

The Painswick Beacon

Volume 43 Number 9

December 2020



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 and on-line at the Parish Council's web site.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Present: Cllr Rob Lewis (Chairman), Cllrs Andy Cash, James Cross, Ann Daniels, Rosie Nash, Martin Slinger.

Apologies for absence
Cllrs Ian James, Roey Parker

Possible Tier change in Local Plan

The Members considered correspondence received requesting that the Parish Council write to Stroud District Council for further information on the evidence used which was likely to lead to a change of Tier from 3 to 2 in the Local Plan Review.

The Committee considered the information already received and unanimously agreed not to pursue this request. The Committee asked the Clerk to ensure that confirmation of the Town Centre Review will be included in the Local Plan Review.

Planning application recommendations to the District Council

S.20/2016/HHOLD. The Vatch Cottage, Slad Lane. Single storey linked extension. The Committee agreed to object to this application. The Committee shared the concerns expressed by the Conservation Officer.

S.20/2185/HHOLD. Sheaves, Longridge, Sheepscombe. Side extension renovations and hard landscaping. The Committee agreed to object to this application. There was concern about the considerable amount of glazing proposed and also that the modern design was not in keeping.

S.20/2259/TPO. Hyett Orchard, Hyett Close. T1 and T2 – Lime Trees. Fell. The Parish Council responded to the application prior to the meeting and this application has been refused by Stroud District Council.

The remaining applications were all supported by the committee, as follows:
S.20/2208/HHOLD and S.20/2209/LBC. Highfield House, Gloucester Street. Listed building application. Replace existing lean-to with single story extension, internal alterations and new door canopy and door surround.

S.20/2104/FUL. Land between 15 and 16 Upper Washwell. Creation of a 3 bed dwelling.

S.20/2265/FUL and S.20/2247/LBC. Barn at Abbey Farm, Slad Lane. Conversion of gabled barn with lofted stable to 3 bedroom family home with associated renovation works, single storey lean-to porch extension, works to amenity areas & extra parking space.

S.20/2332/AFFA. Stroud Slad Farm, Slad Lane. Erection of Poly Tunnel.

S.20/2266/HHOLD and S.20/2267/LBC. Tocknells Court, Cheltenham Road. Minor alterations to approved application S.19/1243/HHOLD. Proposed extension. S.20/2052/HHOLD. Castle Hale, Stamages Lane. Removal of existing metal framed swimming pool enclosure, new outdoor pool and garden office.

S.20/2352/HHOLD. Westmorland House, Kingsmead. Two storey extension & single storey extension to existing property, including roof alterations, construct new chimney and extension to garage.

S.20/2311/TCA. West Hayes, Far End, Sheepscombe. Fell 7 various trees and reduce in size and shape Elm tree.

S.20/2394/TCA. The Croft, Sheepscombe. Unknown (T1). Prune 4m of growth.

S.20/2242/TCA. Merrills, Friday Street. Purple Plume in the rear garden. Reduce all over by up to 3.0m to leave at a more appropriate size for the garden.

S.20/2180/TCA. St. John's Church, Sheepscombe. T6 – Yew tree. Reduce to leave approximately 6ft tall, retaining all lower growth for future shaping. T1-5 Yews. Trimming of 5 shaped Yews. The application had already been approved by Stroud District Council.

S.20/2215/TPO. Mill Pool House, Ticklestone Lane. T1 – Large Oak. Reduction on house side by 3 metres to bring away from the house. A few other branches to be removed to balance out the tree. T2 – Large Oak Reduction on house side by 2 metres to bring away from the house.

S.20/2174/TCA. Valley Way, Vicarage Street. (5) Portugal Laurel to the left. Reduce in height to approximately 4.0m from its base and trim side. (6) Variegated Holly and Cypress in the corner. Reduce

their height to approximately 5.0m from its base and shape a little.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

PARISH COUNCIL

Present/apologies: As for the Planning Committee meeting, except that Cllr Martin Slinger chaired the meeting.

Resignation of Cllr Mike Fletcher.

Cllr Fletcher had tendered his resignation for personal reasons. The Council agreed not to seek to fill the vacancy given that elections were scheduled for May 2021. Cllr Slinger would write to Cllr Fletcher thanking him for his contribution to the work of the Council.

Chairman of the Land & Buildings Committee

Following the resignation of Cllr Fletcher it was necessary to elect a Chairman of the Land & Buildings Committee. The Members unanimously agreed the appointment of Cllr Rosie Nash.

Reports

a. District Councillor.

Cllr Nigel Cooper updated the Members on the District Council's Local Plan consultation progress which was to end on 16th December. There was to be a briefing for Parish Clerks. He drew attention to the proposed closure of the A46 at Coopers Hill for 3 months. The work was planned to commence on 4th January 2021.

b. Chairman.

Council's new logo. Cllr Slinger said the logo was in use and had been well received. **Remembrance Day.** Cllr Slinger said that he had laid a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the local community. Approximately 15 parishioners had attended with several wreaths being laid by representatives of local organisations. **Christmas Lights.** The Christmas lights would be placed on the Yew Trees in St. Mary's Churchyard by volunteers. The Croft School would decorate the front of the Town Hall with "Eco friendly" Christmas decorations.

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Town Hall roof. Cllr Slinger reported that an obstruction to one of the roof gullies had been cleared and it was hoped that the clearance would prevent further water from entering the building. **Appreciation.** The Chairman concluded his report by thanking his fellow Members of the Council for the support they had given during the pandemic.

c. Clerk

Support. The Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr Roy Balgobin, said that he wished to thank the Council staff for their continued support during the pandemic and told Members that as normal a service as possible had been maintained. The Deputy Clerk, Mrs Irena Lytton, said that she wished to thank the Clerk for the contribution he had made to the work of the Council during this difficult time.

Highways. The clerk reported meeting with the new Highways Stakeholder, Harriet Osburn, who had been extremely impressed with the Council's Traffic tracker. **Apprentice.** He advised that the Council's apprentice, Lucas Edney, was to take final exams for his Horticultural NVQ Certificate in December.

Note. The Council had previously agreed to offer Mr Edney permanent employment on a part-time basis as a member of the grounds staff on completion of his examinations.

d. Rural Environment Committee

Cllr James Cross, the Committee Chairman, gave details of the business conducted at a committee meeting on 28th October. The meeting minutes are available on the Council's website.

Cllr Cross said that the Plantation was in good shape. There were a number of dead ash trees but none were too large that the ground staff could not fell. Mr Edney

would look at tree replacement with regard to bio diversity.

e. Traffic Committee.

Cllr Abigail Smith, the Committee Chairman, reported the proceedings of the Traffic Committee meeting held on 4th November. The minutes of the meeting are available on the Council's website. She reported on a favourable meeting with the new Highways Stakeholder. Cllr Smith said that the Parish Council would seek to have the closure of the A46 at Coopers Hill kept to the minimum period. There was a need to check with the County Council where the electrical charging points were to be located. There would be a Father Christmas erected.

f. Councillors' reports

Cllr Abigail Smith reported that the Community Support Group was now fully operational. The group had established a working relationship with the Surgery.

Cllr Ann Daniels advised that various Highways signage and cones had been left along Severnleaze Lane following the completion of the work. It was agreed to report the matter to the Highways Department. She drew Members attention to the death of former Parish Councillor Jill Simmons. Jill had made a considerable contribution to the work of the Footpaths and Plantation Committees.

Cllr Andy Cash reported that he had laid a wreath at the Slad Memorial on behalf of the Slad residents. He thanked Cllr Smith for pursuing the traffic problems at Steanbridge Lane and Slad Road. He reported that large vehicles were using The Vatch. Recently a vehicle had to be pulled out by crane. Cllr Smith said that she would speak with the Highways Stakeholder.

Cllr Martin Slinger told the Council that the surface of the road at Jenkins Lane was in a very poor condition.

Approval of Accounts

- a. The accounts schedule for payment was presented and approved by the Council.
- b. The Council noted the conclusion of the audit and extended thanks to the Clerks.

Tree works on the Recreation Ground

The Council had received three quotes for the work. After a lengthy discussion it was unanimously agreed to accept the quotation from Mr David Cridland in the sum of £5,590 exclusive of VAT, subject to all the brash being removed from the site. It was also agreed that the funds would be taken from the Council's Reserve Account.

Note. The Clerk confirmed after the meeting that the cost of the work would be taken from the Reserve Account over a three year period. The contractor has since confirmed that the work will take place in February 2021 and that all of the brash will be removed from the site.

Grant application from Painswick Cricket Club

The Council discussed a request from the Cricket Club towards a new cricket net. The Council agreed to a grant of £100, given that it was capital outlay. Cllr Rob Lewis asked whether others would be able to use the new facility. The Clerk advised that this would be the case.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 9th December at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.33pm



Christmas Artwork for sale

We are grateful to local artist and author Anthony Lewis Churchill for the delightful Christmas artwork on our front cover this month. Anthony has also kindly offered to donate the original artwork (in a frame measuring roughly 37cm x 42 cm) to be auctioned to raise money for the Stroud Foodbank. Please send bids to Peter Jackson (beacon@painswick.net or 07985 002325) by Christmas Day at the latest.

Anthony is also in the news for his new book, featuring Lucy the Triceratops (see page 10) and if you look closely you may see Lucy hiding somewhere on the cover - as well as Anthony's signature cupcake.



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PMAG Xmas Quiz

Traditionally at this time of year our club has celebrated Xmas with a party that has included seasonal music, a buffet, a glass of wine and a musical quiz. Not this year as Covid 19 has intruded. So I am most grateful to the suggestion of Mike Kerton that we should make a quiz available to the readers of the Beacon.



My thanks must go to Mike and Ann Williams, our vice-chairman, for devising such a splendid seasonal quiz. We so hope that our members and a wider audience will enjoy taking on their musical challenge. I am so looking forward to a re-start for our club in 2021 when a warm welcome will await our members and especially to those wishing to join our club. I extend to you all a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.

Howard Allen, Chairman, PMAG.

1. In which film did the song 'White Christmas' first make an appearance?
2. Which Christmas themed ballet was premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1892?
3. Which English ruler banned the singing of Christmas songs?
4. With music by Gustav Holst, which popular Christmas Carol is based on a poem by Christina Rossetti?
5. Which carol traditionally opens the festival of nine lessons and carols from Kings College Cambridge?
6. Considered by many to be the greatest Christmas piece ever written, who composed the 1734 'Christmas Oratorio'?
7. Which Christmas carol, a favourite with children, ends with the line 'and fit us for heaven, to live with you there'?
8. Which singing cowboy took 'Rudolf the red nosed reindeer' into the US charts in 1949?
9. According to a recent Classic FM poll, which is the most popular Christmas carol in the UK?
10. Which saint first introduced carols into churches?
11. What are the angels' harps made from in the carol 'It came upon the midnight clear'?
12. Which beverage company has been using Santa Claus in its advertising since 1931?
13. In the song 'Frosty the snowman' what made Frosty come to life?
14. 'Adeste fideles' is the tune to which Christmas carol?
15. What well-known carol became the first song ever broadcast from space in 1965?
16. Who composed the music for the carol 'Hark the herald angels sing'?
17. What colour Christmas was Elvis having?
18. Which carol is sung to the tune 'The ploughboy's dream' by Vaughan Williams?
19. Which popular Christmas song is also known by the name 'Greensleeves'?
20. Which carol is mentioned in Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'?
21. What does 'wassail' mean?
22. In which language was 'Silent Night' written?
23. What do you get if you add the number of 'Lords a'leaping' to 'Maids a'milking' and then divide by 'Turtle doves'?
24. According to the Christmas carol, where did the ships come sailing into?
25. Good King Wenceslas last looked out on the 'Feast of Stephen'. What date is the Feast of Stephen?
26. Which Christmas carol contains the line 'Star of wonder, star of night'?
27. Which popular 1950s Christmas song was banned by the Catholic Church in Boston?
28. Name the three reindeer whose name begins with the letter D?
29. In whose Christmas Special did various BBC newsmen perform 'There is nothing like a dame'?
30. In the Christmas song 'Jingle bells', how many horses pulled the sleigh?



Ann Williams and Mike Kerton

Answers in the January Beacon (or no doubt on Google if you can't wait)!

Thank you for supporting us through the year!

I want to begin by thanking you for your continued support. These are challenging times for all of us and as a charity, funded solely through visitor admission fees and money we generate ourselves, our income has taken quite a hit. This year has provided a timely reminder of the value provided by our Garden as a place to escape, explore and connect with nature. Our aim is to continue this valuable work and safeguard the Garden for generations to come – but we do need a little extra help. The easiest way to donate is via the website at www.rococogarden.org.uk. Otherwise you can send a cheque to The Emergency Appeal, Painswick Rococo Garden, Painswick, GL6 6TH or you can make a donation through the till when you visit. Thank you for whatever you can give.

Painswick Rococo Garden

We launch this month with our brand-new Christmas Cheer weekend in partnership with Miserden Nursery, with top quality Christmas trees on sale on Sat 5th & Sun 6th December. Our aim is a stress-free opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit - the Garden will be open and mulled wine and mince pies available. We also hope to have some live carol singing, too, if we can do so safely. This is all subject to government guidance, of course, and advance booking is required to visit the Garden – for the latest updates and to book, visit rococogarden.org.uk.

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And finally, there will be a Seasonal Special opening of the Garden each day between 26th and 31st December. I probably shouldn't mention that the long-range forecast is currently for snow! As usual, advance booking is necessary through the website and booking is now open. We imagine it could be very popular with those looking for an escape from the excesses of the season and some fresh air. Where better than the beauty and tranquillity of the Garden?

Whatever happens this Christmas, I hope that you will find peace and joy.

Tim Toghill, trustee & volunteer

Urgent Appeal

We have just heard that the Back from the Brink project is to be extended until the end of August 2021. This is excellent news as they have provided valuable support to our group in the way of finance, technical advice, training courses and documenting. Unfortunately, there will no more support financially. We now, urgently, must find a source of funding for the years to come if we are to continue grazing the Beacon and improving the overall health of the SSSI.



Our annual running costs are approximately £4,500. This covers insurance, training, equipment repairs and fuel. A significant percentage is spent on erecting & dismantling temporary cattle paddocks and winter feed. We are investigating applying for grants from a range of organisations, but they are usually given to projects which have a defined goal with a distinct start and end date. We are looking for funds to support day to day running costs.

If you use and enjoy the Beacon, but cannot help with the physical work, PLEASE consider helping by giving a donation or setting up a direct debit to our account. £20-30 per year would make such a difference and help us continue looking after The Beacon.

The new Covid style work parties, utilising groups of no more than six seem to be working well. There have been four so far with 13, 15, 22, 23 volunteers attending. We have worked below the 16th tee, clearing and burning a lot of scrub that was becoming a safety issue for the golf club. Players teeing off could not see walkers on the Cotswold Way or those coming from the plantation car park. This work will also benefit the grassland habitat and particularly the Chalkhill Blue butterfly colony which exists near the corner of the cemetery. This is one of the areas on the Beacon which would benefit from being grazed every few years, but because of its location, it is difficult to arrange. I think we all know the benefits of regular grazing (increase in biodiversity) but managing lots of small paddocks and the needs of the golf club is difficult. Regular movement of cattle between small paddocks absorbs far more labour and funds than we have available.

We have also taken down a lot of small trees and crown-lifted a large sycamore in the glade running up from the Turning Circle, allowing more sunlight into this deep glade.

Last autumn Jen Gilbert, from Back from the Brink, trained some of us to look for the rare Rugged Oil Beetle. To our delight good numbers were found on the southern ramparts. After a successful Zoom training tutorial, new volunteers have found them again this autumn. If anyone would like to see them and search new areas of the Beacon, do get in touch with me. I plan to spend some evenings looking for them.

Paul Baxter (M) 07971 633 242

MINI-ADS

Firewood: Barn dried mature ash logs. £75 tonne bag. Delivered. Tel Zeb 07850 647486 or Jack 07961 709345.

Toyota Yaris 1.3 hatchback for sale, 2010 - 74000 miles Blue/ Silver. Local lady owner; new MOT, good tyres etc. £2695. Contact 01452 676855

Aluminium 2 part extendable ladder. 2 x 4.5m, extends to 8m. £50 Tel 01452 813094.

Wanted: Local family looking to privately buy a **period home in Painswick** - ideal is 3+ bedrooms and garden, but all possibilities considered! tel: 07449 164044 Thank you.

Tetbury **MORPHEUS four poster bed** 5'x6'8" long. Immaculate. Rich mahogany with pale yellow silk sunburst roof. Deep mattress and drapes. £650 buyer dismantles. £100 from sale to Cricket nets fund. 07973 890477

Mixed collection of **20 ring binders.** 50p each for cricket club nets. 07973 890477

Very large **light oak desk.** Green leather inlaid top. 168x83. 2 long filing drawers. 2 x14cm drawers. £50. 50% to Nets fund. 07973 890477

Bevelled Mirrors – almost hexagonal Mahogany £45, oval polished pine £20 and oblong polished pine £20. All as new. Tel: 07900 203409

Table lamps with shades – assorted sizes, some brass and some wooden bases, £20 each sold individually or as a job lot. All as new. Tel: 07900 203409

Antique Vienna 8 day wall clock . Currently not working. Open to offers. Tel: 07900 203409

Carrom board (33ins x 33ins) with discs and instructions. Little used and in excellent condition. £30. A game for 2 to 4 players. 01452 814721

Wanted: Residents of Pitchcombe in need of additional **parking space** locally. Private / covered / secure car parking space wanted in Pitchcombe / Painswick for long term rent (or purchase). Call: 07766 415349 / 07766 415344

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News from St Mary's

Like so much else in 2020 the coming Christmas season will of necessity have to be different but it isn't cancelled. As I write this we are still in the middle of lockdown and do not know what arrangements will be allowed after the 2nd December.



It is clear however, that given the present Government guidelines, the need to keep 2m apart, the restriction on numbers that St Mary's can hold, no congregational singing and the need to either remain closed for 72 hours between services or do a deep clean we will not be able to hold our usual Carol Service or Crib service.

We have however planned for the following services in Christmas week as long as we are allowed to meet once again for public worship.

Sunday 20th December 11am Beacon Praise which will celebrate the nativity and will include carols to listen to.

Thursday 24th December 8.30pm First Communion of Christmas including carols to listen to.

Friday 25th December - 9.30am Christmas morning Holy Communion including carols to listen to.

We will still have restricted numbers for all our services so ask that you book in with Margaret Radway on 07896 430107 and that you choose only one of the Communion services on Christmas Eve, or Christmas Day. Thank you

In addition, in conjunction with The Croft school we are planning to have a large Nativity scene built using recycled materials and this will be displayed outside the Town Hall window facing St Mary's Church. We do hope you will all come and look, and wonder at the scene as we remember the reason for Christmas. We are also inviting everyone to display either a picture of characters or the whole of the nativity scene in their window or their own crib set so we can all enjoy a search round the village for angels, shepherds, Mary and Joseph, baby Jesus, the wise men (Kings) and the animals.

In the meantime, despite all that we are facing may I wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas.

Rev Janet Turville

Foodbank Drop Off in November

We gathered a huge quantity of Christmas goodies in November, thank you all so, so much. Again people came from every village with bag loads of treats to help the hungry at Christmas. The warehouse staff were overwhelmed by your generosity - our donations really do make a difference.

There will be NO drop off in December at the request of Foodbank as there is insufficient time to collect, weigh, sort and distribute before Christmas - despite volunteers now working 12 hour days, flat out, to get bags packed and delivered.

The next collection will be on Tuesday 19th January 2021 between 10 and 12. A list of requirements will be issued nearer the time when the warehouse has identified gaps in provisions. Thank you again for your love and compassion.

Joan Warner, Pippa Dickinson, Jude Lindley, Pippa Medcalf (07740 514230)

.. and thank you from the Foodbank

We wanted to say a big THANK YOU to the Painswick Beacon Benefice for choosing to support the work of the Stroud District Foodbank through your donation of a staggering 278.20 kg of food. It came just at the right time as we started to pack our Christmas Holiday Hampers, with which we're hoping to reach over 600 households!

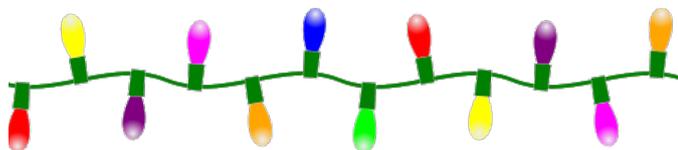
2020 has proved to be a challenging year for us all – and especially for those who have struggled to put food on the table. Your donation will really help us meet our goals.
The Stroud District Foodbank Team

Let's light up Christmas

At the time of going to press, Christmas in our villages is going to be very different this year - so let's share it in a different way and bring joy to our neighbours by lighting up the windows!

Angels, nativity scenes, Christmas rings on the gateposts, lights around the trees - together we can make it a unique, special Christmas after all.

Sally Goodman



Christmas Services

Christmas Services will go ahead but will be rather different this year, with restricted congregations, social distancing and no interaction between 'bubbles'. For details of Anglican Services, see alongside. For details of Catholic Services, please contact Denise Magauran on 01452 814570 or by email: denisemagauran@aol.com

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Thank You

Richmond Painswick would like to thank you, the local community, for your continued support and kindness.

We hope you are keeping well.
Please stay safe and let's stay connected.



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News from Painswick Surgery

Flu clinics – thanks to all our patients

We would like to thank the 1,439 patients who have so far attended one of our flu vaccination clinics. Because of the anticipated increased demand, we had to double our capacity at the surgery. We were very pleased that patients helped us run these clinics safely and efficiently by wearing appropriate clothing, arriving at the correct time and observing social distancing. At the time of writing, we are still expecting further flu vaccination supplies to be delivered. There are still 152 patients aged 65 or over who have not had the flu vaccinations or informed us that they wish to decline it. There are also 172 patients between the ages of 18 and 65 who are considered to be “at risk” who have not yet had the flu vaccination or declined it.

Flu clinics – 50 to 65 year olds

At the time of writing we have just been informed that we are now able to offer an NHS flu vaccination to all patients aged between 50 and 65. We expect the additional flu vaccines to be delivered at the beginning of December. Please ensure that the surgery has your correct mobile telephone number, as we will send out invitations as soon as we know when we will have stock.

COVID-19 vaccinations

Painswick Surgery is a member of the Stroud Cotswold Primary Care Network (PCN). We are involved in extensive planning with other members of our PCN so that we are ready to deal with any

mass vaccination program if/when vaccines become available. Please look out for any messages sent to your mobile phones. Any patients without mobile phones will be contacted as necessary by other means.

Opening up our waiting room

As anyone who has come to the surgery in the last eight months will know, the procedures for GPs and nurses seeing patients has been very different. GPs are seeing patients in our two “Amber” rooms, which are accessed via the rear car park. To minimise any risk to patients and staff, nurses have tried to do as many procedures as possible in the patients’ cars rather than bringing them into the surgery. However, with the worsening weather and lack of light in the late afternoons, this will no longer be possible. Hence we have taken the decision to open up our waiting room again on a very controlled basis. If you have an appointment with a nurse, please come to the front door and ring the intercom. You will need to confirm that you do not have any symptoms of COVID-19 and that you are wearing a mask before you will be admitted. After using the hand gel you should proceed directly to the waiting room. No more than four patients will be allowed into the waiting room at any one time. There are designated places for patients to sit. Face to face appointments take much longer now because of the need for clinicians to change their PPE and to do an extensive clean of the room after each patient.

Michael Mack-Smith, Practice Manager

Now Cheltenham to be isolated



It all brings back memories of 2007/8 when the A46 was closed for about 6 months by Rock Mill on the way to Stroud, leading to the memorable Beacon headline 'Stroud isolated until March'. Now it's the turn of Brockworth, Cheltenham and beyond to be cut off. The A46 is to be completely closed for 3 months at Cooper's Hill from 4th January.

The closure is required to carry out major repairs to a section of road that has presented recurring problems for at least the last twenty years. After repeated evidence of landslip, major work was done there back in November 2010 to install new piles, a new retaining wall and ground anchors to stabilise the road.

But ten years on, it seems we're back in much the

same position. There is continuing subsidence and cracking to the surface of the road and the foundations of the crash barriers are now regarded as unsafe.

A contract costing around £1 million has been agreed to install 42 new piles along an 85 metre section of road, re-align the carriageway and put in new drainage and crash barriers. Closure of the road is expected to continue until the end of March.

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Painswick Surgery Patient Group (PPG)

The Patient Group has not met since the last Beacon but we are in the process of arranging an extra meeting in the coming weeks. We expect to update on eConsult feedback, prepare for the Covid-19 vaccination programme and consider the current impact of Covid in our area in general. We are particularly concerned about local care homes; how many cases in this second wave, how this has impacted people's mental health and support for Carers. If you have a perspective on any of these issues which you would like to share please contact us on painswickppg@gmail.com as soon as possible so we can represent your views.

Meanwhile, NHS longer term future planning goes on with a consultation on the latest plans now in process under the title 'Fit for the Future'. Concerns about the potential closure of Cheltenham A&E after the pandemic have been expressed by the REACH group who are conducting their own 'vox-pop' survey to inform their response here: reachnow.org.uk. The full consultation document from the NHS can be found at <https://bit.ly/36XXxih>. This also includes a survey for responses which can be completed online. We urge all those interested in local NHS provision to respond to these two surveys.

David Perry



The Painswick Centre Trustees held their AGM in early November. This was a very small Zoom meeting with just a couple of guests joining the event. At the AGM David Linsell resigned after once again serving as a Trustee. He remains an invaluable support to the Painswick Centre and its reappointed Trustees.

In common with many organisations across the country recruiting trustees is a difficult thing to do – even more so to recruit YOUNGER people to get involved. Following this tough year we are keen to explore opportunities for young people to use the Centre so if you have any ideas for activities for you and your friends, or for your children, please get in touch. If you think you could bring something new and vibrant to the Painswick Centre as we all emerge from the enforced hibernation of the pandemic why not come along and find out more.

There are new things happening at the Centre and for us the most important of these is the appointment of Serena Garde as our new Centre Manager. The plan currently is that Serena will be in and around the Centre on a Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday so please do come along and wave through the window or, when allowed, meet Serena. We are delighted with her appointment and are sure she will help the Centre move into a new phase and help the Trustees to lead the recovery following a year of repeated closures.

Also new to the Centre is the Gloucestershire Aikido Club. As yet (because of you know what) we can't confirm the actual start date but it will be on a Sunday morning. For further information keep an eye on our website or visit the Gloucestershire Aikido Club website – www.gloucestershiraikido.club. Beginners over the age of 18 are welcome to come along.

Of course the stalwarts who have remained at the Centre through thick and thin we hope will continue and be able to increase their numbers back to normal levels and beyond (if not immediately, then returning slowly but surely through 2021) from Art classes and Badminton through Pilates to Yoga and Zumba Gold.

Once again we are all awaiting the end of lockdown and an idea of whether there will be further or different restrictions in order to allow us to get all our spaces back into use for the benefit of our community.

To contact the Painswick Centre please call 01452 814567 or email painswickcentremanager@gmail.com

Dawn Tyson



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.

Derek Newman from Friday Street writes:
There is more demand than supply for parking in the centre of Painswick, from residents, short term rental properties, general visitors and businesses - particularly the Best One village shop and Royal Oak pub who rely on turnover of spaces to accommodate their customers.

Of the few unrestricted parking spaces available, some have been occupied by immobile cars for 6 months or more. If SDC adopt the proposed central government directive to ban 'pavement parking' the problem will become even more acute. So invoking the community spirit evident during lockdown, perhaps those clearly not using their vehicles might move them elsewhere in consideration for others - or better still get rid of them altogether!

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The Beacon is recruiting

To ensure that the Beacon remains relevant to the whole community in Painswick, we are looking for a volunteer or volunteers to take on two specific roles as part of our team. One is news of the activities of younger people in the community, including those at The Croft School and the Playgroup, and the other is development of the Beacon's social media presence, including Facebook. If you can help us and would like to be involved, please contact any of the names in the panel at the back.

The January Beacon

Please note that because of the Christmas and New Year break, the next edition of the Beacon will be published on Saturday 9th January, rather than the usual first Saturday of the month. For contributors, the copy deadline will be Sunday December 27th.

Welbore St Clair Baddeley Historian of Painswick

Winston Churchill once boasted that he would ensure his place in history by writing the history himself. In his case it may have been secure anyway, but in Painswick, Welbore St Clair Baddeley might not be so well known today if he had not written the history himself.

His book 'A Cotteswold Manor: being the history of Painswick' was first published in 1907. Until the publication of Francis Hyett's 'Glimpses of the history of Painswick' in 1928, it was essentially the only history of the village and certainly the definitive one. The two men knew each other well as friends and, to some extent, rivals. Was the Second Edition of Baddeley's work, published in 1929, intended to complement or compete with Hyett's book?



Helen Baddeley, painted by Marie Spartali Stillman

Welbore St Clair Baddeley had been born in Hastings in 1856. His father, a Major in the Royal Artillery, died in 1862, but Welbore (or St Clair as he seemed to prefer to be known later in life) benefited from an education at Wellington College, Sandhurst, built just a few years earlier to provide an education for the sons of deceased army officers. He grew up as a young man of independent means and pursued a wide range of interests, described at various times as a poet, dramatist, world traveller, travel writer, musician, amateur archaeologist and historian.

He was a friend of the artist James McNeil Whistler, supporting him in his libel trial against John Ruskin, although barely 21 at the time, as well as publishing poems and dramas. In the account of the explorer Sir Richard Burton's life, written by his wife, she reports in 1882 that 'amongst clever people we met... a rising poet, Mr St Clair Baddeley, who attracted us much'. In his thirties he travelled widely in Italy, writing a series of travel guides as well as books on Italian history and archaeology.

In 1894 he married Helen Grant, who sat as a model for several famous painters of the time, including the pre-Raphaelite Marie Spartali Stillman and had three portraits drawn by Augustus John. The couple moved to Castle Hale in Painswick about 1897 (rebuilt after a disastrous fire in 1894) and lived there for the rest of their lives, St Clair until 1945 and Helen until 1951.

St Clair Baddeley quickly became interested in Painswick history, first researching and publishing 'A history of the Church of St Mary at Painswick' in 1902 followed by his history of Painswick in 1907. He continued to write poetry and his later published work included a poem reflecting on the Painswick Stocks. Sadly the couple's only son Edmund, having become a Captain in the Army, died in a flying accident in 1931.



St Clair Baddeley in 1881, aged 25

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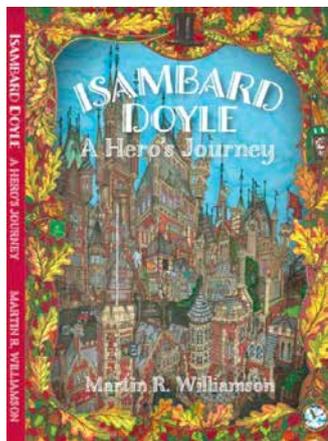
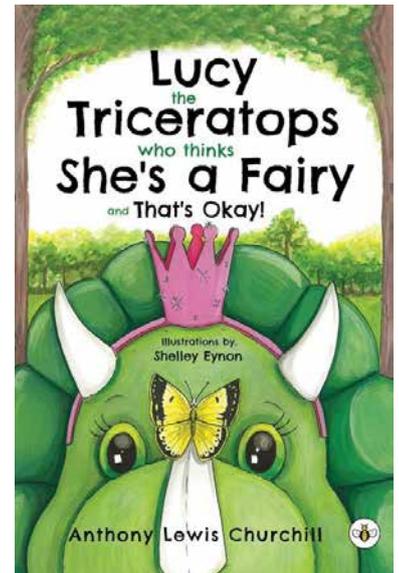
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Publishing success for Painswick writers

Literary creativity is alive and well in Painswick and it is good to report on the successful publication of two new books of fiction. Martin Williamson, who is an actor by profession, and Anthony Lewis-Churchill, known to many for his artwork, film animation, teaching and design work, have both produced excellent stories with powerful themes for specific age groups.

Anthony first sent his book, *Lucy, the Triceratops who thinks She's a Fairy and That's Okay!*, to several publishers about six years ago, but in fact, Lucy made her appearance well before the written story. Anthony had made a truly delightful puppet, Lucy, to be used in his workshops, on the theme of being different, for children in schools. 'So Lucy's been around a long time,' he says. Then he wrote the story for the book. However, when nothing was heard from the publishers, Lucy the puppet was eventually consigned to the loft in a bin bag and forgotten. During the following few years Anthony's indisputably creative career was fully occupied with work on his television film animation *Little Wings*, running children's art sessions *Art Space* and also, as many in Painswick will know, producing his wonderfully quirky paintings of local houses.

Then, on a whim during the first lockdown, Anthony decided to try again and sent three of his stories to Olympia publishers. He remembered the puppet, rescued it from the bin bag and two days later received a reply from Olympia saying they loved Lucy and would publish. He was astonished. 'I'd almost forgotten about it,' he says. Essentially written for young children it is a warm, sweet story, delightfully illustrated by Shelley Eynon, with an underlying theme of love, appreciation and thankfulness. Olympia is a renowned international publishing company and this is a real achievement for Anthony. 'There will be more to follow,' he adds. The book will be on sale with all major retailers and on-line. It is also available direct from Anthony, email lewisanthony108@gmail.com



Martin's book, *Isambard Doyle, A Hero's Journey* has taken a different route. Written essentially for young adults it is a powerful and imaginative work of fiction but with a definite underlying message. The central character is a young man who is deeply troubled, harbouring misgivings and self doubts. The narrative, abounding in wonderful characters and set in an autumnal season, follows him through a fascinating series of journeys within his own imagination. Thus able to confront his various issues, he finally emerges with a greater sense of self worth. It is about finding the courage to be true to one's valid self and to live life with confidence. It very definitely carries a positive message.

This is Martin's first novel and he sees it as the first in a series of four. Having pursued an interesting career as an actor for many years, he explains that he has been nurturing the idea of writing this book for quite some time now, and then, lo and behold, lockdown presented the ideal opportunity to make it happen. He decided that it would be self-published. This, it transpired, was 'an interesting process' which took about three months and involved having to learn about a wide range of detailed steps and procedures. Finally the books arrived and can now be purchased directly from Martin at his home in Painswick. It is also available as an e-book. Martin can be contacted by email, martinwilliamsonactor@hotmail.co.uk

Both of these books, one for young children the other for young adults, combine wonderful age-appropriate story telling with underlying positive themes – without doubt much needed in these current trying times.

Carol Maxwell

Martyn's challenge of a lifetime – imminent

The Beacon has followed Martyn Thornton's preparations for his challenge of a lifetime – to row 3000 miles across the Atlantic single-handedly – for the past few months. Now it is imminent. Martyn is in La Gomera which is the starting point of the race and will set off with the other competitors on 12th December.

His journey can be tracked from the link on the race website www.taliskerwhiskyatlanticchallenge.com. Click on the yellow box at the top of the website to access the race tracker app when it's live. Martyn's aim is to complete the race in under 60 days thus setting a new world record. There is still time to sponsor him, even after he sets off. For details see previous editions of the Beacon. Do support this intrepid Painswick man about to embark on an amazing challenge.

Carol Maxwell

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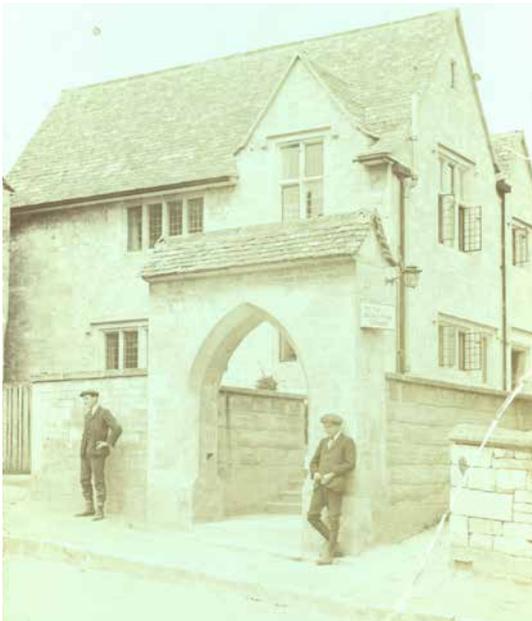
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The Institute arch ...

We asked in the October Beacon if anybody knew when or why the stone arch by the entrance to the Painswick Institute was demolished. Kay Smith of Ashwell has been able to answer both questions and send photographic evidence, as her husband was one of the workers who had the job of taking it down in 1977. The arch was at the time damaged to the extent that it was considered not worth repairing.

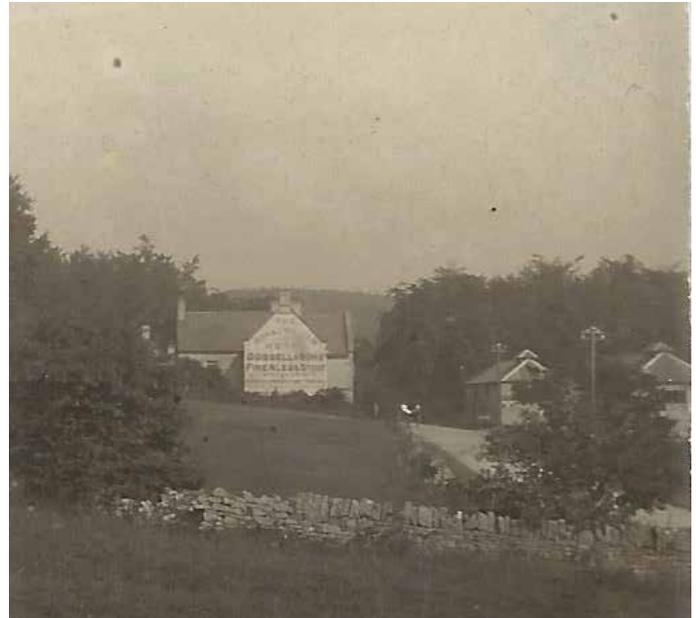


In the photo above David Smith and James Parks pose in front of the arch, before starting work on demolishing it. Behind them, a corner of the Institute Cottages. Below the arch is shown in its heyday, some 50 years earlier.

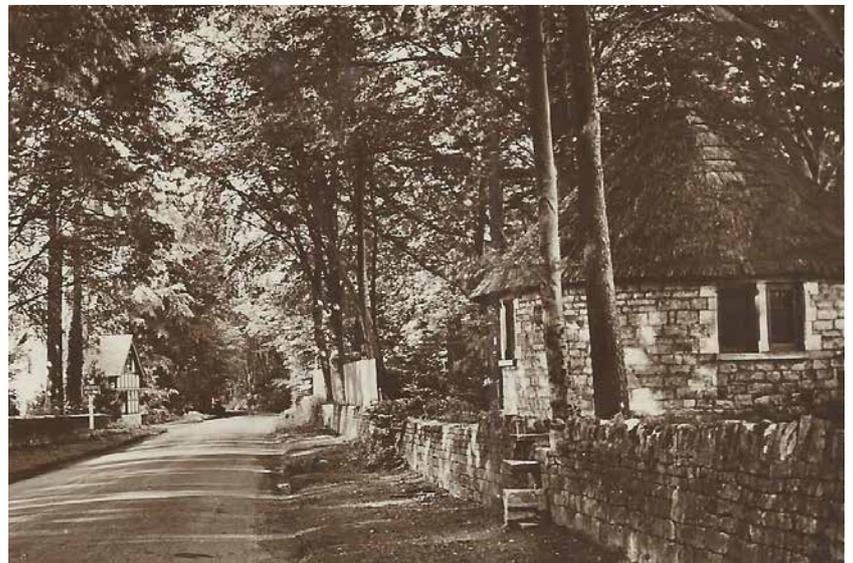


and more demolished buildings

A few months ago we printed photos of the large Malt House that used to stand in St. Mary's Street. But it was far from the only Malt House in the area. Another major one was opposite the Royal William at the top of the hill on the way to Cheltenham. Again few photos remain, but it can just be seen in the corner of this photo, probably from the early 1900s.



Just along from that, by the junction to Cranham, was another unusual building now demolished – apparently a thatched round house. Can anyone say what it was used for?



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Library re-opening again (hopefully) from December 5th

Subject to Covid-19 restrictions and volunteer availability, at a recent Zoom meeting trustees agreed Painswick Community Library should plan to cautiously reopen again to borrowers on Saturday December 5th. Our last opening day this year will be Wednesday December 23rd.

Opening hours will be Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 2.30 to 4.30 and Saturday mornings from 10.30 to 12.30. This will mean it will be possible to specify Painswick Community Library again as a collection point for any book reserved online.

As previously, we are restricted to just four people in total in the library space at any one time to allow for physical distancing and this does mean only two borrowers at a time as both volunteers count towards the total head count. Also, everyone should wear a mask (unless a young child or exempt) inside the building, maintain a two-metre distance from others and sanitise their hands on entering and leaving.

Any updates to these opening hours will be made on the library's website, social media and via the Town Hall Noticeboard.

New Trustees

At November's trustees' meeting we welcomed new trustees Paul Kenchington and Mona Polo. Both Paul and Mona live in

the local area and are very supportive and enthusiastic library members who are also joining as desk volunteers.

New Books

Following a bumper autumn of new releases, and once the library reopens, we will be adding new books to our stock.

These will be exclusively available to borrowers at Painswick library for the first six months and not reservable online.

These will include 'One August Night' which is Victoria Hislop's sequel to her bestselling 2005 saga, 'The Island', Ian Rankin's latest – 'A Song for Dark Times', 'War Lord' by Bernard Cornwell and 'Troubled Blood' by Robert Galbraith. Additions for our younger readers will include David Walliams' new book 'Code Name Bananas' and the latest 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' which is Jeff Kinney's 'The Deep End'. Please call the library on 01452 814744 during the above opening times for more information.

A comprehensive list will be posted on the library's website (www.painswickcommunitylibrary.org.uk).

All the very best for Christmas and the New Year

Pat Pinnegar



Bowling, boozing & bellringing - was this Painswick's past?

Painswick Chronicle No. 23

Painswick certainly has a very rich history and in the latest Chronicle yet more fascinating and historically significant subjects are recounted for the first time. Painswick Chronicle Number 23 is hot off the press and carries a wide range of subject matter. Our church bells and the bellringers, the Ancient Society of Painswick Youths, are renowned on a national scale and their story is both fascinating and revelatory. So too is the history of the timely building and development of the A46 road, which had a critical impact on Painswick's very existence and survival. Meanwhile the very poor of Painswick provided the focus for rich folks' so-called good deeds via a range of charities, a subject which has been researched in depth, and the privileged themselves could enjoy a game or two of bowls at the Falcon bowling green, thought to be the oldest green in the country, and the subject of a further article. There are some early personal memories recorded by an elderly lady in 1969 and did you know about the local, albeit short-lived, 19th century alcoholics' rehabilitation home?



The Chronicles aim to cover a healthy balance of historical topics of local interest from the lightweight to the academically erudite, the personal to more weighty subject matter. Painswick today is very much a product of its past and all 23 editions provide information and analysis of historical significance locally. This edition can be purchased, as can all previous editions, from Painswick Pharmacy or from Carol Maxwell tel.813387. A list of subjects covered in each edition is available in the Pharmacy and is also given on the History Society's website www.painswicklocalhistorysociety.org.uk

Other publications available from the Society are Gyde Orphanage Remembered, Time Chart of a Cotswold Village and Painswick and the Great War. And last but not least, the legend of Painswick residents' longevity together with the origins of Painswick puppy dog pie is related with relish in the little booklet Barks and Bites from Bow-wow Land – an excellent little stocking filler.

Carol Maxwell



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Insuring the future of Painswick A local business for local people

Arranging and renewing insurance policies can be a daunting exercise for most of us. The desire to find the one which provides satisfactory cover and at an acceptable price can entail ploughing through what is often a maze of apparent jargon and even then getting it wrong. And then there is all the clever advertising presented by the big insurance companies – which one do you go to?

Fortunately in Painswick help is at hand and the task thus made less formidable. Adrian Gyde is very much a local man, a proud Bow-wow born and bred in Painswick. Educated in Painswick and then Marling School, Adrian trained as an accountant and joined a large company operating internationally. His work took him all over the world accruing invaluable experience in all aspects of the insurance business. He always knew however that eventually he would return to Painswick, and when corporate life inevitably became too pressurised he began to look closer to home. Then an opportunity arose to take over an existing insurance broker business in Gloucester.

Adrian and his wife, Karen, moved back to Painswick - definitely back home permanently - three and a half years ago. The business is Cotswold Broking Services and involves Adrian and three colleagues who all work from home. He understands how complicated and potentially problematic taking out insurance can be. Indeed, 'it can also be really really boring,' he says, 'but it's essential protection'. With this awareness of the difficulties for most of us his approach has a truly local and individual focus.

He views the business as a community brokerage. The overriding aim is to offer more than is usual with regard to individual advice, to offer a more rounded service on a local level. As an example he explains that for many older houses in Painswick there are special details about the local stonework not always understood by big companies based elsewhere and which are not accounted for in the policies issued. This of course can lead to disappointing outcomes if a claim is made.

Adrian always meets with his clients face-to-face and explains that he has long since realised that this personal approach is far less daunting than the impersonal way in which most big companies operate. The regulations are important and the legal details can be complicated so 'it is important to be straightforward and honest,' he says. Because it's personal it's likely to be more honest and as a local man he has an even greater incentive to deal with clients openly. He also adds that such a service is no more expensive than those offered by the big companies.

Cotswold Broking Services cover a range of areas including business, charities, motor and of course house. This is very much a local service but with the added benefit of a level of expertise gained from worldwide experience. Adrian, very much a Painswick man, is in a position to offer the very best advice on all your insurance needs and can be contacted by tel. 07770 881695 or email info@cotswoldbroking.co.uk and the website is www.cotswoldbroking.co.uk.

Carol Maxwell

Use them or lose them – Christmas specials The Post Office and the Fish Man

It is so important that we support our local businesses two of which are present in Painswick only once and twice each week but provide a valuable service. Pete's Fish will be on sale in the Town Hall car park every Friday morning 9.00-11.00, up to and including 18th December. In addition to his usual excellent selection of top quality fresh produce there will be specials such as a range of smoked salmon including whole sides, hot smoked salmon sides and portions, smoked trout fillets, fresh salmon, a range of prawns, crab and much more. Pete will take orders up until 11th December and should you want something especially, he will do his best to get it for you.

The postal service, present in the Town Hall on Wednesday and Friday mornings, 9.30 - 11.30 am, must continue to be used by everyone if we are to retain it. This is especially important during the Christmas season. Recommended last posting dates for the UK are Friday 18th December for second class and Monday 21st for first class. Check on-line for overseas dates or with the postmaster in the Town Hall. Do make sure you avail yourself of this service especially at this time of the year.

Carol Maxwell

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Painswick Golf Club Then and Now

On the 1st December 1891 the Painswick Annual Register recorded that “a good sporting golf course had been laid out on Painswick Common” and that annual membership was available for Gentlemen @ £1-0s-0d and for Ladies @ £0-10s-0d. Golf’s popularity was booming in the last quarter of the 19th century and other local clubs, Minchinhampton, Stinchcombe, Cleeve and Cirencester had been or were shortly to be formed. The original nine hole course was laid out by David Brown of the Malvern Club. He had achieved distinction as the Open Champion in 1868.

As a result of the COVID restrictions there has been little in the way of organised sport in Painswick for the last month. So our sports correspondent has dug into the archives for this look back at the origins of Golf in Painswick



Photo—H. E. Jones.

THE CLUB PAVILION.

One imagines that the first members of the new golf course were largely drawn from Painswick and other nearby villages. However it is known that the new club went on to attract members from Gloucester and Stroud especially as motor buses became available making special stops near the course. Predictably the early membership included prominent people from the local area many of whom became great benefactors to the Club.

The course posed and still does a stiff challenge to even the most proficient golfers, taking in as it does the ramparts of the 3000 year old pre-Roman hill fort and negotiating old quarry workings. The course was increased to 18 holes in 1906.



The safeguarding of land for the proposed Painswick By-pass was lifted by the District Council in 1984 which freed up the land around the current Golf Pavilion for development. Land was then purchased adjacent to the current Club House and facing the A46. In 1990 consent was given to the golf club for the creation of a golf green and practice area on this land. In November 1991 the Beacon reported that the Painswick Golf club had just celebrated its first 100 years, membership numbers had increased over the years and that application had been granted for an extension to the clubhouse. This would include a new lower ground floor area, enlarged restaurant and bar area, as well as additional car parking to meet the demands of the increasing membership.

The Golf course is on Manorial land which was given over as accessible to the Right to Roam act of 2000, under which walkers have equal access but must “act responsibly and and not interfere unreasonably with rights of other users”.

Numbers walking on the Beacon in recent years have increased dramatically, numbers which were never envisaged way back in 1891. The beauty of Painswick Beacon and its glorious views are only possible due to the presence of the golf club and the maintenance of the open spaces paid for by its members, together with the work by local volunteers of the Beacon Conservation Group.

Article based on a Beacon report January 1993 and updated

Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Painswick poppy appeal 2020. The amount raised is £981; this will be really appreciated by the British Legion. Despite the restrictions currently in place, this year's appeal has shown how dedicated and generous the people of Painswick are to this charity.

Fiona Chapman, Community Representative, on behalf of the British Legion.



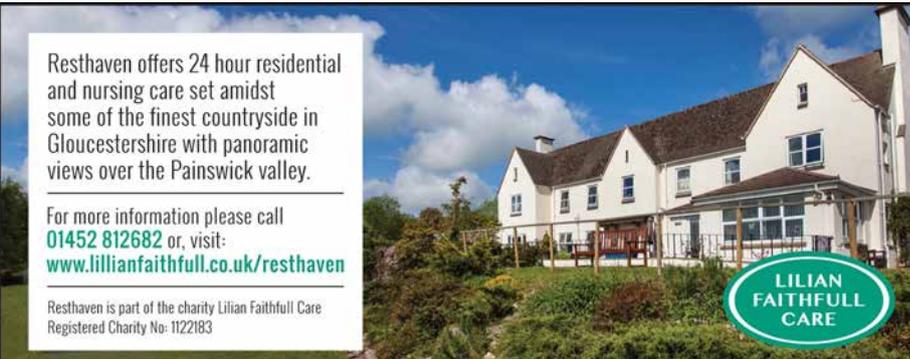
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Jottings

There are more sheep breeds in this country than in any other. There are 60 different breeds of which 25 are considered rare, being looked after by some forty thousand farmers on hills to lowlands. Different breeds live on different types of land. There are cross breeds to produce sheep for particular conditions and needs.

In the 21st century, the sheep industry is mainly for the sale of meat even though far less sheep meat is eaten than chicken, pork or beef. Lambing is a very busy time for farmers, especially during March and April. Indoor lambing is common, particularly for our lowland flocks. Good housing facilities and management are important in order to reduce disease and stress. Lambs intended for meat are usually sent for slaughter at five to eight months old: "lamb" being the meat of immature sheep less than a year. When sheep can no longer produce enough wool to be considered profitable, they are sent to slaughter and sold as "mutton", the meat of mature sheep usually at least two years of age.

Some sheep are bred to produce milk to sell and make cheese. Sheep have only two teats and produce far less milk than cows, so this is not very profitable. Sheep not meant to be eaten are typically shorn annually in a shearing shed. Most farmers shear in late spring or early summer so that the sheep do not get too hot and start to attract flies. These days it costs £2 to £2.50 to shear each sheep in small herds but can be less when shearing large numbers. Each sheep may produce 2kg or more of wool which must be clean and free of dirt. At least it's a renewable source for shearing time every spring.

In the reign of Charles II, the Burying in Woollen Acts 1666-80 were acts of Parliament of England which required the dead (except plague victims and the destitute) to be buried in pure English woollen shrouds to the exclusion of any other. Between 1940 and 1960s there was a wool buyer who bought all the local wool for cloth-making at his premises locally in Thrupp. Now all fleeces are bought by the Wool Board, but the price farmers get for their wool has dropped considerably over the decades and now scarcely brings in enough money to cover the cost of getting the sheep shorn. Wool prices have fallen dramatically because of all the alternative, synthetic fibres now being made. Fleeces are used as material in making alternative products such as wool insulation.

Sheep skin is used for making clothes, footwear, rugs, and other products. Sheep tallow can be used in candle and soap making, sheep bone and cartilage has been used to furnish carved items such as dice and buttons as well as rendered glue and gelatin. Sheep intestine can be formed into sausage casings. Lamb intestine has been used in surgical sutures, as well as for strings for musical instruments and tennis rackets. Sheep droppings, which are high in cellulose, have even been sterilized and mixed with traditional pulp materials to make paper. Of all sheep by-products, perhaps the most valuable is lanolin: the waterproof, fatty substance found naturally in sheep's wool and used as a base for innumerable cosmetics and other products.

Despite the falling demand and price for sheep products in many markets, sheep have some advantages when compared with other livestock. They do not require expensive housing and they are an efficient use of land. But there are restrictions on the numbers of sheep you can keep on your land: between 6 and 10 sheep to the acre depending on where you live in this country. If you live on the Scottish or Welsh mountains you may only keep one sheep per 10 acres!

The costs of extra feed crops such as grain, soybeans and corn can be less. Sheep can eat noxious weeds that most other animals will not touch, and produce young at a faster rate. So there are opportunities for potential small farmers. Sheep are especially beneficial for independent producers, including family farms with limited resources.

But extra help is needed at lambing time and bringing the sheep in for shearing and dipping. The other thing is you need good stock fences, not just barbed wire, because sheep are escape artistes. You would need to keep some 500 hundred ewes and sell about 800 fat lambs a year to make a living. Small flocks, from 10 to 50 ewes, are not profitable. The primary reason is that mechanisation is not feasible, so labour costs are high. There are not many abattoirs left to kill small numbers. Small farm flocks are generally used simply to control weeds on irrigation ditches or maintained as a hobby.



Martin Slinger


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The Vine Project – South Africa

The young people of the project have managed really well during this awful time. Much to our surprise the virus has not been as devastating as it has been here. It might be that because of the lack of money the population has stayed in their own homes. Education has been very much a hit and miss affair for the students. Those at the Universities were sent home to continue their studies via the internet. We were able to make sure they had a working computer and money to buy data to enable them to work. The need for food vouchers did increase because the bursary payments stopped and the school children did not get the free vegetable stew that was served at lunch time. Schools were not able to organise the sanitation safety or safe distancing because of the numbers in each class so they stayed home until the lockdown was eased. Now they attend every other day.

I will not be able to make my usual visit in January. Our part time support worker has done an extremely good job in keeping in touch with everyone and has reported problems back to the Trustees. She will be able to organise the purchase of school uniforms ready for the return to school after the long holiday.

Christmas will be very different for us all this year. I do have the Zulu jewellery at home. If anyone would like to have a look I would be pleased to show you the display in my hall through the window!

Pat Chase 01452 813195



Property Report

Relatively few new properties seem to be coming to the market at present. In Painswick itself, only two new properties are reported to us this month and one of those (Stables Cottage in Hale Lane) is already under offer through Murrays. The other is the Old Inn in George Court, off Victoria Street (Murrays, £660,000), an historic property thought to date back to 1550 and packed with period features.

In the area around Painswick it's much the same story. 2 Blacklaines Cottages near Birdlip came to the market only briefly before going under offer, as did Rosemary at Longridge, both of them through Hamptons. In Cranham, Monastery Bells, a 4 bed detached family house on The Knoll (Murrays, £895,000) looks at the time of writing to be in the same position.

The list of properties sold is rather longer. As well as those mentioned above, Rosemullion in Lower Washwell, Ludloes and The Glebe in Gloucester Street, Corner Cottage in Victoria Street, 10 Gyde House, 1 George Court, Park House at the Park, Cockshoot House at Cockshoot and Commodious Chapel at Edge have all recently gone under offer. Properties that have exchanged / completed include Amesbury in Vicarage Street, Millbrook in Kingsmill Lane, Yew Tree Barn in New Street, 3 Court Cottages in Butt Green, Sweetbriar in Cranham, the Croft in Pitchcombe and the Wool Barn in Sheepscombe.

So what is still available? Hamptons have the detached 5 bed Brooklands Cottage (£950,000) in the heart of Sheepscombe, but with fields on two sides and a stream running through the garden. Murrays have Thorne in Friday Street (£545,000), Cranmore Cottage in Vicarage Street (£495,000) and Dry Knapps House in Edge Lane (£875,000). Moulton Haus are offering Greenacres in Cheltenham Road, a substantial property with 7 bedrooms and 5 reception rooms, now at £1 million. But if you're thinking of putting your house on the market, it's likely that any of the local estate agents would welcome you with open (but socially distanced) arms at the moment.

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Personal Column

Condolences

To the family and friends of JANE (HAZEL) HEMMING (nee Hazel Partridge) of The Park, Painswick, who passed away peacefully at home after a long illness on Sunday 1st November. Beloved wife to Kenneth, mother to Caroline and Rosalind, grandmother to Esme, Harriet, Nathaniel and Raphael, Mother-in-law to Peter and Martin. Jane was born in Painswick and a resident for nearly 50 years. She will be laid to rest in a private burial at Painswick Cemetery. Donations in memory of Jane to Alzheimer's Research UK would be most welcome. www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Caroline-Taylor70

To the family and friends of GEORGINA GRIFFITHS, who died on 2nd November peacefully at the Sue Ryder Hospice, aged 49 following a 17-year battle with brain

cancer. See separate article below.

Thank you

CHRISTINE and PENNY WEST would like to thank everyone who sent flowers, cards and messages of support following the sudden death in Devon of Andrew West on October 29th, aged 50 years. Also to Michael Gamble Funeral Director and his team, and Mike Smith the celebrant for making the service so moving and personal to Andrew (Andy).

MICHELLE PALMER and her husband would like to thank everyone at Gyde House for 18 splendid years, and to everyone in the village, from the surgery through to the Falcon, Painswick Hotel and the groundsmen at the Beacon, for making Painswick the Cotswolds' best kept secret. We take many fond memories and friends from this special place as we move to pastures new in Herefordshire.

Congratulations

To POLLY and PATCH MCMEEKIN on the birth of their daughter Margot Wren who was born in London on November 11th. Polly is the daughter of Richard and Vicky Aspinall. Polly and Patch were married in St Mary's in 2017.

To LIEUT.COL JOHN and KIRAN BREEZE on the safe arrival of their daughter Rose on November 11th. Pauline and Michael Breeze are looking forward to seeing Kiran and Rose when restrictions allow. Also to be reunited with John who is at present on active duty in Afghanistan.

Welcome

To JUKKA KOSKELA and FRASER LEGGATE, as well as Nalle their dog, who moved into Hambutts House on 18th November.

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

Gina Griffiths

Georgina (Gina) Griffiths of Stamages Lane, Painswick sadly died on the 2nd November, following a 17-year battle with brain cancer.



Photo by Anne-Marie Randall

Gina passed away peacefully at the Sue Ryder Hospice with her husband Andrew, daughters Bella and Elle and her parents at her side. Gina lived in Birdlip, Cowley and Cranham, before settling in Painswick where she worked in Meggie's, the Art Couture Gallery and more recently volunteered in the Longfield shop.

Gina was an amazing woman who touched so many people with her kindness, humour, and bravery, she was loved and adored by many, and leaves an enormous gap in all our lives.

Gina's funeral took place at Gloucester Crematorium on Wednesday, 25th November, with 30 family and close friends. Organising a funeral in normal circumstances is difficult, to organise one whilst amid a pandemic is even harder and the family are sorry that so many people were not able to attend and plan for a celebration of her life next June, around her 50th birthday.

Donations in Gina's memory can be made to The Brain Tumour Charity <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gina-griffiths45>

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."

Emma Bradshaw

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Naughty Christmas Elves are coming to Painswick!

Friends of The Croft School have invited a number of naughty Christmas Elves to Painswick for the first week of the school holidays! The Painswick Naughty Elf Trail will run from 18th-23rd December with a £200 John Lewis voucher as the star prize, and it's specially designed to be Covid-safe whatever level of local restrictions may be in place.

Approximately 20 elves will be up to all kinds of mischief in window displays around the village, to delight children and adults alike. Household groups can follow a map to spot the elves – at any time over the six days – as part of their daily exercise. And thanks to generous sponsorship from Hamptons International and Painswick Parish Council, each trail map purchased brings a chance to WIN THE £200 JOHN LEWIS VOUCHER.

Visit www.naughtylftrail.co.uk to buy your maps from 27th November. Maps will cost just £3 each.

The event is being run by Friends of The Croft School (FOTCS) a registered charity (number 1030573) who are determined to reach their annual fundraising target of £10,000 to enrich the outdoor area at The Croft Primary School, despite the very difficult circumstances we all find ourselves in.

FOTCS Co-Chairs Hannah Lansdowne and Alison Smith say, "We're so happy we've found a way to spread some Christmas joy this year, even with potential Covid restrictions. We've had to cancel the school Christmas discos which the children so look forward to, Fireworks Night which is our biggest fundraiser, and three other key fundraising events so far in 2020. We hope the Painswick Naughty Elf Trail will help keep children entertained in the school Christmas holidays, and edge us towards our fundraising goal at the same time."

Alison Smith



Gardening Club

We have missed our Gardening Club meetings with our members and friends this year - never more so than during the wonderful weeks before Christmas. The Christmas Wreath Workshops which have produced stunning creations, the brilliantly hilarious Christmas Quiz and our fabulous Christmas flower arranging demonstrations raffled and won by many lucky members and friends.



Fear not! When we are able to hold our meetings again we will celebrate in style... In the meantime we send all our members and friends our very best wishes this Christmas and look forward to see everyone soon.

The Painswick Gardening Club Committee

Beacon Christmas Draw

This year the winners, drawn randomly from amongst our subscribers and advertisers are:

1st prize (a bottle of spirits) to Joanna Nicolas of Stamages Lane; 2nd prize (a half bottle of liqueur) to Roy and Margaret Wallace of Knapp Lane; 3rd and 4th prizes (a box of chocolates each) to Peter Twigg of Hyett Orchard and Christine West of Stroud Road



The prize for our advertisers goes to Paul Stamp and Helen Froggatt of Painswick Osteopaths.

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PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

S.20/2265/FUL Barn At Abbey Farm, Slad Lane

Conversion of gabled barn with lofted stable to 3 bedroom family home with associated renovation works, single storey lean-to porch extension, works to amenity areas & extra parking space.

S.20/2247/LBC Barn At Abbey Farm, Slad Lane

Conversion of gabled barn with lofted stable to 3 bedroom family home, with associated renovation works. Single storey lean to porch extension work. Works to amenity areas and extra parking space.

S.20/2332/AFPA Stroud Slad Farm, Slad Lane

Erection of Poly Tunnel.

S.20/2266/HHOLD Tocknells Court, Cheltenham Road

Minor alterations to approved application S.19/1243/HHOLD - Proposed extension. S.20/2267/LBC Tocknells Court, Cheltenham Road

Minor alterations to approved application S.19/1222/LBC - Proposed extension.

S.20/2052/HHOLD Castle Hale, Stamages Lane

Removal of existing metal framed swimming pool enclosure, new outdoor pool and garden office.

S.20/2352/HHOLD Westmorland House Kingsmead

Two storey extension & single storey extension to existing property, including roof alterations, construct of new chimney & extension to garage.

S.20/2311/TCA West Hayes, Far End, Sheepscombe

Fell 7 various trees and reduce in size and shape Elm tree.

S.20/2394/TCA The Croft, Sheepscombe Unknown (T1) - Prune removing 4m of growth.

S.20/2242/TCA Merrills, Friday Street Purple Plum in the rear garden - Reduce all over by up to 3.0m to leave at a more acceptable size for the garden.

S.20/2487/LBC 22 Gloucester Road Painswick

Replace staircases.

S.20/2423/FUL Land At Yokehouse Lane

Erection of agricultural building for honey extraction, equipment storage, machinery and general agricultural use.

CONSENT

S.20/1841/HHOLD Askrigg House, Stamages Lane

Proposed outbuilding.

S.20/1984/HHOLD and S.20/1985/LBC Rockmill House, Rock Mill

Replacement of roof and garage door, insertion of windows & internal alterations to an existing outbuilding.

S.20/2004/HHOLD Beech Cottage, Kings Mill Lane

Erection of a two-storey rear extension and porch.

S.20/1992/HHOLD and S.20/1993/LBC Holcombe Folly

Replacement steps, new terrace and wall to rear and extension to single storey building.

S.20/2180/TCA St Johns Church, Sheepscombe

T6 - Yew tree - Reduce to leave approximately 6ft tall, retaining all lower growth for future shaping. T1-5 Yews - Trimming of the 5 shaped Yews.

S.20/2215/TPO Mill Pool House, Ticklestone Lane

T1 - Large Oak, reduction on house side by 3 metres to bring away from the house, few other branches to be removed to balance out the tree. T2 - Large Oak, reduction on house side by 2 metres to bring away from the house

S.20/2242/TCA Merrills, Friday Street Purple Plum in the rear garden - Reduce all over by up to 3.0m to leave at a more acceptable size for the garden.

S.20/1654/FUL Dutchcombe Farm, Yokehouse Lane

Replacement dwelling (revised scheme). S.20/1746/HHOLD Beechwood Cottage, Jacks Green, Sheepscombe

Replacement of two existing rooflights with dormer window and one additional dormer window.

S.20/1673/HHOLD 13 Upper Washwell

Provision of two small single storey rear & side extensions. Provide a large lounge & additional cloak room.

S.20/1722/FUL Land At Yokehouse Lane

Erection of permanent timber frame shed for the storage of bee equipment and for the extraction of honey. The size of the shed is 3.6x10.8m. Height at eaves 2.2m, height at ridge 2.84m.

S.20/1499/FUL & S.20/1500/LBC Cardynham House, Tibbiwell Lane

Internal & external alterations.

WITHDRAWN

S.20/2014/FUL Land South Of Edge Road

Field track in loose stone.

REFUSED

S.20/2259/TPO Hyett Orchard Hyett Close

T1 and T2 - Lime Trees – fell.

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NEXT ISSUE

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This glorious holly tree outside The Painswick Hotel has recently been covered in bright red berries



Debbie Jones, who took the photo above from her house in Edge, speculates that someone in Painswick may have recently found a pot of gold



Remembrance Day was necessarily more limited this year in terms of the number of people gathering at the war memorial, but even under lockdown, the Longfield Shop managed a colourful window display