

Community News

Issue 329 February 2024



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

**Next Issue - deadline for contributions 10am Wednesday 28th February
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

LAMBING TIME!! With ewes and young lambs being turned out onto our fields **PLEASE** do not let your dogs run off lead near flocks of sheep. Please always take care when walking with dogs near sheep, but especially so at this time of year - thank you!

THANK YOU!

...An update from **Presteigne Area Refugee Support Fund**: as we all know too well the war in Ukraine shows no sign of ending and so good use is still being made of the money our wonderful community raised back in June 2022 at the Ukrainian fundraiser (thank you in particular to all those local businesses who gave so generously - for the wonderful raffle prizes and many donations). We'd like you to know that your kindness has helped lots of arrivals get their lives going in the Presteigne area. We've now spent around £6k of the original £10,300 you all raised, which has paid for essential living, travel and food costs, language books and bike helmets. We've also run English-language classes locally for some of the youngsters, several of whom are now attending college in Hereford. Thank you for everything you did and continue to do! For more information on the Fund, please email emma.lilley@btinternet.com

...**Presteigne Plenty** - Big thanks to all those who helped us raise an incredible £414 from apple juice and chutney/jam sales over the Christmas period. This is just to let you know we've donated £150 to the Knighton & Presteigne Foodbank and another £150 to the Presteigne Community Garden at The Rodd, a wonderful communal growing space donated by The Rodd for use by all of us in Presteigne. If you'd like to know more and get involved in making it productive email Angie at prestcgarden@gmail.com

TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

...**Allotments - thought of growing your own fruit and veg but don't have the space?** Did you know that the Town Council has an allotment site at the bottom of Went's Meadow? Tenancy renewals are due in March so now is the time to put your name on the waiting list if you are interested. A plot is currently available to let for the coming year. Application form on the Council website - [https://presteigne.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/A_TOWN_COUNCIL/Application form New Applicants.pdf](https://presteigne.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/A_TOWN_COUNCIL/Application%20form%20New%20Applicants.pdf). Any questions please get in touch with the Clerk by emailing presteigneandnortontc@outlook.com

...**Grant for Improving Shop Fronts, High Streets in Powys.** The Welsh Government Transforming Towns funding is currently available for towns across Mid Wales to fund various works in town centres to improve and secure the future of High Streets in our towns. The P&N Town Council has identified a section of the grant allocation for improving shop fronts via painting, replacement/repair of rotten windows, repair/repaint of doors etc. Welsh Government aim to improve obvious sections/groups of High Streets so a group application is likely to be more successful than individual applications. The grant does not just cover ground level but all storeys of a building. If an individual business applies then a 45% grant of the total cost is claimable but the Town Council can apply for a group of properties and if this is done then a

grant of 70% is payable. Businesses that are included in a joint application will need to include brief details on how they would fund their section of the costs for the works. It will be necessary to get quotes for any works to submit with an application. The minimum level of eligible project costs that can be considered is £35,000 ex VAT (per application) in any one town and the maximum is £250,000. The amount of any grant offered will be assessed on an individual project basis and works will be considered for eligibility via an expression of interest form which this Council would complete. The latest full application date is 26th April this year with the deadline for completion of any works being 31st December 2024 so time is of the essence. For more details on the grant, the eligibility criteria please visit <https://www.growinpowys.com/transforming-towns>. The Town Council would like to hear from anyone interested in applying for a grant and if there is sufficient interest will arrange a meeting for all interested parties to attend in order to discuss the way forward. The Grant Officer at the County Council is willing to attend to answer any questions. There is also a commercial improvement grant which businesses can apply for direct and which aims to restore derelict/disused buildings. Please email the Town Clerk on presteigneandnortontc@outlook.com by 20th February if you would be interested in attending such a meeting and, if so, advise any dates in the first half of March which you cannot manage.

...Town Councillor vacancies. As you will have seen in the earlier Community News Special, our Town Council has two more councillor vacancies to fill. If you're interested in becoming a councillor, please contact the Town Clerk, Tracey Price, presteigneandnortontc@outlook.com

...Latest planning application in, to be considered at the February meeting of the Town Council. 24/0079/FUL Grid Reference: E:332402 N: 263963 Proposal: Erection of a building containing two workshop units (B1 & B8 use) over an existing concrete yard area Site Address: Unit 1, Presteigne Mill, Presteigne, LD8 2HG.

SCAM ALERTS (from Which? and others)

...Fake Health Lottery letters. Google searches for scam Health Lottery letters have spiked these last few weeks. These sneaky 'lottery award-winning claim notification' letters claim recipients have won as much as £750,000 in the Health Lottery. However, if you call to claim the prize, you will be targeted by fraudsters trying to steal your personal and financial information. It's important to note that the Health Lottery never sends letters to its winners. Go to the Which? website to see examples of these scams, along with a Royal Mail form that you can use to report them..

EVENTS & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

...Presteigne Screen presents "Charcoal" Friday 16 February (South Korea 2022 139 mins 15). The Assembly Rooms, Presteigne. Doors open 7:30pm for Bar, Coffee, Tea and Cakes. Films start 8:00pm. When a Brazilian crime boss needs to lie low after faking his own death, a move into a desperately poor family after first bumping off their bedridden grandfather seems like a cunning ruse. But the family's overly inquisitive and prying neighbours begin to wonder what's going on. The visitor is charming but tricky and holds a particular fascination for their nine-year-old son who is eventually caught trying to deal cocaine. Both dark and touching with flashes of black humour, this first feature from director Carolina Markowicz, draws note-perfect performances from her actors whose characters are well grounded in the everyday while living on the edge of desperation. Buy tickets with [WeGotTickets](https://www.wegotickets.com). 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, arrive early. We accept card payments at the door.

...Flowers for Fun: Maybe you would like to know how to arrange flowers? Join our friendly group to see what we do - at Whitton Community Hall on Thursday 29th February from 12 – 2 pm (more dates to follow) . Come for a coffee and a chat – all welcome - first visit free! Phone Sue on 07368350379 for more details, or just come along.

...from Ken Rodmell. Beginners Astronomy Course. The Marches Astronomy Group and The Spaceguard Centre are running a Beginners' Astronomy Course on Thursday evenings at the Spaceguard Centre, March 7 to May 9, 2024. Start time will be 7:30pm and each session will last for about 1 ½ hours. Course fee - £15 for 10 sessions. Booking a place is essential as

numbers are limited. For details of the course content and/or to book a place: E-mail mail@spaceguardcentre.com or call 01547 520247 (Closed Mon & Tues.)

...**Presteigne Repair** - Saturday 17th February 10am till 12 noon in the Old School/Youth Centre, Hereford Street to get your things fixed for free! (donations welcomed). Small household/garden items, mechanical, electrical, ceramics, toys, textiles & more!

...Followed by a **Stitching Workshop** in the afternoon 2 till 4pm. Sharing new & old skills, help & ideas. Sewing, crochet, knitting, crafting. Making, mending, altering, finishing. From basics - zips, buttons, hems - to 'fashioning'. Drop in & join in - its free! (although donations welcomed). For more information call 01544 260766

...**Gather Round and Sing for Fun with Marion Rowlatt** is on Saturday February 17th in the Baptist Church, Presteigne at 11oclock.

...**The Mother Line: A Writing Workshop with Julia Doggart**. March 16th, ground floor of Presteigne Assembly Rooms. 10:00 - 4:00 £40. Pre-registration required at www.craftedessence.com. Writing can be a great tool for self-exploration as well as a craft we polish and hone. This workshop is a playful exploration of our varied and changing relationships with mothers, mothering energy, mother earth and creative expression. Writers of all stripes are welcome. Lunch not included.

...**Flicks in the Sticks at Lingen Village Hall** - "The Great Escaper" with Michael Caine & Glenda Jackson, Friday 16th February. 7.30pm. Also coming soon "And Then Come The Nightjars", the story of friendship between a Devon Farmer and a vet , who is assigned to cull his precious herd of cattle. Tickets £5 adult, £3.50 children. Bar & ice creams. 01568 770920.

...**Community Orchard Pruning at Went's Meadow** on Sunday February 25th from 10.30am (till about 12.30pm). Can you spare a couple of hours to help us get Went's Meadow Community Orchard into shape for this year's apples? Andy Dodgson will be on hand to give us all a refresher and show us how to prune the trees. All welcome, children too: bring your secateurs, loppers, pruning saws and a drink. The session should last a couple of hours and will hopefully – weather willing – be fun. Cakes and biscuits provided.

...**The Big Breakfast at Lingen** - Saturday 4th May 9-1pm at Lingen Village Hall. The Full Works £10.00

...**Presteigne Methodist Church - Lent Lunch** on Saturday 24th February, from 12 until 1.30pm. The lunch is free but donations received will be given to the Knighton and Presteigne food bank. There will be a selection of home made soups and bread followed by tea and welsh cakes. Please do come along and join us.

NEWS FROM THE HIGH STREET & LOCAL BUSINESSES / ORGANISATIONS

...**Lent talks. Michael Tavinor offers a 4-session course on 'Hymns of the Church'**. It's an ecumenical project exploring the history and background of the hymns we sing in different denominations. Fridays in March 2.00pm - one session in each church- 1st Catholic Church, 8th St Andrews, 15th Methodist church, 22nd Baptist church. All welcome, no charge, refreshments after.

...**The Art for Art Fair** will now be a monthly event at the Presteigne British Legion 10am - 12noon to coincide with the monthly food market - any artists that would like a "pitch" should get in touch - cost of pitch will be £10 to Legion funds, contact Kay on 07724379335

...**Table Tennis Club, Lingen** - Table Tennis sessions at Lingen Village hall, Tuesdays 7-9pm (except first Tuesday of the month) from 13th February and ALSO Monday evenings 8-10pm from the 8th April 2024. Bring your own bat or borrow one on the night. Contact Yvonne Freer email yvonne4242@gmail.com or call 07917 411591. £4 per session.

...**A chance to visit Georgia - the Land of the Golden Fleece**. If you are seeking a unique adventure and unforgettable experience in 2024, then consider joining a small-group tour led by local residents and Georgia experts Christopher and Mzia who will show you this still little-known country at the crossroads of Europe and Asia on the ancient Silk Road, which boasts the highest (Caucasus) mountain range in Europe, is rich in UNESCO world heritage sites and folklore traditions is the cradle of wine-making, and has a delicious cuisine. You will be following in the footsteps of other intrepid residents of Presteigne and of national treasure

Dame Joanna Lumley who said "Georgia is simply spectacular". Contact Christopher and Mzia directly at mziag@hotmail.co.uk or see www.georgiawineroute.com for more information.

...**Chilvers Country Supplies in Presteigne** - Fed up of wet feet this winter? Head in to the shop and have a look at our new range of waterproof dealer boots - safety and non-safety. We also do a wide range of waterproofs; Flexothane, Kaiawaka and Betacraft. Also, when you buy any Betacraft waterproofs from the ISO range this month, you receive a free fleece worth £40!

...**Emily George - Adult Dance Fitness**. We have space for 2 newcomers to our adult dance fitness class - Zumba, aerobics and dance! 6:15 at The Legion in Presteigne on Mondays £5.80 per session or if paying for the block it works out as £5.30 per session. Super fun, high energy class! Contact Emily now to book in- only 2 spaces available!!! Call Emily 07727141440

...**Royal Oak, Presteigne - Indian takeaway** opened due to high demand. Call 01544 260842 From next week the online ordering and bookings can be done via website and on our app. To download the app cut&paste this link: <https://royaloak-presteigne.co.uk/>.

OTHER NEWS

...**from Tessa - update on our Sleeping Dragon** - It is almost a year now since we started raising money to bring back The Sleeping Dragon, and we were overwhelmed with the generosity of friends of the Dragon near and far. We reached a stage where we felt that we were far enough along to risk the rest and start the work. Pete quickly stripped the old temporary cover off the Dragon and sent the skeleton off for cleaning and galvanising. When returned to the workshop it was gleaming silver and already beautiful, but the construction of the permanent skin then had to be turned from the drawing board to reality. Uncharted territory but slowly progress was made. An ingenious and time consuming mixture of cheesecloth, fibreglass matting, resin and peel ply were used to gently cover the frame and reveal the shape. Hundreds of hours work by Pete and friends through zero temperatures and every weather winter can throw. After much fine tuning to the required finish, it is almost ready to paint. We are now discussing the logistics of the return to behind the Corton roundabout, or as we refer to it The Dragon Roundabout. Within the belly of the Dragon will be a time capsule incorporating the names of all the donors (where known) including the long list of lovely suppliers who have also contributed, along with the story up to the point of return. We intend to share the date of the return (this Spring) as soon as it is confirmed to ensure if anyone wishes to be around they will be very welcome. Keep an eye out for updates

R.I.P.

...**Andy (DJ André Voiture) Leavis** - such sad news - it was announced at the last Velvet Violin that Andy from Courtyard Antiques on Presteigne High Street passed away that weekend after a short battle with a nasty cancer. Watch this space for further information.

...**from Leon - Annemarie Roberts** will be taking her final journey down the High Street on Thursday 15th February at 10.15am, making a short stop outside her beloved Salty Dog.

...**from Mandy - Glenys Millichamp of Presteigne**. Sad news to report that Glenys Millichamp slipped quietly away on 13th February. As one of Presteigne's oldest and most stalwart of characters, she was a force to be reckoned with and Radnorshire woman through and through. I think I speak for all of us when I say she will be soooo missed! Journey well, Glenys, until we meet again

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]*

...**Arrowfield Vets - receptionist/ administrator with a farm animal bias!** flexible position, approx 30hrs per week to cover all aspects of reception duties; phone calls, diary management, payments along with some clinical responsibilities including some stock management, maintenance of equipment, dealing with laboratory samples. Previous experience desirable, but not essential, full training given! SQP qualification a huge advantage, but training for this can be arranged. Application www.arrowfieldvets.co.uk/job-opportunities

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

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