

Whispers on the breeze



Welcome to the Spring 2021 PACT Newsletter

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative. You can learn more about PACT and what we do by visiting our WebSite at www.pactrust.org.uk

Or contact us at hello@pactrust.org.uk

The PACT Board

PACT is governed by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and is managed by a Board of Trustees. During this year, the Board has adapted its working arrangements to meet virtually, via Zoom. The current Trustees are

JAMES DOBIE (Chair)
HAYLEY SHAW Vice-Chair)
LIZ MACFIE (Treasurer)
RICHARD SWAN
RAY EARDLEY
GARY SHAW
BETH LANDON
LINDA MCINTYRE
ANDREW SMITH

Resilience and COVID Response

Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, PACT looked into providing support to our community. PACT does not currently have any paid assistance (soon to change! See new post advert in this newsletter) and relies on volunteer Board members, so it was decided to provide support to existing networks and organisations that provide community assistance. We awarded three grants of £1000 each to Bavs (Berwickshire Association of Voluntary Services), AHFD (A Heart for Duns), and the Community Council's Resilience Network to provide support for their community response to COVID. Bavs and AHFD utilised the funds to cover their general response during the lockdown including community transport.

The funds for the Community Council's Resilience programme were intended to cover out-of-pocket expenses for volunteers assisting vulnerable members in the community with transport and shopping needs. Mid-way through last year, the resilience team reported that uptake of the funding had been minimal. As a result, the community council and PACT agreed the transfer of the remaining funds to the Reston & Auchencrow Community Larder, which addresses both food poverty and food waste by distributing food to residents within their area. Their geographic area was expanded to allow members from our community to access their support.

Community Larders



The community larder in Reston was accessible to members of our community throughout 2020 and continues in 2021.

Popup Larders

The community larder in Reston was accessible to members of our community throughout 2020 and continues in 2021.

The larder team also ran a few trial pop-up larders in Preston Village Hall car park last year. These were so successful that they are now a regular feature, every Tuesday from 10am to 3pm, and are now being run by a small team from Preston, who collect the food from Reston.



At the time of writing a three-week trial of pop-up larders has just happened in Abbey St Bathans in the Riverside Bakehouse car park, run by local residents, who again collect the food kindly set aside for us by the Reston Larder team



This has been well attended, and each week so far, the available food has been supplemented by in-kind contributions by one or more residents. For the time being, provided such a high level of interest and engagement is maintained, it is expected that this will continue on a weekly basis on Monday afternoons from 2 pm to 4 pm.

It is fantastic to see food that would otherwise have gone into landfill being made use of, and hopefully we have been able to help out folk who may be struggling financially during these hard times. Even with social distancing and other Covid-19-related precautions in place, both initiatives are providing a much welcome community focal point when the usual events are not able to take place.

Abbey St. Bathans village hall update

From James Dobie (Chair)

I have re-read the previous reports issued in August '19, June '20 and October '20 and the overriding message is always one of optimism! I am aware that too much confidence in the delivery of an undertaking may be judged misguided and to that end I have ceased to predict the completion date, no longer wishing to be hostage to fortune.

With all that said the project has moved forward substantially and there is a kitchen, loos, lino, lights etc. It is possible to imagine the finished article. The long running saga of the doors has reached its final episode with the correct set arriving this week and the decking is sitting ready at the sawmill; so there is plenty to go on when the snow melts. Covid has of course been an issue, with the limitation of multiple trades being on site and constant issues with availability of materials.

The commissioning of the heating will be a major step forward, allowing the building to dry out, the decorating to go ahead and eventually the wooden hall floor to be laid. The plumber is currently in Ipswich fitting out a Burger King. The last time he was in the hall he nearly expired of hypothermia so I fear I can't be too hard on him but honestly, Ipswich's Burger King.



Broadband Update

Through conversation with Mr P Newhouse MSP and communication from Mr Manson Scot.Gov. we are assured that BT has completed a 'build plan' to enhance broadband connectivity in the Community Council area through the R100 scheme. (R100 REACHING 100%). BUT NOT BEFORE THE END OF 2021.

As many will wish to upgrade their broadband supply before the end of 2021 The Scottish Gov. is offering a voucher scheme through the SBVS (Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme) by which a subsidy is offered to the tune of £400, to upgrade your supply. This is likely to be by means other than conventional phone line and would be by fixed wireless, mobile or satellite broadband, but does not preclude the householder from being connected through R100 at a later date.

To find out more visit <https://www.scotlandsuperfast.com/> where you can check your postcode for the R100 roll out. The Open Reach checker is also extremely useful for our area for the Full Fibre rollout, as they have the contract for our area - It also tells you if you can currently access FTTP (to premises) or FTTC (to cabinet). <https://www.openreach.com/>

This should also help to answer any questions you may have. The voucher scheme is accessed through your broadband provider e.g. Border Link, Brisco, BT, and others and contact with one of these is the start point to begin the process. Any of these providers will offer choice in terms of connection speed i.e. in megabytes, and can advise you as to the cost.

PACT will be carrying out a Broadband Survey in the Abbey St. Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston community area to help identify gaps in the Scottish Government Superfast Broadband Rollout in our area. Further information will follow soon.



Berwickshire Wheels
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

**Affordable and
accessible transport**

Berwickshire Wheels can be booked to take you to the shops, healthcare appointments, provide lifts to Covid vaccination centres or to visit friends and family and so much more... (restrictions permitting)

Trips are charged at 45p per mile with a minimum charge of £5 per trip.

All our vehicles are cleaned and disinfected between runs and are safe to use.

Call 0300 456 1985

to book your transport today

Please give us as much notice as possible to let our volunteers plan their days.

Have you considered becoming a volunteer driver with Berwickshire Wheels?

Berwickshire Wheels is a transport provision for those people who have no other means of transport. We have volunteers who provide a door-to-door service across Berwickshire to collect people from their home and take them to their chosen destination for a reasonable cost.

There is no minimum time commitment and you can volunteer using your own vehicle with expenses reimbursed, insurance cover and all necessary policies and procedures. We will also support you with COVID19 risk assessment and hygiene procedure. If you'd like to find out more please get in touch. Contact the team at bwheels@bavs.org.uk or the telephone number above.



Berwickshire Wheels were part funded by a PACT Grant of £3000.

Bavs
Working for Social Change

Project Funding

Do you have a project, or a project proposal that requires financial assistance? Would it benefit your local community?

Why not apply for grant assistance through PACT. You can apply as an individual for a community project or as an organisation on behalf of a community project.

Please go to our WebSite for further information

www.pactrust.org.uk

or you can contact us at

hello@pactrust.org.uk



ABBEY ST BATHANS, BONKYL & PRESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL (ABPCC)

Report for PACT Newsletter

Over the last year, the Community Council has adapted to working in these unprecedented conditions, and much has been achieved. From March 2020, all our communications have been made via email, telephone and on-line virtual meetings. Our two monthly on-line meetings are open to all residents to attend as observers. Please do sign up to our ABPCC website (www.abpcc.org) if you would like to be added to the e-mailing list. Any important information or updates received by the Community Council are circulated through this mailing list.

During the pandemic, the Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston Community residents mobilised to provide local support to those in need, led by the three Resilient Community leaders. There have been many volunteers who have committed their time and energy to look out for their neighbours, shopping, collecting prescriptions, and generally providing contact and care for those in need. Funds were provided by the Scottish Borders Council (SBC) and Preston and Abbey Community Trust (PACT) to support the Resilient Community activities. We can be proud of the effort made by all who contributed to support our community.

At our meetings, and at times by email between meetings, applications to the Crystal Rig Wind Farm Community Fund were discussed, seven of which were approved over the last year. More details on successful applicants and their projects can be found on the Community Council website.

The Community Council continues to serve as a link between the residents and the SBC, and speaks for the community on consultations of various kinds. You are welcome to attend one of our meetings, or you could check out our website if you would like to know more. Hopefully we will get back to face to face Community Council meetings soon, and will be able to offer a warm welcome with tea, coffee, biscuits and even home baking on occasions, for anyone who will venture out to join us.

PACT Job Vacancy



PRESTON ABBEY COMMUNITY TRUST

1. JOB TITLE: **PACT Trust and Projects Worker**

2. JOB OVERVIEW:

PACT wishes to create a new, paid, part time role to expand its charitable commitment to 'advance community development'.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:

- help to deliver projects highlighted by the community and agreed by the Trust.
- help to develop new projects to present to the Trust.
- to network within the local community and with relevant groups and organisations.
- help the office bearers and trustees manage the Trust in a professional manner in accordance with OSCR regulations.
- help with and improve the administration of PACT's small grant scheme.
- help manage the membership and member communications.
- prepare a regular community development progress report.
- help prepare for regular Trust meetings.

4. QUALIFICATIONS, SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE:

- someone who has good existing contacts with other similar and associated groups i.e. Bavs, CELCA, Heart for Duns etc.
- someone who has a good understanding of OSCR and the obligations of charities towards OSCR.
- someone who is committed to the challenge of identifying community needs AND has the ability and time to act on that need.
- someone who is a good networker.
- someone who has good communication and IT skills.
- someone who is organised and can work independently.
- someone who will actively encourage community participation.

5. SALARY AND BENEFITS:

This is a part-time self-employed role. Due to the project-based aspect of the role, the hours worked will have to be very flexible. The rate will be £15 per hour with a maximum of £1,000 in any one month subject to an annual review.

APPLY TO: dobiesheepfarmer@gmail.com with CV and references.

Application deadline March 15th 2021.