

The Preston Trust

Dear Resident of Preston,

I am writing to invite you to become a member of The Preston Trust, or if you are already a member, to renew your subscription for July 2018 to June 2019.

If you wish to renew your subscription or become a member, please complete the form enclosed and return it to our Treasurer, Andy Cole (The Hollies, Church Lane – SG4 7TP). Please, if you are a tax payer, also complete the Gift Aid Declaration as this enables The Trust to reclaim 25p for every £1 subscribed.

If you have previously completed a Gift Aid form you do not need to do another – you can simply enclose payment with your subscription form, make a direct payment or set up a Standing Order to the Trust Bank account, details shown on the form.

Any queries please e-mail – prestonvillagetrust@gmail.com

We rely on financial contributions to enable the Trust to continue with its objectives. The amount of the subscription is at the discretion of the member, but there is a suggested amount of £25 per family. This is purely a suggestion, please do not pay any more than you feel comfortable doing.

Donations beyond the subscription will be very welcome.

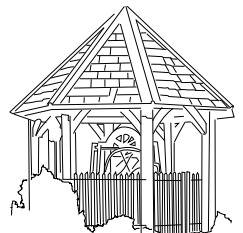
Membership of the Preston Trust is open to all those who live or work in Preston, or have sympathies with the aims of the Trust.

Although only one person needs to subscribe to cover membership for an entire family/ household, individuals are eligible and more than welcome to be listed with their own details. (Please complete the section on the back of the subscription form.)

Membership is a vital indication of support for our objectives

I look forward to working for you

Wally Steele (Chairman)



The Preston Trust is a Registered Charity (number 802988)

The Preston Trust is a Registered Charity which was established in 1990. Its 4 main objectives are to:

1) Enhance and preserve Preston for the benefit of all the villagers and visitors

Examples of how...

- Organising the bi- annual Litter Pick throughout the parish
- Providing new chairs for the village hall
- Providing shelving for the community book swap (to be in the Red Lion)

2) Secure the preservation and protection of features of historic or public interest, including the village's history

Examples of how...

- In October the Trust will be screening the, soon to be released, film 'County at War' This exceptional film looks at the contribution of the servicemen from Hertfordshire, (undoubtedly some from Preston) and the effects on the county of the First World War. We are hoping that the film may be introduced by a special guest. This will be confirmed closer to the time.
- The Trust is a member of:

The Luton and District Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise (LADACAN). Whilst LADACAN is primarily a lobby group, concerned with the effect of Aircraft Noise pollution, it also works to keep members updated with changes concerning Luton Airport and how they may affect surrounding areas, Preston included.

Andrew Lambourne of LADACAN, will be sharing more about its aims and work at a talk hosted by the Trust in September.

We look forward to welcoming you with cheese and wine (& juice) at the two evenings mentioned above. Please look out for details in the Village Newsletter, on the website and via the PNS.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), which campaigns for a beautiful and living countryside. Kevin Fitzgerald of CPRE gave an interesting talk about its work to parishioners at an evening hosted by the Trust last year. There is a link to CPRE on the Preston Trust website.

3) Promote high standards of planning and architecture

Examples of how...

- A series of "Walks and Talks" to share some of the parish's rich history has been organised - (please see attached sheet)
- Representations have been submitted on behalf of The Preston Trust to the Chief Planning Officer NHDC including objecting to the expansion of Vicars Grove (again...)

4) Support financially and promote any purpose for the benefit of villagers and in particular, its children and senior citizens.

Examples of how...

- The Preston Trust runs the Preston News Service(PNS) which enables a fast email distribution of events and notices concerning the village/parish and its people. Please see the enclosed sheet for more information and how to subscribe to the PNS. Please note – you do not have to be a member of the Preston Trust to subscribe or send messages using the PNS.
- The Trust set up and maintains the Preston Hertfordshire website www.prestonvillageherts.com.
- The Preston Village Day – fun for all the family and in 2019 welcoming back the magnificent Scarecrow Hunt!
- The Village Christmas Tree – decorating it and holding a special lighting event with carols, led by the Village Voices, free mince pies, mulled wine and juice. The singing and celebration continues in the Red Lion afterwards, sometimes with SG4 (other parish bands are available 😊)
- The Trust holds funds to help parishioners in times of real need. This is a completely discreet and confidential service. It is sincerely hoped that no one will have to ask (or in cases where the Preston Trust are aware, be offered) this kind of aid, but it is important for parishioners to know that it is available if the need arises.

Working together

The Trust is committed to working in close co-operation with the Parish Council and St Martin's Church though it is mindful of retaining its independence and the need to avoid duplication of effort.

Funding

The Trust is funded through the subscriptions of its membership, which is open to all those who live or work in the parish, or have sympathies with the aims of the Trust. Donations are very welcome.

Joining the committee/register of helpers

We are hoping that more members of our community would like to join the Preston Trust Committee. In return we can offer you meetings full of scintillating discussion and debate, along with some ordinary ones, and the opportunity to make a little money – not for you but for the common good of the parish. Seriously, by being a part of the committee you will be able to take an active role in helping to keep our parish as it is now – attractive and peaceful with a friendly and helpful community. There are typically five or six evening meetings a year, each lasting perhaps a couple of hours. You really can make a difference, whilst having a good time yourself!

In particular we really need a new Secretary, whose main role will be to take minutes at meetings.

If you would like to help with or at different events but not be on the committee, you may like to join the Trust's Register of Helpers. This will enable the Trust to contact you and ask for your help. The request will always be a "Please feel free to say no" question. Please indicate on the membership form.

If you have any questions about membership, joining the committee (including becoming secretary) or the register of helpers please call our Rae Reynolds, on 07736 348655 or e-mail prestonvillagetrust@gmail.com

Thank you - *Andy, Liz, Mike, Rae, Richard, Tim and Wal*
The Preston Trust Committee