

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

Dates for your diary	
Tuesday 18 th April at 7:30pm	Preston Brook Parish Council
Tuesday 25 th April at 8:00pm	Annual meeting of Preston Brook Village Hall
Saturday 13 th May 11am – 5pm	Plant Sale – Village Hall
Tuesday 16 th May from 7:30pm	Preston Brook Parish Council AGM 7:30pm followed on by general meeting
Tuesday 20 th June at 7:30pm	Preston Brook Parish Council

Regular Events

Pre-School	Weekdays during term-time 9.00am until 12.00 noon Lunch Club Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 12 noon until 1.15 p.m. Children may start from age 2 yrs. Tel. 01928 897174 during session.
Silver Circuits	Mondays 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. Exercise class for 'people of a certain age'. Tel John on 07985 221805.
Yoga	Mondays 4.30 p.m.—5.30 p.m. Suitable for returners and beginners For more info ring Sue 07792 505128.
Karate	Mondays 6.30 p.m. until 8.30 p.m. Classes for adults and children. Contact Andy on 07939 468968.
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	Wednesdays 7.30 p.m. Residents come together informally to enjoy a number of sports including table tennis, badminton and darts. If you are interested, then pop along one Wednesday evening. You will be most welcome.
Military Whist	First Friday of each month 7.45 p.m. All welcome.

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



April 2017

Spring has arrived and the weather is unusually very warm for April.

I have just arrived back home from the Netherlands after a whole week of glorious sunshine. In fact one day was the hottest day on their records.

The long fields of tulips were an amazing spectacle. We were shocked to see a tractor going down the long lines and stripping the heads of the beautiful flowers!!! I was very surprised to discover that they grow them for the sole purpose of the bulbs.

Stripping the heads allows the bulbs to mature until they are raised in early October. And only then are they ready to export around the world. They must be planted immediately on arrival in October, to settle and grow in your soil for the following spring. Therefore the Dutch Bulbs available at the airports and trinket shops are last year's crop. Apologies if you are already aware of this, but I just wanted to share it with those, like me, who did not know this, and find it interesting.

Now let us get outside and make a start in our gardens, and read the regular supply of gardening tips inside this issue too. More importantly is to not rush with bedding plants too early. Warm days and cold nights. There is the Annual Plant Sale in May in the Village Hall, details inside, when it is the correct time to put out bedding plants and healthy vegetable plants too.

Sue Potter



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 - 07753 848382 or email pbpc@hotmail.co.uk.

Friends of Bridgewater Green

Friends of Bridgewater Green continue to care for our community space and appreciate the verbal support we get from residents.

We are resuming necessary gardening tasks now that spring has arrived. The blackthorn will not win!! Halton Borough Council Parks Department have resumed cutting the grass on the Green.

*Perhaps you might enjoy this anonymous seasonal **acrostic** poem:*

***Spring has melted away, and
Pretty flowers begin to bloom.
Raindrops fall throughout the season,
In showers that go as quickly as they come.
No other season is as beautiful and
Green as this time of year.***

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

Volunteer opportunity with Victim Services

There is an exciting opportunity to volunteer with the Victim Services team (Cheshire CARES) based in Cheshire.

Cheshire CARES (Cope and Recovery Enhanced Service) is the Police and Crime Commissioner's dedicated service providing free support to all victims of crime in Cheshire based on the individuals' needs.

The volunteer role provides a personal and tailored support service to people who have been a victim of crime to cope and recover from their experience. Main duties will include; Undertake visits to victims of crime, as directed by the Victim Care Unit Team Leader.

Advise and signpost service users to agencies or organisations who can help in their recovery. Maintain face to face contact and support with service users using their preferred contact method, contact time and frequency of contact. Maintain accurate records of interactions with service users.

Be an advocate for Witness & Victim Care for the Constabulary. For more information and how to apply visit the recruitment section of the Cheshire Police website.

A reminder that we live in a "Smoke Free Zone"

A polite reminder to all residents that Preston Brook is a smoke free area. Whilst this does directly associate to 'smoke from a chimney', we should also be mindful that burning of waste and bonfires in gardens can be constituted as a nuisance under legislation.

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which is enforced by Environmental Health at the council, a statutory nuisance includes "smoke, fumes or gases emitted from premises so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance."

In addition to possibly causing a nuisance, burning garden waste can be harmful to health as they will emit harmful pollutants. There are alternatives such as composting advice on responsible disposal is available on the councils website www.halton.gov.uk

Environmental Health can deal with complaints of frequent burning by neighbours we can be contacted by either telephone : 0303 333 4300 or email: environmental.protection@halton.gov.uk

Community Watch

To find regular updates for the scams, alerts and crimes that are happening within the area, go to the 'Preston Brook' website www.prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk

Go to the 'Community Info' section to find the 'Community Watch' page. The website also contains information about your local police officers and their contact details as well as basic crime prevention.

Preston Brook Village Hall

Tuesday 25th April 2017 at 8:00pm

All residents are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting of the village hall.

This is your opportunity to find out more about the running of the village hall, to ask Questions and offer suggestions and constructive criticism and maybe volunteer to help!

Interested? Then come along and find out more!



PRESTON BROOK VILLAGE HALL
Registered Charity No. 505866

PLANT SALE

Saturday, 13th May 2017
11 am – 5 pm

All plants nursery grown

*Hanging Basket Plants, Individual Pots, Bedding Plants,
Vegetables, Herbs*

All proceeds go towards the upkeep of the Hall
Email: secretary.prestonbrookvh@gmail.com

Preston Brook Parish Council

Please note that our website address has now changed to prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk. The prestonbrook.com domain is still in operation and will redirect until this expires over the next several months so please 'bookmark' our new site address.

Information on parish meetings, planning and other useful community information is available to view. If there's anything you'd like to see more of, less of or would like us to include, please let me know.

We welcome our new Councillor, Nigel Cannam from Bridgewater Grange who was co-opted to the council earlier this year. Nigel brings a wealth of experience to the council and will be key in helping drive forward the council over the year ahead.

We still have two vacancies – if you're interested in getting involved in your local community and wish to make a difference for the benefit of all residents, drop me a line.

Craig Wyna, Clerk to the Council – 07753 848382 or email pbpc@hotmail.co.uk

Preston Brook Village Hall Quiz Night

On Friday 31st March, the village hall held its Annual Quiz Night. The event was a great success, with nearly 70 people attending.

We had an excellent Quiz Master, Robert Mounfield. The questions he set covered a wide range of topics. The event raised nearly £300 including takings over the bar. It was Roy Peters' last event running the Village hall bar. Roy has volunteered his time in running the bar at hall events for over 30 years, supporting the village hall charity.

The fund-raising events organised by the trustees and friends of the hall are presently raising money to improve the toilets, including the provision of disabled access.



Preston Brook Pre-School

Pre-School is flourishing with new children starting. We had a busy half term making Mother's Day cards, dressing up for World Book Day and supporting Comic Relief. We are looking forward to the next half term with our Easter Bonnet Parade and Pre-School Trip.

Pre-school now takes children from 2 years old - 4.5 years I still have places available.

Sarah Williams
Pre-School Manager
Tel: 01928 897174 or email: prestonbrookpreschool@gmail.com

The focus from now on for these recipes will be easy to prepare food. Hopefully the recipes will also be nutritious and tasty but above all, they will be simple to create. And this one is really easy! I love recipes that can be made with what I have in, and even better, take less than half an hour from start to finish.

Chick Pea Curry

2 tins drained chick peas
1 tin tomatoes
1 tin drained sweet corn
2 white onions - chopped
2 cloves garlic - crushed
1/2 tsp ground coriander
2 tsp medium hot curry powder
1 oz butter
1 oz flour
1 ltr of vegetable stock
Salt and pepper to season

1. Saute the onions and garlic in the butter until soft
2. Stir in the flour and curry powder and cook for 2 minutes
3. Stir in half the stock and once smooth, add the chick peas and tomatoes - stir gently. Add more stock if necessary
4. Add the coriander and simmer for 20 minutes
5. Check flavour and season to taste
6. Add sweet corn and cook for a further 5 minutes.



Gardening Jobs to do in the Spring...

As vegetable growing really takes off this month, this will be our focus for the following Gardening Tips. Chit and plant out second early potatoes in the first half of the month, maincrop potatoes in the second half.

Now is also the time to sow seed outdoors for beetroot, carrots, Swiss chard, summer cauliflower, kohlrabi, lettuce, leeks, radish, turnip, spring and pickling onions, peas and perpetual spinach in well-prepared soil. Why not also try sowing unusual vegetables such as salsify, Hamburg parsley, or scorzonera?

We also need to be sowing seed indoors of marrows, courgettes, pumpkins and squash. Also this is the time to sow sweet peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines, celery, celeriac, salads and globe artichokes.

If the forecast is for a mild Spring then sow French beans and sweet corn outside under cloches or fleece at the end of April. If the forecast isn't good, then wait until May. My favourite French beans is Cobra, it is a climber so needs support but I never have success with dwarf ones, the slugs get them before I do.

But Cobra is very sensitive to cold and damp soil so I sow it indoors and only plant out after all risk has passed and if I am being really well organised I throw a fleece onto the bed a few weeks before planting out, just to warm it up a bit. It is worth the effort; the crops are amazing. In fact, I tend to grow these rather than runner beans which I think are a bit coarse by comparison.

If you are planning on growing runner beans then now is the time to prepare runner bean supports for sowing (in May) or planting out (in June).

If you haven't done already sow a seedbed of brassicas to provide transplants of sprouting broccoli, cauliflowers and cabbages for planting out in June or July. I tend to sow brassicas a bit early in the hope that they will be ready for harvest before the cabbage whites descend on them. It works sometimes.

You also need to transplant broad beans grown in pots and also plant shallots, onion sets and garlic, Jerusalem artichoke tubers and asparagus crowns.

If you have started tomato seeds off indoors then now is the time to pot up the seedlings when they develop true leaves above the more rounded seed leaves.

The Village Hall Bar...

After 30 years, Roy Peters has finally given up managing the bar facility on behalf of the Village Hall Committee. This commitment was acknowledged at the Quiz Night which was Roy's final event. The committee have been very appreciative of his contribution to village hall life over the years. The ability for the committee to offer the provision of a bar, for both private parties and fund raising events, is a tremendous asset to the Hall. As well as helping to secure more hirers of the Hall, it also raises extra funds for the Hall each time it is open.

At the current time we are, therefore, looking for a volunteer, or a group of volunteers, who would be willing to manage and run the bar when it is required. This is not an onerous task, at the moment, as the bar is not widely advertised and would not necessarily mean becoming a member of the Village Hall Committee.

If you are interested in helping out with the bar, either as a manager, or server, or if you have a group of friends who are willing to become involved, then please contact the secretary secretary.prestonbrookvh@gmail.com. Please email if you need further information, or come to the AGM at 8 p.m. on Tuesday 25th April to meet the committee and find out more.

Please take the time to consider helping us out. It would be very much appreciated.

Preston Brook Village Hall Committee.

