

## The Preston Trust

Dear Resident or Friend of Preston

The Preston Trust was formed in 1990, to augment the village and act in its interests, including “to promote high standards of planning and architecture”. Please see the enclosed flier for latest details of The Trust;s response to the proposed Castlefield development/

I am writing to invite you to become a member of The Preston Trust (PT), or if you are already a member, to renew your subscription for July 2021 to December 2022. Thank you to the many of you who have already done so. Membership of the Trust is crucial to its survival and its ability to help the parish.

*Please note, the extension of membership period covers the Covid Pandemic and the decision of the PT committee to change subscriptions to January- December.*

If you wish to renew your subscription or become a member, please complete the enclosed form and return to Rae Reynolds (Miss) Membership Secretary - The Preston Trust c/o St. Martin's Place, Church Lane. 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.

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 complete another. Any queries please get in touch using our [Contact Us](#) form.

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.

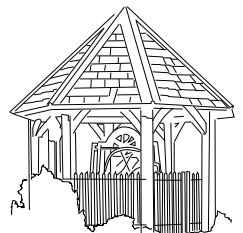
Donations beyond the subscription will be very welcome.

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 more than welcome to be listed with their own details, enabling them to have their own communication with the PT committee. (Please complete the section on the back of the subscription form.)

I look forward to continue working for you.

Wally Steele (Chairman)

The Preston Trust is a Registered Charity (number 802988)



*During the Covid pandemic it has not been possible to hold all of the events mentioned in this leaflet. Please bear with us. We will keep you informed as to when and what we will be organising, when it is possible for us to do so. ~*

**The Preston Trust is a Registered Charity – its 4 main objectives are to:**

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

For example:

- Organising the twice yearly Litter Picks throughout the parish, including arranging for the loan of equipment and collection of the litter we collect by NHDC.
- Further “Walks and Talks” are planned, to be held when possible, helping to raise awareness of our rich and diverse parish.
- Contributing to the cost of the new, RADAR key accessible, gate between the Recreation/Cricket Ground and permissive path in Wain Wood.

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

- 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.

**The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE),** which campaigns for a beautiful and living countryside.

**3) Promote high standards of planning and architecture**

For example:

- The Trust has engaged independent consultants to investigate and help prepare responses to Osprey Homes planning application to build 23 houses on Castlefield. The goal is to mitigate as much as possible the impact of the development by responding with planning concerns that affect the determination of the application. We will share what we learn with our community for individuals to consider in their own responses.

- Mike Kellard will be giving his ‘long awaited’ talk on vernacular architecture in Preston – “Why do our houses look the way they do, & if you alter them how do you get them to fit in?” There will be others he now has ready ...

#### **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, its environs 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](http://www.prestonvillageherts.com)
- Along with the help of the wonderful Newsletter team, the Preston Trust, the Parish Council and St,Martin’s Church produce, distribute and cover the cost of the Preston Parish Newsletter.
- At the start of the Covid Pandemic the Parish Council and the Preston Trust set up and ran a help line for parishioners co-coordinating the collection of prescriptions, shopping, dog walking and someone to talk to. Although it has now closed, the line can be restarted if the need arises.
- The Preston Village Day – fun for all the family and an opportunity to celebrate this special community. The Village Scarecrows are hoping and looking forward to making a comeback when they are allowed!
- Providing the Village Christmas Tree – decorating it and in previous years holding a special lighting event with carols, free mince pies, mulled wine and juice. The celebrations have then continued inside the Red Lion with the Preston Village Voices. Hopefully this or a different celebration will be held this year.
- The Trust has a manual wheelchair available for loan to any parishioner who may be in need of one
- 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 other organisations 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 minute meetings and to distribute them amongst members of the committee.

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 get in touch using our [Contact Us](#) form.

Thank you - *Adrian, Jo, Liz, Mike, Rae, Tim and Wal*  
The Preston Trust Committee