the simplicity and groove of modern loop-based music. Sourcing tunes that might be 500 years old, Spiro weave these melodies into the compelling new sound-world of the band's systems-inspired arrangements. Assembly Rooms 8pm. Tickets £12 from The Workhouse & wegottickets.com

Saturday 23rd February - Courtyard Antiques at The Assembly Rooms 9am - 2pm

Sunday 24th February - MBA's film fundraiser "Don't Look Now" - this film is a crowning achievement by one of Britain's true iconoclasts and masters of cinema, Nicolas Roeg. It's a masterpiece of colour and fractured editing, every frame bursting with meaning, emotion and mystery. The film will be introduced by long time Roeg collaborator, Tony Lawson. Assembly Rooms 7.30pm. Tickets £8 The Workhouse & wegottickets.com

Wednesday 27th February - Sweet Dreams Workshop for Children. Create your own dream catcher or stitch a lavender scented sachet to help sweet dreams. Memorial Hall 10am-1pm. Contact Andrew to book 07709 939503 or email mericafall@yahoo.co.uk. £10 per child.

Friday 1st March - sees the start of the Borderlines Film Festival, hosted by Presteigne Screen

"Cold War" Poland/UK/France/India 2018 88 mins 15. Politics and music, the personal and the political, are intimately entwined in this follow-up to Polish director Pawel Pawlikowski's 2015 Oscar winner, *Ida*. In post-war Europe, Wiktor and Zula meet when she auditions for his travelling folk troupe. Their love story spreads across the continent, both east and west of the Iron Curtain, over the following 15 years. When he seizes a chance to defect, however, she resists, only for the pair to be reunited later in Paris. In this black and white ***** film (both *The Guardian* and *The Times*) Joanna Kulig gives her own five-star turn as Zula (memorably evoking the seductive and ravishing young Jeanne Moreau). 8pm in The Assembly Rooms. £5.50.

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) at least 3 weeks in advance to pacdg@icloud.com.

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