

Community News

Issue 312 May 2023



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

NEXT ISSUE END-MAY. DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS 10am Tuesday 30th May
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

...from the Town Clerk - to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III, Presteigne & Norton Town Council have a small commemorative gift for each child living within the community council area. They will be given out at school & playgroup and I'm sure you will appreciate it may take a bit of time to get to everyone! Once they've been given out to all the children who attend Presteigne Schools I will arrange a meeting point for any children who don't attend a Presteigne school and for those that are too young. Please be patient with me - there is one for all the children and we will get round everyone. Many thanks,

...**Sleeping Dragon update from Pete.** Work is now well under way on the dragon at Bluefoot Forge rearranging certain aspects to allow for galvanising. While I'm doing that the ground fixings have to be changed and upgraded for long term. As soon as we can organise the transport the dragon will be going to Western Galvanisers in Oswestry to be sand blasted, pickled, washed, dried and finally dipped in a bath of molten zinc for a short while. It will then return to Bluefoot to be reassembled ready for the next stage which is recovering with rabbit wire donated by Presteigne Gates. I will need some labour for this part of the job as it's a laborious process involving 3000 zip ties, surgical clamps and dexterity. The transport costs are being sponsored by Logistics Aid, based in Shobdon and usually distributing aid to war/nature torn countries like Ukraine and Turkey. I am particularly pleased with this sponsorship as it was unsolicited - it's a pleasure to be aligned with Logistics Aid and its humanitarian ethos. P&NTC have made a very generous donation of £300 (thank you!) **but we are still in need of further donations as we are still not quite on target.** If any individual or business in or around Presteigne would like to sponsor the dragon's return you can do so on the links below. All sponsors' names will go on a big board and will also be placed in a sealed container in the dragon for the future, this applies to all personal donations too. **So don't miss out, donate now if you can and secure the Sleeping Dragons future** <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sleeping-dragon>. I hope he'll be able to make an appearance at the Memorial Hall 70th on 26 May all going well! To contact Pete email presteignesleepingdragon@gmail.com or tel. 07735354623 / 01544 267810. More background on Facebook - The Sleeping Dragon.

THANK YOU

...**Presteigne Carnival. And so on to our raffle! Another big Thank-you** to all the donations of lovely raffle prizes from the following:- Presteigne Building supplies, West Midlands Safari Park, Oaker Wood Leisure, Radnorshire Arms, Daphne's, The Royal Oak, Great British Apron Company, Elda's Coffee Shop, Brixton Pottery, Wild Thyme, Border Light, Dolly Daydream, Halo Thyme Beauty & Wellness, Farmers Arms, Presteigne Pharmacy, Deli Tinto, Sylvan Skincare, The Workhouse, Salty Dog, King's Head Stores, Parys Estate Agents, Studer Gallery, Freedom Leisure Centre, Andy Antiques and the Real Wine Co. Thank-you, Thank-you, Thank-you! The raffle tickets will shortly be going to print, and will then be on sale from committee members, and in the High Street on the Saturdays in June. If there are any left, they will also be on sale on the Show ground. You are not too late to donate a raffle prize, please get in touch if you would like to do so (07766152000)

...from **1st Presteigne Scouts**. We would like to send out a huge thank you to **Bailey** who volunteered to come and re build our BBQs. He reused as many bricks as he could and did a lovely job making it neat and usable again. We will be cooking on them on Monday as a thank you for the volunteers that come to help us.

...from **Olha**. Want to thank Leon for offering us help and taking me and my daughter back to Presteigne from Bristol airport yesterday. Also want to thank Emma Lilley who is always helpful and finds time to unite people of the community around Ukrainians and their needs.

SCAM WARNING (from WHICH and other sources)

...**Watch out for coronation scams**. Cybersecurity company Kaspersky and Hertfordshire Police have issued warnings about dodgy websites, phishing emails and cold callers to people buying memorabilia for the coronation of King Charles III this weekend. Dodgy emails contain links to 'shops' where you can buy items such as coins, plates and mugs. If you enter your details, you'll be giving them to scammers who may use your information to trade on the dark web or access your bank account.

...**TV Licence scams are again on the rise**, with Action Fraud warning people about emails that lead to dodgy websites asking for your details. Action Fraud says it has received over 3,400 reports about TV Licence scams in the past two weeks. These emails typically state that your licence is about to expire or that there has been an issue with their most recent payment.

...**Watch out for fake B&Q product giveaways**. Fraudsters are impersonating B&Q in dodgy emails which promise free products in exchange for filling out a survey. If you click on these emails, you'll be taken to a recently created website where you're asked to complete a short survey. You'll then be asked to fill out a form and pay £2 for postage. At this point, scammers will steal your personal information and bank details.

NEWS FROM THE HIGH STREET & LOCAL BUSINESSES / ORGANISATIONS

...from **Presteigne Carnival**. We are looking for a **Carnival Queen for our 2023 Carnival** on the 8th July. You must be 12 and over and live within 5 miles of Presteigne. Please submit your application to include your name, age, address, telephone number and confirm availability on the 8th July. The Carnival Committee will draw the lucky winner out of a hat. Those under 16 must have parental consent. This is a chance to make memories - there is a budget for the outfit. Any questions, please ring 07766152000. The closing date is Saturday, 10th June and the winner will be informed shortly afterwards. Please share!

...**Presteigne Festival | 24-28 August**. Brochures are being distributed to our postal mailing list to arrive after Coronation Weekend. General Booking (online and telephone) opens on 23 May, whilst booking for Benefactors, Patrons and Friends opens on 2 May. What fabulous delights await you in August ...

...from **Annie at MidBorder News**. Our summer issue comes out at the beginning of June and covers July and August too. If you have an event, fete, fundraiser, course, coffee morning, market, craft fair or anything else that is coming up in these months, let us know (deadline is 10 May). Charity and community things are free. We welcome ads too - our rates have been held at 2021 prices and are amazingly reasonable! We are a non profit community magazine and we specialise in village news and events as well as the three towns of Kington, Knighton, Presteigne and surrounding areas. Get in touch: midbordernews@gmail.com

...**Friends of John Beddoes** - the Friends Committee is a newly-formed group and will welcome new members as we are starting from scratch. We recently raised funds to purchase leavers' hoodies, and hope others can join us to help with looking after outdoor areas at the school and with school trips etc. Contact Jane Jones on email fojb@protonmail.com

...**Sheep Music AGM** Wednesday 31st May, 7.30pm upstairs at the Assembly Rooms. Everyone welcome - to find out more please email - info@sheep-music.co.uk

...from **Rose and Presteigne Tree Group**. **FREE TRAINING** - Tim Kaye, ecologist, project officer for Hidden Herefordshire and Director of Cultivating Learning and Nature (CLaN) will be leading workshops to train volunteers who would like to be part of a team monitoring and recording wildlife on the Coed Llanandras nature reserve over time. A maximum of 15 places are available for each session. Details of the training sessions are shown below. If you would like a place on any of the sessions, please email presteignetreegroup@gmail.com stating

clearly which workshops you would like to take part in. Places are limited so please respond as soon as possible. All resources and equipment will be provided but please bring drinks and a packed lunch if you are attending two workshops on the same day, and wear suitable clothing and foot wear for the weather, and walking on wet and rough ground.

Sunday 21st May Butterfly Monitoring, 10am - 12.30pm at Coed Llanandras nature reserve. Butterflies are a charismatic group which can be recorded relatively easily. We will look at the common species found in Powys and their lifestyles. Sunday 21st May Invertebrate ID, 1pm - 3.30pm at Coed Llanandras nature reserve. There are over 7000 fly species and 4000 species of beetle in the UK – so where to start? We will look at ways to catch them, identify them and start with the easy to identify ones first! Friday 2nd June Plant ID training 10am – 12.30pm at Coed Llanandras nature reserve. Plants are easier to identify in some ways as they don't move around quite so much. We will be looking at identifying the commoner species of plants including a few grasses so we can monitor changes on the reserve over time. Friday 2nd June Mammal tracks and signs/Recording Wildlife – the 'how to' guide 1 – 3.30pm The first part of this session will take place at Coed Llanandras, we will spend an hour or so outside learning about ways to record mammals when they are not seen. After this we will go inside and discuss the best way to record wildlife with a host of resources to help the budding naturalist! Funded by The Welsh Government and The Heritage Lottery Fund.

...from Sarah at the Renewable Training Centre - Heat Pump Installer Training for Plumbing & Heating Engineers at our newly approved BPEC Training Centre here in Presteigne. Learn to install both air and ground source heat pumps on our next available course Tuesday 20th June - Friday 23rd June - www.renewabletrainingcentre.co.uk for more details or call **01544 302222**

...Update from the Norton Community Hub: Lots of good news on the project to convert the former Norton church building into a Community Hub. We've reached our funding target for the building work * We've made a good start on funding for the Hub operation * The building work has got off to a cracking start and we're cautiously hopeful for completion by the autumn * Our new Management Committee is making great progress on plans to open for business. Lots more detail about all this exciting news in our latest email Newsletter which is on our website - www.nortonhub.uk

...Wegnalls Farm Butchery May Offer - 4 Sirloin for £20. This weeks offer - Essentials Pack £25 (Traditional Sausage 500g, Beef Burgers x6, Pork steaks x4 plain or marinated (Chinese or BBQ), Traditional Back Bacon , Chicken Breast 500g. Contact us asap to get your orders in.

...Presteigne Festival 2023 24-28 August. Brochures are out now and available from St Andrew's Church, The Assembly Rooms and online at <https://presteignefestival.com>. General and online booking opens on Tuesday 23rd May. To book tickets you can either phone the festival booking office on **01544 267800** or book online through the website.

EVENTS & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

...Repair & Share is back on Saturday May 20th at the Old School (Youth Centre) in Hereford Street from 10 till 12 noon (our usual 3rd Saturday in the month). If you have anything broken/ not working bring it along & we will see if we can fix it for you! Please remember to empty hoovers before & clear toasters of crumbs !! Presteigne Repair & Share is signed up with the *BIG FIX* a focus on fixing for all of May in UK to get as many items repaired as possible.

...Don't miss "The Armed Man"! Kington Choral are delighted to be joined by the Bannau Brycheiniog Chamber Orchestra, soprano Serena Jopson, and muezzin Abdul Quddos for a very special performance in Presteigne of Welsh composer Karl Jenkins' hugely popular "The Armed Man". First performed in 2000, the piece charts the growing menace of a descent into war, interspersed with moments of reflection, and ends with the hope for peace in a new millennium, when "sorrow, pain and death can be overcome". The concert will start with Handel's rousing Coronation anthem, "Zadok the Priest" followed by music by Vaughan Williams, William Walton, PLUS the very first performance of "The Storm" by local composer Julian Reeves. St Andrew's Church, Presteigne Saturday 24th June at 7:30pm. Interval Bar and refreshments. £20 (under-18s free). Tickets from the Salty Dog (Presteigne), Tower House Gallery (Kington), and Border Bean (Kington) and online <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CJNG>

...**Friends of John Beddoes are holding a Car Boot Sale** on Sunday, 11th June at the school from 10am to 2pm. With cake stall and tombola. Please come along and support us, while grabbing a bargain too! Email fojb@protonmail.com to book your stall.

... **Sheep Music and Mid Border Arts present The Golden Fleece** on Saturday 20 May at Went's Meadow Barn, Presteigne. This is a one-day festival of psychedelic pop, alternative folk and a little bit of funk with a 'spoken word' stage and kid's activities throughout the day. The family-friendly event kicks off at 2 pm and is priced at £20 with under 12s going free. The line-up: Islet, Sweet Baboo, Johanna Warren, The Breaks, Eaten by Lions, and Walk, Torc and Punc. Bar plus great food by Blue Frog's Schnitzel trailer, Lockdown Dhaba and others. The Forest School will be running activities for children at The Golden Fleece and will provide materials, but has asked if anyone with children taking part could find any of the following to bring along: feathers, leaves (fresh or pressed), fresh flowers and pretty garden flora, ribbons, fresh dandelions, good quality white cotton fabric. Tickets £20, under 12s free, available at The Workhouse Gallery and online: <https://www.wegotickets.com/event/576725/>.

...**Norton Open Gardens** on 27th & 28th May 2pm - 5pm. Entry £10.00 to include a Cream Tea in Corte Cottage garden - in aid of the Norton Community Hub. For more information please contact Chris Ruby [01544 267749](tel:01544267749)

OTHER INFORMATION

...**from Tetiana.** Hello lovely people of Presteigne! I wonder if someone can help me please. I am here from Ukraine with my husband & two children. We have to leave our sponsor's home in June and are looking for a flat, bungalow or house with 2-3 bedrooms. We are able to move in sooner than that, but would like to be out by the end of June. We appreciate your help! We are looking for any housing, in any condition. We're happy to do some work to the house if it needs it. We are hardworking and reliable Ukrainians. My number is [07493442562](tel:07493442562) Tetiana

...**from Sue Murray.** Please support the campaign to call on Welsh Government to safeguard against cutting our local bus routes which are now under threat because Welsh Government is planning to withdraw its funding of the Bus Emergency Scheme (BES) to bus operators. If this happens, it may result in the cancellation of between 35% - 45% of bus routes across Wales also meaning the loss of hundreds of jobs across the sector. Workers, families and vulnerable people left isolated and without access to public transport. We could see:- Bus routes in our rural areas withdrawn - Overcrowding on buses - Longer waiting times at bus stops - Longer journey times. This cannot be allowed to happen. Cut&paste this link in your browser to sign the petition <https://www.megaphone.org.uk/petitions/back-your-bus-route>

...**from Powys CC. Let's work together.** We encourage everyone who lives, studies, and works in Powys to get involved with the council. There are a few ways to get involved; find out more: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/13473/Get-Involved>

R.I.P.

...**Peter John Edward Shepherd (John)** of Presteigne passed away on 17th April aged 62. Funeral Service at Hereford Crematorium on Wednesday 17th May at 10:15am. Donations if desired to Prestmede Nursing Home, Presteigne. Information [01544 267778](tel:01544267778)

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]*

...**Deli Tinto - We're looking for two new part-time members** of our team! Call in or DM us on Facebook for details

.....**Freedom Leisure - gymnastics instructors.** We are looking at re-introducing gymnastics to the Leisure Centre and need some new instructors. If you are interested, training will be provided. Contact us for more information - email eastradnor@freedom-leisure.co.uk

...**Seconds & Co - Sales & Admin Role**, full time hours. Based in Presteigne - for more information email sales@secondsandco.co.uk or call [01544 260 501](tel:01544260501).

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

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