

# Community News

Issue 65 - January 2018

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

## ***We hope you had a lovely Christmas and New Year !***

News on the Sleeping Dragon.... lots of you would have seen the PAC poster board and voting buckets with orange balls at the three panto evenings and the Christmas Market in the Rad. The existing dragon was created by Pete Smith and never intended or constructed as a permanent sculpture (see the November Special issue of the Community News for the background, or email [pacdg@icloud.com](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com) if you'd like to receive it again). The question asked was "The Sleeping Dragon by the roundabout will disappear in November 2018 - would you like to see a permanent replacement?" **The result of the ball count at all four events was: YES-563 NO-49.** Of course there were instances of multiple votes, and some cheeky vote switching, but it wasn't significant and so, generally, a pretty decisive verdict - thanks to everyone who participated. There are serious moves afoot and discussions ongoing about a possible permanent replacement - watch this space for more information and for more background see the The Sleeping Dragon Facebook page @presteignedragon

If you are interested to comment on the Planning Application for the chicken shed at Stonewall Hill (see Community News 64) the deadline has been extended to Jan 8th.

Do you have any unwanted Xmas presents or have you cleared your cupboards out to make room for the new items you received? If so The Warehouse would love to take these off your hands to replenish their stock. All funds raised by selling these items go to the Presteigne and Norton Community Support who provide transport to medical appointments for many local people. Happy New Year from PNCS and thank you for your continued support.

**Bingo news....** bingo sessions are held at the Presteigne Bowls Social Club on Hereford Street every Thursday. 8-30pm start - free entry - new players very welcome ! ....2017 saw the best Xmas bingos ever, bringing an income of £5600 needed for bowling green maintenance and improvements to the Social Club building. Many thanks to everyone who came along ....put in your Diary a reminder for the next big event - Bumper Easter Bingo at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 10th March - all welcome.

**Chatterbrook WI welcomes new and re-joining members to our 2018 programme, starting on January 11th** with a taster Pilates session with Jane Prady. Then in February there will be a 'Welsh Wander' with local adventurer/author Tom Davies, and in March a dip into the history of daffodil growing in Presteigne with Catherine Beale. Meetings are held in the Memorial Hall 2nd Thursday of each month 7.30pm, free to members, and just £2 to visitors. We also have an established Walking Group, and will be starting groups for Art, Reading and Lunch outings. Lots of talks and activities - make new friends, learn new skills, join in as much as you want. See Library for full programme. Just come along on the night or contact our President, Christine Wells, 01544 260258 or Secretary, Margaret Galliers, 01544 267245 (note: If you wish to take part in the Pilates session, there is an 'Enrolment Form' to complete and return to the tutor in advance. Please contact the Secretary to obtain this).

**A message from Presteigne's Local Food Market....**wishing all our customers and Producers a very Happy New Year, and thank you for your support throughout 2017!

We are having a break this month, but will be back in February on Saturday 3rd.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

.....there is a drop-in Cancer Support Session on the second Monday of each month 9am to 11am in the Assembly Rooms, where Macmillan Volunteer Paula can provide information and support for anyone affected by cancer or for new carers or volunteers. Advice and time to talk over a cuppa in a warm and supporting environment. Tel. 07966 571020 or 0808 808 00 00

.....a new business has opened at No.3 Broad Street so it's a warm Presteigne welcome to **Ellie Mathieson** - couturier - fashion designer - seamstress. Opening hours: Monday to Friday 8.45am - 5.15pm, Saturday 9.15am - 4pm. Good to see that long-vacant shop occupied again!

.....a notice from Presteigne Natural Health Centre....we no longer have a landline at PNHc - but contact details for all our therapists can be found on our website

[www.presteignehc.com](http://www.presteignehc.com) or you can pick up a card from the dispenser on the side of Unit 7 with contact numbers. Otherwise email [pnhc2014@gmail.com](mailto:pnhc2014@gmail.com) & I will respond within 48 hours

.....**Elan Valley Aqueduct (EVA)** has been carrying water for over a hundred years and **Severn Trent Water** is carrying out work on the EVA to make it fit for the next hundred years. This involves replacing parts of the EVA and the work has now moved on to replace a short section near to Knighton by creating a new underground bypass tunnel which means tunnelling underground from a drive shaft located near to the A488 Pennybont Road just west of Knighton, to a point near the existing well house above the Presteigne Road. Construction of the temporary access road to the west of Knighton has started and they are now digging the shaft from where they will start tunnelling. The massive shaft is over 35m deep and will be completed Spring 2018. Once complete, the tunnel boring machine will be launched and work underground, at times to a depth of 100 meters. During March 2018, work will commence near the existing well house. This includes creating a temporary access opposite the cemetery gates, and an access road at the rear of properties on Presteigne Road. Tunnelling should complete in December 2018 then removal of temporary accesses and roads and restoration of the area to its previous condition will complete by August 2019.

*If you're interested to find out more about the work and to keep updated on progress visit: [www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/planned-improvements/elanvalley/](http://www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/planned-improvements/elanvalley/)*

**Saturday 6th January** - "TULIP FEVER" - film followed by a talk by the book's author **Deborah Moggach**, describing the tragic/comic story of how Tulip Fever came to be written, and the extraordinary coincidences and misfortunes around making it into a film. Bar with snacks. Assembly Rooms. Raising Funds for MBA. Tickets £10 from The Workhouse Gallery in Presteigne or online from [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com)

**Starting Tuesday 9th January** - brand new Presteigne Youth Theatre for 2018 led by **Andrew Sterry**. Please could you forward this information to anyone you feel would be interested. Assembly Rooms. Every Tuesday during term time 4.30 to 6pm for ages 9 to 12. £2 per session. For info 01544 267163 or email [info@midborderarts.com](mailto:info@midborderarts.com)

**Wednesday 10th January** - the first monthly Quiz Night of 2018 at the Bowls Social Club on Hereford Street. General knowledge quiz with a twist ! 2nd Wednesday of each month. All welcome. 7.30 for 8pm start. Bar tea/coffee. £2pp. Prizes. Win Big at Backwards Bingo. Book for teams of up to four - text Terry on 07766 097600 or email [presteignedogman@icloud.com](mailto:presteignedogman@icloud.com).

**Friday 12th January** - Presteigne Screen presents "LOST IN PARIS" France 2017, 83 mins. 12A. Gentle and clever but also very knowing, this visual comedy brings Jaques Tati to mind. Both witty and wry, 'Lost in Paris' delivers a little edgy social satire while also paying homage to the city itself. Assembly Rooms. 7.30pm for 8pm start. Tea, coffee, home-baked cakes. £5 (students £3.50) or buy a Seven Film season ticket for £25.

**Sunday 14th January** - Presteigne Pop Choir - an afternoon of best in pop, from the sixties to the present day. Assembly Rooms 3pm. Tea and Cakes. Donations.

**Saturday 20th January** - an evening of music with **Fitty Gomash**. Based in Bristol and with years of experience and an ever growing set of wild tunes, both traditional and original, Fitty Gomash create a heart-warming hooley on the dance floor. Blow the winter blues away! Dance floor & cabaret seating, bar with local ales & fine wines. Presteigne Assembly Rooms 8pm. Tickets £10 from The Workhouse & [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com)

**Friday 26th January** - Presteigne Screen presents "AFTERIMAGE", Poland 2017. 98mins. 12. A moving valedictory work by Andrzej Wajda on the theme of Stalinist oppression. Assembly Rooms. 7.30pm for 8pm start. Tea, coffee, home-baked cakes. £5 (students £3.50) or buy a 7 Film season ticket for £25.

**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) - mail [pacdg@icloud.com](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com). Feel free to tweet or forward this to others. If you would prefer not to receive further issues of the News, please email us with REMOVE and we'll immediately take you off the the distribution list**