

Community News

Issue 227 December 2020

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

email news@pacdg.org to contact the Editor

- 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 us 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

...**Covid tiers and restrictions.** With both Herefordshire and Shropshire moving into Tier 2 and additional restrictions coming for Wales, see the following websites for information:

England - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>

Wales - <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance>

...**from Tim Craddock.** *"A number of Presteigne residents who live on Stonewall Hill and who are dependent on Presteigne for medical services and shops have written in recent days to both Herefordshire CC and Powys CC about the very poor condition of the roads down the hill towards Presteigne. The main route down towards Stocken Farm is becoming increasingly unusable for ordinary cars. This road is the responsibility of Herefordshire CC. Herefordshire have deemed it very low priority for repair despite the fact that it has been designated as the diversionary route while another road on the summit of the hill (towards Willey) is closed for repair. Other roads (which are less used) from the hill towards Norton have also deteriorated a great deal, particularly after last winter's rains. These two lanes are the responsibility of Powys CC. Cllr. Beverley Baynham has taken up the issue of the Powys roads with those who are responsible in the Powys CC. The support of any residents who agree that our access is getting more difficult would be most useful in getting both Councils to look at these roads again and see what can be done".*

...**from The Warehouse.** During the past few months, we have been receiving an unprecedented amount of generous donations. In fact, we are now simply full! We also have to quarantine incoming items, which takes up even more space! Please could you wait for a week or so before bringing more items to the Warehouse, just to give us some time to sort through the donations we have already received. Also, please could you think whether or not we might be able to sell an item that you are thinking of donating before leaving it outside in our donations bin, and please.....do not leave things outside if the bin is full, as they can easily get soaked overnight. Regrettably, we do receive rather a lot of items that are not really suitable for resale, or that get ruined, and that then costs us money to dispose of them. Thank you for your understanding and your generosity!

...**from the Town Clerk.** Latest planning application in: 20/1927/TEL Grid Ref: E: 329882 N: 266231 Proposal: Application for Prior notification for ESN 4G Communications Mast and associated development under part 24 of schedule 2 of the GPO 1995 Location: Land At Home Farm , Presteigne, LD8 2EF Notification by a Telecommunications Code System Operator, details above, as required by the above Order, Received on 24th November 2020. To be considered at the December meeting of the Town Council.

WITH THANKS..

...**from the PACDG Guerrilla Gardeners.** We would like to say a big Thank You to one of our lovely volunteers who has repurposed pallets to create a large planter. Now painted and lined, it has been positioned in Broad Street replacing a small planted tub and will bring a bit of

colour to the area. The Gardeners are now taking a Winter break. We meet most Wednesdays at 9.30am and work for an hour or so around the town, planting, maintaining, pruning shrubs and undergrowth. If you have time to spare, enjoy getting out in the fresh air and gardening then why not join our happy group when we reconvene in the New Year. Contact Annette on 01544 260151.

UPDATE FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES AND THE HIGH STREET (local businesses are still adapting to local restrictions - best to check information on websites or Facebook pages)

...from Jonathan & Maggie's Pop Up Christmas Shop. Presteigne's Barber Shop will open on Friday, 4th December, as a Pop Up Christmas, Art/Craft, Gift Shop for the few weeks until Christmas Eve. If you have unwanted gifts/new items, arts or crafts you've made yourself, or any other items of quality, please let us have them to sell on your behalf. 50% of the sale price will go to you, 25% towards the running costs of the shop and 25% to **St. Michael's Hospice**. Volunteers, to staff the shop, are also needed. Please contact Jonathan on 260800.'

...from Weobley Ash Meats. Stuck for a present this Christmas? Our Butchery Classes will be available to purchase from next week. Pork or lamb butchery class, sausage making & bacon curing. One-to-one or two-to-one tuition, hands on, meat included to take home. All class vouchers are valid until used. Look out for the release next week. Plus.....Christmas Trees Now In - 6ft £27.95 non drop, 7ft £36.95 non drop. FREE £5 or £8 shop voucher with all tree purchases valid for use January and February 2021. Local Delivery can be arranged. Open from 9-4 Monday to Saturday

...from Grace Beauty. And the winner of our gorgeous Elemis rose collection is...Claire Davies! Congratulations. Thank you to everyone who entered. Also - see our FB page for a little idea of the stock we have left for Christmas. We can deliver if you are unable to get to see us at the salon. Thank you for all your support and for shopping local. It really means so much.

...from Rhiannon at Presteigne Library. Available from the library now, Christmas book bags! Containing a selection of children's Christmas books, plus some seasonal games and colouring sheets. To order, please email presteigne.library@powys.gov.uk

...from Pauline at Pear Care Services. Hi everyone I have many years experience in the Care sector and decided to go alone, feel free to get in touch if you or someone you care for needs some help to stay at home, I also help with befriending, shopping, dog walking home help, I look forward to hearing from you. Call/text 07805 282462 or email pearcare20@yahoo.com

...from Anna. Shop local and support small business. Christmas trees are available to buy and order from Greenfield roundabout, Presteigne, this weekend from 10 am - 4 pm approximately and every weekend thereafter. All trees are available for delivery for free in a 3 mile radius, netting can be provided extra. Cut trees Norway spruce 4- 15 ' £15-40 approximately. Potted trees - Norway up to 4ft £20, Potted nordmans/frazers up to 4ft £25. Christmas tree water holders to prolong the life of your cut tree up to 7ft also available £15. Wholesale also available.

...from Kington Golf Club. Golf restarts on Wed 2nd December. Come and enjoy four months golf at the best winter course in Herefordshire with Winter Membership at just £190, and receive a £135 credit towards 2021 fees. Contact membership@kingtongolfclub.co.uk

...from the Royal Oak. Today's news feels like another knife in the back for the industry we love and it's bitterly disappointing that we are forced to make the decision to close our doors for a third time this Friday at 6pm. Under the new restrictions it won't be feasible for us to open. What is a pub without beer? Unfortunately there is no clear date for when these restrictions will be eased. For those booked in for our Christmas Day takeaways, that will still be going ahead regardless of whether the pub is open or not and bookings are still being taken for it. We will also endeavour to do some more takeaway offerings during these testing times. We once again thank you all for your continued support and will keep you updated.

...from The Farmers Inn. We will close on Friday 4th December at 6pm until further notice. To all our customers that have booked for Sunday Lunch this week, this will still continue. We thank those of you that have supported us this year & hope it won't be too long until we return.

...from Sam at No. 46. Here we go again! We imagine you have all heard the news this afternoon. Restaurants and bars have been told to stop serving alcohol and close by 6pm as of Friday. After having some long discussions we have decided we just cannot justify remaining open under these difficult circumstances! So from 6pm on Friday will be closing our doors once again. We will also be closed tomorrow (sorry for the inconvenience). It's now a waiting game for updates on the 17th. We will be doing some pop up takeaways over the next couple of weeks! And will be open Wednesday and Thursday 3pm - 9pm and Friday 12pm - 6pm this week! Hope you all stay safe and well and we are thinking of all the other hospitality industries in this difficult time! Thank you all for all the ongoing support and we hope to see you all soon.

...from Lorna's Sandwich Shop. Festive rolls available every Thursday through December served with a pig-in-blanket. Hot pork rolls still being served every Thursday.

...from The Stagg. Order now for our Friday & Saturday night takeaways! This week bibimbap is back on the menu, along with our delicious homemade sourdough. Order here: <https://www.thestagg.co.uk/takeaway/>

...from MidCounties Co-op. Donate to our Food Bank Fund to help support our partner food banks over Christmas & into the new year... www.mid.coop/Donate. You can also help the vulnerable in your community by donating essentials to food banks by dropping it off at your local Midcounties Food store [*ed. i.e. Knighton Coop but you can also drop off Food Bank donations at Presteigne Spar*]

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY & OTHER INFORMATION

...from Presteigne Artscene. Update: Exhibition of pastels and oil paintings by Catherine Poelsma. Due to new Welsh Government restrictions announced today, the upcoming exhibition at the Assembly Rooms now has NEW opening times: Thursday 3 December 12.30 - 4.30, Friday 4 December 10.00 - 4.30 and Wednesday 2 December by appointment. Contact MBA Co-ordinator info@midborderarts.com / 01544 267163

...from Ruth and Art@thelodging. The first weekend of this new style of art exhibition at the Judges Lodging museum in Presteigne has gone amazingly well. In a Covid safe environment, and for an entry price of only £3, visitors have been finding their way round this award-winning museum, whilst at the same time viewing the work of 25 local artists and makers. Many visitors have commented on what a wonderful experience it is, and such a pleasure to do after months of restrictions. **There is still one last chance to see the exhibition** in spite of the closure announced on Monday by Mark Drayford. The museum will open for one day only this Friday – 10.30 to 5.30. The organisers are hoping that visitors will take this one last opportunity to visit the show. But if you feel unable to visit there is an online Etsy shop featuring the work of many of the artists. Simply follow the link <https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/ARTatTheLodging>. There are lots of lovely ideas for Christmas presents within the show, particularly in the Market Room where artists are displaying seconds or reduced-price work - an ideal way to brighten up a gloomy November day. Friday will be your last chance!!

...from Gill at Presteigne Pharmacy. We now have flu vaccines in stock for patients aged 50 to 65 years, or patients 18 years to 65 in at-risk groups. Appointments available. Call in or call 01544 267000

...from April at Presteigne Medical Centre. The Practice is required to undertake their annual patient access survey. This year as you can imagine due to COVID it's a little bit more difficult than in previous years. Therefore, this year we are trying to encourage patients to undertake the survey online via the Practice website. The survey is anonymous and although we would encourage patients to undertake the survey online, we are happy for the attached form to be completed and dropped off at the Surgery through the letterbox in the same way as

prescriptions. Here is the link to the Survey: <https://www.presteignemedicalcentre.com/2020/12/01/presteigne-medical-practice-access-appointments-questionnaire/>. Thank you!

...from Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue who have a new project called ‘share the love’. They are asking for volunteers, cadets and the local community to send cards, letters and pictures that they will then send to people who are lonely, isolated or in a care setting this winter. For more details see <https://www.mawwfire.gov.uk/.../november/share-the-love/>

...from Powys CC. A scheme to financially support social care staff who have to stay away from work because of Covid-19 (the enhanced Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) Scheme) is now ‘live’ in Powys and will run until March 31st and applications back dated to November 1st will be eligible. The support is for care workers who are required to stay off work due to actual or suspected COVID-19 or because they have to self-isolate. Staff may also be entitled to the isolation payment of £500 announced earlier but they can only access support through one of these schemes, not both. Information about the isolation payments can be found at <https://crowd.in/kr0RjM> or find out more about the SSP scheme at <https://crowd.in/ZAjErM>

...from the Heart of Wales Line. We are really please to confirm that following 3 months of extensive repair work and vegetation management by Network Rail, the line has now reopened north of Llanwrtyd Wells. The line had to close following a landslip in August caused by torrential rain. Network Rail teams have worked hard to not just repair the line but to improve future resilience to extreme weather conditions. Work continues at Llangennech near Llanelli following the diesel fire that closed the southern section of the line in August. Natural Resources Wales are still on site and removing diesel from the ground and Network Rail should be able to start to fix the track in January, ready for reopening in early 2021. There are still only two trains (or replacement buses) a day each way but Transport For Wales did recently improve the timetable so that there is a morning and an afternoon train. We hope to see more trains returning before too long but there are no timeframes at the moment. You can find the most recent bus replacement timetable between Llanwrtyd and Swansea (from Llandrindod only on Sundays) [here](#) and do check before you travel as services are still disrupted due to the coronavirus pandemic. Download the TFW App or check timetables [here](#)

...from Powys CC. A reminder about Junior School Admissions – Applications need to be made by the deadline of Friday 4 December 2020. Do you need to apply for a place at a Junior School in September 2021? If so, the Junior School Admission Round for learners born between 01/09/2013 – 31/08/2014 is now open. Parents/Carers need to complete an online application at en.powys.gov.uk/article/1158/Applying-for-a-School-Place. Junior Common Offer Date is Friday 16 April 2021. Otherwise contact admissions@powys.gov.uk

...from Powys Teaching Health Board. We want to hear your views about pharmacy services in Powys. If you use community pharmacies or dispensing doctor services in Powys, please complete our survey at: <https://www.pccevents.co.uk/pcc/frontend/xt/xtTsurveyPage.csp?pageID=130141>. The survey closes on 13 December 2020.

...from Powys Children’s Library Services. Winston the Mouse is on a Very Important Mission. On Christmas Eve, he finds a letter that has gotten lost on its way to Father Christmas – so, with no time to lose, he sets out to deliver it himself in time for Christmas Day! He has a lot of Very Exciting Adventures on his Very Important Mission and makes some wonderful friends along the way. Download it from BorrowBox now and curl up to listen to a chapter a night in the run up to Christmas

...from Powys Recycles. When recycling your glass bottles and jars, remember to put lids and caps back on. This reduces the chance of the lids and caps getting lost during the sorting process. Christmas lovers do - do you?

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If at any time you decide not to receive further PACDG emails, contact us on news@pacdg.org with REMOVE in the subject line & we’ll immediately take you off the mailing list.