

# What's going on at the Village Hall.....

Dates for your diary	
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 7:30pm	Preston Brook Parish Council
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April 8:00pm	Preston Brook Village Hall AGM
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> May 11am – 5pm	Annual Plant Sale
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 7:30pm	Preston Brook Parish Council AGM
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 7:30pm	Preston Brook Parish Council
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Pre-School Hawaiian night
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Barn Dance

## Regular Events

Pre-School	Weekdays during term-time Monday – Wednesday 9:00am until 12noon (Lunch club 12 noon until 1:15pm) Thursday – Friday 9:30 am until 12:30pm Children may start from the age of 2 years. For further details ring 01928 897174.
SilverCircuits	Low intensity exercise class takes place each Monday afternoon from 3 – 4pm Please call John on 07985 221805
Karate	Renketsu Shotokan Karate Club holds these classes: <b>General karate:</b> Mon 6:30 – 7:30pm Beginners welcome ages 7 – 70. <b>Advanced karate:</b> Mondays 7:30 – 8:30pm (Adults 16+ & senior grade). Call 07939 468968 - Email: <a href="mailto:andy@renketsu.org.uk">andy@renketsu.org.uk</a> Visit <a href="http://www.andywilkinson.me.uk">www.andywilkinson.me.uk</a>
Dutton W.I.	Meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm Everyone welcome. Contact Trish on 01928 717298.
Parish Council	Meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm except August. All residents welcome to attend.
Table Tennis	Meets every Wednesday from 7:30 until 9:00pm.
Military Whist	A military whist drive is held on the first Friday of every month at 7:45pm. All welcome. £2 admission.

## Private Hire

The hall is available for meetings, classes and parties at all other times. Please contact the Secretary on 01928 717223 for more information.

# Preston Brook Village News



Issue 7 - April 2016

By now the last of the chocolate eggs will have been devoured, along with the popular chocolate bunnies. I must say I was surprised to see the display of chocolate dinosaurs in the supermarket this year and wondered if the concept of Easter Day was slipping away. Of course it isn't, but commercialism is always embellishing the occasion for its own profits.

The annual quiz night was a success. The village hall was full of eggheads ready to put their general knowledge to the test. Well done to the organisers who are still known as "The Dog Walkers" their Team name from previous quiz nights. The evening was rounded off with a superb hotpot supper, washed down with a selection of beers from the local microbrewery.

We are awash with daffodils around the village, a sign that spring is here at last and we have waited long enough this year. Inside you will find gardening hints and tips, but remember the bedding plants don't go out until May and there will be plenty of choice at the Annual Village Plant Sale, provided by a local nursery, so look out for that date.

Sue Potter



# SPRING

*Your parish newsletter is produced and printed by Preston Brook Parish Council.*

*For further information on the newsletter, the parish council, to place an advert or submit an article, please contact*

*Craig Wyna, Parish Clerk - 01928 897117 or email [pbpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pbpc@hotmail.co.uk)*

*You can also visit the website at [www.prestonbrook.com](http://www.prestonbrook.com) and submit a request here.*

## Women's Institute

Ladies, come and make new friends and share lots of fun with us.

We meet at the village hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Every month we have a luncheon club where we try out our local and not-so-local hostelries. The bowls team and the darts team compete with local W.I.s and would welcome new recruits.

We have interesting speakers each month and lots of trips, theatre outings, craft workshops, rambles, an annual holiday and our annual show in July.

If you have mobility problems and would like a lift or need any further information, Contact Margaret Barber, President on 01928 717550 email [mmbgmb@talktalk.net](mailto:mmbgmb@talktalk.net) Trish Byrne, Secretary on 01928 717298 email [tab1@uwclub.net](mailto:tab1@uwclub.net)



## Preston Brook Pre-School

At Preston Brook Pre-School, we are **GOOD** across all areas according to Ofsted who inspected us recently. Obviously I am delighted by this outcome. I am particularly proud of the staff who work incredibly hard on a daily basis. Also a big thank you goes to all the parents and children who attend.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Craig Wyna (a resident of the village) for being the Chairperson of the Pre-School for many years. He has recently stepped down from the role of Chair. He has given many hours of his time for free to support the Pre-School.

To celebrate our Ofsted result and the fact that the Pre-School is 40 years old this July. We will be holding a Hawaiian themed party with a Disco and Children's entertainer on the **8<sup>th</sup> July 2016**. The evening hopes to incorporate a Pre-School Reunion of children and parents who have attended the Pre-School over the last 40 years, flyers/ posters will be advertising the event soon. I look forward to seeing you all.

Please remember that I have a few spaces available for the rest of this academic year and a waiting list for September 2016.

Sarah Williams  
Pre-School Manager



## Preston Brook & District History Group

### *2016 programme*

Date	Speaker	Speaker
21 <sup>st</sup> April	The History of the Long Bow	Bernard Dennis
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Plas Teg & Mystery Destination	Outside visit -Sunday
14 <sup>th</sup> July	Arley Hall	Outside visit -Thurs PM
22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Crime & Punishment in Dickens London	Michael Murphy
20 <sup>th</sup> October	The Parr Family & Grappenhall Heyes	Margaret Fellows
17 <sup>th</sup> November	Dunham Massey – Intrigue, Executions,	Peter Braun from the NT
December (tbc)	Power & Scandal Christmas Dinner	Venue Tbc

### Community Watch

Community Watch in Preston Brook exists to help improve the well-being and safety of residents throughout the parish. We try to ensure that you are kept up to date with all the scams and crimes being committed in the area so you're more aware on reducing the chances of it happening to you!

Whilst Preston Brook is a relatively safe place to live, we believe that being more aware can help protect. If you are unfortunate to experience an incident and even if nothing is stolen, please tell both the police and Mike Byrne about it. That way the Police can try and identify patterns to the crimes and possibly spend longer in the village; furthermore, we'll put information on our website to alert others.

If you have issues that you believe we could help with, please contact us or if you would like more information, please contact Mike Byrne, Preston Brook Community Watch, 01928 717298 or visit [www.prestonbrook.com](http://www.prestonbrook.com)

### The Village Hall at 40

We are seeking your ideas as to how the Hall's "40<sup>th</sup> Birthday" should be celebrated, later this year. Would you like to be involved in any way? If you would like to help with anything, from planning the event(s) through to the day itself, please contact Margaret at [secretary@prestonbrookvh.freereserve.co.uk](mailto:secretary@prestonbrookvh.freereserve.co.uk), or ring (01928) 717223.

We would like to include as many people as we can.

We're sure that you must have many memories of the Hall and we would love to hear them. These could be included in part of a display that we are thinking about to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Look forward to hearing from you.  
*Preston Brook Village Hall Management Committee.*

## Preston Brook Village Hall



### Did you know?

- The Village Hall is the only community building in the parish of Preston Brook.
- The building is 40 years old this year.
- Preston Brook Village Hall is a charity which is run by a management committee made up of volunteers.

In recent years, the management committee and supporters have raised funds to refurbish the building (new roof covering, replacement windows and insulation).

Our next project is to re-model the toilets to include an accessible facility for the disabled and improved ladies/gents facilities. This will be followed by a kitchen refurbishment.

The hall is available to hire for community groups, events, parties and family occasions and relies on the income from hiring and running social events, to maintain the building.

### Could you be a Friend of Preston Brook Village Hall?

- Have you got a bit of time to spare?
- Would you like to be involved in your local community?
- Not keen on joining a Committee? You don't have to!

We are looking for volunteers who could help with our fundraising events, such as the summer fayre, Christmas bingo, barn dance and other social activities.

Please come to the AGM at the hall on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 8 p.m. to find out how you can get involved.

If you can help in any way, but can't make the meeting, please contact [secretary@prestonbrookvh.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:secretary@prestonbrookvh.freeserve.co.uk) or ring (01928) 717223 and a member of the committee will get in touch with you.

## Gardening tips for April

April is the busiest time in the garden, but don't panic, take things one step at a time and you'll get it all done. It's important to take a few moments to sit in the sun, listen to the birds, and admire any colour you have in the garden.

Also this is a good time to make a note of any gaps in your spring planting to order any bulbs in the autumn for next year.

This month the focus is on flowers. Start to direct sow hardy annuals, eg marigolds, poppies, nigella, etc. and now is the time to harden off seedlings that have been started off indoors. Try to do this on warm still days. Place them outside during the day, but take them in again late afternoon, and do this for about a week or so. This way they will get used to the cooler conditions before being planted outside. Start planting out half-hardies, eg cosmos, in sheltered spots at end of the month.

Sow perennials – these could include hollyhocks, delphiniums and echinaceas. Fill a seed tray with peat-free compost and dampen with water. Sow seeds spaced at least an inch apart in a grid across the compost surface. Then scatter (or sieve) a fine covering of compost over the seeds. You don't need to water again immediately. Place in a light, cool spot, eg a window ledge or, if you have one, in a propagator. Plant out sweet peas – two plants to each upright. Dig a good, deep hole and fill the base with farmyard manure. Tie them in to the base of the arch or frame and water them in well. Create new plants from last year's pelargoniums – take cuttings now and they'll be ready to be replanted in a couple of months.

Now is also the time to pot up dahlia tubers and you will have wonderful flowers to cut all through the summer months. Finish planting summer-flowering bulbs. Plant them in pots or in the ground. Plant lily bulbs straight into the ground. Give them plenty of room and, on heavy soil, add grit for drainage to their planting hole. Most varieties thrive with their bulbs in some shade and tops emerging into full sun. Any indoor forced bulbs can be planted into the garden when they've finished flowering. Remember, paperwhites are not hardy, but don't compost them – it is a good idea to keep the bulbs for planting again next autumn inside.

### One other last tip:

Last chance to sprinkle Garlic Fertiliser granules along the edges of vegetable beds and border edges to combat unwanted slugs. This should ideally be done during February but it was rather wet this year. This is safe for birds and other wildlife. Originally for the growing of garlic bulbs then it was discovered that slugs detest it. Applying it in February is to start with the early batch of snails and slugs before they multiply.

### **Spring Recipe**

Spring seems to be the time to begin thinking of lighter dishes and salmon is the perfect choice here. We had this meal in a restaurant whilst on holiday and was so taken by the salsa that we asked the chef for the recipe and this is more or less what came back written on a napkin.

#### **Salmon with a Green Salsa**

- Salmon fillets 2
- Butter 25 gm
- Dill 2 tsp
- Leaf coriander 3 tbsps
- Zest of 1 lemon and 1 lime
- Olive oil 50 ml
- Garlic 2cloves chopped
- Light soy sauce 1 tsp
- Pine nuts to taste
- Green chilli 1



Make salsa by combining in a liquidiser first the coriander, pine nuts, chilli and garlic then the zest and oil and soy. Griddle or grill the salmon fillets in the butter, adding the fresh or freeze dried dill half way through.

Tip: salsa can be further improved with at least 1tsp runny honey  
Serves 2

### **Bridgewater Green Update**

Friends of Bridgewater Green continue to care for our community space and to plant new trees/shrubs as they become available from a variety of sources.

We had a sunny pre-Easter gardening session in late March which involved some new planting, but also necessary spring gardening tasks. A dozen helpers enjoyed refreshments afterwards.

Halton Borough Council will continue to cut the grass now that spring has arrived.

Perhaps you might enjoy this seasonal Haiku verse:

Springtime Poem by Yvonne Tirakian

*New life blossoms and blooms  
Beginning to grow  
Eradicating winter's gloom.*

Friends of Bridgewater Green (who can be contacted via the parish clerk, Craig Wyna, at [pbpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pbpc@hotmail.co.uk))

### **Preston Brook Parish Council**

The results of the recent nominations for the forthcoming parish elections have been announced and are now on our website for your information. As there are no more than eight nominations, the election is deemed uncontested. From eight positions, there are now four available.

If you are looking to help in improving the Village and its amenities, and would consider being co-opted on to the Parish Council then please contact the Clerk or any Parish Councillor. Why not attend our AGM which is on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm.

There are a range of topics that are discussed at the council including local projects, planning applications, funding opportunities and much more. We aim to put as much information on our website as possible as well as through our newsletter.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month except August. Visit [www.prestonbrook.com](http://www.prestonbrook.com) for more information.

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### **Preston Brook Village Hall**

#### **Committee Members needed**

The Village Hall Management Committee is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the building for the benefit of the community. The Annual General Meeting gives the opportunity for the residents/users to take part in general discussion about any aspect of the facility and its use.

We are now actively looking for new committee members or volunteers to help in all matters relating to the hall however big or small your contributions in helping to attract a greater variety of user groups to the Hall.

If you cannot make the AGM, but would like to become a committee member, or help the committee in some way, then please ring the Secretary on (01928) 717223.