

Community News



Issue 324 November 2023

The Community News is an information service from PACDG - the Presteigne Area Community Development Group
"Working Together For Our Community"

**Next Issue - deadline for contributions 10am Wednesday 29 November
email news@pacdg.org**

- 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 - email the Editor
 - please email if you see or hear of anything that will be of help to other residents, including local area jobs
 - if you need assistance in any way, email us and we'll pass on your message to people who can help.
- ...AND IF YOU NEED TO CHECK BACK ON PAST ISSUES FOR INFORMATION, YOU CAN SEE THESE (along with lots of other good information) ON THE TOWN WEBSITE www.presteigne.org.uk/calendar

...**looking for a local tradesperson or service?** Email news@pacdg.org to receive a (free!) copy of the PACDG Local Trades & Services Register - and please email us if you are providing work or services to the wider Presteigne area and would like to be included (f.o.c.) on the Register

...**Pill blister packs - just a reminder** that the recycling bin for blister packs at the Old School (Youth Centre) in Hereford Street has been removed. You have two options - to ensure your blister packs are fully recycled by Terracycle under their scheme with Aldi, sign up to receive prepaid postage labels, fill an A4 envelope with blister packs and post it off for free. Simple! For full details and to order your labels, go to <https://www.aldi.co.uk/corporate/corporate-responsibility/greener/recycle>. Otherwise, if you're happy for your blister packs to go to an Energy-from-Waste facility, where they will be incinerated and generate electricity for the National Grid, you can now put your blister packs in your wheelie bin (or purple waste sacks). Please DON'T put them in your red kerbside recycling box.

THANK YOU!

..**Presteigne Carnival** - thank you to everyone who entered the Carnival Halloween Quiz on the 30th, and congratulations to the winners. We raised £213 towards next year's Carnival! Especially big thanks to Kim Vanezi, Vicky Davies, & Jo Wozencraft for organising and Adam Crowe as question master! Great to have these young, enthusiastic people on our committee. Also thank you to the Bowling Club for the use of the club, and some of the prizes - your continued support is very much appreciated.

...**St. Andrew's** - Congratulations to 'Black Russian', the winning team in our Clocks Back Quiz held in the church on Saturday. It was a really enjoyable occasion, raising £100 for Tear Fund. Many thanks to quizmaster Ian Marchant and to the local businesses that donated the wonderful prize hamper shared by the members of Black Russian (Sandra and Tim Hodgetts, Chris and Marion Rowlatt and Susie and Steve Bishop). We hope to be back again with another Clocks Back Quiz next year!

TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

...**Presteigne & Norton TC next main meeting - tomorrow, Wednesday 15th November 7.30pm** in the Assembly Rooms. For meeting Agenda, papers and October Minutes, see the Town website www.presteigne.org.uk

...**Powys CC - Would you like information on domestic energy saving grants** funded by energy companies for improved insulation or heating systems? Visit <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/14595/Powys-Energy-Saving-Scheme-ECO4-Flex>

SCAM ALERTS (from Which? and others)

...**from Which? - outsmart the scammers** - our free regular updates will alert you to scams doing the rounds, and provide practical advice to keep you one step ahead of fraudsters. Sign up at www.which.co.uk/scamalerts

...**from Jo - fake email pretending to come from McAfee** thanking me for an order I did not make and with a pdf invoice for £532.64 for 5 years antivirus protection - you can't reply to the e-mail and the number to ring to cancel probably (I have not rung it) charges you £50 a minute! Please be aware!

...**Which? Black Friday scams** - in anticipation of Black Friday, a time when we all hope to find great deals, scammers have been using Facebook to promote fake Currys (and other stores) websites with attractive but unrealistic offers. If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably is. Go to the Which? website to see examples of these fake websites, so you can avoid falling prey to them.

NEWS FROM THE HIGH STREET & LOCAL BUSINESSES / ORGANISATIONS

...from **Presteigne Plenty** - If you're looking for locally made, beautifully packaged goodies for Christmas presents then we have the answer! Come and check out our wares at this year's Christmas Fair at St Andrew's Church on Friday 24th November (2pm-6pm). We'll be selling our very popular boozy mincemeat, chutneys, some delicious cider butter, jams and pasteurised apple juice (everything made from the town's surplus fruit and veg), with all profits going to community projects, including the Presteigne & Knighton Foodbank. For more info contact: emma.lilley@btinternet.com

...**Presteigne Day Centre** - Since closing in March 2020 due to Covid, the East Radnorshire Day Centre has not been able to re-open fully due to a lack of agreed funding from Powys CC. As a charity we have provided other services including East Radnor Home Support, a lunch club, bathing service and other short term projects but now we need your support. Powys CC have launched a "Day Opportunities in Powys" Consultation. This is our opportunity to tell PCC that our community **deserves** and **needs** a Day Centre. Two public consultation meetings have been organised for Thursday 30th November, 1.30pm – 2.30pm at East Radnorshire Day Centre, Scottleton Street, Presteigne, LD8 2BL and 6pm – 7pm at John Beddoes School, Broadaxe, Presteigne, LD8 2AX. Please do try and come along and support our cause to re-open the Day Centre.

In the meantime please can you complete the survey by copying & pasting this link - <https://www.haveyoursaypowys.wales/day-opportunities-review>. Paper copies of the survey are available from the Centre. The future of the Day Centre depends on you, the community of Presteigne & Norton, so please do support us by completing the questionnaire and attending one of the open meetings.

...**St. Andrew's, Presteigne - the November issue of The Parish Magazine is now available**. Many thanks to the Editor Steve Bishop, Di Hammersley who sells the advertising without which the magazine could not exist (have you noticed how our new printer enables us to produce the advertisements so much more clearly?) and all who organise printing, collation and distribution of the magazine around our town and surrounding villages.

...**Presteigne Hockey Club** - always welcoming newcomers between the ages of 6 and 18 to join our friendly little club. No experience necessary & all equipment provided. We are actively seeking more minis between the ages of 6 & 9yrs to join us in Presteigne Sports Hall on Wednesday evenings for hockey fun with Leanne. Please send us a message if you would like to get involved or receive more information. Winter Sessions: Group 1 'Juniors & Badgers' with Jess @ Kington High School Astro Turf, Mondays 6-7pm, £4 per session; Group 2 'Minis & Juniors' with Leanne @ Presteigne Leisure Centre, Wednesdays 6-7pm, £4 per session.

...**Emily George - children's dance classes with EG fitness and dance**. We have a very small selection of spaces available to start in December! Classes are for age 4-16 and Classes take place in Presteigne, Knighton, Kingstone and Hay on Wye. Contact Emily on egeorge95@icloud.com to find out more and book in, these spaces will go quickly!

...**from Jude - Traditional Upholstery drop-in class**, now on Fridays 10.00-1-00pm at The Old School, Hereford Street, Presteigne. Pay as you attend. £30 for the session. City&Guilds trained Tutor. Contact sowerbysupholstery@gmail.com

...**Norton Hub - 100 Club: November Winners**: 1st prize (£40) - no. 49 - Elizabeth Stone; 2nd prize (£25) - no. 28 - Claire Brown; 3rd prize (£15) - no. 52 - Deborah Edwards

...**Art Club starting soon** Tuesday mornings at the British Legion 10am-12noon. Please let Kay know if you are interested 07724 379335 (non-profit making) £5 per session

...**Dolly's Soul Food Cajun Christmas** - Saturday December 2nd. Louisiana Gumbo (chicken and sausage spicy stew) the official dish of Louisiana, Chargrilled Spicy Corn, served with white rice £12 + New Orleans Bread Pudding (a sweet and buttery dessert served across New Orleans' French Quarter) £5. We deliver to Presteigne, Kington & Knighton and are happy for you to collect from a prearranged location. Contact dollys.soul.food@gmail.com, text/call 07902 477908. Orders to be placed by 30 Nov.

...**PNCS Warehouse - the elves have been busy getting our Xmas grotto filled with lots of wonderful things**. Don't spend a fortune on pointless new 'stuff' - look around the Warehouse and grab an early Xmas bargain! And good news, we are now again accepting donations of books

...**Yoga at the East Radnor Leisure Centre** - Please note that yoga has changed days and times! now on Thursdays 9.30am-10.30am. Come & join Jurate, set your day off right! Call the centre now to book.

...**The Radnorshire Arms is starting a weekly Meat Raffle** - tickets sold through the week at £1. The winners will be drawn on Sundays. Proceeds will go to charities - the first few will go towards Sandra's Marathon fundraising and, subsequently, the aim will be to donate to local charities, schools or projects.

...**Rose Cottage Café** - It's going to be a cold week so lots of soup, and casseroles - pork fillet in creamy mushroom sauce, seafood and spinach lasagne, chicken stew and dumplings and paneer, spinach and chickpea curry all on the menu. Don't forget to book!

...**Radnorshire Wildlife Trust - Join us!** We're creating a youth group for young people aged 13-24 - if you're interested in wildlife and climate and meeting like-minded people, contact us on catrin@rwtwales.org or fill out our online sign-up form: <https://forms.office.com/e/gBuuKfGjqG>.

...Wegnalls Butchery - looking for a Christmas present for someone special? How about one of our lovely gift hampers! All yours for £40 wrapped and ready! If you would like to order one for collection please drop us a message

EVENTS & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

.....still a few tickets left for KCS Concert Mozart's Requiem in D-major' in St Andrew's, Presteigne on Saturday 18 November 7.30pm. If you missed the sell-out performance of The Armed Man in June in Presteigne, then now's your chance to get your ticket. Reserve your tickets now at www.trybooking.com, through the KCS website www.kingtonchoral.org.uk, or buy your tickets at The Salty Dog (Presteigne), Tower House Gallery (Knighton), Border Bean (Kington), or ESCO (New Radnor).

...Don't miss this year's Presteigne pantomime, 'A Christmas Squirrel'. When Ebenezer Scrote arrives as Presteigne's new mayor with ideas of developing the town, can the locals change his mind? Can the Scratchitt family prevent Tiny Tim from shrinking away altogether? And will Mrs Thingummy find true love at last? Join colourful characters such as the Artful Codgers and Mr and Mrs Crossdresser and be transported back to a (different sort of) Victorian Christmas. Performances start at 7.30pm on Thursday 7th, Friday 8th and Saturday 9th December at the Ivor Hughes Centre, John Beddoes School. Get your tickets next week from The Salty Dog, High Street, Presteigne (cash only). Ticket prices: Thursday: adult £6, child £4, family ticket (2 adults + 2 children) £17; Friday and Saturday: adult £8, child £5 child, Family ticket (2 adults + 2 children) £22.

...Friends of John Beddoes - Quiz Night at Presteigne Football Club Thursday 16th November 7pm for 7.30pm start £10 per team (max 4 per team). £50 prize. To book contact fojb@protonmail.com.

...Michael Tavinor - Thanksgiving Day in Presteigne. Thursday 23 November. 7.00pm. Baptist Church. Tim & Michael have recently returned from a 3 week stay in the USA & during this evening they will show a selection of photos from their trip, including 7 days on the Queen Mary, visits to New York City, Washington DC & North Carolina. American music & American-style refreshments – hopefully pumpkin pie and American cookies! Free admission. Donations shared between Presteigne Baptist Church & the FoodBank. Do join us on this special day for our American friends throughout the world!

...Radnorshire Arms, Presteigne - Quiz Night on the 3rd Thursday of every month. This month's Quiz night is on the 23rd November from 7pm. Proceeds will go to Sandra who is raising money for Cancer Research & is a cancer survivor training to complete the London Marathon to aid her fundraising.

...Wings of Change - full day Active Hope Workshop on Sunday 3 December at the Assembly Rooms in Presteigne, 10am - 5pm. The workshop's central purpose is to bring us back into relationship with ourselves, each other and with the earth, motivating and empowering us to engage with the social and ecological challenges we face, leading to greater connection, resilience and hope. For further info please visit <https://swiftswoc.wixsite.com/wingsofchange>

...Radnorshire Arms, Presteigne - New Years Eve - tickets for sale @ £20 pp. This will include a welcome drink, canapés, dancing and a glass of sparkles to welcome 2024. Tickets from Reception.

...60s Night with Phil Evans at the Old School (Youth Centre), Presteigne. Live - Karaoke - free raffle. Friday 24 November. Doors open 6.45pm. £5 (children free).

...Members of Presteigne Open Studios will be running a Christmas Market in 2 Radnor Buildings (next to St Michael's Shop) between 2- 16 December, 10am – 4pm. There will be lots of lovely ideas for Christmas and quite a few bargains too, so do pop along and have a look round. Ceramics, paintings, prints, cards.

...Christmas Shopping Evening at the Retreat on Friday 15th December 4-7pm. Silvan Skincare, Kleen Soap on Rope, Pukka teas, organic cotton face cloths, bath mitts, loofahs, body and nail brushes. Gorgeous gift sets, skincare consultations and gift suggestions. Come along, have a glass of something or send your loved one with a hint... The Retreat (next door to The Workhouse Gallery), Presteigne Industrial Estate.

...Presteigne Screen presents "The Eight Mountains" Friday 17th November at The Assembly Rooms. Doors open 7:30pm for Bar, Coffee, Tea and Cakes. Films start 8pm. Buying a ticket in advance guarantees a seat. We have at least 30 seats for online purchase before each film. Seats are unreserved, so to get the best seats it helps if you arrive early. We can accept contactless card payments at the door. Tickets £5 at door. Buy online through our website or direct at WeGotTickets

...Book Stall, Saturday 2nd December 9.30 to 12.30 for The Food Bank. Downstairs foyer of the Assembly Rooms. A wide variety of secondhand books in good condition, including hardbacks. Classics, Nature, Art, Hobbies, Novels. Ideal for 'green' presents. Come & have a browse

...Presteigne Methodist Church - Coffee Morning on Saturday 16th December from 10.30 until 12 in the church itself. We will be offering coffee and mince pies, a raffle, lucky dip and a warm welcome - look forward to seeing you there.

...Presteigne Repair - Saturday November 18th 10.00 til 12.00 noon at the Old School (Youth Centre) in Hereford Street. Last chance this year to bring along broken household items. See if they can be mended before binning or buying more. If bringing hoovers or toasters do please empty first. Assistance dogs only inside please.

OTHER NEWS

...Are you worried about someone's sight? Your local optometrist can treat a range of eye problems and help detect eye conditions so they can be treated sooner. Help your family and friends get the support they need. For your nearest optometrist <https://pthb.nhs.wales/eyecare>

...from The Royal Mail - Don't miss the mail that matters. It could be a prize you didn't know you'd won, a special invitation, or vital information from your GP, bank, solicitors or the DVLA. Maybe even a refund from HMRC. So, make sure your mail follows you. With so many things to think about when moving house it can be easy to miss out on updating everyone - redirect your mail as soon as you can.

...from Citizens Advice - **you know how much it costs to run your appliances?** Or how you can save money using them? See how to save money and energy <https://bit.ly/48OH2Ee>

...Recycle Electricals - **tired of tripping over your children's old, unused toys at home?** With the kids just returning to school from half term, why not seize this opportunity to enlist their help and give the toy cupboard a good declutter! Decluttering expert Vicky Silverthorn shares her top tips for clearing out kids toys guilt-free in our latest blog: <https://bit.ly/497LZbl>. And remember - if your kids have outgrown old toys that still work, these could be donated for another child to play with. With 7.5 million kids' toys gathering dust in the UK, think of the joy that would bring to other families!

[ed. offer old working/usable toys and kids stuff on Presteigne Freegle or donate them to the PNCS Warehouse - take broken electricals to your nearest HWRC or, if you can't get there, use the collection box for SMALL electrical/electronic stuff at the Youth Centre in Hereford Street]

LOCAL AREA JOB & VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES *[ed. for other jobs in our local area, log on to <https://freegle.in/presteigne> and see **Jobs Near You** column on r.h.s.]*

...Kington Choral Society - Accompanist required. We are looking for a experienced accompanist to work closely with our Musical Director. KCS is a non-auditioned choir rehearsing on Monday evenings from 7pm until 9pm during term times in Titley Village Hall. For more information please visit www.kingtonchoral.org.uk. Terms: self-employed, fee per rehearsal to be agreed dependent on experience. Key Responsibilities: *Attend Monday evening rehearsals and accompany the choir as requested by the director. There are around 35 - 40 rehearsals a year *To accompany the choir in concerts if required *Under the direction of the Director, assist in the musical training of KCS *A willingness and ability to deputise for the MD at rehearsals is desirable, as is the ability to play the organ *If unable to attend any given rehearsal or concert, to be responsible for booking a replacement of at least equal standing and ability. Auditions for chosen candidates will be during choir rehearsals in January 2024. The successful candidate will be expected to start as soon as possible after their appointment. To apply, please send your CV (with two references) and a covering letter by email to the KCS Secretary: dsgw@hotmail.com. Closing date: 4th December

...Powys Age Cymru - With the cold weather fast approaching, a new Winter Wellbeing Programme is calling for local people to become Christmas Angels and help ensure that older Powys residents are not left lonely over the festive period. Winter Wellbeing is a new holistic initiative designed to help older people in Powys stay warm, safe, and healthy during the winter months, offering a variety of services, including face-to-face or telephone friendship, free Home Energy Checks, help with the Cost-of-Living, and advice and support on any matter that may be affecting their quality of life. Christmas Angels play a vital role in Winter Wellbeing by checking in with older people to offer companionship and support, having a cup of tea and a chat, a weekly friendship call, playing games, or simply listening to the older person's stories and memories. Volunteering is beneficial for your own health and wellbeing – doing good makes you feel good! Signing up to be a Winter Wellbeing Volunteer is easy – contact Age Cymru Powys and they will do the rest: 01686 623707 enquiries@acpowys.org.uk

...PNCS The Circle - Organiser. PNCS runs a small social group every Tuesday at the Old School in Hereford Street, Presteigne. This runs from around 10am to 1pm and involves tea and coffee and light lunch, perhaps soup. It also includes a number of activities such as a gentle fitness session, art and crafts, discussions, singing and there are regularly interesting talks by invited speakers on all manner of topics. The organiser of the group is an employee of PNCS, who is supported by a number of volunteers. As the current organiser will be giving up the role in the near future, we are looking for an enthusiastic individual to take over. This will be a paid position of 7 hours per week to allow time for preparation, etc. If you are interested and would like to discuss the matter further, please contact Sharon Jones on 01544 267961 or by email to transport.pncs@gmail.com before 17th November 2023.

...Radnorshire Wildlife Trust - Local Wildlife Sites Officer. Powys's species and habitats need you! We are looking for a Local Wildlife Sites Officer to increase the extent of areas recognised for their importance for wildlife across Powys. This role involves working in partnership not only with the neighbouring wildlife trusts, the wildlife recording centre and the local authorities, but also with land owners. Interested?! Find out more on all our current vacancies here: <https://www.rwtwales.org/jobs>

PACDG - the Presteigne Area Community Development Group ...“Working together for the Community”

To unsubscribe, email news@pacdg.org with REMOVE in the subject line & we'll immediately take you off the mailing list.