



PRESTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER March 2021

NEWS FROM CHURN BENEFICE

A few weeks ago, there was great excitement in our house as we woke up to discover the garden was under a blanket of beautiful fresh snow. Like so many people across the community we had great fun playing out in the snow, building a snowman or two having a snowball fight, making snow angels, and warming up with a delicious hot chocolate afterwards. The snow brought some much-needed cheer, joy, and a smile to the face of many during these challenging times.

Besides playing in the snow with my children there are many things that bring me joy, for example my relationships with my family and friends, spending time outside, reading a good book, the beauty of flowers, a good laugh and eating a delicious piece of cake. As a Christian I also find great joy in my faith, in the knowledge that I am loved by God and in the peace and strength of God's unfailing presence.

Sometimes joy finds us and at other times we have to look for it by being thankful, by focusing on the positive and creating space for those things we know bring us joy. In the busyness and storms of life it is not always easy to do that but when we do make space, when we take a moment to be thankful, to practice the art of gratitude, we will find our hearts warmed and our day that little bit more blessed.

God Bless and take care.

Revd Jennifer McKenzie Vicar of the Churnside Benefice

South Cerney with Cerney Wick, Siddington & Preston www.churnsidechurches.org.uk
Vicar: Rev'd. Jennifer McKenzie The Vicarage, Silver Street, South Cerney,
Cirencester, GL7 5TP. 01285 860221, vicar@churnsidechurches.org.uk

Virtual Lent Lunch - 3rd March 12pm on Zoom

All Saints Church Preston are holding a virtual Lent Lunch on Wednesday 3rd March at 12noon on Zoom. The idea is that you bring your lunch, which for a Lent Lunch is normally soup and bread, to a Zoom meeting and enjoy fellowship with others as you eat. We will make use of the breakout rooms to create smaller groups so people are able to chat more easily. If you would like to join in with the virtual Lent Lunch then please contact either Jennifer our Vicar on vicar@churnsidechurches.org.uk or Dot Warren on newsletter@prestonpc.org.uk

CHURCH SERVICES- until lockdown for meetings inside is ended

Please note that we are committed to opening up the other churches in our benefice when it feels safe to do so. We will review the situation as guidelines change.

Public worship is being held in All Hallows Church South Cerney to which all from across the benefice are invited to attend. If you would like to attend the service then please contact contacting Martin Gould (one of the Churchwardens at All Hallows Church) either by e-mail, martinrgould56@btinternet.com, or telephone, 07958 962543. The main Sunday service at 10.30am is also being streamed via Zoom and if you would like the details of how to log in please contact the Vicar. All current worship resources being distributed each Sunday will continue and are available on our Facebook page and website, enabling worship following the same church service at home.

SOLAR FARM UPDATE

Unfortunately we have no definitive news from the Contractor regarding a start on site date.

We anticipate, from previous correspondence, that the Witpit Lane road closure will be reinstated about a week before they start on site.

As previously noted if you have any queries or concerns please contact Alan Stone on alanstonepreston@gmail.com

RECYCLING DATES FOR MARCH

**FULL RECYCLING WED 3RD; WED 17TH; WED 31ST MARCH
FOOD WASTE WEEKLY FROM WED 3RD MARCH**

VILLAGE HALL

There is no news for the Village Hall yet - it is currently closed! There will be an announcement once there is a firm date for lockdown being lifted for meetings inside.

SIDDINGTON with PRESTON WI

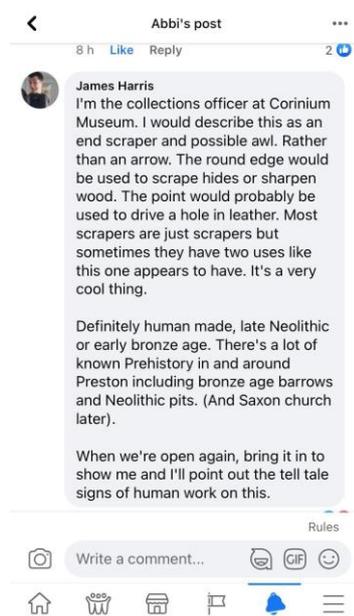
Look out for news once meetings can be held inside.

CORONAVIRUS QUARANTINE BULLETINS - 6 months

You may be interested to know that I have archived these documents as a snapshot of life in Preston during an extraordinary time. It could be used in a study of life in our village during this exceptional period. See below a report on an ancient tool from late Neolithic found walking around Preston.

LATE NEOLITHIC PERIOD FIND ROUND PRESTON

Abbi Hardiman has sent me this item. She and Alan and son - Isaac - found a stone shaped like an ancient arrow or tool. The Museum Officer they approached for information has given a very interesting response - see part of his note below.



DO WE WANT TO START A PRESTON HISTORY GROUP?

Over the past year I seem to have had several conversations with Prestonites about all sorts of aspects of the history of our village. With this recent find (above), we are learning from the Museum Collections Officer that there is much known Prehistory around Preston including Bronze Age Barrows and Neolithic pits -not forgetting our Saxon Church with Norman arch. Are there villagers or families who would be interested in forming some sort of Preston History Group? Send me your details and, if there is enough interest, I could take it further.

CHURCH CLEANING AND FLOWER ROTA FOR 2021

In view of the current quarantine, there will be no requirement to clean the church. Please wait for further instructions once the ban is lifted and when we are all safe to move about.

THIS SUMMER'S ROYAL INTERNATIONAL AIR TATTOO, which was due to take place at RAF Fairford on July 16-18, sadly has been cancelled.

It is particularly disappointing to have to announce this cancellation in 2021, the Air Tattoo's 50th anniversary.

PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING

For all information about planning applications please go to Cotswold District Council's website:

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning/online-planning-register/>

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN - Update 35

Since our last article we have received the Examiner's final report on our NDP and it is disappointing that he has effectively removed our Landscape Policy and reduced it to generalities. More disappointing is that CDC must amend our Plan in line with the Examiner's report or we must withdraw it. Removing the Landscape Policy means that the Plan would not fully reflect the community's vision, developed at the original community consultation event in September 2017. This vision sought to create a special landscape area (a green border) in order to retain separation from Cirencester where the boundaries abut along Kingshill Lane.

The Chairman of the Steering Group and the Chairman of the Parish Council are meeting with CDC Planning Officers and Cllr Clive Webster, CDC's Cabinet Member for Planning to see what options there are to take the Plan forward to the next stage of referendum.

VILLAGE LITTER PICK



Come and Help Us to Keep the Village Tidy

Social Distancing and current advice to be observed

Saturday, 20 March 2020 at 10 am

Meet on the left-hand bend at the top of the Village

Bags and Litter Pickers will be provided but please bring your own gloves

CDC ANNOUNCES PHASED REMOVAL OF 'PAY BY CASH' OPTIONS IN CAR PARKS

Phase 1 of the project begins on 1 March 2021 with car parks that have repeatedly experienced theft and vandalism in Bourton-on-the-Water, Stow-on-the-Wold and Cirencester.

Cllr Every would like to reassure residents and visitors that the pay and display machines will remain and will continue to accept card and contactless payments. Car park users will also be able to use a new and improved payment system,

PaybyPhone, which is used across the country and allows people to pay for parking by using the app or making a quick phone call."

WORRIED ABOUT DRINKING?

We Are With You

Over 50's Alcohol Helpline provides information and support for older adults in the UK
Call: 0808 8010750 Mobile: 07816112430 Email: colleen.bilton@wearewithyou.org.uk



CPRE is campaigning for a reliable bus service for every community. Since they launched their campaign just three weeks ago, over 25,000 people have stepped up and signed their petition to ensure that every town and every village has the bus services local people need. To sign the petition

go to:

<https://takeaction.cpre.org.uk/page/74256/petition/1?ea.trackina.i>

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE

It's the time of year that the Parish Council looks at its finances, agrees the budget for the coming year and sets the Precept but this year some difficult choices had to be made to be able to present a balanced budget. Mindful of the national financial situation, not to mention the difficulties many are experiencing in their personal budgets, the Council decided that it should not raise the Precept this year and, therefore it will remain at £11,808. This, however, means that the Council has to cut spending to the bear minimum.

During the past few years, the Parish Council has been able to provide improvements such as new play equipment for the Playing Field, Village signs, a noticeboard at the Village Hall (which is available for everyone to use) a replacement noticeboard for Council notices and contributions to the Defibrillator and work on the Church path lime trees. In addition, the Parish Council contributes to the churchyard grass cutting every year and, following the public consultation event in September 2017, it has invested in the Village Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Many residents will remember that in 2008 the Council took out a Public Works Loan for £53,000 to refurbish the Village Hall. Everyone agrees that it was one of the best decisions ever made as the Village Hall (when not in lockdown) has become an important hub for the whole Village. Repayment of the loan, however, has put quite a strain on the Council's budget with annual payments of £4,425. The Village Hall Committee currently finds itself in a comfortable financial position and has offered to contribute a one-off payment of £1,500 towards the loan repayments. This will certainly help the Council's budget in the coming year.

For more information on Parish Council finance see the Council pages on the Village website: www.prestonpc.org.uk

RUBBISH

As so many of us are out about locally for our daily exercise, please can you keep an eye out for rubbish. Please pick it up and take it home to dispose of in your own bin.

Our thanks to those who have suggested this and are already doing so!

Note from the Editor – I have done a litter pick down the lane leading to Foxleaze this week and so there is no need to check there for a while. But for new families in the village, please do not attempt to do Kingshill Lane. We stopped covering that road some years ago because it is much too dangerous.

DEFIBRILLATOR - HOW TO USE IT

We have been asked if and how anyone (even those who haven't received training) can use the defibrillator in the telephone kiosk.

The answer is simple - 'YES'.

In an emergency you need to call 999. If it's appropriate the operator will be able to tell you where the nearest defibrillator is located and talk you through how to use it.

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

If you receive the Newsletter by email, please can you ensure that newsletter@prestonpc.org.uk is white listed in your email set up so that it doesn't end up in your Junk folder.

If you are aware of any resident who doesn't receive the Newsletter, please ask them to email: newsletter@prestonpc.org.uk

The Next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday, 4 March 2021 at 7 pm online. The agenda will be available on noticeboards and on the website nearer to the time. Everyone is Welcome to Attend. Please contact the Parish Clerk for further details and for access to the meeting.

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL: Caroline Braidwood, 77 Pheasant Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire
GL7 1BJ Tel: 01285 380040 / 07870 170823 Email: clerk@prestonpc.org.uk
<http://www.prestonpc.org.uk>

PRESTON SUPPLIERS REGISTER

Please add your favourite companies

The Register is now in operation and new suppliers are being added. I know there are businesses out there that we use that haven't been added to the Register. The website is <https://prestonvillageregistry.wixsite.com/mysite> and the instructions for adding new names - or reporting on an existing supplier so that we can collect additional information - are very simple. If in doubt, send me the information and I will add the supplier for you. Kelly, who is masterminding the website, will also be able to help you (prestonvillageregistry@gmail.com)

The more data that we can accumulate, the more useful the Register will become.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Theft from sheds...there has been an increase in the number of sheds and outbuildings being broken into. Make sure yours is locked securely, consider outdoor lighting and alarms.

Scams...scammers are constantly looking and finding new ways to extract money from us. Remember, never give any personal information over the phone or in response to an email.

The Covid vaccine is free; the NHS will not ask for personal details.

WhatsApp...please use the Neighbourhood Watch group to quickly alert others, particularly if you see someone acting suspiciously in the village. Note that the WhatsApp NW group is **solely for the use of Neighbourhood Watch**.

If you wish to be added, please send **your full name and address and mobile phone number** to - Julie Tomblin 07973 444902. tomblinjulie@gmail.com OR Dot Warren 07980 897268 dotwarren@btinternet.com

THE BOOK SWOP - latest arrivals

We are very grateful to Becky Beasley for being such an excellent book monitor of Preston Book Swop. It is going very well and she has recently added the following books. Latest arrivals include - The Perfect Wife by J P Delaney, Lee Child - The Midnight Line and Night School, Stieg Larsson - The Girl Who Played with Fire. By the way, any business cards left in the box will be removed.

THE POO SAGA

We can't close an issue of the newsletter without some comment about animal poo! Sadly there is still evidence of dogs leaving poo on pavements and now there is an outbreak of fox poo left in several spots in the village. Although we would love to be poo free, it seems that we all need to be mindful of these messes when we set foot out of doors! Especially if you have children and other animals! But remember those with dogs to please pick up after them. It's particularly bad around the allotments. And remember that dogs are not permitted on the playing field.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Please be sure to let me have your news by email or in writing for April 2021 by **Tuesday 23rd March**.

Dot Warren - Greystones, Preston; 01285 656105 Mobile 07980 897268;
newsletter@prestonpc.org.uk