

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

Dates for your diary	
Saturday 11 th October – 7:30pm	Barn Dance & Hotpot Supper
Saturday 18th October - 11am to 4pm	WW1 Exhibition - Village Hall
Tuesday 25th November - 7:45pm	Christmas Bingo - Village Hall

Regular Events

Pre-School	Weekdays during term-time 9:30 am until 12:30pm Tel. 01928 897174 during session.
Silver Circuits	Mondays 3pm – 4pm. Exercise class for 'people of a certain age'. Tel: John on 07985 221805
Karate	Mondays 6:30pm until 8:30pm. Classes for adults and children. Contact Andy on 07939 468968
Dutton W.I.	Meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Everyone welcome. Contact Trish on 01928 717298.
Sports & Social	Every Wednesday at the Village Hall 7pm - 8:30pm. £3 each (over 18's only)
Parish Council	Meets on the third Tuesday of each month except August. All residents welcome to attend.
Military Whist	First Friday of each month 7.45 p.m.

Private Hire

The Hall is available for hire at weekends and some evenings for birthday parties, meetings etc. Contact the Secretary on 01928 717223 for more information.

Preston Brook Village News



Issue 4 - August 2014

Welcome to your Summer Edition

Summer is fading, no longer the smells of barbeques struggling to get going, wafting across on the evening air. However, it was a good scorcher this year with many events taking place throughout the village.

The community garden continues to brighten up the centre. Although in need of a little thinning out in places, it is still pleasant to walk through and far nicer than the wasteland that it was a few years ago. The plant tubs were taken away and refurbished and have given us a colourful display as we enter the village. The Pre School garden has been a treat to see, especially the innovative way to use the huge tractor wheels by growing carrots in the middle.

There are forthcoming autumn events in the Village Hall, which are listed at the back of this issue including the popular Barn Dance.

Well, early autumn is creeping in and returning to school season is upon us, but we still may have a warm September to finish it all. "It's not over until the fat lady sings" as they say! It is time to start tidying up the garden before the great fall of leaves. Please do be aware of the hedgehogs. There seem to be some lively ones around our village especially in the late evening. They were caught standing up the cane wigwam eating the peas with a loud crunching noise at midnight!

Any news stories, hints/tips, events are most welcome so please continue to send them and also recipes, any ideas that you would like to share, in time for the next issue – deadline 20th September.

Best wishes
Sue Potter

⇒ **Recent planning applications:**

14/00352/PLD – Application for certificate of proposed lawful development for single storey rear extension at The Bungalow, Sandy Lane

14/00297/ADV – Proposed installation of 1 internally illuminated pole 7m high at Preston Brook Pub

There were no objections to the above applications.

**** Barn Dance ****

Saturday 11th October from 7:45pm

Come and join us for an evening of entertainment for our annual Barn Dance.

A live band, an open bar and hotpot supper will be on offer for the ticket price of £12.50 per person.

If you would like a ticket please contact Margaret on 717223.

Respecting our Animals

A resident from Preston Brook requested I add this to our newsletter following the death of her cat. This lady was extremely upset of the circumstances of the death of her cat and wanted to push out the message to others. Her story....

My cat Corky (pictured) died at the vets on 6 July from suspected antifreeze poisoning. Corky was 6 years old and I'd had him since he was a kitten, and when I moved to Lockwood View 18 months ago I had no reason to doubt that the area was safe for him to go outside. He was a really friendly cat who would approach anyone for a stroke, I loved him dearly and when he got taken ill on Tuesday it was a total surprise as he had never had any health problems before.

We took him into the emergency vets early hours of Wednesday morning and after keeping him in for treatments for 4 days, yesterday morning I got the phone call I had been dreading, the vet told me that my poor cat had passed away. He had suffered acute renal failure (kidneys) and other complications as a result of the antifreeze he had ingested. Antifreeze is well known to poison cats because it has an ingredient that tastes nice to them yet is highly toxic, I have seen



But I can only assume that it's been done deliberately, as why would anyone have antifreeze out at this time of the year? The thought of someone doing this to my beloved cat is so upsetting. He suffered unnecessarily, and I am struggling to understand how anyone could be so cruel. I am also faced with a huge vets bill on top of the upset of losing him.

If deliberate, I want the person who has done this to know that they have broken my heart, they have caused a much loved family pet to be taken from us in a cruel way. But I would also like to warn other cat and dog owners to keep an eye on their pets, be aware of the symptoms of anti-freeze poisoning and if your pet shows any of the signs (lethargic/depressed, vomiting, appears drunk/uncoordinated, difficulty breathing and standing up), don't hesitate in taking them to the vets.

Preston Brook & District History Group

Saturday 18th October is the day on which we shall hold our Exhibition remembering our local heroes of World War 1. It will be held in the Village Hall and will open at 11.00am and we shall finish at 4.00pm. Refreshments will be available and entry will free.

There will be presentations, re-enactors showing uniforms and weapons as used in the trenches. Children from Daresbury School will perform a playlet specially written for the occasion.

This will your opportunity to acknowledge and remember the sacrifices made by local people and something of the stories affecting those left behind.

We will also be present at the Hatton Show on 13th September and Walton Hall Country Fayre on 14th September.

Please do come along and visit us.

A brief update on tolling for the Mersey Gateway (taken from email off Graham Evans MP)

I am really pleased to announce that all Halton residents will be able to travel for free* across the Silver Jubilee Bridge and the new Mersey Gateway Crossing as a result of extra funding that Halton Borough Council has secured from Government.

I am absolutely delighted by the Chancellor's announcement that the Government will provide the additional funding which will ensure free trips across Silver Jubilee Bridge and the new Mersey Gateway Crossing for all Halton residents.

This is something that we as a council have been campaigning for over the last couple of years and we are thrilled to have achieved our aim.

It is great news for the people of Halton, and I would like to say a personal "thank you" to Derek Twigg MP who has championed our cause in Parliament, and also to Graham Evans MP who has also played an important role in the cross party discussions.

*Residents of Halton will still need to register to use the bridges and there will be a small charge for this.

A Late Summer Recipe - Rojoes (from Portugal) *pronounced rockwes*

(Kindly supplied by Iris Keating)

What you'll need

- stewing pork 800gm chunked
- olive oil 2tbsp
- (pork sausage) optional
- onion 1 chopped
- garlic 3 cloves
- bay leaves 2
- cumin 1-2tsp
- paprika 1tbsp
- red wine 150 ml
- new potatoes 500gm halved
- green olives around 20
- seasoning
- lemons to serve

What to do

Brown onions and garlic in oil, then brown meat and add cumin, bay and paprika. Separately bring wine to boil, set fire and pour over meat. Bring to boil, adding a little water as necessary. Simmer (or oven cook at low temperature for as long as it takes) for an hour and then add potatoes. Adjust seasoning and simmer until the meat is tender. Towards end of cooking time add olives and serve with quartered lemons.

Serves 4



New local car valeting service available to residents of Preston Brook.

Specialising in express washes (from £7-£11 depending on size of car) and mini-maxi valets (from £14-£48 depending on valet type and car size).

Please contact us for more information regarding:-

- Booking a valet
- Eco friendly waterless washes
- Specific valet requirements
- Loyalty schemes
- Gift vouchers



Tel: 07758115716 Email: cleanmemobilecarvalet@gmail.com

Clean Me Mobile Valet is fully covered by public liability insurance.

Cash payments only please

iCAN Warning: PayPal email scam

An iCAN member has reported a suspicious email, supposedly sent by PayPal asking him to verify his account – we believe this is a phishing email and are advising consumers not to respond. The text of this email looks like this:

Dear User, (A genuine email from PayPal would use your name and not 'User')

As Part of our security measure, we regularly verify activities of all our customers. There has been some irregular activities on your account.

Please Verify and Update Your Online Profile details

Verify and Update (click here) (Hover the mouse over the red font to see that the link does not take you to the PayPal website)

Once we have received your information we will review it. If the review is successful, the limitation will be removed from your PayPal account .

Phishing is where emails are sent at random and claim to come from a reputable company such as a bank. The emails attempt to trick people into disclosing sensitive information at a bogus website (phishing site) operated by fraudsters. These emails usually claim that it is necessary to 'update' or 'verify' your customer account information and they urge you to click on a link in the email which takes you to a phishing site or on a form attached to the email. Any information entered on the phishing site or form will be used by the criminals for their own fraudulent purposes.

If you believe you've received a phishing email from PayPal, follow these steps right away:

1. Forward the entire email to spoof@paypal.com
2. Do not alter the subject line or forward the message as an attachment.
3. Delete the suspicious email from your email account.

PayPal will send you an email response to let you know if the email is indeed fraudulent. In the meantime, don't click on any links or download any attachments within the suspicious email.

Phishing emails often pretend to be from a bank or official organisation such as HMRC. To protect yourself follow these tips:

Be suspicious if the email addresses you in vague terms like 'Dear Valued Customer or Dear User'.

Never log in to your online account having clicked on a link in an email. If you want to log in to your online account, you should open your internet browser and type the organisation or bank's web address in yourself.

Be suspicious if you are asked to 'confirm' or 'update' your password or any personal information by clicking on a link and visiting a website - banks will never email you to request that you do this.

Treat all unsolicited emails with caution and never click on links from such emails and enter any personal information.

Gardening jobs for Late Summer

Get ready for spring

Spring might seem like a long way off, but late summer is the perfect time to start making preparations for a floral displays. You might want to think about spring bedding, such as pansies, wallflowers and sweet Williams. There should be a good selection of plants at the garden centre. Water them well before planting and give them a good soak whenever the weather is dry to help them establish quickly.

Buy your spring-flowering bulbs. Choose firm, plump bulbs and avoid any with signs of mould. Plant them as soon as possible so they can start putting down roots. The cool, moist conditions of late autumn suit tulips best so wait until then before planting them. This is also a good time to plant amaryllis and hyacinth bulbs for a good show at Christmas; they also make great homemade Christmas gifts.

Keep the patio pots going.

Enjoy the summer display right to the end by keeping your containers in shape. Dead-head the plants regularly to encourage more blooms. If the weather is dry, give them a good soak and finally, give them an extra boost by feeding weekly with liquid fertiliser; slow-release feeds that were included when the pots were planted will be running out of steam by now.

Divide perennials

Now is a good time to divide clumps of perennials. Lift a clump and then divide it into pieces, either by prising it apart with two forks or cutting it up with a spade or bread knife.

Each piece needs some leaves and roots. Older pieces from the centre of the clump should be thrown away, but newer pieces can be replanted or shared with friends. Some perennials, such as sedums, will benefit from being divided every few years to keep the clump growing vigorously. Don't forget to water your camellias and rhododendrons as this is the time that they are making buds for next year's flowers

Harvest crops

When the leaves of your onions begin to flop over, they're ready to harvest. Check them and use any with signs of damage first. Then the rest of the crop can be stored in old net bags, plant trays or even plaited into strings.

Pumpkins and squash should be raised off the ground to ripen in the sun before harvesting. If the weather is wet, cut them early and bring them in to ripen in a greenhouse or sunny windowsill. To cure the fruits for storage, keep them in a warm room for a fortnight, and then put them somewhere dry and cool but frost-free.

Early varieties of apples, such as 'Discovery' are best picked and eaten as soon as they're ripe. You can tell when an apple is ready by gently cupping the fruit in your hand and twisting. If it comes away, it's ready.

Greenhouse Housekeeping

If you are lucky enough to have a greenhouse then it will soon become an essential escape for your tender plants during the bad weather. You could even think about fitting some insulation to protect against the cold nights ahead. Remember however that summer weather can sometimes extend right into early autumn, and September can sometimes hold particularly hot days, so keep a watch for these and ensure your greenhouse is well ventilated during the day but warmth is trapped during the evening.

Now could also be the perfect time to take the opportunity to tidy and organise your greenhouse so there's room to accommodate new additions. The glass may need a good clean and you should check all plants for any signs of pests and treat immediately.

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.

Over the past few years the focus has been on working towards and delivering a refurbishment programme for the exterior of the building including new roof and windows. This has reduced the carbon footprint of the building as well as reducing the impact of external noise.

We are now actively looking for new committee members to help deliver improvements to the interior with a view to attracting a greater variety of user groups to the Hall.

If you would like to become a committee member, or help the committee in some way, then please ring the Secretary on (01928) 717223.

Sports & Social Night - Every Wednesday (7 - 8:30pm)

Residents have set up a sports & social evening which is taking place every Wednesday at the Village Hall.

It's open to anyone in the village over the age of 18, it's £3 each and you can play badminton, table tennis or darts. It's hoped that over time with more getting involved additional sports can be offered.

Pop along - have some fun and get fit too....

