



NEWSLETTER

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# PRESTON BROOK PARISH COUNCIL

PRESTON BROOK, PRESTON-ON-THE-HILL, DUTTON

[WWW.PRESTONBROOKPARISHCOUNCIL.GOV.UK](http://WWW.PRESTONBROOKPARISHCOUNCIL.GOV.UK)

## Chairman's Welcome

Dear Residents,

I want to introduce myself as the recently elected Chairman of the Preston Brook Parish Council which represents the areas of Preston Brook, Preston on the Hill and parts of Dutton.

The councillors and I are elected to represent your interests at Parish level and hopefully you have seen updates on various notice boards around the parish and in the newsletter.

Our focus in the last financial year has been to take action on the feedback we receive from residents who attend the parish council meetings and feedback received on the door step when delivering your quarterly newsletter.

Your parish councillors are volunteers but give up their time to look to improve the area we all live in on your behalf and in recent months we have made great strides to look to consult with other community interest groups such as the Village Hall Trustees, local history group , women's institute and even our Parish church at Daresbury.

Our business plan for the new financial year is focused on what you tell us matters most , highways , parking and speeding in the local area, general maintenance and the look and feel of the area and new housing developments in the area not in keeping with the density or history of Preston Brook. As a local resident for three years and with a young family I too share these concerns and we regularly correspond with Cheshire Police and Halton Council on these matters. I personally attended a Performance board meeting at Halton Council to deliver a petition on behalf of residents regarding the apparent lack of traffic calming measures in the local area. We continue to need your voice in these matters too.

As a Chartered Manager and previously having owned and ran by own businesses I feel those skills I have obtained can be put to use in looking to improve the parish for its residents and the businesses that operate here.

Look forward to meeting you all in the next Village Hall fate which the Parish Council hopes to organise with support from all our community interest groups.

Thanks again for your support.  
Cllr Alan Price.

## Neighbourhood Plan Drop-In Session

Residents are invited to join members of Preston Brook Parish Council to discuss the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. Neighbourhood planning is a new way for communities to have a say in the future of the places where they live and work. It gives residents the ability to produce a powerful set of tools for local people to plan for the types of development to meet their community's needs and the Council is keen to form a steering group to move this project forward. There will be a drop in session held at 9pm-10pm on 22 May 2023 in Preston Brook Village Hall.

## Future Meeting Dates

Preston Brook Parish Council meets monthly at 8.30pm in Preston Brook Village Hall, Sandy Lane, Preston Brook, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 3AW. Meetings are usually held on the fourth Monday of each month and everyone is welcome to attend. Future meeting dates of the Council are below.

22 May 2023    26 June 2023



## Gardening Tips

April and May can be a busy time to be out in the garden, tidying up from winter but also getting ready for those summer months when our gardens are in full bloom.

Here are some jobs to get your gardens in tip-top shape:

- If you have roses growing in your garden, finish pruning them early this month.
- Cut down to the base any dogwoods, willows, cotinus and paulownia as this help promote vigorous new growth.
- Top up borders with garden compost .
- Ensure to deadhead flowers when required.
- This is the ideal time to plant new roses, other shrubs and climbers.
- Barrier your plants with slug barrier products especially around new shoots.
- Remember to keep bird feed handy as breeding season begins, we have a beautiful array of birds.



If you have a Vegetable Patch:

- Sow tomatoes, chillies, sweet peppers and aubergines in pots indoors
- Plant onion and shallot sets, spacing them 10 - 15cm apart
- Feed cabbages and other brassicas with rich fertiliser
- Plant early potatoes in trenches or large tubs
- Start hoeing your veg beds as soon as the weather is warmer as weeds can take hold quickly.

## Dutton Women's Intitute

Dutton WI meet at Preston Brook Village Hall on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm.

We are a friendly group of ladies who enjoy meeting and socialising and you are assured of a warm welcome.

At the meetings we are entertained by speakers who share their knowledge and passion on a wide range of topics. We also have friendly competitions, games and quiz nights. There is also a luncheon club and a craft group, as well as a darts team and a bowls team. Holidays, walks and visits to the theatre and places of interest are also arranged during the year.

You are welcome to join us as a visitor any month, to find out for yourself what we do, and if you would like to become a member we can give you further details at the meeting.

For further information email the committee on:  
[info.villagehallwomensinstitute@gmail.com](mailto:info.villagehallwomensinstitute@gmail.com)

We look forward to meeting you.



# Preston Brook Parish Council

PRESTON BROOK, PRESTON-ON-THE-HILL, DUTTON

## PRESTON BROOK & DISTRICT HISTORY GROUP

Your local History Group meet in the Village Hall on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm from September to May with outside visits in June and July.

We have a wide variety of talks for all tastes. These are followed by homemade refreshments provided by our team of ladies.

The programme for 2023

Talks commence at 7-45pm at Preston Brook Village Hall (Members £15 per annum / Visitors £3 per visit)

**Thursday 16 March: History of Ordinance Mapping Mike Blackburn**

**Thursday 20 April: A Runcorn Mans' adventure in a 19c Sailing Ship Ian Bellard**

**Thursday 18 May: to be confirmed**

**Thursday 22 June: Guided Tour of Norton Priory (small charge)**

**Saturday 15 July: Guided Tour of Astley Hall, Chorley (small charge)**

**August: Summer Break**

**Thursday 21 September: Tickle Family History John Tickle**

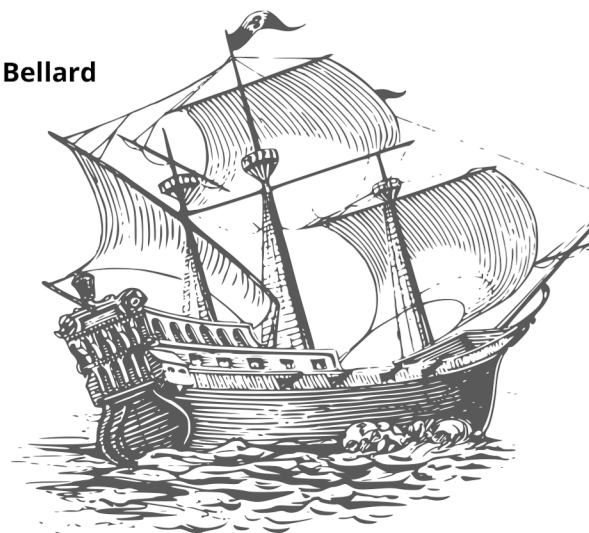
**Thursday 19 October: The Darker side of Runcorn Diane Stanley**

**Thursday 16 November: Christmas Traditions around the World David Hearn**

**Saturday 2 December: Christmas Party - TBA - at a local Pub**

For details please email our Secretary Sue Potter: - [sukipot45@gmail.com](mailto:sukipot45@gmail.com)

Chairman: George Swiderski Treasurer: Hilary Rylands



## Coffee Mornings

After our last newsletter, we were aware that residents in the community had expressed interest in how our projects would affect them.

We will always work in the best interest of our community which is why we will be holding a dedicated coffee morning on Saturday 25th March 2023 so that you have the opportunity to come to speak with our councillors and find out more about what we are doing and also get your opinions!

Tea and coffee will be provided so why not pop down, and have a chat and also it's a great opportunity to meet others in the community.

We look forward to seeing you there.



## Conservation Status

The Council is pleased to announce it has recently engaged KSA Associates to complete an outline submission to Halton Borough Council on behalf of the Parish to secure Conservation Status.

Halton Borough Council currently outsource conservation matters to Cheshire West and Chester Council and an officer recently visited the Parish and confirmed its potential for Conservation Status given its clear character and sense of place, which encapsulates the strong agricultural and boating history of the area. Whilst discussions are still in a preliminary phase, an initial boundary could include Preston Brook Wharf, Cotton's Bridge, Waterfront, and areas of Hill Top Road, Windmill Lane, Summer Lane, Barkers Hollow Road and Chester Road. The Conservation Status will not prevent development (or making improvements to your home) but provides a foundation for development that is sensitive to its locale.

A public engagement exercise and consultation will be undertaken in the new year to engage residents and provide more information about the benefits of living in a Conservation Area. If any residents have any information regarding the history of their homes/roads, or any questions regarding this process, please contact us.

## Taste of Spring Recipe

### Ingredients:

320g of whole wheat penne pasta

450g of boneless chicken breast cut into thick strips

3 tbsp olive oil

$\frac{3}{4}$  tsp salt

3 garlic cloves, crushed

120ml of chicken stock

120ml of white wine

6 plum tomatoes, chopped

Handful of fresh baby spinach and 150g of crumbled feta cheese



1. In a saucepan, cook pasta according to package directions. Drain; return to pot.
2. Meanwhile, toss chicken with 2 tablespoons oil,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt and pepper. In a large skillet, cook and stir chicken, half at a time, over medium-high heat 3-5 minutes or until no longer pink; remove from pan.
3. In same skillet, heat the remaining oil over medium heat. Add garlic; cook and stir for 1-2 minutes or until tender. Add stock. Bring to a boil, stirring to loosen browned bits from the pan; cook for 2 minutes. Stir in tomatoes and remaining salt; cook until tomatoes are softened. Stir in spinach until wilted.
4. Add chicken and tomato mixture to pasta; heat through, tossing to combine. Serve with cheese.

## Pre-School

We started the New Year at Pre-School enjoying a little bit of snow! We made winter pictures and enjoyed playing with ice. We made some fab Penguins for our display.

We celebrated Chinese New Year by eating Chinese food. Making a dragon's head and completing a Dragon dance. We welcomed two rabbits to Pre-School as it is the Year of the Rabbit

For bird week we took part in the National Bird Survey looking at birds we have in our gardens. Transport week was fab... the Gritting Lorry came over from the Amey Yard. The children got to climb in it and put on the lights and press the horn. Thank you as always to the Highways Team who continue to support the Preschool.

Valentine's week we talked about people we love and our friends in Pre-School. We talked about the importance of being kind to everyone.

Please note Pre-School has places available starting at 2 years old. Please get in touch on [prestonbrookpreschool@googlemail.com](mailto:prestonbrookpreschool@googlemail.com)



## Preston Brook Village Hall

A big thank you to everyone who came to Bingo in January. It was a great night as always with lots and lots of prizes, and some people nearly filled a car with the prizes they won.

Thank you to the volunteers that helped, Emma for the prize purchasing and Gary for Bingo calling, we couldn't hold these events without help. The event raised £200 which will go into the upkeep of the hall.

We will be re instating Christmas Bingo this year, so keep an eye out on our website social media for a date.

We have some weekends left in April for children's parties, so if you or someone you know is looking for a venue for a party, please consider the Village Hall.

If you are on Facebook, please follow our page: preston brook village hall official. News and events go on there first. If you would like to enquire about a booking, please email: [bookings.prestonbrookvh@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.prestonbrookvh@gmail.com)

**For further information on events and bookings, please contact [bookings.prestonbrookvh@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.prestonbrookvh@gmail.com) or call 07549 655578.**

**THE PARISH COUNCIL IS CONCERNED THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN DOG FAECES NOT BEING PICKED UP AROUND THE VILLAGE. NEW DOGS AND/OR NEW RESIDENTS ARE NOT RESPECTING WHERE THEY LIVE OR THEIR NEIGHBOURS. PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOGS.**

## Budget 2023-2024

The Council's costs have increased significantly in recent years, and it is becoming more difficult to maintain a lower precept without compromising on delivering significant benefits to the Preston Brook community. Current councillors are committed to improving the area, focusing on people and place, to protect the current environment and safeguard the community against mass urban sprawl.

The Council has been working hard to create a Neighbourhood Plan, form a Conservation Area, and lobby local stakeholders to support a speed reduction through the main thoroughfares of the village.

Whilst the reserves of the Council remain healthy in comparison to annual expenditure, these could be notably depleted if unanticipated costs were to arise such as tree damage from storms or an election.

On average, there has been little movement in the precept over the past ten years and the Council is keen to ensure the identity of Preston Brook is not lost through reduced services of Halton Borough Council and/or inertia to large planning applications enveloping the neighbourhood. To support the Council in its efforts, in 2023-2024 an increment in the precept is required of approximately £3 per month per Band D property.

The total precept per Band D property in 2023-2024 will be approximately £88.94 – representing a figure that remains in line with the national average, and significantly less than other parishes in Cheshire such as Kingsmead Parish Council which levied a sum of £108.03 in 2022-2023.

The Council is keen to ensure the precept is allocated to projects at the heart of the community, and residents are encouraged to contact the Council with any thoughts or ideas of their own.

## Your Councillors

Cllr Alan Price (Chairman)  
Cllr Mike Marlow (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr Jamie Walton

Cllr Lauren Sanders  
Cllr Gary Littler  
Cllr Mark Hughes

Cllr Cathy Murray  
Cllr Peter Bolton

If you are interested in applying to become a member of the Council, please complete a co-option form which can be found at [www.prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk/policies-procedures](http://www.prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk/policies-procedures)



**Would you like to raise anything with the Council? Or have an idea you would like to share?**

The Council strives to improve the communities of Preston Brook, Preston-On-The-Hill, and Dutton. If residents have any feedback, suggestions or ideas to assist the Council in delivering positive outcomes for the community, please email [clerk@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@prestonbrookparishcouncil.gov.uk)