

Community News

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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 the latest email scam which purports to be from the Royal Mail telling you about an undelivered parcel and asks you to click on an innocent-looking link - don't be fooled, this is a phish. Delete !!

Good news for the High Street....it seems like we've been waiting for ages to see what was behind the white-washed windows but, finally, it's nice to be able to say **WELCOME to the Wild Thyme restaurant.**

Wondering what's going on in Went's Meadow ? This is the first stages of work on the new Community Barn project, initially improving the access and preparing the ground for the Barn foundations. No firm completion date yet but the Carnival committee for one are crossing their fingers it'll be ready for July !

Many local older, sick or disabled people rely on Presteigne & Norton Community Support to help them with transport for all sorts of essentials but PNCS desperately needs more volunteer drivers - if you enjoy driving and would like to make a real difference in our community, please call in and talk to Sharon in the PNCS office in the High Street, or call 01544 267961. Thank you.

Don't you love the primrose pallet planter at the corner of St. David's and High Street ? We owe a big thank you to Sarah and her small team of occasional helpers for their various bits of guerrilla gardening around the town but Sarah could use some more help so, if you like a bit of occasional gardening and have some time and ideas on how to brighten up the town, do please join Sarah - just email us on pacdg@icloud.com.

Fed up with the amount of plastic that has to go in your wheelie bin ? A group of local residents is currently investigating the possibilities for Plastic-Free Presteigne. County Cllr Beverley Baynham will be our Community Champion, and our town council is supporting the initiative. The group hope to be gathering and publicising lots of ideas for how individuals and businesses can make small changes to reduce the amount of plastic in our community. If you would like to be involved, email plasticfreepresteigne@gmail.com

There are a few encouraging signs nationally:

.....The frozen food retailer Iceland became the first UK supermarket to install reverse vending machines as part of a successful trial in some stores last June, encouraging Morrisons, Tesco and Co-Op to carry out their own trials. The expectation is that these will start to roll out nationwide in 2019/20.

.....the stretchy type of plastic film (polythene) e.g. used for carrier bags, some cereal liners, frozen food bags, multiple can yokes, plastic covers for magazines, grocery produce bags etc. can now be taken to collection points in many larger supermarkets for eventual recycling. After unpacking your shopping, put all the film into a bag, shove it in a cupboard, and take it to the supermarket on your next trip.

To find out if your supermarket provides this service, go to www.recyclenow.com.

.....Marks & Spencer is going further and has launched a new initiative, which will enable customers to bring back plastic packaging that can't be recycled kerbside. Customers will be able to drop a variety of plastic packaging into M&S's new recycling bins, including black ready meal trays, crisp packets, sauce sachets and certain cosmetics containers, all of which aren't currently recycled by local councils and typically end up in landfill. The retailer has pledged to give collected plastic a new life by recycling it into store fittings, furniture and

playground equipment for schools. The scheme has initially launched in Food and Beauty Halls at M&S Tolworth, Cribbs Causeway, Westfield Stratford, Waterside, Loughton, Bluewater, Fosse Park and Peterborough. The retailer will roll-out the bins to M&S stores nationwide by end 2019, which will be made from recycled plastic collected through the first eight stores.

Interested in Presteigne's Daffodil history ? There is a very interesting article by eminent local historian Catherine Beale on the Town Website <http://www.presteigne.org.uk/node/172>. This was produced in collaboration with members of Chatterbrook WI.

A couple of residents have been asking about Walking Football - does anyone know of a walking football group locally, or maybe you'd be interested in starting one up ? If so please email pacdg@icloud.com and we can put you all in touch.

The postponed FREE Guided Dark Skies Night Event will now be held on Saturday 2 March, 7.30 – 9.00pm Went's Meadow, Presteigne led by Helen Gooderham and Leigh Harling-Bowen. Come and look at the night sky. Novices welcome! No unaccompanied children under 12 please. Wear warm clothing and sensible footwear. Bring a small torch and binoculars or a telescope if you have them. Telescopes will be available to use. Meet at the Scout Hut, off Knighton Road. To register please email Leigh at presteignedarksky@gmail.com if you intend to come along. We need good weather and clear skies, so please email Leigh and he will contact you by email if the event has to be rescheduled. The event is free, but donations for the Presteigne Dark Skies project are welcome. Attending the event is at your own risk. Please note there is no parking on Went's Meadow.

"Disturbed or sleep deprived by a constant hum recently?" Dr Paul Anderson is currently investigating its source and impact across the residents of Presteigne. For information and/or to share experiences, contact him on [01544 262 110](tel:01544262110) (afternoons or early evenings) or panderson@gmx.co.uk

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS at St Michael's Church, Discoed will run from 6th March to 22nd April. Open daily 10 am to 5 pm. This year sees the sixth Lent exhibition at St Michael's Church in Discoed: 'The Seven Last Words'. Guided as in previous years by Charles MacCarthy, fourteen artists have been asked to respond to the 'Words' and their work will be displayed around the church, making a sequence similar to the Stations of the Cross. The participating artists are: Carolyn Blake, Julianne Braham, Nick Bush, Yvonne Crossley, Simon Dorrell, Nicky Hopwood, Ciara Lewis, Viv Luxton, Roger Luxton, Charles MacCarthy, Pete Mackenzie, Katie Sims, Antonia Spowers and Jane Tudge. See www.discoed.org for more information.

Heard rumours about the green waste bins being removed from the Bring Site ? Well, it's true, they are going to disappear - PCC has made that decision, whatever we think about it, but PCC Waste has told the Bring Site Volunteers that "*...there is no set date for bank removal as yet. The new kerbside service will roll out in April and the banks will be removed from all sites progressively afterwards. We will be in touch with all groups once plans are drawn up to keep everyone informed.*" We haven't yet heard the final details of the kerbside collection scheme following last year's consultation but will let you know as soon as we have news. Incidentally, it seems as if only 2000 Powys residents bothered to respond to the PCC consultation so the 'approval' statistics that PCC quote in support of their policy represent a tiny, tiny proportion of residents. There's a lesson there !

Are you signed up for the Police Messaging Service DPCM ?...this is a free community messaging system for the Dyfed-Powys area, that allows you to register to receive the latest crime notifications and community news happening in your local neighbourhood. Applicants can register more than one address to receive updates about. e.g. home location and work place, and choose the topics that interest them - from community safety to rural crime. The link for the DPCM home page is www.dyfedpowyscommunitymessaging.org

PRESTEIGNE YOUTH THEATRE - Tuesdays (during term time) at The Assembly Rooms for ages 8 - 13 years 4.30pm - 6pm, £4 per week. Still a few places open but apply soon. For more info call [01544 267163](tel:01544267163) or email info@midborderarts.com. (PYT is an inclusive provision and is open to any young person).

Each year the Borderlines Film Festival, running from 1st to 15th March, the largest rural film festival in the UK, brings us a vast selection of new and old films. Presteigne Film Society has participated as a venue for many years and Presteigne Screen will feature three movies under the Borderlines umbrella (a bigger commitment to this excellent festival). See film details in the events listing below, also on the comprehensive website at www.borderlinesfilmfestival.co.uk. Tickets £5.50 at www.presteignescreen.org.uk

The LOCAL FOOD MARKET returns on Saturday 2nd March from 9am to 1pm in The Memorial Hall.

Everyone at the Market has been looking forward to March this year as 2018 saw us under about a foot of snow and the Market had to be cancelled, for the first time in ten years.

The February Seed Swap had to be cancelled due to ill health so it will be good to see it doing a lively business again. Please either bring any unwanted seeds to swap or leave a donation, which will go to The Heritage Seed Library. Garden Organic have, as usual, donated a range of mainly heritage seeds.

The Market goes from strength to strength and we are so grateful to everyone involved. It is obvious that Presteigne knows how to make a community work. By providing excellent locally sourced and produced quality food, one artisan doing so from as close as the High Street, their costs are lower. They can then pass on that benefit to their customers. Customers who do come a little further often include the Town's shops in their trip, thereby enabling the High Street trade to benefit also.

The Community Cafe is now in its sixth year and a much valued part of the Market enterprise. Its special success is due to the amazing dedication of its volunteers. A dedication that provides everything that people enjoy – sharing tea and coffee with friends in a cheerful place, meeting new ones and – never to forget – a great selection of delicious homemade cakes! Every penny of the Cafe customers' donations goes to local organisations and groups which are then able to return that goodwill to their Community in what they do for it. **Watch out for good news regarding the Cafe's donations towards the middle of March!**

In conjunction with the Food Market, if you have anything you'd like to raise with, or about, our Town Council or Powys County Council, Cllr Bamford and County Cllr Beverley will be there in the small hall to answer your questions or receive your comments.

A message from Jenny...the swifts should soon be on their way, so excitement is mounting. Please make a point of visiting the Support the Swifts stall at the Market - Ann and Jenny will be there with a swift to interview about it's amazing journey, and maybe, hopefully, you can buy a swift nesting box to encourage more of these incredible birds to visit and nest in Presteigne.

Introducing Ecology...a course for adults that runs over five (5) Monday evenings at The Assembly Rooms, starting 11th March, and introduces core ecological principles to help develop our understanding and love for the natural world. No prior knowledge is needed. Learning will take place through presentations, discussions, practical examples and fun games. Topics include - key ecological concepts and definitions, development of ecosystems and biomes, evolutionary adaptations, ecological techniques, conservation in practice and current environmental issues. Karen Roberts has worked as a community educator in therapeutic horticulture and nature conservation as well as college based adult learning. She has written and taught courses in ecology, conservation and gardening. She is currently co-creating a 6-acre garden and woodland outside Presteigne with her artist husband Malcolm Temple. See more about Karen at www.panthallcloistergardens.com For info and to book please ring or email Karen 01544 260066 / 07710 786828 / karmal@live.co.uk

Friday 1st March - Borderlines Film Festival "Cold War" 8pm Assembly Rooms. See item above

Saturday 2nd March - Local Food Market - see above.

Saturday 2nd March - free Guided Dark Skies Night Event. See item above

Sunday 3rd March - MBA presents "King Lear Retold" by Debs Newbold. 8pm The Assembly Rooms. Debs Newbold is one of the UK's most acclaimed performance storytellers, regularly playing the Royal Opera House, the Southbank Centre and Shakespeare's Globe. In this dark and challenging, epic and shocking, human and uplifting retelling of the legend of Lear, Debs channels her love of Shakespeare's language to whip up a great storm that sends you hurtling into its bloody centre. Tickets £10 The Workhouse and www.wegotickets.com

Spanish for Beginners starts on Wednesday, 6th March at The Assembly Rooms. 7pm. For more information, contact Mely on [07837160505](tel:07837160505).

Also on **Wednesday 6th March - Sheep Music have their 2019 AGM in The Assembly Rooms.** 8pm. If you want to get involved, please go along - all welcome.

Wednesday 6th March - Sharppp Chat returns with "Is Tax Theft" by Charles Grimes. 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church Hall. Donations welcome to cover church hall hire. Info maggie@pccs-books.co.uk

Then on **Thursday 7th March - Transition Presteigne are holding their AGM in The Dukes,** 7pm.

Friday 8th March 7.30pm - Lingen Flix presents 'The Seagull' 12A British Drama, Comedy, Romance. Annette Benning, Elizabeth Moss. In the early 20th century, an aging actress & her lover visit the lakeside estate of her elderly brother... soon, a love triangle unfolds amid family drama. Lingen Hall. [01544-267736](tel:01544-267736)
www.lingen.org.uk [01544 267736](tel:01544-267736) £5 on the door.

Friday 8th March - Borderlines Film Festival "The Guardians" 8pm Assembly Rooms. See item above

Saturday 9th March - Grand Spring Sale #3 at The Assembly Rooms. 10am-2pm. Fabulous clothes, vintage, collectables and jumble. Tea, coffee and caie. Entrance £1 (in aid of Shelter & Help Refugees). Info from Kate Bull and Sabina Ruber 01544 370637 / 01544 262864

Sunday 10th March - "Mamma Mia" starting 6pm in the Memorial Hall. An evening of music, food and fun - be part of the Mamma Mia experience (Presteigne style!). Super Trooper food by Leon. 1970's style three course meal served to your table. Full cash bar. Live musical entertainment - all 80s themed of course !! Tickets £20 from the Salty Dog. Supported by Presteigne & Norton Twinning Association.

Monday 11th March - first day of "Introducing Ecology" course. See item above.

Friday 15th March - Borderlines Film Festival "Wajib" 8pm Assembly Rooms. See item above

Saturday 16th March - Gregorian Chant Workshop 10am to 1pm in The Assembly Rooms. An introduction to sight singing through Gregorian Chant given by Robert Evans - a professional singer (The Sixteen, The Cardinall's Musick, The Gabrieli Consort), teacher and choir director. This workshop welcomes all voices and will unravel some of the mysteries of music reading. We will trace notation from the first attempts to record an oral tradition through to the current system. We will learn how to read and sing Gregorian chant, and examine how that has shaped style and interpretation. £15 incl. light refreshments. To book email: robertcevans@hotmail.com.

Saturday 16th March - an MBA music evening featuring The London Klezmer Quartet. Assembly Rooms 8pm. Enjoy old & new traditional Jewish music as the London Klezmer Quartet brings you the best of klezmer in a journey from the Baltic to the Black Sea - and beyond - played on violin, clarinet, accordion and double bass, and featuring the sultry vocals of Indra Buraczewska. £12 The Workhouse & wegottickets.com

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