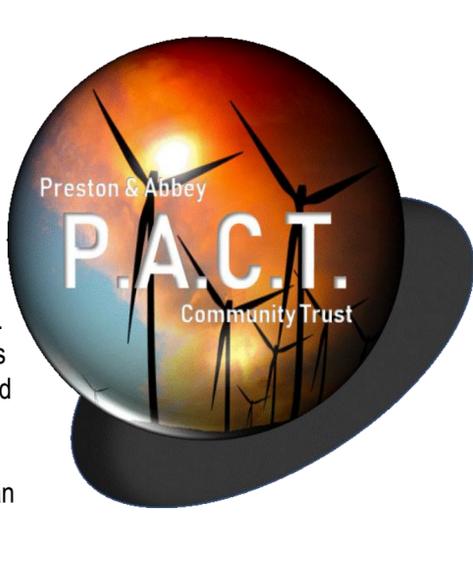


Whispers on the breeze



Welcome

Welcome to the Winter 2019 PACT newsletter. 2019 has been significant for PACT, with funds from all three windfarms coming on stream and the financing of the new Abbey St Bathans village hall being put in place. We have also supported several smaller projects that you can read about in this newsletter.

We are looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that next year will bring.

Liz Macfie

PACT Chair

Meet the PACT Board

PACT stands for Preston & Abbey Community Trust. It is a voluntary organisation with charitable status, and its mission is to undertake projects and activities that will help improve the quality of life of people living in Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston. The Board of Trustees who oversee PACT's work are all volunteers and live in the community it serves.

The Trustees are:

Liz Macfie (Chair), Betty Snow, James Dobie, Bob Drennan, Richard Swan, Ray Eardley, Gary Shaw, Hayley Shaw, Linda McIntyre and Beth Landon.

You can contact any of the Trustees via the PACT email: hello@pactrust.org.uk

We would like to thank everyone in the Preston & Abbey St Bathans area who got involved with or responded to the recent consultation BAVS carried out on our behalf. PACT works for your community, so it's vital that we know what's important to you and how we can help improve things. But this is an ongoing process, so if you missed the consultation or have an issue you'd like to raise with us, you can contact us any time by emailing hello@pactrust.org.uk or speaking to a member of the Board of Trustees. The results of the consultation are still being brought together, and we intend to share these in our Spring 2020 newsletter.

Family fun day and raft race

On 18th August, around 50 people came along to Abbey's riverside to listen to music, enjoy a complimentary BBQ and watch the raft race. It was a fantastic day and has potential to grow in coming years.



Book-making workshop

The workshop, run by Mark Ramsden, a bookbinder and conservator, was held in Preston on 2nd November with 12 participants. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and made three books, two with French stitch and a small notebook using pamphlet stitch.

We know of several people interested in the workshop who couldn't attend so we will consider running another one.

There is also interest in a continuing regular shorter workshop for people to develop their skills.



A Date for Your Diary – Don't miss out - Book soon.

PACT is organising a Burns Night Supper to be held on Saturday 25th January 2020 at Preston Village Hall. This event is open to everyone living in the PACT area .

Tickets cost £10 for adults, £5 for under-12s but is limited by space with only 50 tickets available on a first come first served basis.

Please email pactevent@gmail.com to book.

"Some hae meat and canna eat, And some wad eat that want it, But we hae meat and we can eat, And sae the Lord be thankit."



Duns Storyfest

This new event was partly inspired by the success of the storytelling event at Duns PlayFest. In mid-October, storytellers from the Scottish Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh kicked things off with an event at Duns Primary School for children and parents. There followed pop-up storytellers at various venues, and events at the Volunteer Hall for all ages.

Abbey St Bathans village hall update

Despite all the obstacles we wrote about in the last PACT newsletter, Abbey St Bathans village hall has now been demolished, making way for a brand new facility to be built



Creative Writing Workshop

In 2018, PACT held a workshop for budding writers, led by Marc R Sherland and Stephen Eric Smyth, two experienced team leaders from Glasgow. Attendees were full of praise for what they learned. To quote one of them: 'We used really interesting techniques for fast writing and it has improved my writing skills in only a day!'

We want to run another workshop in 2020, so if you would be interested in attending, please let us know. You can speak to one of the PACT Board, email us at hello@pactrust.org.uk or message us on our Facebook page. www.facebook.com/PACTRUST/



Fireworks night

The bonfire party in the Kirk field organised by long standing community members James & Joy Dobie on 2nd November, with an amazing fireworks display and HUGE bonfire! Lashings of mulled wine and warm Ribena. Thanks to the Dobies and all involved.

Lots of ooohs and aaahs from kids and adults alike.



Pub night...

One of the requests made by people who got involved with the community consultation BAVS recently held on behalf of PACT was to have a local pop-up pub. So on Saturday 9th November, one was held in Preston Village Hall. It was well attended and deemed such a success that everyone is looking forward to the next one! Any special requests, please email pactevent@gmail.com Some ideas include a wine tasting club, whisky tastings, cocktail nights, BBQ and beer garden, and pub games nights.



Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston Community Council

The Community Council met on nine occasions in 2019, alternately in Preston and Abbey St Bathans.

The discussions have included items such as:

- Road repairs and signage
- Forestry work supported by the Forestry Commission
- Resilient Community work in Preston, Abbey St Bathans and Blakerston
- A winter photography competition
- Participation and support for local events such as Reiver's weeks, Remembrance day and local Shows.

We have approved eleven applications for funding from the Crystal Rig community benefit fund.

Recently a new Community Council has been elected. One long standing community councillor, David Morrison, has decided not to stand for re-election this time. We would like to thank him for all the time and effort he has put in to supporting the community council for over 20 years.

Residents are welcome to attend Community Council meetings. Dates and minutes are available on our website, <https://abpcc.org/> along with notifications of events, guidance on wind farm fund applications, and more. Please sign up for regular updates!

Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston Community Council is looking for your opinion _ Jim Clark Rally

Your Community Council are collecting comments on the rally for a future meeting with the organisers.

If you have any comments you would like us to pass on please get in touch in the following ways:

- email: admin@abpcc.org
- a note through the letterbox of 3 Cumledge Mill, Preston.
- a note in the ABPCC comments box which is in the phone box, Abbey St Bathans.
- on our Facebook page.

Closing date for all comments is 20th January 2020.

Please note that we are only accepting written comments.

If you would like a response, please include your contact details.

