

# Preston Parish Newsletter

  
Preston & Elmstone  
VILLAGE SOCIETY  
2008 - 2019

Summer 2019

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in Village**

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## Snapshot of Preston Buried in Time Capsule



A group of around 25 new neighbours from Preston Grange development took part in a time capsule burial to mark the completion of the new homes site.

Items such as recent newspapers, this newsletter, photographs of the residents with their new homes and letters to future homeowners were placed into the ground, documenting a snapshot of the first people to call Preston home.

The time capsule allowed the residents to create an exciting memory for future generations to discover, with the time capsule set to be opened at the end of the century.

Natalie Perry, Director of Sales and Marketing for David Wilson Homes Kent, comments: "Creating a time capsule is a great way for the community to come together and celebrate the completion of Preston Grange."

Construction at the development started in 2016, and after two years of building all the homes have now been sold and moved into. The housebuilder will complete the final stage of construction in June, with the final residents moving in at the beginning of July.

Katie Morris, homeowner at Preston Grange, comments: "My family really enjoyed taking part in the burial of the time capsule – it is such a great idea for the future generations of Preston Grange. There is a real sense of community already here and we have made some lovely lifelong friends! It's just a shame that we won't be here to see it being dug up in 2099!"

## Remembering Cyril Foad

It is with great sadness that our dear friend Cyril Foad sadly passed away on thirteenth March this year. Born just a few miles away in Stourmouth, he went to the local school and lived all his life in Preston Parish. Cyril was a Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather and Great, Great Grandfather.

After the war Cyril joined the Ash Young Farmers Club and played Football and Cricket for Preston and Elmstone. Cyril lived just four miles from his place of birth and spent his whole working life at Santon Farm and in the agricultural industry. Working first for Solley's as a Dairyman and fruit farmer, then for WH Timmy's as fruit foreman, Salvatori and Newman Fruits until his expected retirement. Cyril carried on working even after his official retirement, working for Colin Tim's, delivering fruit and veg to stores in East Kent until he finally retired at seventy four. He continued growing his wonderful plants and vegetables, and entered them in lots of shows, donated the profits of anything he sold to Air Ambulance and Pilgrims Hospices. He taught his children as they grew up, all about the goodness in growing your own food and caring for wildlife and Countryside. He also came to learn and live the life of a carer as he cared for his dear wife Betty to the end of her days. Cyril was very active in village life; he was Chair and vice-chair of the Village Hall Committee and a trustee to the end. He was an excellent Bowls player, his name is up on that special board in the hall and he also developed a lifelong passion for Ballroom dancing which he enjoyed until quite recently. Cyril was one of life's gentlemen in the true sense of the word. It is my honour to be able to write this on his behalf and for his family. He was a lovely next-door neighbour to me. We shared a beautiful cat called Flora. Cyril will be sadly missed by many in the village.

Jenny

## Ivor and Archie



Ivor Sneller, a local resident for many years is still as handsome as ever on his beautiful dark bay Cob, Archie. Although in his late seventies, Ivor rides out most mornings and still attends and enters horse shows. What a handsome pair of stallions!

Karen

## Arson Attack in Preston

Over the weekend of the second and third of June and for the first time in many recent years, we have had a case of arson in the village.

The Copper's Bistro sign opposite the pub has been targeted and vandalised for the second time in the last few months.

The first act of vandalism was in February and saw the brand new sign being ripped off its wooden supports – not an easy achievement as the sign is quite a size, very heavy and lies in a ditch – it must have taken a huge amount of effort to pull the sign down. Owners of Preston Garden Centre, Sarah and John let this incident go and just put it down to being 'one of those things' that irresponsible people do.

However, this latest act of vandalism included a flammable accelerant being used and shows a personal attack on one of our most successful local businesses being taken to a whole new level! It was very dry over the weekend when this incident happened, and the fire could have easily jumped to surrounding homes, private property and adjacent businesses.

The arson attack has been reported to the police. They are now in possession of forensic evidence and appeal for information from anyone who may have seen suspicious activity to please come forward and notify them, Sarah and John or your local parish councillors who have been very supportive.

You have to ask the question, why target Copper's Bistro sign – is someone jealous, mad or just a bit sad? It's unbelievable that this could happen in our award winning village and to a business in the heart of our community. Our support and best wishes go to Sarah and her staff at the Garden Centre.



## Letters to the Editors

We always welcome contributions of news, local issues and points of interest and would like to thank all who submit articles to Preston Parish Newsletter. All written content may be subject to alteration at the discretion of the editors.

The views and opinions expressed in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the editors or the publisher:

**Preston & Elmstone Village Society**

Deadline for the next edition of Preston Parish Newsletter is **Friday 30th August 2019**

Please email all articles to: [josie@vfast.co.uk](mailto:josie@vfast.co.uk)

## New Football Club Preston Fawns FC

Hi my name is Sam, I'm looking to set up a new football club for Preston. I am a Level 1 qualified coach with first aid and safeguarding training and I am also DBS certified.

To begin, I would like to start with a team of under 10s for both boys and girls. This covers years 4 and 5, with a vision of becoming a full club covering all ages as the club develops.

Signing will take place in July - date to be confirmed - and training will be held on Monday evenings from 6 to 7pm at Preston recreation ground during the summer. For parents and supporters, there will be teas and coffees supplied on both training and match days. If you are interested in your children joining our new club, would like to help or need any further information please feel free to call, text or email me on the details below.

Phone: 07857447585

Email: [prestonfawnsfc@gmail.com](mailto:prestonfawnsfc@gmail.com)

COME ON YOU FAWNS.

## Cricket Anyone?

It's been a few years since there was a Cricket Club in Preston but hopefully we could get a new team started with a little more help?

We have seven people in the Grange who are interested in forming a team with good support for cream teas; however we need a few more people to join us and make the new team viable.

If you are interested in finding out more, please text or phone me. All ages & gender welcome.

Jim Cook Tel: 07718155715

## Friday Night is Table Tennis Night

A lot of people see Friday night as fish and chip night. If you come along to Preston Community Centre around 7.30pm you will be able to join a whole group of us who play table tennis.

If you haven't played before, don't worry, you will soon get the hang of it. Jill Matthews ensures that as you become more proficient and are able to win games you will have a handicap.

The handicap ensures that even beginners can have a game against more experienced players. At the end of the evening the highest scoring pair will receive a prize and the lowest scoring pair will receive chocolate.

Playing table tennis is great fun and has several benefits. It keeps you fit and improves your hand to eye coordination. You will also meet a very friendly bunch of people! So why not give the magic lantern a rest (TV) and give it a go. We play throughout the whole year. Look forward to seeing you there.



# Community News

## Preston Art Group Visit Tate Britain



Our art class took a trip in March to Tate Britain and was a great day out, as well as being incredibly interesting. It also encouraged us to think about something new and very different from our usual way of working.

Our Spring/Summer class has given us pupils quite a challenge, with all our materials and equipment being purchased from the D.I.Y. stores, instead of the usual art shops. Armed with our paint rollers in hand and plaster we have now started on a huge new canvas with lots of layers of colour and stencils. We hope

to create something similar to this wonderful work of art by our friend and painting instructor Terence Macklin. Will we manage it, only time will tell, however it is guaranteed to be great fun trying, watch this space?

Art class is every Monday afternoon 2.30-5pm and Preston Community Centre. Please contact [terencemacklin@hotmail.com](mailto:terencemacklin@hotmail.com) if you are interested in joining our classes.

Jenny Ralph

## Easter Treasure Hunt



We had a lovely time with families from Preston and Elmstone for our annual Easter Treasure Hunt which took place at Preston Community Centre on Sunday 21st April. The hall soon filled with eager children and families who answered the Easter themed questions and activities to receive their Easter egg courtesy of the Village Society.

We also ran a cake sale with tea, coffee and light refreshments on offer. We were fortunate to have a lovely sunny morning and the café spilled out onto the recreation ground and made for a pleasant warm and friendly couple of hours.

Our Easter bunny ran off last year but not to worry, the Yoga Bunny hopped in especially to help us out. Thank you for your support. Preston & Elmstone Village Society





## Fun Quiz

A new event for the Village Society this year was the Fun Quiz held on 23rd March. This was a fundraising event for the society, to help with projects and events we run throughout the year.

Our local community was fantastic in their support of our night, with twelve full tables in the hall and over a hundred people in attendance.

We wanted to make the quiz 'fun' and not too serious, so alternated question rounds with activity rounds of Jenga, name the tune, pass the parcel and the infamous balloon modelling at the end.

Trevor did a sterling job of being quiz master, Josie found a new vocation in life comparing the evening and naughty school girl Karen kept tabs on the scores. Thank you to Jeff and Maria for running the kitchen, Clare for organising the music round and all the village Society members who helped sell tickets and support our night.

Our final thanks to Holly in Preston Village Stores for being the centre point for our ticket sales.

We had a really great night together, lots of laughs and managed to take £1002 on the night with £550 profit, and we still have some booze left over for our next event.

Well done to the winning team – Mismatch – can you regain your crown next year? Next year I hear you say...the night was so successful I think we'll make it an annual event. Thank you to everyone who came along.



Top: Mismatch, the winning team. Below: Karen Vordaman and Quizmaster Trevor.  
Bottom: A full hall for the Fun Quiz.







## Natural Ways to Keep Cool

Are you flagging now the weather's getting warmer? Whilst some of us love the sizzling summer months, others would rather stay indoors to avoid the heat. Read on for some easy and effective ways to stay fresh as the temperature soars.

**Make a cooling spritz** - by adding green tea or chamomile tea (boiled then cooled) to a glass spray bottle, add witch hazel or aloe vera gel and a couple of drops of peppermint oil. Bliss!

**Foods that cool** - pitted fruits such as cherries and peaches, water-rich foods like cucumber & melon, citrus fruits and bitter salads are considered the most cooling in eastern medicine.

**Sitali breath** is a yogic technique that's fun to try with the family. Sit up nice & tall & roll the sides of your tongue upwards to form a tube shape - who can't do it?! For those that can, stick out your rolled tongue & use it as a straw to slowly breathe in for a count of 4, expanding your belly & chest. At the top of the inhalation, pop your tongue back in your mouth & slowly breath out through your nose for a count of 4. Repeat for one minute.

Have fun and stay cool whether you enjoy the summer months at home or away!

With love, Basma, Simply Therapies.

## Preston Primary School Summer Fete

It is that time of year again when you need to make a date in your diary for Sunday 16th June, not only is it Father's Day but also the date of probably one of the best school summer fetes in Kent. Friends of Preston School (FOPS) are again hosting this very popular event on Preston recreation ground from 12 o'clock onwards. Both parking and entrance is free to all visitors.

Last year FOPS raised over £5000 at the summer fete which funded various projects around the school including a new Library (see bottom picture), coaches for school trips and sports equipment.

There will be a huge variety of activities and games for you to enjoy on the day with a dedicated Games Zone which hosts favourite family games such as the coconut shy, bouncy castle, tin-can ally, and giant hoopla to name just a few.

Other attractions include the Classic Car Club, teddy tombola, plant stall and sweet jar challenge. In the central arena will be traditional maypole dancing and country dancing performed by the pupils. There will also be some lively fun with a tug of war and egg throwing competition. Phases Dance and Fitness Studio will also perform again this year. Refreshments will be available on the day which will include tea, coffee and soft drinks and a beer tent. The BBQ will be running again this year serving burgers and bangers. The ploughman's lunch tent offers an alternative salad lunch and to finish off, why not sample some of the delicious home-made cakes on offer?

The Summer Fete wouldn't be complete without a raffle and FOPS will be running a Grand Prize Draw with some fantastic prizes for you to win. In fact the Grand Draw is so big there will be 3 rounds of draws taking place throughout the day.

Tickets can be purchased from the school office after half term or on the day at the entrance to the summer fete. Please come along to support FOPS and our local school which we are immensely proud of and have a great fun day out with your family in the village.



## Where did the Puddle Go?

For as long as I can remember the village hall car park flooded every time it rained. This is no longer the case..... unless it hasn't rained since March!!

Charles, Edward and Trevor spent a Sunday afternoon trying to work out why the soak away did not work (almost flooding out the Remote Cars group when water backed up into the ladies and gents toilets in the process).

We were worried we would have to call out Dyno Rod at massive expense.

Luckily Ed and Charles tried again, spending a whole morning with the rods and eventually pulled out a massive plug of tree roots.

We've held some excellent fund-raising events recently:

Thanks to Kath, Jane and Ellie, the Bangers Beans and Bingo evening raised over £469. Well done girls! Another evening is promised for October. Thanks also to Trevor and Stephen for their donation of the potatoes.

The Plant Sale raised £416. A big thank you to all those who gave plants for the plant sale and to Charles who put out the signs and got them back in again. The pop-up cafe raised a further £65 profit on the day. A big thank you to Ellie and Jan for baking the delicious cakes.

The next fund raiser is the Boot Fair on Saturday 13 July. You can book a pitch outside for the car or a table inside for £10. Set up time is from 9:00am – 1 pm.

The pop-up cafe will be open as usual from 9:30 onwards

## New Village Hall Update

A new charity, called Preston Village Hall CIO, has been formed. A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) is a charity managed by trustees in the same way as the current village hall is run by the Preston Village Hall Management Committee but the trustees hold a limited liability.

This is important for when the new hall is up and running. Karen, our treasurer, is organising the transfer of funds from the old charity to the new CIO and a solicitor is handling the title transfer. We are currently working on a draft business plan in readiness to start applying for funding.

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on 20 June in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. It will be the final AGM of the current charity.

## Classes

There are now day-time classes on most days.

Terry's Painting Class is every Monday afternoon 2:30 – 5pm.

Basma's yoga groups are held on two sessions, Tuesday evenings at 6:30 – 7:30pm and Thursday mornings 9:30 – 10:45am.

Tai Chi and Qi Gong is with Dominic on Wednesday mornings 9:30 – 10:30am.

Roy's yoga group is on Tuesday morning between 9:30 – 11:00am

Pilates is on Thursday evenings with Claire 6:00 – 7:pm

Chair-based exercise is on Friday mornings 9:30 – 10:30 am.

Finally, for the more energetic:

Jo's popular Zumba class is on Wednesdays 5:45 – 6:45pm.

A new fitness class for Sunday Morning 8:15 – 9:15am Circuit Training

## Clubs

All our clubs will welcome new members.

The Short Mat Bowls Club meets every Monday 7:30 – 9:00pm.

Darts Club meet every Fridays 2:00 – 3:00pm

Watch out for a Cricket Club which may start up soon.

## Lettings

If you wish to hire the hall for a function, please contact our Bookings Secretary:

Kath Marsden

Tel: 01227 722397

Email: kathmarsden44@gmail.com

## Bangers and Bingo

We would like to thank everybody who attended our Bangers and Bingo session on Saturday 18th May to raise funds for our new Preston Community Centre. We raised a grand total of £469.42 which is quite amazing.

Thank you to all those who brought raffle prizes, to Dot and Anne for helping with the washing up, all the men and ladies who put the tables and chairs away at the end of the evening and to Trevor and Doreen for supplying the equipment.

But most of all, a huge thank you to Ellie Matthews who was amazing in the kitchen. We never would have survived without her tireless help.

We are holding another Bangers and Bingo on 12th October. So be sure to put it in your diaries.

Kathleen and Jane

## Pop-up Café

I started the Pop-up Café about 3 years ago. The thinking behind it was to provide a space for people to meet informally, enjoy a cup of coffee or tea and a piece of cake together: to help develop a sense of community and to integrate the elderly with the young, new villagers with those who had been here a long time.

I hoped to raise a bit of money for the Village Hall Renovation Fund at the same time. To date the cafe has raised approximately £2500. We then organised two very successful fund-raising events with the Pop-up Bistro; the French evening and the Spanish Evening. Megha's curry evening supper club followed the theme. Events like these and those run by the Village Society, which involve families and children in fun social events, bring people together informally and create a friendly cooperative atmosphere where people enjoy the sense of belonging to a village.

If you would like to join in as part of a happy village community who work together to achieve greater goals, pop-in to the Pop-up Cafe. It meets usually on the second Saturday in the month from 10am – 12pm. A board goes up on the village green on the day it is open. Times are published at the village hall, on the village hall notice board and in the shop. Ellie and I make cakes. The coffee is filtered, tea is freshly brewed. Prices are £2.50 for a beverage and a piece of cake.... half the price of something in town.

Jill Matthews

## The Friends of Elmstone and Preston Churches

### ELMSTONE CHURCH OPEN AFTERNOONS

The first one of the year was held on Sunday 19th May. The light rain did not deter visitors from coming and enjoying home-made scones and cakes in the delightful setting with beautiful flowers, which created a lovely atmosphere.

We would like to thank the Nickols Family for all their organisation and time, others who helped, and of course everyone who came. £182.60 was made for Church funds.

The next Open Afternoon will be on Sunday 25 August, 2.30 - 4.30 pm.

### HAPPY HOUR, ELMSTONE CHURCH

The first event in April was a great success. These are held on the first Friday of the month throughout the Summer from 6.30 to 7.30pm. Further dates are Fridays 5 July, 2 August and 6 September. Everyone is welcome to join fellow villagers for a relaxing start to the weekend. .

### OPEN AFTERNOON ST. MILDRED'S

This will be on Sunday 23 June, from 2.30 - 4.30 with Teas and Stalls and Art Exhibition. We would welcome home made cakes which can be brought on the day and any offers of help.

We hope for fine weather and that you will be able to join us.

Elizabeth Timms 01227 722704

## News from the Belfry

We've taken on a new learner on behalf of Wingham in readiness for their bells being operational again. However, we've had no new ringers for Preston but with Jackie's progress, we've got 5 Preston ringers so we can now ring on Sunday mornings without any outside help, provided we're all available.

We had to miss the service after the clocks went forward which was a relief for those of us who could have rung. A 9am start on Sundays can be a struggle, more so if we've lost an hours sleep!

First wedding of the year has been done and dusted, the only one we had in May.

We've got five due in June which will leave us with just three throughout the rest of the year. The years of us ringing for fourteen weddings or more in a season are likely to be behind us, due to a shortage of Vicars (anyone fancy a Saturday job?). There will be a limit of ten weddings next year so it's possible we'll only have seven or eight to ring for but that's still more than most churches in the area, thanks to Preston Court.

Just a reminder that practice nights are Tuesdays (every Tuesday for beginners).

Just give me a call on 01227 668777 to find out more, you know you want to!

Brian

## Preston W Elmstone & Stourmouth WI



Preston w Elmstone and Stourmouth WI have 20 active members and we average 18 at our monthly meetings.

We have a range of different speakers to suit all interests; we hold a monthly competition, usually in connection with the speaker and the topic of their

lectures, a raffle and of course social time enjoying chatting and a cup of tea.

Why not come along to one of our meetings, and see for yourselves we are a friendly group and welcome new members. The programme for 2019 is on the notice board in the community centre. Unfortunately our March speaker Jenny Birch was unable to come, so Rosie stepped in at short notice. She is a milliner and she brought along hats and fascinators that she had made or remodelled. She has found many a bargain in the charity shops. She also brought some of her stunning dresses and told us the occasion that she had worn the outfit and matched them with her many hats. We had the chance to try on the hats, it was a fun evening.

April was a members evening after the WI business we played beetle - some members had not played before but soon got the hang of it.

At the May meeting we discussed the resolutions put forward by National Federation, the campaigns this year are; to keep rural bus services and don't fear the smear, we also have our annual craft and cookery competition. After much debate the members voted unanimously in favour of the resolutions and to give our support to the campaigns. The craft and cookery entries were independently judged by professional judges. There was a tie for the overall winner between Penny Cornet and Diane Johnson.

Joan Marsh celebrated her 90th birthday on 10th April and was presented with flowers, a WI centenary mug and a birthday cake (see photo to the right).

Several members attended the group meeting hosted by Wingham WI, the speaker was Julian Jackson. As a small boy he and his twin brother were diagnosed with a degenerative eye disease. This did not stop him from living life to the full. He told us many amusing stories and about a small computer which is attached to the arm of your glasses that relays images to the brain. We came second in the Easter egg competition. To finish the evening the Wingham WI members entertained us with poems and ditties all age related and some of use recognised ourselves in the readings. It was very funny and a good way to end the evening.





## Footpaths

We are lucky in the parish to have a lovely selection of footpaths and bridleways available for our enjoyment throughout the year. These are likely to have been in use for many hundreds of years from times when foot was the only means of movement for the masses, getting anywhere meant walking there.

The historical origins come from either ancient trackways, remains of roman roads or Anglo-saxon footpaths. As settlements developed, the paths evolved for practical reason to link them to each other for villagers, traders or soldiers to move along. More recently people from outlying areas used them to access the facilities within the village such as the shops, school, pub and the church.

Today the main uses are for recreation and health. Anyone has a legally protected right to walk on public rights of way, footpaths and bridleways, some landowners also allow access on Permissive Paths, but these are not part of the legal rights of way access legislation.

Ultimate responsibility for the upkeep of public rights of way is down to Kent County Council's highway department and we can all report any problems along the paths direct to them via the Public Rights of Way portal on their website, however the majority of the paths cross private land, be that farmland, paddocks or gardens and the landowners have the responsibility of maintaining access. This involves leaving clear paths across fields 1 metre wide, bridleways 2m, if the paths are along a field edge the widths are 1.5m and 3m, clear signage should also be set up by the council but can be enhanced by the landowner.

Our footpath wardens for the parish are Martin Ferber, Chris and Liz Anderson and Jon Richardson who are the contacts on the Parish Council.



Those of us that use the paths for recreation also have our own regulations and responsibilities to follow. The Countryside code asks us to Respect – Protect – Enjoy.

Respect	Consider the locals and inhabitants of the area Close gates and leave a property as you find it Always follow the paths
Protect	Leave no trace of your visit Keep dogs under control on the marked paths Take litter home, including your dog's - (bag it and bin it)
Enjoy	Plan your visit and Follow signs to avoid problems

These simple rules allow us all to see and use our local environment whilst keeping livestock and crops safe for use as they will become our foods.

## Photography Group

Last month, instead of our usual monthly meet up, we had our first outdoor photography session, with the help of our local professional photographer Clare Randell.

We met at the Hop and Huffkin Cafe in Sandwich, where Clare kicked off proceedings with some hints and tips regarding composition, light and shade, shadows and more. She then gave us an assignment to complete and we went our separate ways for a couple of hours to see what images we could capture.

We were lucky with the weather and found ourselves visiting corners of Sandwich previously unknown to us. Having a focus on aspects such as shadows or reflections meant we were absorbed in capturing as many relevant images as possible. In no time we were back at the Hop and Huffkin where we downloaded our efforts for Clare to give us some really useful feedback.

Since then we've met up as a group and selected our favourite images.

If you're interested in seeing them, they'll be printed and displayed on the noticeboard in the village hall from mid-June.

## Preston and Elmstone Tuesday Club

Come and join in our friendly group, meeting every alternate Tuesday evening from October to April.

Our meetings take place at a member's home locally and start with an interesting talk on varied subjects with time for socializing afterwards.

The Tuesday Club is good way to meet people and socialize in our area, we also have an interesting evening listening to talks on varied subjects.

Contact Jude via email: [eljude44@gmail.com](mailto:eljude44@gmail.com) or phone: 07528 430404

## Running Club

Hello all. Just a quick note to let you know that the time of running club is changing. Running club has been, erm... running for two months now and we have run 20 miles (each person) in total. Not bad right?

I would like to inform you all that we now meet at the village hall at 6:30pm every Monday instead of 6pm.

I would also like to reach out to some people who possibly have thought about coming along but have not for various reasons. I assure you it does get easier and we are not exactly experts ourselves(!). So please come and join us and see our village in the beautiful evening sun.

Contact Nicole on:  
[nicolecolahuggins@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nicolecolahuggins@hotmail.co.uk) for more information.

# Parish Council

## Clerk to the Parish:

Jean Swan

## Tel:

01304 842908

## Email:

prestonparishclerk@outlook.com



## Parish Councillors

Ollie Chapman	721162	Jill Matthews	722518
Jude Lawson	722184	Trevor Bradley	721015
John Richardson	722292	Liz Scott	722282
John Duff	07779 602185		

Welcome to the New Parish Council, I am confident that once again you will be served well by those you have elected to represent you.

A note about meetings; as always we welcome members of the public along to the Parish Council Meetings. Some residents come along because they wish to raise a current issue and some just to see what's going on in the Parish, the District and the County.

The PC allow 15 minutes at the start of the meeting for residents to speak

(approximate allowance per person is 2-3minutes), as numbers can vary the Parish Council would advise that issues be provided in writing prior to the meeting to the Clerk.

This will then enable you to ensure you have chance to say all that you want to and Councillors are informed prior to the meeting thus giving the option to include this on the Agenda. Issues to be raised should be current and not historical 2019 is the year for a new Parish Council to look to the future for

the entire community, to assist with the provision of services, maintenance of the villages many public spaces and providing support to Preston's organisations. Please remember you can subscribe on the Parish Council website you will then be notified automatically of new posts.

Jean Swan

Clerk, Preston Parish Council  
Plum Tree Cottage, The Street, Adisham, CT3 3JR

prestonparishclerk@outlook.com

www.prestonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

## Preston Parish Council 2019



Chairman  
**Cllr Oliver Chapman**  
Representative for Kent  
Association of Local Councils  
E-mail: prestonparishchair@outlook.com  
Tel: 01227 721162



Vice-Chair  
**Cllr Jill Matthews**  
Representative for  
Village Hall Committee  
Tel: 01227 722518



**Cllr Jude Lawson**  
Representative for  
Preston & Elmstone  
Village Society.  
Tel: 01227 722184



**Cllr Trevor Bradley**  
Tel: 01227 721015



**Cllr John Richardson**  
Representative for  
Footpaths/bridleways  
and byways.  
Tel: 01227 722292



**Cllr Liz Scott**  
Representative for  
Highways and  
A257 Group.  
Tel: 01227 722282



**Cllr John Duff**  
Representative for  
Highways and  
A257 Group.  
Tel: 07779 602185



**Clerk to the Parish  
Jean Swan**  
Tel: 01304 842908



## Your Photos

We ran a little informal photo competition on Facebook in May, asking for some shots our beautiful local scenery and countryside. We had a great response with amazing photos submitted. Thanks to everyone who posted; some of our favourites are included here.

We will run the competition again in August on the Village Society Facebook page - [prestonelmstonevillage](#)





## VILLAGE PICNIC

in the beautiful

### ROBINSON MEADOW

(opposite Preston Community Centre car park)

Come along with your picnic for a FREE, relaxing & lazy summer afternoon in the secluded meadow with your neighbours, friends and family...

**ALL WELCOME**

From 12pm on  
**SUNDAY 23 JUNE**



## Outdoor Boot Fair

In aid of Preston Village Hall CIO Renovation Fund (Charity No: 1182792)

**Pop-up Cafe, Indoor tables available**  
**To book your pitch, please visit:**  
[prestoncommunitycentrekent.com](http://prestoncommunitycentrekent.com)

**Preston Recreation Ground**  
**13th July, 9.30 to 1pm**  
**9am set-up**

## 100 Club

Monthly local prize draw run by the Village Society to raise funds for the community.

**1st Prize £25, 2nd Prize £10**

### March winners

47: G Menzies

66: J McDonald

### April winners

14: A Chapman

86: D Wallace

### May winners

34: S Marsden-Garrett

38: K Marsden

**Congratulations to the winners**

**New Draw starts in August so don't forget to get your new numbers.**

**Thank you to everyone for your support**

## FANCY A KICKABOUT?



We play every Monday and Thursday in Sandwich. It is usually about 7 or 8 aside and all abilities and ages are welcome! We have ladies that play too and ages range from 15 to people in their mid 40s.

Come and see what you think, the first game is free!

**On Mondays** we play at **Sandwich Leisure Centre** (by the Technology School) from 7.15pm until 8.30pm and it is £3.50 per game. Everyone pays on the day.

**On Thursdays** we play at the **Baypoint Club** from 5pm until about 6pm and it is £3.20 for those who pay for 10 games up front or £4 for people that pay on the day.

Call or text Tommy on 07736300338 if you are interested in playing either or both games.



# Pebbles Everywhere!

By Tim Offord



I was asked recently about the black pebbles that can be seen in fields and gardens around Preston.

They seem to be very common throughout the whole of Preston and Elmstone and particularly evident around Deerson, Boundary Farm, Preston Court and the Forstal where they are associated with a sandy soil.

They are mostly between half an inch and three inches or so across and well rounded, almost spherical sometimes.

I remember there used to be a very pebbly patch in the corner field by Grove Road where the houses are now built and when the land was being worked for planting you could hear the rattling of the stones as the implements passed over them.

There are also plenty in Deerson bluebell wood and sometimes can be seen where a windblown tree has been uprooted as a thick layer in the exposed rootball.

The stones are black due to a coating of the mineral manganese and are paler inside.

They were formed from flint around 55 million years ago, (which sounds a long time ago but in geological terms is fairly recent) when the present Thames estuary area was a high energy beach.

The layer of pebbles is sandwiched between two sandy layers that geologists call the Upnor and Harwich, formations. Above them sits the London clay of the Herne Bay and Whitstable area.

The second photo to the right shows the layer exposed on the cliff between Beltinge and Reculver where sands, pebbles and clay layers can all be seen slowly being eaten away by the sea.

As can be seen the layer is quite thin and varies from six inches to a couple of feet. The area around Preston has had the upper layers eroded away so they are exposed here.

These are not related to the various gravel and sand pits in the area though. They are termed River Terrace Gravels and are a

mere 2 million to 100,000 years old. During the great ice ages of this period sea levels rose and fell up to 50 metres as the ice in the north melted and froze eroding the land and causing fast flowing rivers.

There were gravel pits at Marleybrooks and at the old Salvatori site, both sides of the road. Also in the fields behind Preston Church and in the river valley towards Wickhambreaux.

They are mirrored on the opposite side of the Lesser Stour too, up Grove Hill towards Sand Pit cottages and the sand and gravel pits of Trenley woods on the way to Canterbury.



## A Mallorcan Bus Journey 2007

By Derek Hougham-Griggs

My wife and I arrived at the bus stop with minutes to spare—two to be precise—and were greeted by a very cheerful bus driver called Paco.

We sat down fairly close to the front behind our fellow Mallorcan passengers, none of whom, I would hazard a guess, had ever met each other before. However, soon after our journey had started we became aware of a very animated conversation between Paco and a 'Ruth Goodman-like' Mallorcan lady seated quite near him. If only we could understand what the subject of this jabbering was all about. Although conducted in the friendliest of terms, it must have been of great interest to the rest of the local passengers because soon the whole bus—except us—was joining in in a very excited manner. As he drove, Paco was trying to keep his eyes on the traffic but was obviously enjoying his position 'chairing' the common debate at the same time. Suddenly, with a squeal of brakes and much honking of horns, a car managed to squeeze between the nearside pavement and us—yet Paco continued the animated conversation unperturbed.

Suddenly, midway through our journey, the bus screeched to a halt. Paco alighted

from the bus and helped a young girl and her baby aboard. Apparently, it was his daughter and grandchild he had spotted walking along.

He was so overjoyed to see them, he just had to stop and hold the baby aloft and share his happiness with the rest of the coach. Amidst much cooing and kissing from the passengers, Paco, not wishing to waste company time, ushered his daughter to the door and continued on his journey as if this was an everyday occurrence and part of his job as bus driver.

At the next parada (bus stop), an inspector boarded the bus and utter silence reigned. Even Paco applied both hands to the steering wheel and kept quiet.

I couldn't help noticing that at this stage of the journey, people who had normally alighted from the door at the front of the bus (very much against company rules), now meekly exited from the rear instead. Having checked everyone's ticket and confirmed that the total corresponded with tickets sold, the inspector left the bus by the front door—an inspector's privilege, no doubt.

The excited conversation eventually resumed unabated. A short, lady with a face and figure as round as an Ensaimada (a

salt less Mallorcan pastry), got to her feet and with a lurch of the bus, practically landed on my lap—Paco had, rather belatedly, applied his breaks for the benefit of a less than agile, and now, very flat Mallorcan moggy! Still, the excitement mounted. Was it the fate of the cat, we wondered? Had Rafael Nadal split his pants at the Madrid Tennis Tournament? Or was it we two quiet English tourists who were causing the stir? We began to pick out phrases such as, "Los niños no trabajan, muy mal!" (Children not working, very bad). Then, suddenly the bus screeched to a halt and Paco informed us, "Viaje terminado!" Apparently his indicators weren't working properly which probably explained the near collision earlier. A relief bus would be along in about thirty minutes, he told us, and with that our humorous and interesting journey had come to an abrupt ending.

Now we would never know the cause of that voluble conversation. I want to think that it might have been something sensational, like Cristiano Ronaldo had signed for Real Mallorca (a lower ranking football club), but you can be sure of one thing; it wasn't the weather, it wasn't politics and it certainly wasn't the unfortunate cat.

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## A Little Word or Two...

I love putting our newsletter together but feeling a bit creative lately, I decided to re-vamp its design - I hope you like the new layout and front page?

I was really inspired by the many beautiful photos posted on Facebook and thought a redesign would be an ideal opportunity to showcase some of the amazing outdoor spaces surrounding our village.

I would like to choose one photo per issue for the front page, so don't forget to take a few snaps when you are out and about over the summer and post them on Facebook for possible inclusion in the next edition.

Since the last issue of the newsletter, the Village Society has had a very busy couple of months with events, fundraising and also our AGM in May.

It is wonderful to have such a friendly committee and our numbers keep increasing which can only be for the benefit of the village as it means we have a greater resource of help available for the things we want to achieve.

One concern at the moment is the raised flower boxes and grass islands through the village. Some are very well cared for but unfortunately some are a bit neglected. We rely on help from local residents to keep them weed free, mowed and cared for.

If you are able to, an extra mow and water in the hot weather would be really helpful - it shouldn't just be down to the few same people to help - surely it is in everyone's interest to keep our surroundings looking as good as they could possibly be? Hanging baskets for the centre of the village are going up as we go to print and a bit of help with keeping them watered throughout the summer would be really appreciated.

The building of the Grove Road development is drawing to an end and having so many new families move to the village has brought a much welcomed resurgence in activities, participation in events and help and support to the village. I welcome the positive effect this is having on our community and local businesses.

OK, there might be a few more cars but they are not as bad as all the lorries that used to thunder through and shake our houses to their foundations? Either way, wherever you live change will always happen, there is little you can do to stop it but in my humble opinion, I say - be positive - it's less destructive on the soul than constantly moaning!

I look forward to meeting everyone at the village picnic on Sunday 23rd June in Robinson Meadow if you can make it.

If not, I hope you and your families have a wonderful summer in this beautiful corner of Kent.

Josie Leicester

Chair, Preston & Elmstone Village Society

Editor, Preston Parish Newsletter

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# Jodie's Summer Recipe

Panzanella; a simple tomato and bread summer salad. I know that summer is surely on its way when Preston has celebrated its renowned plant sale mayhem. Sadly I missed it this year, but I know that lots of you will now be the proud owners of some wonderfully named tomato plants, so I have written this recipe with you in mind.

This is a very simple yet delicious Italian salad and is a great way to use up a glut of tomatoes and some stale bread that you have lurking around. Personally I find it tastes even better when enjoyed in the sunshine with a glass of chilled wine; a little taste of Tuscany in the Kent countryside.



## Ingredients:

200 g stale bread; a firm rustic loaf or ciabatta works best as it doesn't go too mushy

8 good size ripe tomatoes roughly chopped; a mix of different tomatoes works well and adds colour

1 small red onion thinly sliced

1 red and 1 yellow pepper for roasting – or just buy a jar of roasted peppers

sea salt

freshly ground black pepper

1 handful capers, drained

6 anchovy fillets in oil, drained and finely sliced (optional)

3- 4 tbsp red or white wine vinegar (whichever you have or prefer)

Approx. 6 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

1 small clove of garlic, crushed

Small bunch of fresh basil

## Method:

If you're roasting or charring your own peppers, do those first; remove the skins and then chop roughly. Personally, I always cheat and used jarred peppers and it seems to work just as well. Tear the bread into similar sized chunks as your chopped tomatoes, leave to one side for a while; this will allow it to dry out a bit more.

Place the tomatoes in a bowl and season with salt and pepper. Add the bread, capers, peppers, onion, garlic and anchovies, if using. Toss the mixture together thoroughly; use your hands as this will help all the flavours to mix.

Stir in the vinegar and oil. Taste and add extra dressing or seasoning as needed. Roughly tear the basil and sprinkle on top.

Enjoy (wine optional)

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Our newsletter comes out every three months. If you want to find what's happening in our parish as well as up-to-date Village Society and local news, check out our Facebook page. Don't forget to 'like' us and share us with your Facebook friends.

Our Facebook address is:

[prestonelmstonevillage](https://www.facebook.com/prestonelmstonevillage)





# What's on this Summer?

## June

- Sat 8th Pop-up Cafe, PCC
- Sat 8th Afternoon Tea, WI, PCC from 2 – 4pm
- Sun 16th Preston Primary School Fete, noon Recreation Ground
- Thur 20th Preston Community Centre AGM
- Sun 23rd Village Picnic, Robinson Meadow from Noon
- Sun 23rd Open afternoon, St Mildred's Church 2.30 - 4.30pm

## July

- Fri 5th Happy Hour, Elmstone Church 6.30 -7.30pm
- Sat 13th Pop-up Café, PCC
- Sat 13th Boot Fair, 9am -1pm, Preston Recreation Ground

## August

- Fri 2nd Happy Hour, Elmstone Church 6.30 -7.30pm
- Sat 10th Pop-up Café, PCC
- Sun 25th Open afternoon, Elmstone Church 2.30 - 4.30pm

## September

- Fri 6th Happy Hour, Elmstone Church 6.30 -7.30pm
- Sat 14th Pop-up Café, PCC

Preston Community Centre - PCC

Wishing everyone a simmering summer  
From all your friends in the  
Preston & Elmstone Village Society



The autumn edition of Preston Parish Newsletter  
will be available from the first week of September 2019