

The Painswick Beacon

Sine praeiudicio

Volume 38 Number 11

February 2016

Painswick Fire Station Hundreds sign petition

Parish Council Clerk, Roy Balgobin, told Council Members at the Parish Council Meeting on 20th January that 1,354 people had signed a petition calling for the County Council not to close Painswick Fire Station. The petition was presented to the County Council Leader, Cllr Mike Hawthorne, by Parish Council Chairman Martin Slinger and Council Vice-Chairman Mrs Ann Daniels on Thursday 28th January at Shire Hall. Cllr Slinger told the Beacon that he and Mrs Daniels together with County Councillor Jason Bullingham had had a two hour meeting with the Chief Fire Officer Stuart Edgar, Cllr Hawthorne and other officers following the presentation of the petition.

The petition stems from the proposal in the Fire & Rescue Service's paper relating to its future Service provision. The proposal reads, "To reduce risk and deliver additional prevention and protection activities in Painswick and the surrounding communities enabling us to provide future emergency response from Stroud and close Painswick Fire Station". Gloucestershire residents had until 4th January to respond to the proposals in the paper. Mr Balgobin said that the findings of the Fire & Rescue Service's consultation included the statement that there had been 254 responses to the paper from across the County with 67% of those responses supporting the proposals. Notwithstanding the Chairman's visit to Shire Hall on 28th January, the Parish Councillors at their 20th January meeting agreed write to the Cabinet Member for the County's Fire & Rescue Service, Cllr Windsor-Clive, drawing his attention to the number of signatures in the petition. Reductions in the Service will form part of the County Council's proposed budget savings to be considered at the budget meeting on 17th February.

Pictured below from left to right are, Cllrs Mrs Ann Daniels, Martin Slinger, Mike Hawthorne and Jason Bullingham



Beacon Village Quiz

Saturday 12th March in
the Painswick Centre



Teams of four 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 John Barrus at barrusjp@yahoo.co.uk will prompt an acknowledgement or drop a note in the Beacon post box. The cost per team including light refreshment is £20.

Fairtrade Chocolate Tasting today



Saturday 6th February
10.30 – 12noon at the Town Hall
Come along. Everyone welcome.

Defibrillators

The Parish Council has recently taken delivery of 3 external defibrillators. A defibrillator is an apparatus used to control heart fibrillation by application of an electrical current to the chest wall or heart. The defibrillators are to be fitted to the Town Hall, the Woolpack in Slad and the Butchers Arms in Sheepscombe. The units are fitted with a coded lock and the code will be given out by the Emergency Services. The defibrillators are designed to be used without any training, although Basic First Aid Response training will be provided by the South West Ambulance Trust. Training dates and locations will be published in due course. The Parish Council wish to thank the many local organisations that contributed towards the purchase of the units.

*Roy Balgobin, Clerk to the
Parish Council*

Painswick Community Library

Painswick Community Library will be closed on Monday, 15th February whilst the windows are being replaced.

Also this month:

Page 3 Parish
Council Elections
Page 4 Croft
School Council
Page 6 Stroud
Hospital
Page 10 Garden
Waste changes

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS from the meeting held January 20th 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

Committee Chairman Cllr Rob Lewis welcomed everyone to the meeting which started at 7pm. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Steve Morris, Roey Parker and Emma Smith.

First agenda item. To consider a request to ask for Planning Application S.15/0747/FUL relating to the restoration of the existing derelict cottage (Ticklestone Cottage) on land at Ticklestone Lane to be referred to Stroud District Council's Development Control Committee. This was agreed. Cllr Nigel Cooper to be asked to take the matter forward.

Matters requiring a decision

S.15/2493/FUL. Mobile Home, Lyncombe Farm, Cheltenham Road. Retrospective application for siting of mobile home with terrace and small decking area for a temporary period of three years. The councillors considered this application at some length but could find no planning reasons to recommend consent to the District Council. They therefore proposed to object to the application with the proviso that, "Due to the compassionate nature of this application, the Council would ask the District Council not to evict the tenant until suitable alternative

accommodation is found".

Cllr Abigail Smith abstained and asked that her abstention be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

The councillors recommended that the District Council approve the applications submitted at the following locations: Rosebank Cottage (S.15.2745/FUL), 5 Clattergrove Cottages (S.15/2758/HHOLD), The Firth, Slad (S.15/2845/FUL), Dillay Farm, Slad Road (S.15/2887/FUL and S.15/2888/FUL), Carsebreck, Kings Mill Lane (S.15/2819/HHOLD), Old Ebworth Farmhouse, The Camp (S.15/2904/LBC), Spring Acre, Lower Washwell Lane (S.16/0001/HHOLD), Yew Tree Court, Far End, Sheepscombe (S.15/2865/HHOLD), Brownhill Court, Wick Street (S.15/2792/LBC), St Michaels Restaurant and B&B, Victoria Street (S.15/2951/LBC), 29 Ashwell, Painswick (S.16.0029/HHOLD), S.16/0053/TPO), Butt Green House, Butt Green (S.16/0053/TPO).

The meeting ended at 8.10pm.

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Cllr Martin Slinger welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Steve Morris, Roey Parker and Emma Smith. District Councillors Nigel Cooper and Julie Job were present.

Councillors reports. A report from County Councillor Bullingham was awaited. Cllr Cooper had submitted a written report to the Parish Council. Cllr Rob Lewis drew Cllr Cooper's attention to the fact that the new Stroud Local Plan did not contain the individual settlement maps which had been extremely useful to parish councils in past local plans when considering settlement boundaries. Cllr Cooper undertook to discuss the omission with the District Council.

Meeting with The Croft School Council.

Cllr Slinger gave a report of the meeting with The Croft School Council.

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service Review. The Clerk to the Parish Council gave an update which is reported on the Beacon front page.

Snow ploughing. Cllr Slinger said that he had retired from his role as a snowplough operator. He said that the Parish Council was responsible for the insurance for snow ploughing.

Youth and Community Pavilion. The Council heard that Mike Wilson would chair the committee running the Youth and Community Pavilion. The committee would meet 3 or 4 times annually.

Waste collection. Cllr Slinger reported a meeting held at the District Council. He said that one important change was that household waste would be collected every other week with the recycling collection on alternate weeks. Cllr Cooper said that all the details of the changes in the collection service would be circulated to residents.

Apprentice Handyman. The Clerk said that interest had been shown by an individual with the possibility of an application being submitted.

Town Hall. Cllr Mike Fletcher said that the replacement of the Town Hall windows would take place in early February and that the floor had been re-laid. The kitchen had been updated.

New shops. Cllr Fletcher showed the members the proposed "Painswick Greengrocers" sign which because of its size did not require planning consent. Cllr Fletcher said that the Parish Council had received an offer for the second former toilet building.

Meeting closure. The meeting which had started at 8.10pm following the Planning Committee meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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Local action to support County-wide Road Safety Campaigns

January 2016 heralded the Gloucestershire County Council and Road Safety Partnership's Country Roads Campaign. One of the identified Hot Routes was the A46 through Painswick. With only a few days' notice of this county-wide campaign, the Painswick Community Speed Watch volunteers leapt into action and completed a full week of checks from Monday 25th to Friday 29th January (number of registrations collected and provided to the police not available at time of writing).

This same group of volunteers has also been present around the community with the mobile Vehicle Activated Signs, focusing on notorious hot spots including the A46 near the Pullens Road junction where drivers feel the need to race away from the one-way system. We have also been present on Churchill Way at school drop-off and pick-up times to reinforce the road safety message after the dangerous incident outside the school just before Christmas (as reported in January's Beacon).

January also brought the long-awaited arrival of the permanent Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) at the entrances to Painswick, within the 30mph zones. These locations have been chosen to meet both the parameters within the associated Gloucestershire County Council policy document, but also it was strongly felt that drivers should be made aware of their speed before they enter the centre in hope that they will remain vigilant as they progress through our community.

Whilst our mixture of permanent measures including the VAS and recent repainting of red and white speed gateways and our extensive volunteer action has had an impact for the good, unfortunately one cannot completely mitigate for the selfish drivers who stubbornly exceed the limits. It can only be hoped that they get "stuck"



behind a Pace Car keeping to the legal speed limit and who will not be intimidated by their impatience!

And on that note, I end by asking every driver who reads this to be a Pace Car - by simply keeping to the legal speed limits you can help manage the speed of those behind you. Thank-you.

Abigail Smith, Painswick Parish Council, Traffic Committee Chair

Your Vote Matters - Make Sure You're In

With the Parish Council and Police & Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire Elections taking place on Thursday 5th May it is very important that residents ensure they are registered to vote. Anyone who has changed their address or is a new voter needs to make sure they are registered. Not being on the electoral register could also affect your credit rating. Registering to vote is easy and can be done online by visiting: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Those registering will need to provide their date of birth and national insurance number.

You can register to vote at any time but the deadlines for registration are:

- Last date for register to vote – Monday 18th April
- Last date for Postal Vote Applications – Tuesday 19th April
- Last date for Proxy Vote Applications – Tuesday 26th April

Stroud District Council advises that if you would like to know more about electoral registration or the elections taking place on Thursday 5th May, please visit their website: www.stroud.gov.uk/elections

Phone: 01453 754886

Email: elections@stroud.gov.uk

Painswick Parish Elections – Thursday

5th May
2016



Painswick Parish

has four Wards in which elections will be held if contested. Painswick Ward has seven seats. Sheepscombe and Slad each have two seats and Edge, one. Parish Councils have a variety of powers and duties all of which impact directly on the local community. Some examples are, allotments, bus shelters, cemeteries, the acquisition and sale of land, public conveniences, play areas, public seats and war memorials.

Stroud District Council has moved to all out elections every four years. This means that all District Council Wards and all Parish/Town Councils will have elections on 5th May, combined with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire Election. The election will commence with the publication of the Notice of Election on Monday 21st March 2016. All election candidates must complete a nomination paper. The District Council will send nomination packs to the Clerk to the Parish Council for distribution from 1st March. Nomination papers can then be submitted to Electoral Services at Stroud District Council between Tuesday 22nd March and **4pm on Thursday 7th April 2016**. It should be noted that all nomination papers must be submitted by hand. **The District Council cannot accept a nomination paper that has been returned by post.**

A revised electoral register was published on 1st February 2016. Election numbers used from a register published before 1st February 2016 will invalidate the nomination paper. The Clerk to the Parish Council will hold a copy of the new register. Candidate and Agent briefings will be held for District and parish council candidates. The first briefing held at 6pm on the 2nd of March will include a run through of how to complete the nomination paper and the second briefing to be held at 6pm on the 11th of March will outline the process for the poll and the count. These briefings are open to the public and any person thinking about standing as a candidate is welcome to attend. The Parish Council count will be held on Monday 9th May at Stratford Park Leisure Centre. All candidates will be invited to attend and the results will be published on the District Council website as soon as they are available.

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The Croft School Council meets the Parish Council

Each year children from The Croft School Council meet with members of the Parish Council to discuss issues of concern. The meeting was held on the 20th January in the early afternoon. The children had produced an agenda with a range of issues to which the Parish Councillors responded. Some of the topics with the responses were: **Speeding in Gloucester Street**. Cllr Abigail Smith said that there was a team of 10 volunteers who monitored speeding traffic and where appropriate reported the details to the police. **Mirrors for Edge Lane**. Concern was expressed about the difficulty of traffic seeing approaching traffic when turning right on to the A46 from Edge Road. The Parish Council was asked whether a mirror could be placed opposite the junction to help visibility. Daniel Tiffney from the County Highways Department who was present said that mirrors were not allowed to be positioned on Highways land as they could distort the driver's vision. **Cycle paths on the Recreation Ground**. Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Martin Slinger, said that putting cycle paths across the Recreation Ground could be hazardous to those on foot. He said that the Council would look at the possibility of a cycle path around the perimeter of the field. **Picnic benches in the Recreation Ground so people can eat without being disturbed by dogs**. Cllr Slinger said that dogs were required to be kept on a lead. **Replace slide at the Recreation Ground as it was bumpy and gave static shocks**. This would be looked at. **The Croft School Council Members said that the Zip Wire at the Recreation Ground had not been built**. Cllr Slinger said that the replacement of the slide and the provision of the Zip Wire were included in the play area improvement proposals. Concluding the meeting, Cllr Slinger thanked the School Council members for coming and raising such a number of interesting subjects.

Pictured are, from left to, right: Lucy Atkins School Council Chair, Cllr Martin Slinger and School Council Secretary Tommy Richardson



Look no further for Unique Valentine Gifts



This Valentine's Day, we would love for you to drop by the ACP Gallery and treat your special one to something unique. We have a fabulous retail area with beautiful, handmade pieces by a variety of talented artists. Surrounded by inspirational wearable art, why settle for the ordinary? Each item is specially crafted, from the dinner-date origami bow tie and pocket squares, to delicate silver jewellery. Set the mood for your romantic evening with a sumptuous silk scarf, lace printed ceramic tea-light holders and our fun and frilly knickers! Don't forget to browse our fantastic selection for that all-important card for your Valentine. Running out of time? We can gift wrap your present in the gallery at no extra cost for that finishing touch. We're open 10am-4pm daily so pop in and have a browse! By supporting us, you're helping to create life-changing opportunities for aspiring artists and it doesn't end there...head to our website to find out more at, www.canvasforcreativity.com

Call for Festival Volunteers meeting, the Beacon Hall Feb 10th 2016 7.30pm

We welcome anyone with energy to make things happen.

Village Diary



Joyce Barrus is putting together the Village Diary – which will also be available to view on the Library's website. Event organisers from all parts of the village are encouraged to make sure their event is included. Contact Joyce at the library. For those who wish to bookmark it, the website is: www.painswickcommunitylibrary.org.uk. Other library news, including opening times are there also.

Gloucestershire County Council

The County Council uses the Library regularly as a means of communication with us, for consultation documents and information. The latest example is the "have your say" on the GCC 2016 /17 budget. Please find the box marked Gloucestershire County Council Information.

New Books this month include:

Ruth Rendell "Dark Corners",
Matthew Dunn " The Spy House",
Hilary Boyd "Meet me on the Beach"
Diana Athill "Alive, Alive Oh!"

Ian Cridland

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A Castle in the Clouds

Rococo Reflections

A new sculpture has emerged in the Rococo Garden this month. Carved by Painswick-based chainsaw artist Denius Parson, the sculpture is formed from a beech tree trunk over five metres high. Inspired by a fairytale German castle in Bavaria, it adds to the magical atmosphere of the Snowdrop Grove.

Talking of which... in February, the snowdrops really get going and the full display comes into its best. Other flowers that can be seen are the wonderfully long lasting Cyclamen coum and an array of hellebores from deep purples to white.

A selection of plants looking good this month includes:

- Galanthus nivalis (Common Snowdrop)
- Galanthus 'atkinsii' (a special snowdrop named after one of our gardeners from the early 19th Century)
- Galanthus 'atkinsii 'James Backhouse'
- Anemone nemorosa (Wood Anemone)

It was great to see so many Painswick residents at our special "Sneak Peak" days last month. We hand delivered in excess of 1,000 invitations and over 350 Painswickians came up to see us over the two days. Look out for further events in the Garden over the next few months - more details in future issues.

The Garden is now opening slightly earlier at 10.30 each day, through until 31st October. Our new café team bake a range of delicious homemade cakes daily, as well as light lunches and afternoon tea. You are welcome to visit the cafe without visiting the Garden - though don't forget that if you become a Friend of the Garden, you can visit as often as you like during opening hours.

Tim Toghil, Trustee



Count Down to the annual Painswick Playgroup's Easter Egg Hunt!



Only eight weeks to go until the annual charity Painswick Playgroup Easter Egg Hunt, once again taking place around St Mary's Church Yard and village centre on Saturday March 26th, 12-4pm.

We will have 30 beautifully designed eggs hiding all around the village, for you and your little ones to find. Our theme this year is Children's TV favourites, and local companies, the playgroup, the Croft School, as well as some highly artistic mums are busy creating the eggs as this goes to press! There's even a grown up set of clues so a great family day out.

Attractions this year will include a bouncy castle, food stalls, tombolas, face painting and local band, Too Old for Toys, will be playing throughout the event. We would also love as many entrants as possible to the newly created Easter Egg Poster Competition (see our Painswick Easter Egg Hunt facebook page for more details) - we'll pick winners from Pre-School and School age groups.

Maps to the event will be on sale from the Falcon Pub, Meggie's, the library and the playgroup, and will be £3 in advance and £4 on the day per child (under 2s are free). Parking will be available at The Rec and Stamages Car Park.

All money raised goes directly back to Painswick Playgroup to help maintain our building and facilities. We are a non-profit making charitable organisation run by parents and have recently retained our Ofsted Outstanding status.

If anyone is interested in sponsoring an egg or donating a raffle prize, please contact Victoria Compton on 07789 963886.

For further information, visit www.painswickplaygroup.co.uk or like our Painswick Easter Egg Hunt page on Facebook.

Victoria Compton

2nd Cotswold Caribbean Carnival in Painswick



Saturday 19th March

The Pantastic steel band kindly invites you to join us for the 2nd Caribbean Carnival at Painswick Golf Club on Saturday 19th March – with guest bands Panache and Deerpark Pans. Please join us for a fun filled musical extravaganza.

Entrance and Caribbean food £12.00 adults - £6.00 children.

6pm Doors open. 6.30pm Preurchased food.

Caribbean nibbles/main course/ bar.

7pm Steel bands performance.

8.30pm Disco.

We look forward to seeing you in colourful dress code! Prizes for best Caribbean costume.

Ticket booking in advance. Please email jenjevans@hotmail.co.uk



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Wednesday Ashwell Group

The enthusiastic group of volunteers who run WAG are looking for like-minded people to join their team.

If you are free, once a month on a Wednesday, from 9.30-12.30p.m. or 12.30-3.30p.m. and would like to be involved in this rewarding and worthwhile enterprise, why not join us for a coffee to find out all about the nature of our work.

Or contact Sandra Glass Tel: 01452 814186.

You are assured of a warm welcome.

Preserving Llanthony Secunda Priory with the Field Club



Gloucester has a surprisingly large number of surviving monastic sites, the most famous obviously being its great Cathedral. However, substantial remains of the house of the Blackfriars, a Dominican order established in 1239, have been preserved by English Heritage, including a fine 13th century roof. Opposite the church of St. Mary de Crypt in Gloucester lie the remains of Greyfriars House, comprising the nave and north aisle of this former Franciscan Friary. Two Augustinian houses were also founded in Gloucester: St Oswald's Priory, of which only an arcade of Norman arches remains, and Llanthony Secunda Priory where the service buildings rather than the church survive on what is, today, a somewhat desolate site in Hempsted.

But things are about to change for Llanthony Secunda Priory. The Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club (CNFC) is fortunate to be hosting a talk by Dr Edwina Bell, Archaeologist and Project Manager for the Llanthony Secunda Priory Trust, who will tell us more about the history and importance of this Priory, the Trust's plans to preserve the surviving buildings and to landscape the surrounding environment. We meet in the Painswick Centre, at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 2nd March and we welcome visitors.

Jane Rowe 813228

Kemps Lane closure

The road will be closed on the 7th and 8th of March 2016. This is to allow for carriageway repairs by Amey working on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council.

Caroline Cogram,
Roadspace Co-ordinator (Stroud District)



Cup Cakes for Carers

I have been a family carer for more than twenty years and it is arguable whether my wife, Judith, is the one who is caring for me nowadays. However, there were times in the "noughties" when one carers' meeting a month, for me, hardly seemed enough.

Suffolk Carers filled that gap. Here and now, carers in this county are well served by Carers Gloucestershire whose Support Groups Coordinator, Roger Hare, sends out a monthly newsletter.

Attached to a recent issue was a table of Carer Forums for 2016, listing a dozen locations up and down the county in the 9 months to September: these are open meetings, with all carers and service providers welcome.

Topics range from the specific to the general: "positively managing difficult behaviour", and "once you start to think you are or may be a carer, what do you need to know?"

CG also produces a quarterly magazine, 'Caring Matters', which is available online or, free in printed form, via the Carersline helpline on 0300 111 9000. Roger Hare can be contacted at 01452 872241 or rhare@carersgloucestershire.org.uk.

Back in Painswick we have a drop-in tea party (free), usually in the Green Room at the Painswick Centre from 2.00-4.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Phone Pat on 813326.

Bill Cochrane

Stroud Hospital at your service

The need to visit a hospital may befall any of us sooner or later. However, it isn't always necessary to head off to one of the larger establishments. There are seven Minor Injury and Illness Units in Gloucestershire, our nearest being in Stroud General Hospital. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week except on those occasions when there are staff shortages when opening times are 7.45am-10.00pm.

All such units are nurse-led by nurse practitioners. These nurses are highly qualified and specially trained to assess, diagnose and treat problems according to need. Depending on the diagnosis the nurse will either treat the condition or provide a prescription. Alternatively he/she may advise an X-ray which is carried out in the same building by a radiographer and shortly afterwards the nurse practitioner will provide the result. In some cases the patient will be referred to a doctor.

In the Stroud unit the X-ray service is available 9.00am-5.00pm Monday-Friday and 11.00am-2.00pm Saturday and Sunday. GPs provide an out of hours service there 6.30pm-11.00pm Monday-Friday and 8.00am-11.00pm weekends and Bank Holidays. The latter is not a walk-in system and appointments can be made by telephoning 111. This is also the number to use if you are unsure what service you need.

People who have experienced the Stroud unit are generally of the opinion that it offers an excellent service. It is small and personal, user-friendly and far from intimidating. Parking is free – an added bonus of course. The telephone number is 0300 421 8080 Option 5, to be used only in the event of a new health problem or injury or to confirm opening times. Other nearby community hospitals with similar units are Cirencester Hospital, tel. 0300 421 6351 and Vale Community Hospital, Dursley, tel. 0300 421 8494 Option 3.

This information has been provided by Allyson Davis, a nurse practitioner. Detailed information on all of the units can be found on the following websites: www.glos-care.nhs.uk (Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust), www.nhs.uk (NHS Choices), www.asapglos.nhs.uk (Advice ASAP).

Carol Maxwell

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Churches Together around Painswick

Lent courses 2016



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10th. Ecumenical courses have been organised in the area. Please telephone the number given to express your interest in joining a group.

	Day and time	Leader	Venue	Contact name & telephone
1	Monday aft 4 - 6 pm <i>starting Feb 15th</i>	Kay Harvey	Detcombe House Bulls Cross Sheepscombe	Kay Harvey 01452 810959
2	Tuesday mom 10.30 - 12.00 <i>starting Feb 16th</i>	Rev. Mike Holloway	Whitehall Cottages Stamages Lane, Painswick	Rita Bishop 01452 814205
3.	Wednesday aft 2 - 3.30pm <i>starting Feb 17th</i>	Terry Parker	Merrills Friday Street Painswick	Denise Magauran 01452 814570
4.	Thursday aft 2 - 3.30 pm <u><i>starting Feb 25th</i></u>	Canon Michael Irving	9 Canton Acre Painswick	Clare & Michael Irving 01452 814242
5	Thursday eve 7.30 - 9 pm <u><i>starting Feb 25th</i></u>	Canon Michael Irving	9 Canton Acre Painswick	Clare & Michael Irving 01452 814242

Wassailing

A great troupe of revellers gathered outside the Town Hall on Saturday 23rd January as they prepared to march down to the orchard in Vicarage Street. Dressed in furs, feathers and masks and carrying drums or pans to bang or whistles to blow they made a strangely wonderful sight in the semi darkness of the January evening. The ceremony of blessing the trees and hailing the health of our orchards and the driving out of "evil" spirits was led by Nick Simonin and the "Wassailing" cup passed around to drink the health of the trees

Afterwards in the Town Hall - merrymaking - with hot mulled drinks and glasses of cider, vats of warming homemade broth and bread, then traditional folk and shanty songs from the wonderful 2Anchors Singers cheered the chilly mob and all went home happy.

Iris McCormick

Pictured: Nick Simonin, Photo by Emma Bradshaw (Archive photo).



Jottings

I live in a chalet bungalow and the neighbouring bungalow is positioned leaving a valley between the roof of each. Occasionally we get a covey of partridge sleeping in this space, to one side or the other, depending on which way the wind is blowing. In the summer, early in morning, they will stand on the ridge of our dormer window waking us up with their calls.

I was looking up about slugs, to find there may be about two hundred slugs per cubic metre of soil, or as many as 20,000 living in an average garden. Just think how many there are in a field of produce, which the grower has to control! And they multiply rapidly although they do not live long

Some of our land is under The Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. This means an official comes along from time to time to advise, such as to say that the big cobnut hedges and other areas you cannot farm on should be left as they are, for wildlife. Then another official turns up and says that such areas are not being farmed, so your entitlements are going to be taken away for these spots. For instance, we have very old and end-of-life apple trees which are dying and falling down, but we have to leave them as they are, and where they fall, for the wildlife.

Martin Slinger

Messy Church

Thursday February 11th, 3.30pm to 5.30pm, St Marv's Church Rooms

The story of the Good Samaritan.

Come and enjoy some crafts & games and have a delicious tea.

Free but donations on the day would be welcome.

Next Messy Church: Thursday 10th March, St Mary's Church Rooms.

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Aspects of Wood Carving and Sculpture



On the 6th January 2016 Neil Gow came to talk to Painswick Probus on his hobby turned profession of wood carving and sculpture. Neil became interested in wood carving at an early age and though his father and grand-father were both skilled joiners he preferred the free-form nature of carving. He studied at art school but soon realised that the employment opportunities in wood carving were limited and became a draughtsman. However Neil continued to carve and started to exhibit at wood carving shows in the 1990's. This led to him becoming a professional wood carver and this has become his living for the past 12 years.

Neil brought along some of the more portable examples of his work and photographs of his larger sculptures. He has competed and exhibited over the past few years at the Festival of the Tree (Treefest) held at Westonbirt arboretum each August and many of his works are on show there. His sculptures range from small, intricate hand carved figures up to large structures such as totem poles produced by using chain saws and angle grinders.

Most of his work is done on commission and Neil explained how he would set about creating a sculpture - sketching his ideas and agreeing these with the client, finding an appropriate piece of wood and roughing out the basic shape with power tools before progressively moving on to the more intricate detail using an array of hand tools. He also brought along a large selection of his tools to illustrate how he would produce the various features of the carvings. One particularly impressive example of his work was a model of a white-water canoeist with the turbulent water produced in realistic detail.

His talk was followed by a lively question and answer session which continued as members examined his work at close quarters.

John Wylde

Women's World Day of Prayer

Every year on the first Friday of March – this year March 4th, Christian women all over the world - an estimated 3million women in over 170 different countries -meet to pray – following a service devised by a chosen country. In the British Isles alone there will be over 6000 services. This year, the country is **CUBA** – the largest Caribbean island, at the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico. Their theme is “**Receive children. Receive me.**” Here in Painswick, we invite you to join us at **11am** in the church of **Our Lady & St. Thérèse** on Friday Street on **4th March** for a short service followed by coffee and refreshments inspired by Cuba! **ALL ARE WELCOME – especially children!**

Rita Bishop, Secretary of Churches Together around Painswick.

PROBUS Women

Travellers' Tales - Syria and Lebanon, 2010

Talk on 11th January, 2016

In 2010 Speaker Nicholas Clark and his Wife celebrated their Golden Wedding and, although, earlier in the year they had travelled to South Africa, it was more trucking and camping rather than limousines and luxury so, later that year in December and before the onset of present troubles in that region, Nicholas booked for them to explore The Old Levant (Lebanon & Syria). This time no camping but with brochure promises of hotels with 'character'.

Lebanon is half the size of Wales, mostly surrounded by Syria, which is one-and-a-half times the size of England. Lebanon's Capital Beirut, was known for many years as the Riviera of The Mediterranean - chic and sophisticated with the added advantage of stunning sea views and beautiful beaches. In 2010 our Speaker wasn't looking for that perfect spot on the beach he was much more interested in discovering all the facts he could about this very important region and how it played its part in the history of The World. He found well preserved ancient Roman ruins and castles as well as limestone caves, historic Churches and Mosques. We were told that an archaeological site was uncovered in Lebanon dating back to 5000BC when evidence of the first attempt at writing was found which eventually replaced symbols previously used.

Damascus, the Capital of Syria, once an important member of the Decapolis, or the ten Roman Cities of the Levant, had many Roman ruins, some of which were very well preserved and so vast. Some of these Roman Cities had housed hundreds of thousands of people but once the Romans had gone most of the buildings were deserted and then the stonework broke down although some of the Roman Temples were restored as Mosques and for a while, after the Romans had left new architecture still mirrored the Roman style but later Mosques were built in the Arab style as were other buildings.

Many places visited by Nicholas are mentioned in The Bible and still have the same names such as The Street called Straight which runs from East to West in the old City of Damascus and remains are still evident from the Roman, Christian and Islamic periods. It was mentioned in the Bible in the story of Paul's conversion to Christianity as recorded in the book of Acts and contains several interesting sights from the Roman, Christian and Islamic periods.

We could easily have listened to Nicholas all day as discovering and trying to understand the history of this complex region - so much in the news now and as complex as ever, was so fascinating.

Families living in this region, so relevant to the history of The World and its many Religions, are still living, as their descendants did, enduring the turmoil and instability within.

When responding with the Vote of Thanks on behalf of Probus Women, Angela Newman, who had spent time touring with her Husband in that area some years ago said she could relate so well to the pictures and tales told by Nicholas and was so glad he had mentioned how nice the people were. They both agreed that, in their opinion, the people from these regions were the most hospitable and kindest people they had ever met.

Next meeting on 8th February -The pen and the Polisher by Di Alexander.

Delia Mason, PROBUS Women

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Perennial Pleasures

I have the most beautiful white agapanthus in flower in the garden at the moment so it can't be Winter, can it?! Being an eternal optimist I'm thinking that maybe we've just had Winter with a quick blast of freezing temperatures earlier this week before returning to double figures again this weekend.....well, in my mind Spring is nearly here!



Unfortunately I didn't make it to the talk in January about 50 shades of green but my fellow gardeners were very keen and quick to let me know (and gloat!) that I'd missed a treat of an afternoon with a very knowledgeable plantswoman.

Don't forget that our talk on Wednesday 10th February (Church Rooms) is also at 2.30pm. We are delighted to welcome back Julie Ritchie of Hoo House Nursery just outside Tewkesbury. Julie has been very supportive of this Gardening Club and a Members NGS Open Garden last year with incredibly generous donations. Julie will be sharing her near 30 years growing experience in her talk 'Cut and Come Again Perennials for Garden and Floral Displays' - those people who came to her last talk a while ago will know that it's going to be a great afternoon.....and there may well be plants for sale.

Committee Members are beavering away behind the scenes looking into group visits to local NGS Gardens following on from the success of the group private viewing of Daglingworth House garden last June. Members shared cars as coach travel is prohibitively expensive and so this is the approach we plan for local visits this year - watch this space (or check the website <http://www.thepainswickgardeningclub.com/>) for more details.

With the start of the seed sowing season and plans for beautiful borders, it's a great time to reveal that Committee Members are planning to organise an afternoon plant sale with refreshments on Saturday 28th May (Church Rooms) to raise funds for the Club. More details will follow shortly but if you are interested in getting involved in some way please email us (thepainswickgardeningclub@gmail.com) or speak to one of us at the February meeting. Pop the date on your calendar now as it will be a fun event welcoming all - is there a better way to spend an afternoon than indulging in tea, cake and plants?!

I'm off to find the seed trays....

Caroline Bodington (Committee Member)

"Z" - not for "zebra" but for Alex' extraordinary music collection, starting on 7th January with well-known opera singing but becoming more excitingly less known as the evening progressed. First, Renato Zanelli singing Leoncavallo and Zinka Milanov Verdi. Then Alexander von Zemlinski: orchestral suite followed by opera - a prelude and a closing scene. After the interval ZARZUELA: well known in Spain but hardly over here. Gorgeous music: prelude "La Veltura", then arias and duets sung by Domingo, Caballe, Carreras and other stars. What an evening!



And on 22nd January Dr. Tim Brain, Chairman of the Three Choirs Festival, gave us a most interesting overview of the ever-changing history of the Festival in the 3 cathedral cities of Gloucester, Worcester and Hereford. Few of us realised that it has been in existence for 300 years, and how the format has been changing continuously during that time. To illustrate this, he played recordings of works by 7 composers, outstanding among which were excerpts of Purcell's Te Deum, Handels' Aci and Galatea and Judas Maccabaeus, Mendelssohn's Elijah, Mozart's Requiem and Elgar's Dream of Gerontius. We were reminded that this year's Festival will be in Gloucester, 23 - 30July, booking opening in April

Ralph Kenber

Please note the changes to our programme:

March 17th David Simpson Tchaikovsky, March 31st Mike Kereton G & S, April 14th Robert Nichols We need to talk about Alex, April 28th Peter Jenkins will show how Mozart's Piano Concerti are constructed and how their structure and use of melody contributed to his expressive ends.

News from St. Mary's

This month sees the beginning of Lent. Lent is the period of 40 days preceding Easter. Easter is early this year, with Easter Sunday being on 27th March, which is about as early as it can be. At the moment the date of Easter is fixed by reference to phases of the moon which means that it can be any time between late March and late April. Discussions are taking place now between the major churches of the East and West with a view to fixing the date of Easter as the date of Christmas is fixed. It would make a lot of sense bringing to an end the major disruption caused by the variable date, not least among educational establishments and holiday planners.

The 40 days of Lent are a reminder to the Church, of Jesus 40 days of fasting in the desert before his public ministry began. Traditionally, Lent has been a time of fasting and prayer. It used to be customary to give up some small indulgence during Lent such as eating chocolate or drinking wine, as a reminder of this solemn time. Nowadays the accent is more likely to be about taking something on like attending a Lent group or doing some public service for disadvantaged people. Lent groups locally are organised by Churches together around Painswick and you will find further details in this publication and on church notice boards. They are ecumenical in nature giving an opportunity for Christians from different persuasions to share their views. Study material for Lent groups is provided by a number of organisations like Churches together in Britain and Ireland and bible reading organisations. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, also commissions a Lent study book each year.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which is 10th February. The church invites all Christians to worship together on that day. At St. Mary's there will be a communion service at 12 noon to which all are invited. Have a good Lent!

David Newell

Festomane Exhibition

Festomane is a week- long series of events celebrating Engineering and Manufacturing in Stroud and the surrounding communities. As part of the week's events there is to be an exhibition on Monday 17th February from 10am until 6pm at Stratford Park Leisure Centre entitled 'Creation & Innovation Revealed'. Admission is free.

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Stand and Deliver!

At the January meeting of the Society John Putley, of Gloucestershire Archives, gave a spirited and inspiring presentation on the subject of local highwaymen. Using artefacts, (he came armed with pistols), posters, paintings, newspaper cuttings and thoroughly researched information he examined the history of highway robbery from its 18th century heyday to its 19th century demise.

Step by step John debunked the romantic image of the highwayman. He showed that in fact the 'profession' was a particularly nasty one usually followed by ex-soldiers but also by servants, young men in debt from wealthy families and bankrupt tradesmen. They often worked with gangs and accomplices and a network of informants especially pub landlords and servants. They seldom held up large coaches full of



passengers and preferred to rob lone travellers as it was easier and there was less likelihood of being shot themselves.

Carrying two pistols, each of which took at least five minutes to load, a knife or dagger, a bag for the cash (their only real interest) and wearing a scarf not a mask they generally rode on

stolen or hired horses. Women dressed as men were also proponents. Locally such robberies took place around towns such as Gloucester and Cirencester and on main roads such as what is now the A46, the A40 and the road near Birdlip. Notorious county highwaymen included the Dunsdon brothers, Tom Long, the Pinnell brothers and William Crew.

Rewards were offered for the capture of highwaymen and it was indeed a risky career as robbery on the King's highway and drawing a pistol carried the death sentence. Such executions - hanging and gibbeting - always drew crowds of thousands and they gained superstar treatment over many years, even to this day in fact.

At the next meeting Dr Steven Blake will give a presentation on the history of the Cotswold Way, which of course runs through Painswick. Tuesday, 16th February, 7.30pm, Croft School. Everyone welcome.

Carol Maxwell



10, 20, 30 Years ago from January 2016

January 1986

New Domesday survey of buildings

Early in 1984 residents may have been bemused by a visit from an inspector of historic buildings. Over the next two months inspectors will re-appear in order to undertake the re-survey of all listed buildings in the Parish of Painswick on behalf of the Historic Building and Monument Commission for England

January 1996

New Clubhouse

Building work starts this month on the new Clubhouse for the Falcon Bowls Club. The work is planned to be completed by May.

The PTA plans to keep the swimming pool at the Croft afloat with a promises auction to be held at Painswick House on 9th March to raise funds.

January 2006

Painswick are winners again

Back in August Painswick had won the "Village of the year" award for Gloucestershire. Since then the judges have assessed all the winning villages in the south west region and have awarded Painswick as winners of the South West Regional Award for best facilities and activities for senior citizens. Councillor Martin Slinger received the award and a cheque for £500 will follow.

New garden waste collection service

An optional kerbside garden waste collection is available to Stroud residents. A brown wheeled bin will be issued to residents who can accommodate a bin for a one-off £20 charge and an annual charge of £36. Garden waste will be collected fortnightly over the 10 month period February to November inclusive. The scheme is entirely optional and residents can still take their garden waste to the Household Recycling Centres at Hempstead or Horsley. Alternatively they may of course compost at home and compost bins may be purchased through www.gcc.getcomposting.com To sign up for more information, please visit www.stroud.gov.uk/gardenwaste or call 01453 754424

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Looking to the future – a new team at the Rococo

It is perhaps sometimes easy to forget, or at least to overlook, something which is very special when it is in our midst. Such a veritable gem is of course the Rococo Garden. This unique place, the sole survivor of an albeit short-lived spectacular 18th century horticultural style, has for the past three decades been beautifully restored to its former glory under the management of Paul Moir. With Paul's retirement comes a new manager, Dominic Hamilton.



team. Steve Quinton, the head gardener, he regards as exceptionally knowledgeable and capable. The new catering manager, Claire Grant, who lives in Painswick, has extensive experience as head chef at The Old Badger, Eastington. A strong team indeed.

Dominic himself comes to the role with an excellent qualifying background. Originally with a degree in languages and an organ scholar from Durham University, he went on to develop a career within arts organisations. This includes five years running the Cheltenham Jazz Festival and a year with a local authority as an arts officer. For the past nine years he has worked for the National Trust at Snowhill as visitor service manager and then general manager.

With a wide range of skills, acquired by working with these large corporate organisations, Dominic has welcomed the different challenge of his new role. He feels the Rococo has its own unique character. "It is a remarkable place," he observes, "with its landscape location, both interesting and spectacular." With such a strong team, both the employees and the volunteers, he feels there will be plenty of energy for positive moves forward. The coming year he sees as one for consolidation but he is also aware of the need to raise more money – it is after all a charitable trust. Future developments are essential for sustainability.

The Rococo Garden is open to the public all year round except for November and December. The snowdrops are of course spectacular, but the garden is in fact a wonderful experience at all other times too. The restaurant is a joy with much of the fare sourced from the garden itself. And then there are all the other aspects. It is a perfect location for weddings, parties and private functions generally, music and drama in the open air (who can forget The Handlebards' Shakespearian productions!), art and sculpture displays, a variety of short courses, school visits and so on.

Dominic explains that without the volunteers and trustees none of this could be the success it certainly is. More volunteers are however needed. People with professional skills such as accountancy, surveying computing etc are welcome along with those willing to undertake the many general jobs which "could help a small conservation charity grow." Anyone interested should contact Dominic at the Garden. In any case, it's always well worth a visit simply to enjoy this wonderful place right in our midst. ... and a successful welcome to all Painswickians

The Garden and restaurant were open to all local residents, free of charge, on 15th and 16th January. This new initiative, together with impressive signage within the neighbourhood, proved a great success. The weather was, surprisingly, perfect and about 360 local residents came along in response to the invitation to enjoy the restaurant offerings and the snowdrops which are rather early this year. The gardens generally were an absolute joy and provided real pleasure for all ages. The whole event was perfectly organised and visitors generally were rightly impressed.

Amongst other items on sale were pots of galanthus Atkinsii. These fine, strong-growing snowdrops have a particular connection with Painswick as the man after whom they were named, James Atkins, a nurseryman, lived in Butt Green from 1851 until his death in 1884. He is buried in Painswick Cemetery.

Carol Maxwell



The migration watches throughout October,

November and December 2015 were very successful, with an interesting variety of species seen. Notable counts of Meadow Pipit, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Fieldfare and Redwing occurred, together with later than usual appearances by House Martin and Swallow. Up to forty different species were recorded on some days with Crossbill, Brambling, Hawfinch, Reed Bunting, Ring Ouzel, Stonechat, Hobby and Little Egret being particular highlights. Most people don't usually associate birds such as Bullfinch, Common Buzzard, Jackdaw, Rook and Sparrowhawk with migration but there is an annual passage of such birds in October from Scandinavia and as far east as Poland and Russia.

Now we are into 2016 and after a mild Winter so far the recent North winds and hard frosts brought through some Lapwing and Golden Plover. Soon the Winter visitors will be making their way back and Spring will be upon us, in the meantime we can all enjoy the thrill of seeing the birds on our bird feeders like Nuthatch, various titmice and if we're lucky, a Blackcap.

John Fleming. Painswick Bird Club.



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The Firemen of Painswick

Given the considerable concerns being expressed about the future of Painswick's Fire Station we thought readers would be interested to read an account we published in the February 1981 Beacon by Chris Jones who was a crew member.

"Records show that Painswick Fire Station started on January 26th 1896 when a horse drawn steam pump was stationed at Burdocks Yard, manned by local men who were familiar with all the local properties tucked away here and there. This still applies even today, except that our machine covers a much greater area, from Cranham, Miserden, Camp and Sheepscombe to Horsepools Hill on the Edge side and all the farms and smallholdings. Topography is high on the list of knowledge at our Station, knowing the whereabouts of out of the way places will one day save lives. Do you know where Dicky Bird Lane is for instance?"

Round the Clock

The firemen at Painswick are all retained men (not part-time as the press try to inform us), hat is to say that 24 hours round the clock there is always a crew standing by ready to answer any call we should get. Every Wednesday evening is "Drill Night" and this consists of films, lectures, questions and answers, and operating over and over again the latest equipment and techniques of Fire Fighting. We also attend many weekend lectures and demonstrations keeping us in the forefront of all knowledge gained by the experience of other Brigades. We each carry a small personal radio receiver which, when the alarm is raised, emits a signal and as swiftly and as safely as possible, we make our way to the Station where the first man to arrive receives our instructions by telephone. There are many jobs which have humorous sides to them, one that comes to mind happened at a local farm when one of the milking herd accidentally wandered into the 8 foot deep slurry pit. The only way to extricate her was to attach lengths of hose under her belly and haul her out.

Mr B Gibbs and Mr R Barnfield, both Leading Firemen, "volunteered" and after stripping down to birthday suits waded into the mre and set about the task. The cow came out as if it was all quite normal; our two colleagues came out looking like creatures from the black lagoon, keeping a safe distance they were asked to go to the cow shed where they were hosed down.

Efficient

The spirit within our station is very high and the men work very closely with one another to create a very efficient working machine. On the machine we carry equipment to cover any kind of emergency situation, from breathing apparatus which enables us to breathe in a smoke filled atmosphere, right down to a special axe to cut people out of a wrecked aircraft, should then occasion arise. All this is a far cry from the horse-drawn steamer that took half an hour to gather power enough to pump water. One important point I should like to mention is to the motorists of Painswick. Plesae think of the width of the Machine (Fire Engine) when parking your cars as on several occasions we have literally had to lift a car out of the way involving many precious seconds which could, of course, mean life or death. Lastly may I thank Mr Arthur Perrins and all the men at Painswick Fire Station for four very happy years and hopefully many more to come.

Retained at Painswick Fire Station

Arthur Perrins	Station Officer
Brendan Gibbs	Leading Fireman
Dennis Browning	Leading Fireman
Richard Barnfield	
Gordon Hogg	
Chris Jones	
Pete Allard	
Greg Smith	
Gary Perrins	
Chris Ward.	



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.

Ralph Kenber writes:

I was walking like a cripple until some years ago..

That was when I came across Ann Williams' physiotherapy clinic. A few visits there changed my life and I have been walking, even running, happily since.

A great Painswickian of the year.

Jacki Sanderson writes

Litter is forever being thrown out of cars on Wades Lane, and that is bad enough.

This latest dumping is a step too far, and could well be part asbestos.

It appeared around the 12th January.

I noticed this morning there is yet more rubbish at the top of the lane near the A46.

I have informed the council.





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Make and Cake

Join in with the new community craft group Make and Cake starting 9 February 2016. We meet every second Tuesday of the month from



10-12 am at the Painswick Community Pavilion. Bring your own project (and equipment needed) and

enjoy chats, tea and, of course, cake. All ages and abilities welcome. We ask for a small donation towards the room hire.

Upcoming sessions are on 9 February, 8 March, 12 April, 10 May, 14 June, and 12 July.

For more information contact Britta: lippiattkoehler@binternet.com or 813672.

Kerensa Staines and Britta Lippiatt

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assembled by John Barrus

Golf Club

At the time of writing, the weather has got a lot colder. The challenges of golf change too – the ball bounces further when the surface is frozen, but also more erratically if, for example, it lands on a frozen molehill! When the surface is soft with repeated rain, then the ball tends to hardly bounce at all. So to play well requires adapting ones shots and tactics.

The new year has brought about a number of changes to the official CONGU handicap system. These include permitting 9-hole competitions (over a specified 9 holes) to qualify for handicap purposes, permitting club handicaps up to 54, and increasing the allowance to 90% (previously 75%) in four ball better ball competitions. It will be interesting to see how these changes work out, and whether they will help attract and be fairer for new golfers. And in the Painswick Seniors' section, social handicaps are being trialled - these will change more quickly than the official ones and it is hoped may be fairer.

In the Seniors' section, there have been two competitions since the start of the new year. On 7 January, the monthly medal competition (run as a stableford) was won by Phil Taylor with 40 points. And a social bowmaker held on 14 January was won by Rick Carman, Jim Eva and Peter Sibley with 84 points; this proved a well-supported and very tight competition with three teams finishing within 1 point of each other. Congratulations to all the winners.

Painswick Golf Club welcomes visitors both on the course (please play the green fee before starting your round) and in the clubhouse for refreshments or meals. Please check with Mike or Tom Horton (812180) regarding opening times and bookings for meals.



Junior Tennis

The Tennis Club have lined up plenty of fixtures for their young players this summer.



Road To Wimbledon – a 14 and under competition.

This is an internal club knock out singles competition played during April/May for Juniors born after 1st September 2001. The two winners will represent Painswick LTC at the County Finals playing against all the other Gloucestershire Club winners.

Aegon County League

The Club have entered all age groups (U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18) for matches against other Gloucestershire Tennis Clubs. The matches, singles and doubles games, are played on weekends in April, May and June.

We are interested to hear from any new players, or those who play less frequently and want to meet and play with other juniors from the village and surrounding areas.

If you require further information on juniors tennis and/or to sign up please e-mail either:
Nigel Barnett nigel.barnett@davies-mayers.co.uk
Stephen Courts stephen.courts@btinternet.com
For junior coaching contact Lorraine Ristic tennis@lorraineristic.com



Painswick Beacon

It is very important that we all look after the Beacon which provides a source of recreation to everyone. We should respect other users as the Golf Club's notice states.

Pictured above, this advisory notice is situated immediately opposite the clubhouse.

DJ LANSDOWNE
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07984 882016
djscuba77@gmail.com



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For more information and class schedules please contact:

Nicki Marsh
01452 813285
07870 953159
info@trainwithnicki.co.uk



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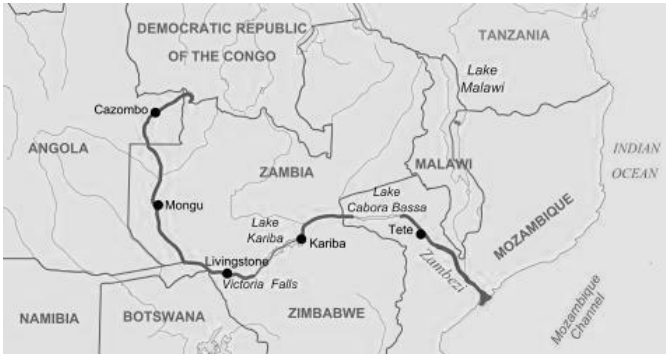
07768.173726 simongyde@yahoo.co.uk

Walking The Zambezi – David Lemon



Painswick Probus welcomed Zimbabwe born Stroud resident David Lemon to their meeting on January 20th to talk about his incredible feat of walking the length of the Zambezi river, a distance of almost 3000 kilometres. The trek started at the source of the Zambezi, a tiny spring on the Zambia/Congo border and as David, a man in his late sixties, loaded his 34 Kg pack onto his back he asked himself “why?”. He wasn't really sure but now he had sponsorship and he had to go!

The river follows the Zambian border for a short while then passes through Angola before turning back into Zambia. This first part of the journey was along dirt roads or paths through the bush alongside the river and at the end of the day David would take his bed roll and sleep under the stars, the exertions of the day being soothed by the wonderful sunsets. He would come across villages where he was always welcomed and given food by people who had barely enough for themselves. Being next to the river he was given lots of fish, but occasionally rat (very tasty!) monkey (felt like cannibalism!) and flying ants (eaten those a lot!). He remarked how the people who had nothing were always smiling and laughing. One man carried his pack for several kilometres and would accept no reward.



Being a mighty river the Zambezi has lots of tributaries, some can be waded or crossed on floating log bridges but others would have a ferryman with a dug-out canoe. David always asked them to take his pack first which paid off on one occasion when the ferryman, David and canoe disappeared to the bottom of the river.

The next obstacle was the Luena Plain. This is a flood plain which should have been dry by the time of David's arrival but was still knee deep in water. Undeterred he set off wading for three days and collecting leaches on the way – surely things can't get worse he thought.

By the time he got to Livingstone on the Zimbabwe/Zambia border David had lost 20Kg so spent a week feeding up and resting his feet. He was approaching the magnificent Victoria falls where the river plunges through high gorges and walking by the river is not possible. Fortunately a friend gave him two porters to guide him through another gorge and back to the Zambezi but progress was slow scrambling over loose rocks. Eventually he arrived at Lake Kariba which he thought of as home and where he had spent many past times canoeing and swimming. By this time temperatures were soaring to 50 C and he was suffering with malaria and was advised to take a break and recuperate, but he had done 1800K and wasn't giving up now.

David returned after several months and continued on through the lower Zambezi national park where the animals were becoming more numerous. Nevertheless in almost 3000K he never felt threatened by any animal or person. He then crossed into Mozambique for the final leg of the trek down to the delta and the Indian ocean. Unfortunately illness struck again and he went down again with malaria and dehydration but he was not alone and was airlifted to hospital. But he wasn't going to give up with only 400K to go. So back he came with two porters to guide him through the Cabora Bassa gorge and finally down to the Indian ocean at Chinde. The length of the Zambezi in a total of 292 days, the first recorded person to do so and completing the walk just short of his 70th birthday. David's journey is recalled in his book “Cowbells down the Zambezi”.

John Wylde



Pictured: The Fire Brigade Union's banner in Pullens Road.

FEBRUARY OFFER

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I would like to introduce myself as your new village agent. I would also, at this point, like to mark the wonderful work done by Lou Kemp over the last 10 years since the village agent scheme was piloted in Gloucestershire. Since that time the scope of the scheme has extended from the original 96 parishes to well over 200 parishes and the model of working with communities has been taken up from the original kernel, started here in Gloucestershire, to a nationwide service bringing together all kinds of organisations to provide a complete solution directly to people in their own homes. We aim to help people to remain in their own homes, living independent lives, preventing unnecessary hospital admissions whilst working hard to eradicate rural isolation forging strong supportive communities for those over 50 in need of support.

It is this group of people that I am privileged to join and I am looking forward to working with communities and directly with individuals to make living in our wonderful countryside pleasant whatever age or capability.

I live in Eastcombe in the parish of Bisley-with-Lypiatt. I am married and a Mum and Grandma. After a lengthy career in the law and then in senior management in the charity sector I am keen to use my knowledge and skills to continue to bring people and organisations together. I would reiterate that village and community agents bridge the gap between local communities and statutory and voluntary organisations able to offer support. The amount of help available is incredible but I know from my experiences with my own father difficult to negotiate or to find.

If you are a local group who can provide support to a vulnerable person – shopping, company etc I would like to hear from you too. It is important that we link those in need with those

VILLAGE Agents

that are ready and willing to assist.

I am here to help.

Just a thought as the weather turns colder and we light fires and candles to lighten the dark nights. Are you happy that your fire prevention is as good as it should be? If you have any concerns the Fire Service is happy

to advise and we have an excellent relationship with our local fire crews.

The Village Agent scheme is county wide, helping over 50's with information and support. Please call me to arrange a home visit or email me and I will be in touch g.cannon@villageagent.org.uk.

Gill Cannon
07776 245767



PROPERTY REPORT for January from Hamptons International

2015 proved to be a very successful year for Hamptons International: across our network, we sold more property than ever before, we added four new offices to our expanding network and ended the year by winning the Gold Award for Best Large Estate Agency at the prestigious Estate Agency of the Year Awards in association with the Sunday Times and The Times for an unprecedented fourth consecutive year. On a local level, we sold more properties in our core market than our two closest competitors combined (source: Rightmove) and our offices in The Old Chapel had a long-awaited refurbishment.


As the gap between prices in London and the rest of the country has grown, so has the temptation for Londoners to cash in on record house prices and move out of the Capital. With expectations of future house price growth in London easing, Hamptons expect many will choose 2016 to make their move. According to our research, 63,000 Londoners bought homes outside the capital in 2015, a 66% increase on 2014. Many movers were in their 30s and 40s moving to find more space and a different lifestyle for families however a large number of first time buyers also took flight wanting to buy their first homes in more affordable areas. Almost 90% of households leaving London move to other areas in the South of England.

With this out-migration in mind, we are pleased to announce the latest of our successful Roadshow events will be held at five of our prominent London offices on 12 March 2016. Instruct Hamptons International and we will promote your property directly to active buyers and tenants in London this Spring.

If you wish to take advantage of this event, call this office on 01452 812354 for more details and to book a free, no-obligation market appraisal based on actual market activity and recent sales comparisons.

New instructions recently include: 5 Hyett Close, a 3 bedroom terraced house close to the school; 2 Vicarage Street, a charming bolthole at the heart of the village; Gorselands, a generously proportioned modern property in a backwater of Edge; Washbrook Farm, a superbly renovated former mill complete with 3 bedroom holiday cottage and paddocks; The Green, a handsome detached Cotswold stone house overlooking the village green; Chapel Cottage, a Grade II Listed cottage offering delightful views; Greycot, a charming detached cottage with views across the village; Weavers Cottage, a beautifully presented 3 bedroom cottage on the Longridge; Inglenook, a 3 bedroom attached cottage in Pitchcombe; and Michaelmas House and Bath Place, both 4 bedroom detached houses in Birdlip. Recent sales agreed include: 2 Washwell Cottages, Dumbledore and 5 Brookhouse Mill in Painswick; Pyll House and Longridge Farm in Sheepscombe; Cotswold Bungalow in Edge; Pen-y-Bryn in Slad; 1 Hillview Cottages in Witcombe and Northlea House in Gloucester. Properties now sold include: 12 Randalls Field, Dumbledore and Copper Beeches in Painswick, Longridge Farm in Sheepscombe, New Inn House in The Camp, Midsummer House in Slad and High Hedges in Brookthorpe.

Guy Tabony, Branch Manager



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FEBRUARY

Sat	6	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 01452 520524 Fairtrade Chocolate Tasting	meet at Cemetery car park at 8.45am Town Hall	9.00am to 12noon 10.30am to 12noon
Sun	7	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Sung Eucharist	St. Mary's Church Catholic Church St. Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am
Mon	8	Painswick Valley Toddler Group - Mondays (school term time only) Probus Women: The Pen & The Polisher - Di Alexander Short Mat Bowls - Mondays (contact 812464) Community Lunch: Hosts - Falcon Bowling Club (Off Churchill Way) Yoga (Mondays) contact Kim 812623 Community Choir Have Your Say' Church Group: every Monday - contact Rev. Roger Leigh 01452 536325.	Pitchcombe Vill. Hall Church Rooms Town Hall Ashwell Centre Sheepscombe Vill. Hall Painswick Centre Church Rooms	9.50 to 11.30am 10.00am 10.30am 2.00pm 12.00 to 1.15pm 6.30 to 8.00pm & 8.15 to 9.45pm 7.00 to 8.30pm 7.30 to 9.30pm
Tue	9	Zumba Gold dance fitness class for Seniors: £6 pp Tuesdays. Tel: 07766 101790 Make & Cake Group Health Walk (One Hour) - Tuesdays: Enq. 813228 Cupcakes: Support group for helpers of homebound through illness: Tel 813326 Bingo: Tuesdays	Painswick Centre Youth & Community Pavilion Town Hall P. Centre Green Room	10.00am 10.00am to 12 noon 1.45 for 2.00pm 2.00 to 4.30pm
Wed	10	Botanical Illustration classes - Wednesdays - mornings or afternoons. Pre-book:07810 725772 or via website: www.botanic-illustration.co.uk Yoga (Wednesdays) contact Kim 812623 Painswick Toddler Group - held at Painswick Children's Centre: Wednesdays Ash Wednesday Benefice Holy Communion Gardening Club: Cut and Come Again Perennials - June Ritchie Table Tennis - Wednesdays	Ashwell House Painswick Golf Club GL6 6TL Sheepscombe Vill. Hall Croft School St. Mary's Church Church Rooms Painswick Centre Painswick Centre Town Hall Church Rooms Town Hall Town Hall Painswick Centre	6.30 to 9.00pm 9.30am to- 12noon & 1.00 to- 3.30pm 9.30 to 11.00am 10.30am to 12noon 12 noon 2.30pm 7.00 to 9.00pm 9.30 to 11.00am 9.30am 9.30 to 12.00noon 12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm
Fri	12	Country Market: Coffee Available	Church Rooms Town Hall	3.30 to 5.30pm 9.30 to 11.00am
Sun	14	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Informal Holy Communion	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St. Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am
Mon	15	Community Lunch: Hosts - Friday Club (Off Churchill Way) No Community Choir (Half Term)	Ashwell Centre Painswick Centre Croft School	12.00 to 1.15pm 7.30pm
Tue	16	Local History Society: The Cotswold Way - 100 Miles of History: Dr. Steven Blake		
Wed	17	Probus: Controversy of Dresden Bombing - David Sweet Evening Prayer Parish Council Meeting	Painswick Centre St Mary's Church Town Hall Town Hall	10.00am 6.00pm 7.30pm 2.30pm
Thu	18	Music Appreciation Group: "SCH"	Town Hall	
Fri	19	Friday Club outing to Colesborne - Snowdrops, Walk & Tea		
Sat	20	Copy Date for March Beacon Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 01452 520524	meet at Cemetery car park at 8.45am	9.00am to 12noon



Sun	21	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Sung Eucharist	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am
Mon	22	Community Lunch: Hosts - Richmond Village (Off Churchill Way)	Ashwell Centre	12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	23	Annual Meeting of Painswick Country Market: Enq. 813228 Yew Trees W.I.: Life & Songs of George Formby - Matthew Sproston	Town Hall Church Rooms	10.30 for 11.00am 7.30pm
Thu	25	Painswick Players Play Reading: Tel. Sue - 01452 676723		7.30pm
Fri	26	On Fire Service: Music, prayer & praise	Church Rooms	7.30pm
Sun	28	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Painswick Praise	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am
Mon	29	Community Lunch: Hosts - Painswick Bird Club (Off Churchill Way)	Ashwell Centre	12.00 to 1.15pm

MARCH

Tue	1	Flights of Fancy: Amateur bird photographer of garden & bush, Zambia - Gilly Hill	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	2	Probus: Thoughts on Afghanistan 1839-2014 - Dr Tom Shannon Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club Lecture: Restoration of Llanthony Secunda Priory - Dr. Edwina Bell. Enq 813228	Painswick Centre Painswick Centre	10.00am 2.30pm
Thu	3	Music Appreciation Group: The Organ	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	4	Friday Club: Walking with Hawks - Clare	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	5	March Issue of The Painswick Beacon published Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 01452 520524	meet at Cemetery car park at 8.45am	9.00am to 12noon
Mon	7	Community Lunch: Hosts - Painswick Beacon Conservation Group (Off Churchill Way)	Ashwell Centre	12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	8	Make & Cake Group	Youth & Community Pavilion	10.00am to 12 noon
Wed	9	Gardening Club: Seasonal Colours in the Garden - Nathalie Mignotte	Church Rooms	7.30pm
Thu	10	Messy Church	Church Rooms	3.30 to 5.30pm
Fri	11	Music Appreciation Group concert outing to Colston Hall	Stamages Car Park	4.00pm
Sat	12	Beacon Village Quiz	Painswick Centre	
Mon	14	Probus Women: Gardening for Honey Bees - Alan Wells Community Lunch: Hosts - Park Residents (Off Churchill Way)	Church Rooms Ashwell Centre	10.00am 12.00 to 1.15pm
Wed	16	Probus: My Life as a Greek Travel Rep. 1980-1987 - Kathy Butterworth (joint meeting with ladies & buffet lunch)	Painswick Centre	10.00am
Thu	17	Music Appreciation Group: Tchaikovsky - David Simpson	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	18	Friday Club: Easter Flower Demonstration - Jayne Morris	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	19	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 01452 520524 Painswick Music Society Concert: Chamber Philharmonic of Europe	meet at Cemetery car park at 8.45am St. Mary's Church	9.00am to 12noon 3.00pm

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.15/288/FUL DILLAY FARM, Slad Road - Erection of detached outbuilding(to accommodate self contained staff accommodation, covered parking and storage) and erection of porch on main dwelling.

S.15/2887/FUL DILLAY FARM, Slad Road - Replacement agricultural barn.

S.15/2819/HHOLD CARSEBRECK, Kings Mill Lane. New porch, balcony with access stair and sundry alterations.

S.15/2904/LBC OLD EBWORTH FARMHOUSE, The Camp - Removal of the insulated infill panels and internal doorset and replace with two new glazed screens. The west screen will have a door. Installation of oak bi-fold doors to be hung on the existing fixings (externally).

S.16/0001/HHOLD SPRING ACRE, Lower Washwell Lane - Two storey rear extension.

S.16/2865/HHOLD YEW TREE COURT, Far End, Sheepscombe - Elevational improvement works with one new window & balustrade replacement.

S.16/2792/HHOLD BROWNSHILL COURT, Wick Street - Works to ground floor & amendments to layout - see application for details.

S.16/2951/LBC ST MICHAELS RESTAURANT & BB, Victoria Street - Replacement of the existing south elevation windows. The proposal seeks to reinstate the traditional aesthetic found on the front elevation - related application S.14/2573/LBC

S.16/0053/TPO BUTT GREEN HOUSE, Butt Green - Beech - Reduce crown to 7m height, prune spread on 'house side' by 2.5m and remaining spread to 2.5m-3m, cutting back to secondary growth, shape & balance.

S.16/0029/HHOLD 29 ASHWELL - Proposed front porch and rear single storey extension.

S.16/0076/TCA CROFT ORCHARD, Gloucester Street - 3 x Birch Trees (5,6 & 7) - Remove.

S.15/2814/HHOLD DUMBLEDORE, Beacon Close - An attached garage to the side of the house. (In a revised location to previous application).

S.16/0033/HHOLD 3 FAR END COTTAGES, Far End, Sheepscombe - Installation of a new oil tank and external boiler.

S.16/0069/HHOLD MEAD END HOUSE, Cotswold Mead - Double storey domestic extension.

S.16/0021/HHOLD ALPENFIELD, Far End, Sheepscombe - New plant room and external wood store with roof over supported on existing retaining walls.

S.16/0084/LBC AMESBURY, 3 Vicarage Street - Removal of a 1920's internal brick partition wall separating a corridor and the utility room in order to create a dining room.

S.16/2597/HHOLD COLMAR, Slad Road, Slad - Proposed extension and refurbishment of existing dwelling following approved planning application S.15/1166/FUL

S.16/0119/LBC HOLCOMBE HOUSE New rooflights to barn.

CONSENT

S.15/2547/HHOLD & S.15/2576/LBC THE MANSE, Gloucester Street - Two storey extension and internal alterations with window and door replacement. Removal of existing rear extension.

S.15/2490/HHOLD WOODCOTE, The Highlands - Single storey side extension.

S.15/2509/TCA DOWNTON HOUSE, 16 Gloucester Street - Willow Leaf Pear - Selective thin crown by 15%. Re-shape crown by removing bulge over greenhouse.

S.15/2595/TCA BRIAR COTTAGE, Sheepscombe - (1) Ash - Remove

S.15/2551/HHOLD COLUMBUS COTTAGE, Cheltenham Rd - First Floor rear extension.

S.15/2583/HHOLD CORINIUM HOUSE, Sevenleaze Lane, Edge - Alterations to

reared and available from mid-March.

Contact the Allen family on 01452 813182 or 07854262517 for more information and to view.

BUSINESS

Cleaners needed to join a dedicated team at local holiday cottages. Full training given. Cleaning takes place on Mondays and Fridays 10am-3pm. Pay at least £10 per hour, could be more depending on experience. Call Belinda on 07787554877 for more information.

Weekend help in kitchen and light house duties and ironing. Occasional evenings. Own transport essential for Slad. 810854 07768612954

Clean hardcore wanted. No whole breeze blocks or plasterboard. Stone and brick etc only. 07768068880

DIYLivery now available between Painswick and Sheepscombe. Wonderful riding country. Individual turnout. 07768804711

Retired couple seek **detached 4/5 bedroom**

garage and extension to form office, gym, sauna and recreation room.

S.15/2645/TCA CHURCH ORCHARD, Far End, Sheepscombe - T1 Field Maple, T" & T3 Cypress - Fell

S.15/2646/TCA NEW HALL, Bisley Street - Ornamental Plum - Remove.

S.15/2639/TCA HILL HOUSE, Gloucester Street - Weeping willow - Reduce height by 2m all over and remove stem growing into Liquid Amber.

S.15/2596/TPO LYNCOMBE FARM, Cheltenham Road - (1-4) Ash - Coppice. (5) Elm - Fell. (6) Ash - Fell.

S.15/2689/HHOLD & S.15/2690/LBC TOCKNELLS HOUSE - Erect a greenhouse and potting shed following demolition of the existing potting shed.

S.15/2643/HHOLD WOODLEA, Slad Road - Demolition of attached coal and binstore. Construction of new extension and conversion of existing garage to provide an annexe for a dependent relative.

S.15/2737/LBC COTSWOLD88HOTEL, Kemps Lane - Urgent works required to repair and rebuild garden pagoda roof (near to collapse), and retaining stone wall to upper level of garden which has serious structural movement and likely to fall away. Both are in the hotel grounds.

S.15/2758/HHOLD 5 CLATTERGROVE COTTAGES - Replacement raised conservatory with elevated decking area & steps to south east elevation of property.

REFUSED

S.15/0834/OUT GRANGEFIELDS, Wick Street - Residential development of up to 80 new dwellings with supporting infrastructure and the creation of a new vehicular access from the A46 roundabout, open space, landscaping, drainage and other enabling works.

S.15/2542/CPE THE CHALET, Bulls Cross, Sheepscombe - The Chalet has existed as an independent dwelling since the early 1970s.

house c3-3500 sq.ft., or smaller and suitable for extension, with manageable garden. Building plot also considered. If you are thinking of selling please contact geoffirewall@aol.com or call 029 20515554

Babysitting and Gardening

18-year-old experienced in gardening and babysitting available in the Painswick area - DBS checked with references available. Please contact sebhewes!@gmail.com for details and availability.

A Cosy Cottage for Two. Self catering Holiday cottage available in Newport, Pembrookshire. www.dyfedcottage.com

Well educated **Housekeeper/Companion** seeking full time position, locally. Good Cook, discreet and would consider living in. Anne Middleton 07799345064

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MINI-ADS

G-Plan Oval Table and 8 Chairs in excellent condition Buyer collects. £150 814120

Laura Ashley Over Mantle Mirror in gold £50 o.n.o. Buyer collects. 814120

Melissa & Doug Princess Castle (rrp £69:99). Furniture (rrp £19:99) and Royal Family Dolls (rrp £14:99) for sale. Good condition £30 total. If interested, call 814464 5-8 pm.

Adult beginner seeks experienced violin teacher. 07867 638 847

John Crane wooden balance bike (rrp £46) for sale. Excellent condition £15. If interested, call 814464 5 - 8 pm.

Small Schreiber wardrobe for sale: 76 cm wide, 166 cm tall and 52 cm deep. £5, buyer collects. 812942

Pedigree, KC registered working cocker spaniel puppies for sale. 4 chocolate and 1 black -all male.Home-

The Personal Column Condolences

Our condolences to the family and friends of JANE OTWAY who died on 23rd January.

Business as usual

Following the death of John Rhodes recently, Zeb and Clare would like to reassure our valued old, as well as new customers that LANDCARE SERVICES TREE SURGERY is still operating.

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.



Additional copies of the Beacon
Are available from the Library, the Best One or On line.

Pictured: Snowdrops at the Rococo Garden

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One of his owners is moving into retirement complex and cannot take him too; the other owner works in London, so is only back to look after him at weekends. He therefore needs a local base from Monday pm until Friday am/pm and a good walk on each of those days. His owners will cover cost of food, vets bills and accommodation and would be happy to transport him to/from your home. Please telephone 01452 812683.

NEXT ISSUE

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web site - about us
www.painswickbeacon.org.uk
for current issue and archive, our history
and aims, the annual directory, village
maps and the current weather forecast

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