

The Painswick Beacon

Sine praeiudicio

Volume 37 Number 11

February 2015

Post Office Outreach for Painswick

At the January meeting of the Parish Council it was announced that a Post Office Outreach facility would operate in Painswick from late February/early March. The Beacon understands that the Outreach Service planned for Painswick will be one where a sub postmaster from a nearby post office visits the local community at fixed times and offers a service within a community building. Painswick's Outreach facility is therefore to be located in the lower room of the Town Hall. It will operate on Wednesday and Friday mornings between 9.30 and 11.30am.

A question being asked by some residents is whether the Outreach facility operating on a Friday morning in the Town Hall might conflict with the Country Market. The Beacon has been advised by the Clerk to the Parish Council that the Market is content with the arrangement, believing that it could increase the number of customers.

At the time of writing this report there is no news about a replacement wide-mouthed post box in the central part of the village.

Zero six papa two

(Painswick fire engine's Call Sign)



The Painswick fire crew were called recently to rescue two people trapped in cars turned on their sides in separate incidents where the drivers had skidded off the road. Needless to say, this kind of incident is much less likely to occur if drivers adjusted their speed to suit the icy or wet conditions.

We would all like to congratulate Paul Cooke (left in the picture) on completing 25 years of service. He recently received his commemorative certificate from Area Manager, Simon McMillan.

(Continued on back page)



Wassailing in Painswick

The Wassailing Night on Saturday 17th January was a huge success with over 100 people processing to the Orchard to wake up the trees (and ward off evil spirits!). Nick Simonin (pictured) led the procession and Wassailing ceremony. Iris McCormick writes that "the orchard was lit with flaming torches and the trees with Christmas lights. Fabulous folk music entertained the Wassailers on their return to the Church Rooms where we ate, drank and made merry for a few hours and completely sold out of cider! The orchard Wassail is a great way of highlighting the moment to plant new trees or give your neglected fruits a good prune". For details check the Painswick Orchard Group website. Photo: Emma Bradshaw.

Beacon Village Quiz

Saturday 7th March

in the Painswick Centre.

Get your entry in now

Teams of four please which could come from a club or society, local street or just a group of friends.

If you wish to reserve a table then a quick email to barrusjp@yahoo.co.uk will prompt an acknowledgment or drop a note in the Beacon post box. The cost per team including light refreshments will be £18.



On other pages this month:

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Lent Groups. page 10

Friends for you. page 14

Croft School Council. page 15

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS 21st January by Terry Parker

Reports upon meetings of the Parish Council cannot help but be selective, if only because of space constraints. We try to highlight points of widest public interest, based upon what we see and hear.

The full minutes of Council and committee meetings are available for scrutiny at the Council's office.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

There were no questions from the public. However the applicant for the erection of a replacement dwelling at Beacon Heights asked that the Members took into consideration a number of issues relevant to the application which had been submitted in writing to the Parish Council. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mike Fletcher, David Oxendale, Roey Parker, Abigail Smith and Caroline White.

Matters requiring a decision.

- a. Beacon Heights, Cheltenham Road. Erection of a replacement dwelling. The Members took account of the applicant's letter and also the points made by an objector. It was agreed to support the application.
- b. Land at Aries, Hambutts Drive. Eco-friendly single storey dwelling accessed from private drive. It was agreed to support the application.
- c. Greenhouse Court, Yokehouse Lane. Various tree works. It was agreed to support the application.
- d. Courthouse, Hale Lane. Erection of swimming pool changing room annexe (demolition of part of dry stone wall). The committee deferred a decision to the next meeting as the Members were unsure whether permission had been granted for the swimming pool.
- e. St Michaels Restaurant, Victoria Street. Removal of internal chimney structure as external structure does not exist. Proposed scheme to maximise internal space and viability of restaurant/bed and breakfast business. It was agreed to support the application.
- f. Paradise House, Paradise. Various works to dangerous and other trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order. It was agreed to support the application.
- g. Farundell, Damsells Mill Lane, Sheepscombe. Fell Cypress – outgrown situation. It was agreed to support the application.

PARISH COUNCIL

Public questions.

Mr Ross Munro asked for an update on the enforcement of the 20mph zone. The Chairman, Cllr Slinger, said that the subject of 24mph enforceability would be an agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting. Concerns had been raised by the Croft School Council at their meeting with the Parish Council earlier in the day.

Community Transport

The Council received a brief presentation from Bev Hemmings of Third Sector Services in which she asked that the Parish Council publicise the Third Sector

Services' Community Transport scheme which was being introduced in the Stroud district.

Apologies.

These were received from, Cllrs Mike Fletcher, David Oxendale, Roey Parker, Abigail Smith and Caroline White. County Councillor Jason Bullingham and District Councillor Julie Job had also given their apology.

Matters of urgency.

Cllr Slinger referred to a report from Cllr Abigail Smith in which Cllr Smith said that further speed checks were to be carried out shortly. She also reported that the provision of speed humps was linked to a road's accident record. Cllr Slinger paid tribute to The Croft School children who had raised £192 towards the cost of a defibrillator at their Christmas Fair. Cllr Slinger also thanked the organisers of the Community Lunches who were to set aside half of this year's proceeds for a defibrillator.

County Councillor's report.

Councillors referred to Cllr Bullingham's December report, the details of which were reported in the January Beacon.

District Councillor's report.

Cllr Nigel Cooper asked for Cllr Julie Job's apology to be recorded. Cllr Cooper said that the District Council's budget was to be agreed on 29th January. The proposal was that there should be no increase in the SDC's tax level. He referred to the possibility of a new waste cycling depot.

Painswick Post Office Service.

The Councillors were informed that the Post Office "Outreach" scheme would be introduced in late February/early March once the necessary equipment had been installed. The location would now be in the main Town Hall lower room. The service would operate on Wednesday and Friday mornings between 9.30am and 11.30 am.

Love Painswick Business Group.

The recommendation from Cllrs Abigail Smith and David Oxendale who were unable to attend the meeting was that the business group should be separate from the Parish Council. Its terms of reference were agreed. There was to be a meeting of the group the following day. Cllr Lewis referred to a new form of email distribution intended to be used by the group. It was stressed that the group's activities covered the whole parish.

Policing in the Parish.

Following the issues raised about policing levels at the previous Parish Council meeting it had been intended to present

a report to the Council. The Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr Roy Balgobin, said that Police & Community Support Officer Colin Drewitt was in hospital. He said that he would seek to have a report at the February Parish Council meeting.

Finance & General Purposes & Personnel Committee.

The Council agreed the following Committee recommendations:

- a. No changes to be made to the Town Hall hire charge fees.
- b. No changes to the Painswick Youth and Community Pavilion charges.
- c. No changes to the Painswick Cemetery charges.
- d. To approve the following donations:

Stroud Citizens Advice Bureau £500.

County Air Ambulance £100.

Painswick Arts Festival £150.
- e. To agree the budget requirements for the Financial Year 2015/16.
- f. That the precept be set at £88,410 being an increase of £6.48 per annum per Band D property (£0.12 per week).

The Council noted that there had been no increase in the level of Parish Council tax in the past four years.

Financial Risk Assessment. The Council was asked to note that the committee had agreed to increase the Fidelity Guarantee Insurance to £115,000 and also to the amending of the wording Assistant Clerk to that of Deputy Clerk as well as deleting the words, "in conjunction with the Members".

Ward reports

The uneven drain outside the New Street flats was to be reported to the County Council. This because of the disturbance caused to residents by passing vehicles. Other matters. The Parish Council agreed to sponsor an Easter Egg for the Easter Egg Trail which this year was to be held on Easter Saturday.

Village of the Year.

Cllr Slinger said that he believed the Parish Council should enter the 2015 competition.

Meeting with The Croft School Council Members.

Cllr Slinger referred to the very successful meeting held earlier that day when the school members had raised issues of concern to them about Parish matters.

Meeting closure.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm.

Parish Council Notice Dog Fouling.

Thank you to the majority of dog owners who responsibly pick up after their pets. However, a small minority are letting the side down and should be warned that it is an offence under Stroud District Council's Dog Control Order to fail to pick up. Here is something to think about; approximately 100 people (mainly children) contract toxocarasis from dog mess each year, which can lead to blindness. Therefore if you don't already pick up – please start now!
Irena Litton, Deputy Clerk to Painswick Parish Council

Community Transport

Bev Hemmings from Third Sector Services gave a presentation to the Parish Council recently about the Sector's community transport scheme. The scheme currently operates in Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury. It is being launched in the Stroud district. You first need to register with the scheme. The annual registration fee is £10 and then each journey is charged separately. The scheme operates between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. For further details telephone 0845 680 5029.



Play Painswick – Update

As many of you are aware the Public Consultation period ran from September to the end of November last year for Painswick's new playground/exercise equipment project 'Play Painswick'. We had a fantastic response and great feedback through our questionnaires (collecting over 150 completed

forms back in), visits to local schools, toddler groups, uniformed organisations, and through our public Consultation Afternoon at the Town Hall. The Design Specification was written by the Play Painswick Committee based on the research collected, and this has been sent out to tender to four of the companies we have met over the past year; Mant, Playdale, Proludic and Kompan.

We expect to have all quotations back with the Parish Clerk by the 4th February this year. Once the successful tender has been chosen we will be holding a Focus Group to discuss the design, costs, equipment selection, landscaping etc. with members of the public and with the chosen companies designer and area rep. We aim to have two focus groups – one for children (of different ages) and one for adults. Ideally we would wish the focus groups to be made up of different types of users the project is aimed at e.g., mums, dads, grandparents, carers of children of all ages and abilities, adults of any age who would use the exercise equipment and neighbours/local residents who would like to be involved.

If you are interested in joining our Focus Group, please email the PlayPainswick committee via the Parish Council – clerkpainswickpc@hotmail.com

The PlayPainswick Committee

The Daily Telegraph and the Painswick Beacon

The Daily Telegraph of 28th January carried an article by its Art Correspondent, Hannah Furness, entitled "The Cotswolds village 'turned into Soho' by JK's sex shop". The Arts Correspondent quotes from The Painswick Beacon's report of the filming of J K Rowling's "Casual Vacancy" in the September 2014 edition in which Samantha's Boudoir brought a varied reaction from people when the film set was taken by some as being a 'real' shop. However, Parish Council Chairman, Martin Slinger, told Hannah Furness that "the people from Painswick took it as a joke, but a few of the visitors and members of the public sent emails to us saying they were disgusted".



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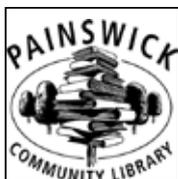
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Neptune's loss

Local television stations and the press have carried reports about vandalism to the statue of Neptune in Cheltenham's promenade in the period before Christmas. There was a Painswick connection as Neptune's trident was removed and found with a note in a Painswick garden. The Citizen reports that the note read, "We were drunk and there was no harm meant. We're sincerely sorry". The Beacon understands that the statue will require a new arm at an expected cost of several thousand pounds. The statue is pictured left.



Book Signing by Charles Evans

Nailsworth-based author Charles Evans came to the library on Saturday 24th January to sign copies of his book "Falklands Revenge". Donations for the coffee, tea and cakes provided by Library volunteers raised £30 for the Help for Heroes charity, which is also supported by Charles through the royalties from the book.

22,000 reasons to love the library!

Our library has been open since June 2012. Up to the end of December 2014, we have issued over 22,200 books and CD's to readers. Our annual full year issue figures for 2014 were up on 2013, with a particularly encouraging surge of 18% over the previous year for the last six months of 2014. Keep visiting and keep borrowing the books and CD's and making use of the computers. We'll let you know when we reach 25,000 total issues!

New Audio CD's

These are proving popular, so we are continually adding to the stock. New books this month include: Kate Atkinson Behind the scenes at the Museum, PG Wodehouse The Code of the Woosters, two novels by Francis Durbridge and Sweet Tooth by Ian McEwan.

Library AGM

The Library AGM will be held on Thursday 12th February 7.00pm in the library. All welcome.

Ian Cridland



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Men's Probus report



Berlin and Energy

We all knew that Berlin was cut off from the West during the cold war and a talk by David Thorp about access to West Berlin brought it into focus. We heard about the almost comic but deadly serious measures that were established. The motorway from Helmstedt (checkpoint Alpha) to Berlin (Bravo) was patrolled and strict speed and time limits were set for travel between the checkpoints, where document checks and interviews were carried out by Russians. A British military train called the 'Berliner' did the 135 mile round-trip from Brunswick to Berlin every day from 2nd August 1945. Ostensibly this was to allow military personnel to travel to the West on shopping trips but, in reality, trained spotters were used to glean information from activity along the line and passengers would be fed in a smart restaurant car to impress East Germans at passing stations. At one stop, the train was shunted into a fenced siding patrolled by dogs where steam jets beneath the train were used to flush out stowaways.

In our next meeting we were brought up-to-date by Mike Brain from 'Severn Wye Energy Agency'. This is a charity whose aim is to help people and businesses save energy and to promote sustainable energy. They provide both free and paid advice to businesses but also offer advice to householders. They are involved in education projects where students learn to reduce the cost of heating their schools and also about careers where they can help to save energy. Another initiative, provides analysis of energy waste by organisations out of working hours. We heard examples of problems such as poor control of heating and cooling. Some buildings are heated to a temperature where air conditioning controls are triggered to cool things down - creating an energy wasting cycle where both systems compete. We were told that householders can seek help to establish ways in which properties can be made more energy efficient - right down to advice on local installers. We also learned that beer flows more freely when it is cold!

Glynn H. Nixon

Probus Women

12th January 2015 meeting and Painswick Probus Women enjoyed a double delight. Two talks! Probus Member Sylvia Steer talked about her life in Malaysia during the 1970's.

January 1971 found Sylvia and her Husband plus two children under five boarding a BOAC aircraft for a 24hr flight to Kuala Lumpur. There were a few ups and downs as Malaysia was a hot and humid developing country with cultural complexities which presented her with many challenges to overcome. These were met head-on by Sylvia who highlighted many of her experiences to us and recalled happy memories. The Family eventually returned to Blighty in 1974. (Probus donation for Sylvia's talk to Stroud Citizens Advice Bureau).

Liz Hall, also a Probus Member, was the second Speaker. Liz experienced a few ups and downs too but these were on the crest of a wave as her topic was recalling 50 years of sailing.

Early retirement encouraged Liz and her Husband to 'go for it' and purchase a sailing boat at the Boat Show. A 36-footer duly purchased and, christened with the name of "First Light" -the three of them set off on their adventures. Diversity, freedom, simplicity of life and camaraderie of the sailing fraternity captured the heart of Liz and her passion was evident as she shared her experiences. (Probus donation for Liz's talk to - RNLI)

Our meetings are held in the Church Rooms on every second Monday of each month. 10 for 10.30am. Guests always welcome @ £3. Next meeting Monday, 9th February. Talk on stained glass from Richard Cann.

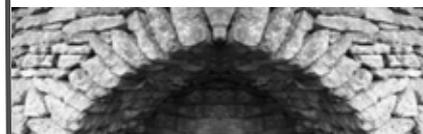
Delia Mason, Probus Women



Teddy Bear

Have you lost a teddy bear? Found on Painswick Golf Course on Christmas Day. Contact Michele Sidwell 812520.

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What's On

14th February – ABBA Tribute night – POSTPONED
 7th March – Beacon Village Quiz – Beacon Hall
 22nd March – Attic Sale – Beacon Hall - Tables £10
 7th or 14th April (TBC) – AGM – Cotswold Room - All welcome

What We Have for Hire

We have 4 different rooms to offer for hire –

The Beacon Hall – Pictured. This lovely big room (136m² main floor) has beautiful exposed beams and can host up to 200 people for parties, 150 in theatre lay out and up to approximately 120 seated at tables. It also has a full size badminton court marked out on the fully sprung sports floor, a kitchen, bar, small concert stage (26m²) and fully functioning curtained theatre stage (53.6m²) and blackout blinds. (£20per hour or £60per 4 hours)

The Cotswold Room – Upstairs (access via stairs with stair lift). This room is bright and airy with beautiful views of the valley. It has neutral coloured carpet and walls and blackout blinds and is a generous 54.7m². (£10per hour or £30per 4 hours) Capacity 50.

The Green Room – Upstairs (access via stairs with stair lift), as the name would suggest, this room was originally the actors rest/ changing room, with access to the back of the main stage. This room has a lovely wood floor and a large meeting table that can sit up to 15, the room also boasts a small kitchen and the room is 32.4m². (£6per hour or £20per 4 hours) Capacity 20.

The Skittle Alley - This room was originally a firing range which explains its length of 25.22m and width of 3.3m! However, this makes it the perfect size for our alley. We currently have 3 teams who have it as their home alley, but we always welcome more. We are also able to lay carpet over the alley and take up the side rails so that it can be used as a small function room, which is what we do during the arts festival, when we run a café from there. It also has a bar in order to help you limber up! (£25per 4 hours) Capacity 60. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.



Jennie Barber Painswick Centre Manager

jennie@painswickcentre.com or 01452 814567 www.painswickcentre.com

DASH (Delivering Aid to Stroud Homeless)

There was a wonderful response to our appeal in the December Beacon for the homeless and disadvantaged in Stroud and the DASH group - and Marah the charity through whom we work – want to express our own gratitude and that of the recipients of the gloves, socks, woolly hats and toiletries which were so generously donated. The small change also poured in – one generous person contributed £200 and another a cheque for £100 – we are very happy to receive cheques as well as small change and they are a lot lighter to transport to the bank! Life just got a little less hard for a very deprived group of people, thanks to your response.

So please keep giving. We probably have enough woolly hats for the time being but toiletries (shaving cream, soap etc) are always useful and the small change (5ps, 2ps and 1ps – or cheques!) helps with the emergency or unexpected needs. As always, Alison Robinson (812286) or Frances Watson (812071) are happy to collect but toiletries and contributions for the Food Bank (also channelled through Marah) can be put in boxes either at the back of St Mary's Church or in Murrays, Estate Agency.

Alison Robinson (812286)



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Tibbiwell resurfacing

Gloucestershire Highways (aka Amey Contractors) undertook a difficult job in January which took much longer than expected. The surface of the road had deteriorated considerably over the years so a decision was made to completely resurface it from the top of Tibbiwell to the Painswick Stream at Brookhouse Mill. The road was scarified by machine and that revealed the fact that the original wearing course was minimal, often laid just onto old stone or clay base. The greatest problem of all is the fact that the narrowness of the road meant that access by normal lorries or machinery was not practicable so double handling by smaller plant was called for from day one.

60mm of 14mm bituminous macadam from Wickwar Quarry was first laid on 20th January by using a narrow Blaw-Knox paviour machine near the former Pin Mill when the very hot material was loaded straight from the lorry onto the machine. It was then rolled and allowed to set before any other vehicles could traverse it. When the works extended north up the hill the method had to change because of the restricted width by the telegraph pole part-way up the hill. Loaded lorries then approached from the top, or the village end, to drop tarmac and the small loading machines carried it down to the Blaw-Knox for laying.

One reason for overall job delay was caused by the insulated lorry from Stroudwater also having to be used for gritting roads elsewhere in the cold weather period and with a 2 hour minimum turn-round to the quarry the number of journeys made in a working day were limited. A nice job, well done and what is now needed is a push to lay a new tarmac carpet all the way up Greenhouse Lane which is rapidly becoming the top of the "pot-hole" table for Gloucestershire.

Trevor Radway

Suppression to freedom – local newspapers

At the January meeting of the Society John Lovell, who worked for the Citizen newspaper for 37 years, gave an entertaining and very informative talk on the history of provincial newspapers. With a difficult early history during the 16th and 17th centuries when governments imposed stifling rules and licences to reduce the power of the press, eventually in 1695 the licensing acts were axed meaning anyone could start a newspaper. By the 1720s there were 24 provincial newspapers including the Gloucester Journal. Governments were still suspicious however and stamp duty made the cost of a newspaper about 7d, very expensive for that time.

Painswick Local History Society



In 1836 the Newspaper Stamp Abolition Committee was formed. Many unstamped papers were in circulation whose proprietors were thus breaking the law and were frequently prosecuted. After stamp duty was abolished the circulation of nationals grew, coinciding with the ease and speed of railway transportation from London. By the early 20th century Beaverbrook and Northcliffe, the great newspaper magnates, were seen as very powerful. Robert Raikes was the proprietor of the Gloucester Journal in 1725, succeeded by his son, Robert, famous for promoting Sunday Schools. By the 19th century the paper had an enormous circulation. In 1879 it combined with the Citizen. Advertising was a key feature to the extent that the outbreak of war in 1914 appeared on page 3 and the end in 1918 on page 5 because the advertisers were unwilling to be moved!

The 1970s/80s saw the paper expand to 100 pages as a result of technological developments. However, sales are now much reduced by on-line readership and many former dailies are now weeklies. At the next meeting, 17th February, Ian Mackintosh will give a presentation on Painswick and Stroud clothiers. Croft School, 7.30pm, everyone welcome.

Carol Maxwell

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Painswick – at the vibrant heart of the Cotswolds

A new group “LovePainswick”, independent of the Parish Council, was established at an Inaugural Meeting in the Town Hall on Thursday evening, 22nd January. Its aim is to promote Painswick and the surrounding villages Edge, Slad and Sheepscombe which make up the Parish. We want to encourage visitors and local residents alike to enjoy a drink in our local pubs or perhaps a cup of coffee and cake; have a meal, have a haircut at our newly opened hairdresser and beauty therapy. There are a surprising number of businesses, too. We also have very active sports and interest clubs, meeting rooms and library. We can welcome visitors to look around our church and famous churchyard with the ninety-nine yew trees and distinctive tombs; take in the wonderful views, tranquility, enjoy the local walks and special events. They might want to stay longer, at one of our bed-and-breakfasts.

A new ‘brand/logo’ has been developed following discussions and workshops with a number of individuals from local business and community groups. The aim is to reflect both our traditional cultural heritage and our vibrant modern community. Mission impossible, you might think but a deceptively simple solution was presented and warmly welcomed at the meeting. Final details are being drawn up on how to use it and further details will be published in next month’s Beacon.

It is intended to contact all businesses and community groups over the coming months to invite them to join and help guide the work of the group.

The initial targets of the group include continuing to promote Painswick through the @LovePainswick social media, developing a website, encouraging the use of the new brand/logo, etc. *The initial members of the LovePainswick management committee are: David Oxendale, Rob Lewis, Roy Wallis, Martin Slinger, Joyce Barrus, Peter Rowe and Iris McCormick.*

Joyce Barrus

London Marathon

I am running the London Marathon in April and raising funds for the charity Shaw Trust who work with disabled and disadvantaged people, helping them to get ready for the world of work and securing employment for them so that they can lead more independent lives. To help achieve this target I am organising an ‘80s disco at the Painswick Rugby Club on Friday 13th February. The fun starts at 8pm and tickets are on sale on £10, the price includes party food. Fancy dress is optional but everyone is encouraged to channel their inner ‘80s self. If you are interested in attending, please contact me at kateperris@live.co.uk

Kate Perris

Rococo Reflections

Despite the odd cold snap, this winter has been remarkably mild and as a result the snowdrops of the Garden have come up early. In recent years we have done a lot of moving and replanting. Particularly above the maze. Here we have included varieties in addition to the common ‘navalis’ that carpet the woodland below the main pond. One result of this has been an extended snowdrop season as this maze bank catches the winter sun and the flowers bloom a couple of weeks earlier than the remainder.

We are often asked the best way to plant snowdrops. Our main recommendation, if you want them to spread naturally, is to plant them where they can lie undisturbed, in grass or under established shrubs and trees. The reason is that snowdrops propagate by seed as well as bulb division and these seeds will only germinate if allowed to develop unmolested by a hoe or garden fork!

On another note, from 7th to 13th February, we are delighted to welcome back local artist Cath Hodsman as Artist in Residence. Cath is a national entomologist artist.

Paul Moir



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Rural Jottings

With the colder weather, we are keeping a close watch on our cattle, to ensure we notice earlier enough if they get pneumonia and get treatment. In the evenings now, vixens are calling for mates. Here at the farm, one minute a robin was singing the joys of a sunny morning, the next it had been grabbed by a sparrow hawk. These birds have learnt to track along just in front of our vehicles as we are going along country lanes, ready to pick off any local birds we flush out of the hedges. Bringing the tractor down Stepping Stone Lane, I saw a large buzzard swoop and take a red legged partridge right in front.

Having chopped back an old hedge, I have been keeping warm burning the "rubbish"! In the old days, straight pieces were kept as stakes, faggots (bundles of sticks for fuel), pea and bean sticks. "Speaks" for thatching from hazel, holly sticks for chimney cleaning. Large hawthorn or blackthorn branches were pulled round the fields by your horse - before modern steel chain harrows were available. Large branches were also used for filling holes in the hedge before barbed wire.

I was asked to locate an old horse plough for the Plough Sunday Service at Edge Church. I had several offers. The one I obtained had ten places where adjustments could be made to make the job easier and the furrows neat. It needed to be set up properly - the horse set the speed and the ploughman had enough to do to keep up, without having to struggle to keep it moving and straight!

Martin Slinger

Little Egret

Karen Hargreaves writes "An exciting Christmas visitor to the Washbrook was a Little Egret. Never seen one since we moved here in 1999! Unfortunately the photographs we snapped on our smart phones are not high enough resolution to publish but available if anyone wants proof." (07768 594669)



From Gloster Aircraft Co. to Jet Age Museum - With the Field Club

The Field Club is privileged to have Gloucestershire Airport's Operations Director, Darren Lewington, coming to give our next illustrated lecture, on Wednesday 4th March at 2.30 pm in the Painswick Centre.

Darren is also a Trustee of the Jet Age Museum, which is located on the northern edge of the airport. The Jet Age Museum highlights the role played by the Gloster Aircraft Company along with other local businesses - Dowty Rotol and Smiths Industries - in the development of the Jet aircraft. The creation of the Museum in its new building is testimony to the hard work of an enthusiastic and tenacious group of volunteers to celebrate Gloucestershire's place in aviation history.

Visitors will be very welcome at our meetings (£3 charge). Also, please contact me for details of membership or drop into one of our meetings.

Jane Rowe (tel 813228)

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Churches Together around Painswick



Lent courses this year, 2015
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th

Ecumenical courses have been organised in the area.

	Day and time	Leader	Venue	Contact name & telephone
1	Monday 7.30 – 9pm starting Feb 23rd	Kay Harvey	Detcombe House Bull's Cross, Sheepscombe	Kay Harvey 810959
2	Tuesday 10.30 - 12.00 starting Feb 24th	Rev. Mike Holloway	Whitehall Cottages Stamages Lane, Painswick	Rita & Dave Bishop 814205
3	Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm starting Feb 24th	Jean Shaw	Mill Orchard, Pitchcombe	Jean Shaw 812486
4.	Wedn'sday 2.30 - 4pm starting Feb 25th	Terry Parker	Croome House, Bisley St., Painswick	Terry Parker 812191
5.	Thursday 2.00 -3.30pm Starting Feb 12th	Canon Michael Irving	9 Canton Acre, Painswick	Clare & Michael Irving 814242
6	Thursday 7.30 – 9 pm starting Feb 12th	Canon Michael Irving	9 Canton Acre, Painswick	Clare & Michael Irving 814242

Please telephone the number given to express your interest in joining the group.

The Painswick Vendage

Having inherited grapevines of unknown provenance on the wall in the garden of Dynevor House, I enthused that they should not be wasted and should be turned into a Painswick vintage. Via 'the Beacon', others were persuaded to contribute their wasting grapes, so Janet and Paul Smithson, Walter Koll and Marco Guerzoni and Margaret Richards all provided plastic bags full of bunches of grapes for the great vendage in the first days of October. Many others contacted me too late, but I hope they will join us next year. We were advised that only really black grapes were suitable so we watched and waited until they seemed ready for plucking. Greg McCormick lent his expertise in all things alcoholic, by lending us the Apple masticator to crush grapes in their bunches rather than use our feet. But the most extraordinary part was the introduction to us of Joseph and Laura Ventaglia, both irreducibly Italian, who now live in Stroud and who once gardened for the Smithson's, planted their vines and have a genetic expertise in making wine. They both came over for a long day to instruct (and I mean instruct) we amateurs in every stage of the pressing and bottling of our heaps of grapes into nineteen 2 gallon demi-johns. And these have since sat in my studio for some six weeks, until I began racking each one into clean jars, after all the bubbling of the fermentation died down, thus removing the yeast and sediment from the first pressing. The suction process required means you get their first taste of the bright ruby juice you have prepared. And I have to tell you it tastes quite disgusting. However, I am told that no one should try wine until 12 months after its bottling as 'it will change'. I do sincerely hope so.

The second racking and a final bottling will result in the first Painswick vintage. Everything has been labelled with date, Campden tablets, added sugar or not and the specific gravity as the wine progresses. Such alchemy is really quite good fun, but next September we will need to decide if more discretion and buying from Tesco online is the better part of the winemakers valour.

Jonathan Choat



Anne-Marie Randall
PHOTOGRAPHY 07815082209
www.amrandall.com



Our meeting on 8th January was the first of our experimental afternoons and was well attended. David Simpson gave a splendid presentation on

the life, loves and work of Gustav Mahler, illustrated with pictures, charts and extracts from several of his symphonies. Some of the music is well known and loved, but he also included some lesser known symphonies. Altogether a very enjoyable afternoon.

Please note that the meeting on 5th March has been changed. My presentation on The Art of Singing is postponed to the autumn. The replacement presentation will be: In the 70th anniversary year, Cheltenham Music Festival's director Meurig Bowen talks about the festival's past and present.

Alex Nichols (Chairman)

Music with a Sense of Humour

The first half of Robert Crockford's presentation on 22nd January concentrated on the musical wit of several well known composers. Haydn and Mozart used their sense of humour to take their listeners by surprise, rather like the punchline of a joke, whilst Rossini painted some witty piano pieces describing events of his time. In more recent years three Russian composers used humour to escape from the rigours of Soviet life and to poke fun at the bureaucratic authorities. We heard pieces by Prokofiev, Shostakovich and Schnittke who each used their sardonic and ironic musical wit to mock their political masters.

In the second half words were added to music and laughter replaced earlier smiles. This included some brilliant parodies of opera and folksong by Peter Ustinov, and the eccentric mixture of Edith Sitwell's poetry and William Walton's music in excerpts from Facade. Flanders and Swann provided a witty example of their art, followed by one of Gilbert and Sullivan's gems of political satire which is still relevant. Then Tom Lehrer used Gilbert and Sullivan to show that science and music can also lead to an amusing reaction. Together with some other humorous 'oddments' the programme was a good antidote to a chilly January afternoon.

Ralph Kenber

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Back Pain? Kim's new classes

Kim Brockett is a highly respected, excellent teacher of yoga, known to many locally through the classes she holds in Painswick, Sheepscombe and Stroud. Yoga is very beneficial in so many ways, developing physical control and awareness, good posture, pain relief and mental and spiritual strength. Increasingly however, Kim found that people were enquiring specifically about back problems.

Having undergone a 3-year training course several years ago, one which required in-depth study of anatomy, physiology, breathing and relaxation techniques, philosophy and teaching methods, Kim has, in response to the enquiries, completed a specialist 'Yoga for Lower Healthy Backs' training course. Funded by Arthritis Research UK and fully supported by the NHS, this course is both cost-effective and without side effects, in fact one of the most effective treatments for chronic lower back pain. It is acknowledged to be more effective than conventional care treatments and indeed all clinical trials have had very positive outcomes.

Kim is about to establish the 12-week programme, to be called Healthy Lower Backs, in Painswick. Unlike her other classes, in which there is a degree of flexibility, this is a programme of set prescriptive exercises. With classes of eight maximum, individual needs will be noted and catered for and the emphasis will be on pain management and control. Tests have shown that this in itself leads to very positive outcomes both in the control of pain and feelings of well-being. There will be homework and a relaxation CD.

This programme is now running on a national level, is fully acknowledged medically and therefore certainly to be recommended for anyone with back problems. Yoga is an ancient science and, taught properly, brings endless benefits to those practising its combined physical and meditative skills. Kim herself personifies the benefits – calm, focused, attentive to detail, strong and an outstanding teacher. Apart from the general classes she takes locally, two in Painswick on Thursday mornings and two in Sheepscombe on Monday evenings, she is also happy to teach on a one-to-one basis.

The new 12-week Yoga for Lower Healthy Backs course will start on Friday, 17th April 9.30-10.30am in the Painswick Centre. Booking is essential. Kim will also be running two courses at Stroud Yoga Space starting the same week. For more information, either about the existing yoga classes or about the new course, Kim can be contacted by telephone 812623 or 07973504593, or email yoginikim@icloud.com. There is also a website www.yoginikim.co.uk.



Carol Maxwell

Chloe and Winston's Wish

Chloe McCarthy is back at Three Gables Centre after her recent maternity leave. She has worked as a beautician in Painswick now for the last eight years and during that time has built up a very loyal client base. This comes as no surprise to those who have experienced the friendly atmosphere she generates combined with her very sound knowledge and her attention to personal requirements. Very much part of the team at Three Gables, Chloe explains that she is fortunate to have such a lovely environment in which to work. The atmosphere is delightful and, as she points out, the experience is always therapeutic for clients.

Chloe is aware of the need for constant retraining especially as products change frequently in the beauty business. "I like to work with natural products," she says "and need to know and understand the product contents." She stresses the importance of recognising what is potentially harmful and explains that she researches all the products with which she works. With her return she is launching

several new treatments and to introduce them she is organising a special ladies' night on Friday, 27th February. This, however, is only part of the story.

A great believer in the work of Winston's Wish, Chloe's main aim for her ladies' night is to raise money for this charity. There will be demonstrations of all the new products, a raffle with some excellent prizes donated by local businesses, a party bag and many other goodies. The hope is to raise as much money as possible for this worthy cause and simultaneously learn about what is newly available.

The event will take place at Three Gables Centre on Cheltenham Road from 7.00 to 9.00pm. Tickets are limited and can be obtained either from reception at Three Gables or direct from Chloe tel. 07859880641



Carol Maxwell

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Sports reports

assembled by John Barrus

Painswick Football

Moving into the New Year all the youth teams are performing well with the U13's currently sitting top of their league in the mid Glos. We still have a few places to fill at U7 and U8 if your son or daughter would like to play. Training sessions are Sunday morning for U7 and Wednesday evenings for U8. We now have squads at U7 through to U16 competing in the Mid Glos mini soccer league and the Cheltenham Youth League with around 100 youngsters enjoying weekly training sessions and weekend matches. We are always in need of community support to help with every aspect of the club management both on the field and off. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would be interested in volunteering.

Off the field we are still committed to improving the pitches at the Recreation Ground and continue to make better use of the youth and community pavilion. Unfortunately, the pitch improvements have stalled due to financial constraints and we do need help to re assess the plans. Again please get in touch if you would like to help. During March the club are hoping to hold an information evening for parents and the community.

Finally, the newly formed adult team are competing well in the Stroud and district league and are currently 5th in league 7. Home matches are played at the Recreation Ground on Saturday afternoons. For all enquiries please contact Secretary Dave Carlile 078 798 666 36 or email clubsec@painswickfc.co.uk



Hockey

Never too old to play Hockey

Painswick Grandmother Sandra Glass, a former PE teacher at Maidenhill and Archway schools, is still playing Hockey at Stroud Hockey Club at the age of 70. She started playing Hockey in 1966 for the Stroud Club, which was then known as the Stroud Stragglers, and met her future husband David on the hockey pitch. Playing regularly for the Gloucestershire 2nd XI she achieved her cap playing for the Gloucestershire 1st XI when she was 40. She was a member of the Stroud Team which won the West of England Hockey Severn division 3 league title achieving promotion to division two. Sandra also finds time to play Tennis at Painswick on a regular basis. "I have thought about giving up Hockey now I am 70 but I enjoy being part of the team where everybody is always very friendly and its great to play alongside the youngsters". Sandra plans to continue playing Hockey but only when they are short of players.



Rugby

Hucclecote 5 Painswick 8

Painswick continued their improved form with a gutsy performance in gluey conditions at Hucclecote. With the wind behind them Painswick started well and with some slick handling put skipper Drew Britton in the corner for what was to prove the only try of the game after just five minutes. An astute kick to the corner from full back Dom Barnard and an excellent chase from winger Matt Longuet-Higgins resulted in a penalty, which was converted by Gavin Worrall. Painswick continued to apply pressure and were disappointed not to add to their lead but Hucclecote then scored a breakaway try to reduce the Painswick lead to 8:5 at half time. Painswick raised their game in the second half which led to them shutting out the home team for the rest of the match.

Old Boys Football

The annual Christmas soccer match between the Painswick and Sheepscombe old boys ended in a defeat this year for the Painswick team (Pictured left)

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Letters



The inclusion of letters, maximum 150 words, in these columns does not imply that the Beacon committee endorses the views expressed, or otherwise. Please supply the Beacon with your full name and address although such details will not appear in the Beacon unless you so request.

Dog fouling

Some more places that are not dogs' toilets!

Audrey Timpson wrote on the subject in the December Beacon. Hollyhock Lane, outside the Pharmacy and Gloucester Street are also "falling foul" !! of this problem. In Hollyhock Lane it is in the middle of the path as well as in green verges. This area in particular is used by the parents and children going to and from school as well as Ashwell House residents and others. If children's fingers come into contact with this mess and then their eyes it can lead to serious problems and blindness. Please pick the "poo" up and bin it or take it home. Please have some consideration for other people or keep your dog on a short lead.

Anne Leoni

One of the roundworms (*Toxocara canis*) that dogs have can infect humans. The eggs are shed in the faeces and after a period of time (2 or 3 weeks in summer) a larva develops in the egg. If that infective egg is ingested the larva can migrate out of the gut and around the body where it encysts before, in the dog, later developing as a gut living worm. In humans the larvae will encyst and then become permanently inactive. The problem is that some of those larvae may encyst in the retina and damage it because of their presence and the body's immune response against it. Obviously the more larvae the more potential damage.

From a pure question of hygiene dog fouling in recreational areas is unacceptable and the added risk of worm egg infestation from un-wormed dogs is additionally culpable.

Richard Aspinall

January Beacon Badminton report

The Trustees of the Painswick Centre have seen the Badminton 'report' on page 12 of the January Beacon. The Trustees are disappointed that such a negative article should find its way into the Beacon without any apparent checks upon its authenticity and authorship and also the lack of warning to the Trustees that it was to be published, so that a response could have been made in the same edition. The Trustees have accepted that a small section of the decorations would impede Badminton play. I personally have apologised to several members of the club and offers were made for free rental of the Hall during the festive period. However, the Trustees received many tributes and congratulations on the festive look of the Hall. Despite this, the Trustees have promised to re-arrange the decorations for the next festive period.

David Linsell, Chair of Centre Trustees

Speed Bumps

Jean Lewis writes

Richard Falconer has suggested that the argument for speed bumps along New Street would be more convincing if this was supported by Jonathan Choat's neighbours. I and many of his neighbours who live along New Street are old and disabled and are obliged to walk with sticks and frames along the narrow pavements. Arrogant motorists rush past day and night and we are in fear of injury and our lives.

I note that neither Richard Falconer, nor any members of the Parish Council, live along New Street, so they have no experience of – and so far little practical concern for the outrage or the dangers. There could be a dreadful accident one day. Prevention is the only cure and as experience all over the world shows, speed humps are the obvious solution to stop speeding

Alternative Post Office

Leslie Brotherton writes:

I am appalled that nearly two years after Painswick Post Office closed and its large letter box sealed, we still have no Post Office service, nor replacement box. Astonishing! Despite energetic involvement by many parishioners, the Parish Clerk and Council, our MP and a local Member of the House of Lords, we/they are still TALKING about it.

Now I have heard that the "Post Office" last resort, two part days a week, may be located in a corner of the Town Hall's ground floor. Absurd. Minimal privacy for customers and questionable security? How about adapting the Council owned surplus part of the St Mary's Street convenience? The funds are readily obtainable, and the local stone offered free. A new "convenience", centrally located; what is there not to like?

Thank You to Beacon Distributors

The new year is a time when honours are awarded. Being overseer of the distribution of The Beacon I would like to honour the stalwart band of 50 or so residents who between them deliver well over one thousand copies each month. Any attempt to thank them is always met with remarks about how much they enjoy doing it; it allows them to meet their neighbours and to admire their gardens! I am aware that on their rounds they are prey to all sorts of weather conditions and encounter dogs, cats and children of varying degrees of friendliness. It was only recently when I understudied one round I encountered a fresh hazard - aggressive letter boxes! I appreciate that the need to make these openings as wind proof as possible sometimes means a battle with unheeding brushes, but on this particular round I encountered several savage metal boxes which nearly cut my fingers off. Apparently the distributor has lost skin from her fingers before now. Perhaps we should kit all our distributors with thick gloves? May be as your new year resolution you could try posting something through your own letter box to measure its' degree of friendliness ! I think most distributors have their favourite letter boxes - mine has to be the one which has over it a notice reading "no circulars or newspapers apart from The Beacon".

Celia Lougher

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“Death twitches my ear; ‘Live,’ he says... ‘I’m coming.’”

— Virgil



Well, that’s probably not quite how you thought I might start this article, and I have to say it has taken me longer than any other article I’ve written for you, to put this particular one together. And “why” you might ask? Because I want to talk about one of the biggest “elephants in the room”; death, and how we can prepare for it. When I say “how” I mean in the practical sense rather than in the spiritual one (I’ll leave that to those more eloquent writers than myself).

A few weeks ago I was with a friend a few days before she died, trying to help her get her will done, put trusts in place to care for her family and help arrange what would need to be done for her funeral. I had initially got to know her in my role as both Village Agent, when I helped her father, and then over the last 4 years, as her Specialist Village Agent supporting her through cancer. I remember the first time I tried to talk to her about her thoughts around the future planning for her family. She wasn’t ready or able to “go there” and so that time and for many other times, we left the “elephant” to hover over us. When is a good time to talk about these things? I’m not sure if there is one but if these conversations can be had at a time when we can plan, talk, look at options, change our minds, cry, laugh and face the fact that well, unwell, young or old, we are all going to die, it would be so much easier.

A really useful document that you can use to start you off is produced by Gloucestershire NHS called “Planning for your future care”. In this booklet, there is guidance and the opportunity to note down thoughts, wishes and statements. It breaks down into 5 parts; a place to make a statement about your wishes and care preferences, advanced care planning, a checklist for putting your affairs in order, information about giving someone power of attorney, making a will and a space for general notes. It’s a useful document to help you talk with friends and family about subjects that we generally steer away from and doesn’t have to be done in one go. In fact it is suggested that we should all have a copy and “dip in” when and where we wish.

A very good source of information is “Dying Matters” which is a coalition of 30,000 members across England and Wales which aims to help people talk more openly about dying, death and bereavement, and to make plans for the end of life. It is packed with very useful information and if you don’t use a computer, ask me or someone else with access to one, and I will look up the information you need.

If you are using financial advisers make sure they are properly qualified and belong to the right professional body. All financial advisers should be registered with the FCA. This means they meet the right standards and you get more protection if you’re not happy with the service. For example, you can complain to the Financial Services Ombudsman and may be able to claim compensation if things go wrong

Please call me to arrange a home visit or ask for information to be sent to you.

Planning for your future care: Gina King 0300 421 1845 or ask your GP practice. Citizens Advice 01453 759954

Lou Kemp 07776 245767

Friends for You Befriending Scheme

I’m delighted to let you know that Gloucestershire Rural Community Council has secured funding from Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group to launch Friends for You, a volunteer befriending service in support of older, isolated and housebound people living in the community.

Friends for You provides a free volunteer befriending service for older people who maybe can’t get out as much as they would like and who would enjoy some company in the comfort of their own homes with regular companionship. A reliable, local volunteer visitor calling regularly each week, offering friendship and a listening ear has a positive impact on a person’s state of mind and well-being as well as enhancing their sense of belonging and feeling a valued part of their community. The friendships that develop enrich the lives of both people.

Friends for You will be launched countywide, with the launch dates as follows:- Monday, 23 February – at Wotton under Edge Civic Centre from 10am-11.30am, Kings Stanley Village Hall from 12pm-1.30pm and Longlevens Community Centre from 2.30pm-4pm.

Free refreshments will available at each venue.

So please do come along to the launch to learn more about this new service. You may well feel it could be something of interest to you, or to a family member or friend. Or, you may well feel this is something that would be interested in volunteering for. In the meantime, if you would like to find our more information please do contact Sue Black, Friends for You on 07810 630167 / 01452 528491 or email sue.friendsforyou@grcc.org.uk

Lou Kemp 07776 245767

The Casual Vacancy

The first episode of the TV production of J K Rowling’s “The Casual Vacancy”, which was filmed partly in Painswick, is to be screened on BBC1 on Sunday 15th February at 9pm. There are three one-hour episodes.

Women’s World Day of Prayer Service

Friday 6th March in the Church of Our Lady & St Therese, Friday Street, at 11am. The Service has been organised by the women of the Bahamas.

Rita Bishop

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Croft School News

Parish Councillors quizzed!

Members of The Croft School Council met with Parish Councillors to raise a number of questions concerning local matters on which the children had strong opinions. The School Councillors had produced an agenda of some 17 items with subjects ranging from play equipment improvements at the Recreation Ground to the possibility of removing pay and display from Stamages Lane car park so as to encourage off street parking. Speeding traffic, potholes, the need for a crossing point on the A46, a cycle track around the Recreation Ground and dog fouling were among other subjects discussed. The meeting was jointly chaired by the School Council Chair, Flo Cross and the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Martin Slinger. Cllr Slinger thanked the School Council members for the research they had carried out in producing such a full agenda. He said that the Parish Council would be mindful of the opinions expressed by the School Council members during future Parish Council deliberations.

The School Council members are:

Chair: Flo Cross, Vice Chair: Will Loftus. Class 5 Councillors: Mollie Day, Lola Allan, Alex Crowther. Class 4: Lucy Atkins, Isla Lynall, Llewi Cross, Samuel Szcurek. Class 3: Finlay Morris, Electra Tyack. Class 2: Ellis Mayo, Jemima Falshaw, Molly Rozario.

Class 3 Councillor Riley Barber who put in a considerable amount of work on the agenda was unfortunately ill on the day and unable to attend the meeting.

Pictured below are the School Council members who attended the meeting.



Painswick Singers at Easter

Easter Music with The Painswick Singers

The Painswick Singers are now enjoying their introduction to the music of Karl Jenkins, which they will feature at Easter with a performance on Good Friday of his Stabat Mater (a 13th Century Catholic hymn – The Sorrowing Mother stood at the foot of the Cross). After grappling at Christmas with the complexities of Vaughan Williams’ harmonies, which were testing, (though we succeeded eventually), The Singers find it a welcome change. Speaking personally, I find Karl Jenkins’ music refreshing and enjoyable to rehearse and it won’t be only me. I am sure our audience will find it inspirational and much to their musical taste.

Karl Jenkins is one of the most well-known British composers of the present day. In his early career he was known, and still is, as a jazz musician, a jazz and rock composer, also for music composed for advertising and famously for the Papa and Cleo TV advertisements of the past. But also for classical music; his some thirty classical compositions are now featured at the Proms, Carnegie Hall and other international concert hall venues. Alongside Jenkins’ Stabat Mater we will be singing a folk mass based on the rhythms and traditions of Hispanic America: Misa Criolla by Ariel Ramirez. We have yet to discover its delights but we know that it is composed with parts for bongo drums, guitar, gongs, drums and the piano, which will tread new ground for us, but these are optional parts and we do not yet know whether we can find them or whether we can afford them if we do. Fingers crossed. This concert will certainly be a departure from our usual programme content. The concert will be in St. Mary’s Church Friday 3rd April. Book the date, tickets will be on sale soon.

Maurice Maggs



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Painswick Gardening Club

Vegetable Know How by the Barrow Load



Is it just me who can't believe that January has almost skipped by already? After indulging in a few hours of armchair gardening, browsing and seed catalogues and websites I'm very keen to get out and get on. This want was exacerbated by our January speaker, Dr Keith Ferguson, who positively exuded vegetable know how – a real medley so much useful information jammed into one talk. I'm sure even experienced growers took home new tips and techniques that afternoon.

If you weren't able to come along to the January meeting, you won't have heard about the Gardening Club organising a morning willow weaving 'taster' session for its Members in Painswick on 28th February. For an inclusive charge of £25pp a new skill (and a garden adornment or two!) could be yours. There was so much interest expressed that afternoon that there is only a couple of places left – if you would like to register an interest, please email: thepainswickgardeningclub@gmail.com and we will get back to you. Likewise, if Members haven't yet registered an interest in the trip to the Malvern Spring Show on 9th May, please email (address above) as we are keen to establish numbers.

Don't forget that for our February meeting on the 11th (Church Rooms at 2.30pm), we have teamed up with the Bird Club to listen to Ed Drewitt's talk about our garden birds – promises to be a fascinating and enjoyable afternoon. On a final note, we would love to hear from anyone (email address as above) about all things gardening: your pictures for the web site gallery, tips to share, feedback on speakers and events, ideas for future speakers etc, etc.

And now I'm off to do a job that I've been putting off for ages; scrubbing pots, oh joy!

Caroline Bodington (Committee Member)

PROPERTY REPORT for February from Hamptons International

2014 was a very good year for the Painswick office of Hamptons with transaction levels up 64% on 2013 and at an all time high with the exception of 2007. Reassuringly, the market continues to display strength, confidence and resilience. As anticipated, January has got the year off to a buoyant start with activity across all price sectors and property types and with new instructions and offers both up on last year.

Sentiment shifted sharply in the London housing market in 2014 on the back of deteriorating affordability, new mortgage market regulations and growing talk of "concerns" about the housing market from the Bank of England. However, the reforms to the Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) announced in December have acted as a very effective antidote to any negativity outside of the London market with the vast majority of buyers being better off under the new regime – sometimes to the tune of thousands of pounds! Any uncertainty that there may be about the election, the pace of economic recovery or wage growth will likely be neutralised early in the year as the reform of SDLT provides an incentive to move sooner before house price growth erodes the benefit of the tax cut.

On a local level, 2015 has seen two new members of staff join the team in Painswick to cover maternity leave. Tamsin, who lives in Minchinhampton, has been working locally in our Stroud office for about five years and is looking forward to strengthening the existing relationships with our network of local offices whilst Ruth has previously worked for Hamptons in both our Stroud and Cheltenham offices in the past and is now resident in Painswick. Between them they bring a wealth of local knowledge, experience and enthusiasm. Please drop in to meet them and have a chat about your property needs – they might even bring out the homemade cakes for you!

We are all excited about the prospect of our beautiful Old Chapel office having a makeover in 2015. Given the number of creative and artistic residents in the area, we wish to enable the community to contribute to the process by submitting photographs of the local area that we can have printed as large canvasses to adorn the walls of our renovated office. Please pop in to the office or give us a call for more details.

In brief, we have recently taken instructions on: Baraclough House, an elegant double-fronted house close to the Croft School; 1 Spring Cottages, a delightful 2 bedroom cottage with parking and garden; 8 Stroud Road, a beautifully presented townhouse; Float House, a substantial riverside house in Minsterworth; and Woodstock, a charming 3 bedroom cottage in Harescombe.

Sales agreed recently include: Yew Tree Court, 2 Yew Tree Cottages, Garden Cottage, Sherwood, Field Lodge, Forge Cottage and The Granary. Properties that have now sold include: Washwell Cottage, Woodbine Cottage, 3 George Court, Terreno, Wisteria Cottage, Shard Cottage and 2 Yew Tree Cottages.

Guy Tabony, Branch Manager



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FEBRUARY

Sat	7	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 813734 or 814205	Painswick Beacon	9.00am to 1.00pm
Sun	8	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Informal Holy Communion	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am
Mon	9	Painswick Valley Toddler Group - Mondays (school term time only) Probus Women: Stained Glass - Richard Cann Short Mat Bowls - Mondays (contact 813627) Community Lunch: Hosts - Falcon Bowling Club (off Churchill Way) Yoga (Mondays) contact Kim 812623	Pitchcombe Vill. Hall Church Rooms Town Hall Ashwell Centre Sheepscombe Vill. Hall	9.50 to 11.30am 10.00am 10.30am 12.00 to 1.15pm 6.30 to 8.00pm & 8.15 to 9.45pm
		Painswick Community Choir - Mondays (Enquiries: Sophie 01453 298138)	Painswick Centre	7.00 to 8.30pm
Tue	10	Zumba Gold dance fitness class for Seniors: £5 pp Tuesdays. Tel: 07766 101790 Health Walk (One Hour) - Tuesdays: Enq. 813228 Cupcakes: Support group for helpers of homebound through illness: Tel 813326 Bingo: Tuesdays – Tel. Ann, 813911 / Liz, 814890	Painswick Centre Town Hall P. Centre Green Room Ashwell House	10.00am 1.45 for 2.00pm 2.00 to 4.30pm 6.30 to 9.00pm
Wed	11	Yoga (Wednesdays) contact Kim 812623 Painswick Toddler Group - held at Painswick Children's Centre: Wednesdays Bird Club: Garden Birds - Top Ten Facts - Edward Drewitt: joint afternoon meeting with Horticultural Society Table Tennis - Wednesdays	Sheepscombe Vill. Hall Croft School Church Rooms Painswick Centre	9.30 to 11.00am 10.30am to 12noon 2.30pm 7.00 to 9.00pm
Thu	12	Yoga - All Abilities (Thursdays) Cotswold Room 812623 T'ai Chi: Thursdays - Contact 812344 Dog Training Club (Thursdays) Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners - Thursdays- tel. Julie - 01453 752480 Experienced beginners - Thursdays	Painswick Centre Painswick Centre Town Hall Church Rooms Town Hall	9.30 to 11.00am 9.30am 9.30 to 12.00noon 12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm
Fri	13	Country Market: Coffee available - Fridays	Town Hall	10.00am
Sat	14	Theatre Club Outing to Oxford Theatre Valentines Night Italian Dining (Horton's) Tel: 812180 to book table ABBA Tribute Night: - POSTPONED	Stamages Car Park Painswick Golf Club Painswick Centre	11.00am 7.00 for 7.30pm
Sun	15	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Sung Eucharist	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am
Mon	16	Community Lunch: Hosts - Friday Club (Off Churchill Way)	Ashwell Centre	12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	17	Local History Society: Painswick & Stroud Clothiers - Ian Mackintosh	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	18	Probus: What men should know about Prostate Cancer - Jim Laing Parish Council Meeting	Painswick Centre Town Hall	10.00am 7.30pm
Thu	19	Music Appreciation Group Concert Outing to Symphony Hall Birmingham		
Fri	20	Friday Club: The use of colour in our daily lives - Marion Zacks	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	21	Copy Date for March Beacon Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 813734 or 814205	Painswick Beacon	9.00am to 1.00pm
Sun	22	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Painswick Praise	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am
Mon	23	Community Lunch: Hosts - Richmond Village (Off Churchill Way)	Ashwell Centre	12.00 to 1.15pm



Tue	24	Annual Meeting of Painswick Country Market & Lunch: Enq. 812471 Yew Trees W.I.: Acupuncture, Headaches & Migraines - Adrian Lyster	Town Hall Church Rooms	10.30 for 11.00am 7.30pm
Thu	26	Painswick Players Play Reading contact Jill 01452 810888		7.30 to 10.00pm
MARCH				
Mon	2	Community Lunch: Hosts - Bird Club (Off Churchill Way)	Ashwell Centre	12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	3	Bird Club: British Wildlife - an illustrated journey through the British Isles by Mike Robinson - followed by AGM	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	4	Probus: Music of the Great War 1914 -18 - Malcolm Lewis Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club Lecture: From Gloster Aircraft Co. to Jet Age Museum - Darren Lewington	Paniswick Centre Painswick Centre	10.00am 2.30pm
Thu	5	Coffee Morning in aid of Building Circles in Gloucestershire Music Appreciation Group: The Art of Singing	Yew Tree House, Vicarage Street Town Hall	10.00am to 12.30pm 7.30pm
Fri	6	Women's World Day of Prayer, prepared by the women of The Bahamas Friday Club: Wills & Lasting Powers of Attorney - Julie Costley	Catholic Church Town Hall	11.00am 2.30pm
Sat	7	March Issue of The Painswick Beacon published Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 813734 or 814205 Painswick Beacon Village Quiz: £18 per team of 4 (includes light refreshments)	Painswick Beacon Painswick Centre	9.00am to 1.00pm 7.00 for 7.30pm
Mon	9	Probus Women: High fashion in the 50s - Gillian Wimperis Community Lunch: Hosts - Painswick Beacon Conservation Group (Off Churchill Way)	Church Rooms Ashwell Centre	10.00am 12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	10	Cupcakes: Support group for helpers of homebound through illness: Tel 813326	P. Centre Green Room	2.00 to 4.30pm
Wed	11	Gardening Club: Plants of the Season - Paul Green (Green Leaves Nursery)	Church Rooms	7.30pm
Mon	12	Community Lunch: Hosts - Park Residents (Off Churchill Way)	Ashwell Centre	12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	17	Local History Society: Gloucester Street-Art - Jenny Edwards	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	18	Probus: Rob Rees MBE The Cotswold Chef - joint meeting with the ladies Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club guided walk: Cotswold Buildings in South Woodchester. Pre book on 813228	Painswick Centre	10.00am 2.00pm
Thu	19	Music Appreciation Group: Richard Strauss	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	20	Friday Club: Treasures in the Attic - Barbara Blatchley	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	21	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 813734 or 814205	Painswick Beacon	9.00am to 1.00pm
Sun	22	Attic Sale: £10 per table	Painswick Centre	
APRIL				
Sat	18	Theatre Club Outing to Newbury Theatre Ceilidh (barn dance) in aid of Psalms. £10 which includes a Ploughman's Supper.	Stamages Car Park Painswick Centre	7.00pm

Entries for the Village Diary should be sent direct to **Eddie Buttrey at: mikeandeddie@thebuttreys.com**

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PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

S.14/2787/ADV THE PAINSWICK CENTRE, Bisley Street 3 advertisement signs.

S.14/2902/FUL BEACON HEIGHTS, Cheltenham Road. Erection of a replacement dwelling.

S.14/2819/FUL LAND AT ARIES, Hambutts Drive. Eco-friendly single storey dwelling accessed from private drive.

S.14/2845/TPO GREENHOUSE COURT, Yokehouse Lane

Tree 1 is substantial but diseased Horse Chestnut which is very dangerous and needs to be taken down (Ref10. Also 3x very tall Lime trees (over 80 feet) all have tight junctions where they have grown from previous pollarding. Proposal is to pollard to the same level as previously.

S.14/2945/LBC & S.14/2944/HHOLD COURT HOUSE, Hale Lane. Erection of swimming pool changing room annexe (demolition of part dry stone wall)

S.14/2573/LBC S T M I C H A E L S RESTAURANT, Victoria Street

Removal of internal chimney structure as external structure does not exist. Proposed scheme to maximise internal space and viability of restaurant/ bed and breakfast business.

S.14/2715/TPO PARADISE HOUSE, Paradise. Various works to dangerous and other trees subject to a TPO.

S.14/2851/TCA F A R U N D E L L , Damsells Mill Lane, Sheepscombe Fell Cypress – outgrown situation.

4 COURT ORCHARD

Erection of a bungalow (revised design following approval)

S.14/2189/FUL). HYETT ORCHARD, Hyett Close. Item 1 – Sycamore – reduce height and spread by approx 30% (2-3m spread). Item 2 Pollarded Lime – repollard to near previous.

CONSENT

S.14/2522/HHOLD THE COACH HOUSE, Sevenleaze Lane, Edge Retrospective application for single storey timber outbuilding.

S.14/2549/FUL COMMUNICATION STATION AT PAINSWICK GOLF COURSE Installation of 20m lattice tower housing 4 antennas together on head frame support poles at the top of the structure with 1 x 600mm dish on brackets below together with associated ancillary works.

S.14/2624/DISCON L I T T L E FLEECE, Bisley Street Proposed internal alterations to the existing kitchen and bathroom to provide improved facilities.

S.14/2446/TCA TREES AT, LOWER WASHWELL LANE

Hornbeam (T1): Dismantle due to damage and decay of large branches overhanging road and neighbour's property.

S.14/2633/LBC and S.14/2632/HHOLD BARN TO SOUTH OF HOLCOMBE HOUSE

Single Storey Extension to Barn.

S.14/2650/LBC & S.14/2649/HHOLD LAND AT BROWNSHILL COURT, Wick Street. Reinstatement of stable outbuildings.

S.14/2755/LBC GAZEBO AND BLOW FAMILY MEMORIALS, Sevenleaze Lane, Edge. Replace tiles on roof.

S.14/2709/TCA WOODSEND, Butt Green. Whitebeam x 1. Remove the leaning stem over the footpath. Norway

Maple. Reduce 2m from the tips. S.14/2592/LBC & S.14/2593/HHOLD THE GABLES, Friday Street. Removal of early 20th C partitions at first floor to reveal decorative 16thC plasterwork ceilings. Repair plasterwork using traditional methods and materials. Erection of new partition walls corresponding with the limits of the plasterwork ceilings. Provision of new bathroom. Convert current stone garage to a bedroom for a dependant relative for whom the applicant is the registered carer. Erection of single storey extension adjacent to new bedroom on existing garden terrace to form library/sitting room.

S.14/2694/HHOLD THE COACH HOUSE, Sevenleaze Lane, Edge.

Two storey side and single storey rear extensions.

S.14/2740/HHOLD FOXBURY, Damsells Mill Lane, Sheepscombe Residential extension and internal alterations, plus new window and door arrangements throughout existing dwelling.

S.14/2741/HHOLD TOPHAMS, Friday Street. Demolition of single storey rear extension. Construction of new single storey rear extension. Alteration to existing stair.

REFUSED

S.14/2503/VAR HOME COTTAGE, PLOUGH COTTAGE AND PIPPINS COTTAGE, Well Farm

Removal and/or variation of conditions (b) and (c) as attached to Planning Permission.

MINI-ADS are free to subscribers.

For non-subscribers and all in the Vacancies or Business category there is a flat charge of £5.00. Text maximum of 30 words + payment by cheque in advance, to 'The Painswick Beacon', to Joyce Barrus, Millcroft, Steppingstone Lane, Painswick GL6 6RU

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Removal Boxes, 16 substantial cardboard construction including 4 wardrobe type, offers for charity but must go. Tel 813716

Chunky Wooden Workbench with No 6 Record vice. Offers over £50. 6'9" x 2'9". Tel 812293

Hoover 2200w Upright vacuum cleaner. About 1yr old. Very little used. Only £25. No offers Tel.812296

The Personal Column

You could help Vicky Aspinall, if you would relay information about those you know and for whom a mention in the Personal Column would be appreciated.

Engagement

MIKE and JACKI SANDERSON are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter LAURA to HENRY CLOSE- BROOKS. Laura grew up in Pitchcombe and Henry is from Suffolk.

Condolences

Our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of MAGGIE POLLARD who sadly died after a long illness on December 27th.

Congratulations

We extend our congratulations to PERCY FRANKLIN who celebrated his 90th birthday on 25th January. Percy's birthday party which was at Hortons at the Golf Club coincided with Burns Night where the bagpipes were in evidence and "Happy Birthday" one of the melodies played; and Percy wore a tartan waistcoat. He wishes to thank Hortons for helping to make the evening so enjoyable.

Percy pictured on the right

Thank you

I want to say a huge thank you to all my friends and neighbours who have given me help in so many ways since I left hospital. Between them they have taken care of everything and I could not have managed at home without them. Thank you too to the doctors and nurses at the surgery. Their kindness and concern was amazing and made me realise how very fortunate we are to live here in such a caring community.

Midge Leney



ZERO SIX PAPA TWO (Painswick fire engine's Call Sign)

Most of the station have now received their Community Fire Safety refresher training and we can again carry out the Home Fire Safety Visits where we advise directly on fire safety in your home and fit smoke detectors if required. If you are concerned about an elderly neighbour or relative, and you think they would benefit from a Home Fire Safety visit, please contact our community fire safety team on telephone number 01452 753333 or visit http://www.glosfire.gov.uk/your_safety.html. One of our team from Painswick Fire Station will then arrange a visit.

On the training side, our newest recruit, James Wheatley, has completed his basic training and is now an operational fire fighter and an active part of our team. He has now entered the development phase of his training and will be using the skills he has recently learnt to successfully resolve issues at real incidents. Mark Hancock and Chris Garbutt have extended their skills by completing the HAZMAT (Hazardous Materials) Supervisory course while Paul Cooke has completed his annual refresher course in compartment fire training where his skills in rescuing a casualty from a burning building are tested.

If you are looking for a new challenge in 2015 we always have vacancies for suitable men and women from all walks of life to join the team. If you would like to train to be a firefighter, learn new skills and help protect your local community in the process, then please visit http://www.glosfire.gov.uk/recruit_ff_retff.html for more information. Alternatively, contact Mark Hancock at mark.hancock@glosfire.gov.uk or phone 07967 316038

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for current issue and archive, our history and aims, the annual directory, village maps and the current weather forecast

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