

# The Painswick Beacon

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## He's done it!

### Martyn Thornton rows solo across the Atlantic

After a gruelling 64 days at sea on his own and rowing almost constantly, Martyn Thornton arrived in Antigua on Sunday 14th February to a warm Valentine's Day welcome from his wife Lyn. As he stepped off his boat to a rapturous and deservedly loud outbreak of applause, the sense of both relief and achievement was overwhelming and palpable. He'd done it!

After months of intensive training and preparation Martyn set off from La Gomera on 12th December. Every one of the following 64 days was completely unpredictable and definitely challenging – changing weather patterns, dramatic tidal and swell conditions, ocean creatures lurking nearby, a broken oar, even a close shave with a Spanish trawler. Notwithstanding, he succeeded in mastering each and every one of these challenges and completed the crossing with justifiable pride.

As he stepped on to dry land holding forth a flag stating 'I rowed the Atlantic' the sense of jubilation and intense emotion were manifest. Representing the UK, a Union Jack was immediately wrapped round his shoulders as he was led on to a small podium to be interviewed. No stranger to challenges – he has, for example, hiked from Mexico to Canada - Martyn wanted to emphasise the idea that we can all achieve so much if we really want to, whatever our dream or target might be. By focussing and acting in a positive and determined way, the possibilities are endless.

His great hope was that his achievement would serve as an inspiration to others to follow their inner dreams and goals whatever their age. "If at my age I can inspire anyone to do it then I've achieved something even greater ... get out there and do it, you will succeed." He is firmly of the belief that we can all succeed and that age is irrelevant. It is a matter of believing in oneself. At 62 he is certainly a role model in this respect.

*continued on p14*

## Refusal of trading licence raises strong feelings Online petition calls on Council to change its mind

A proposal by Lucy John, landlady of the Royal Oak, to use a converted horse trailer to sell coffee and cakes at the Ramblers Car Park on Painswick Beacon, has been turned down by Stroud District Council, leading to widespread protests. The service was to be operated from Wednesday to Sunday, aimed at walkers on the Cotswold Way as well as local people taking exercise. But a range of objections were raised on the grounds that it could result in litter and potentially other damage to the Beacon, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Other concerns were about the effect on other nearby businesses selling refreshments, and the loss of parking provision. At its January meeting Painswick Parish Council supported the objections and recommended refusal, which was what then happened.

Protesting at the refusal, Lucy points out that there would be no cooking facilities other than a coffee maker. There would be recycling facilities, but no seating area, and at the end of each day the area would be checked for litter and the trailer hitched up and towed away, leaving no trace of their presence. She has launched an online petition in an effort to persuade both the Parish and District Councils to change their mind, which at the time of writing has reached over 400 signatures.



*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

Members attending via ZOOM  
Cllrs Rob Lewis (Chairman), Andy Cash,  
James Cross, Ann Daniels, Ian James,  
Rosie Nash, Martin Slinger

### Apologies for Absence

Cllr Roey Parker

### Public Questions

Before opening the Meeting Chairman Rob Lewis asked the several members of the public who had remotely joined the Meeting, whether there were any questions. Mr Paul Moir stated that they were all concerned by the Committee's decision at the January Meeting not to support the Street Traders Application for a converted horsebox to sell coffee and cake at the Ramblers Car Park on the Beacon. He wanted the Council to reconsider their decision. The applicant, Mrs Lucy John, also made the same request and suggested that the Council may not have been aware of the full facts when they made their decision.

The Deputy Clerk Irena Litton, confirmed to the Meeting that all the necessary paperwork had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the January Planning Committee Meeting. The Chairman said that under Standing Orders once a recommendation had been made to the District Council they were unable to "review" that decision for six months. Although the decision by the District Council was to refuse the application they had agreed for an independent officer to review the decision after 28 days. All future enquiries should be directed to Stroud District Council's Licensing Dept.

The Chairman then opened the Meeting.

### Matters requiring a decision.

There were 15 items requiring a decision:

S.21/0180/FUL Land at Yokehouse Lane. Erection of 3-bay stables and manure store. Unanimous Support subject to the condition that the stables are for Equine use only.

S.21/0179/FUL Land at Yokehouse Lane. Conversion of barn to dwelling (C3) with single and two storey extension. Concern was expressed about the impact of a contemporary design extension being added to an old property. After a discussion a vote was taken. By 4 votes to 2 the decision was to Support the Application.

The following applications were supported unanimously.

S.21/0082/HHOLD Cyprus Cottage, Sheepscombe. Relocation of parking area and reinstatement of wall.

S.20/2693/HHOLD Chessed, Slad Road, Slad. Construction of bike store with patio over.

S.21/0101/HHOLD 1 Severn Cottages, Vicarage Street. Single storey garden room extension.

S.21/0140/FUL The Painswick, Kemps Lane. Provide screening roof cover over bin store area in rear kitchen courtyard.

S.21/0190/HHOLD Hammonds Cottage, Wick Street. Conversion of garage and addition of a lean-to for solar panels

S.21/0126/HHOLD The Old Carriage House, Edge Lane, Edge. Proposed single storey orangery lean-to to rear extension.

S.21/0166/HHOLD and S.21/0167/LBC North West Stable, Brownhill Court, Wick Street. Residential conversion and renovation of stables and reinstatement of store building.

S.21/0212/HHOLD and S.21/0213/LBC Halfpenny Cottage, Tibbiwell Lane. Changes to windows.

S.21/0200/TCA The Spindles, Far End, Sheepscombe. Cut back one Sycamore

S21/0223/TCA Shetlands, Far End, Sheepscombe. Remove three trees.

S21/0168/TCA Verlands Vicarage Street. Fell 1 tree and reduce 3 others.

## PARISH COUNCIL

Again the Meeting was held via ZOOM. Chairman Martin Slinger opened the Meeting and welcomed all who had connected to the Meeting. Cllr Abigail Smith joined the Meeting.

### Apologies for absence

Cllr Roey Parker

### Reports

District Councillor Nigel Cooper reported that at a recent Meeting the District Council had approved a 5% increase in the Council Tax for 2021/22. Also that the District Council elections would be held on May 6th and finally plans for the work to be carried out at Brimscombe Port were expected to be submitted to the Planning Dept.

County Councillor Keith Rippington was not present at the Meeting nor had a report been submitted.

Council Chairman Cllr Martin Slinger reported that following the item that appeared in the January Beacon concerning the War Memorial, several residents had contacted the Council with suggestions including removing or reducing the height of the Yew Trees and re-carving the names on the Memorial. As the Memorial is a Listed Monument the Council have contacted both the Conservation Officer at the District Council and the War Memorial Trust to seek their advice. The Trust are arranging to visit the site. Due to the type of stone it is not possible to re-carve the names. An alternative would be to place a stone plinth at the side of the Monument containing the names shown on the Memorial. Further suggestions from the public would be welcome.

Due to the adverse weather conditions it had not been possible for the contractor to work on the Recreation Ground and remove a diseased Ash Tree. A letter had been received from Stroud District Council confirming that all Ash Trees with Ash Die Back disease, along the A46, will be felled within the next 28 days. They will be replaced by more trees than those felled.

Parish Council Clerk Roy Balgobin confirmed that the elections for Parish Councillors will be held on the 6th May. He is preparing an article for the March Beacon about meeting with prospective

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new Parish Councillors and explaining the role of a Parish Councillor.

Work on the cemetery was almost completed and there was a noticeable improvement. The apprentice, Lucas, had just received his NVQ Certificate. When the current restrictions are lifted the Council will formally present the Certificate to him.

### Community Support Group.

Cllr Abigail Smith reported the Group now has 35 volunteers who have been driving local residents to and from the Vaccination Centre at the Rowcroft Medical Centre in Stroud. Currently there was a low level of requests for assistance.

### Land and Buildings Committee

Cllr Rosie Nash confirmed that a Meeting had been held, all was in order and that there was nothing to report.

### Reports from Councillors

Chairman Martin Slinger reported that Edge Residents were very concerned about the speed of traffic on the A4173 by Edge Church. Also problems with blocked drains.

Cllr Andy Cash reported continuing problems over blocked drains. One house was in danger of being flooded. The matter had been referred to the Highways Dept and he was still awaiting a response. Also following the recent cold weather there was a need to "top up" the roadside salt bins. The Clerk confirmed that he would ask the Parish Handyman to check on all the "salt bins" in the Parish. Cllr Abigail Smith confirmed that there was sufficient "salt in reserve" to top up the bins. With the advance of modern technology in producing "road salt" only small amounts needed to be spread on roads. The Clerk will arrange for notices to be attached to the bins stating that only small amounts needed to be spread.

Cllr Ian James said that as a result of the current Pandemic there had been a considerable increase in the number of "Home Delivery" vehicles in the area. He had received complaints from residents in Jack's Green about the excessive speed of those vehicles in that area. He suggested contacting Highways with a request that the speed limit in the area be reduced

to 20mph. Cllr Abigail Smith said that initially the request must be referred to the "Road Safety Group." As an interim measure it may be possible to fit temporary 20mph signs in the area. She will find out if there are any spare signs.

Cllr Rob Lewis stated that he had received a telephone message about damage to a building in Gloucester Street. He will investigate.

### Parish Council elections

The Clerk confirmed that the election is to be held on the 6th May and the necessary paperwork will be issued week commencing 22nd February. Nomination papers must be handed in to the District Council between the 23rd March and the 8th April. He urged Cllrs to encourage other local Parishioners to stand at the election to help fill the current vacancies on the Council. In order to promote the role of a Parish Councillor he and the Deputy Clerk would be holding a public ZOOM Meeting at 6.00pm on the 24th March to answer any questions members of the public may have. Full details would be published in the March Beacon (see page 4). Details will also be available via the Council's facebook page.

### To discuss and agree a protocol to undertake the Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk advised the Meeting that the Council must hold an Annual Parish Meeting, open to all residents, by the 31st May. All Council Officers, Chairs of Committees and Cllrs needed to attend. Annual reports would be presented by the Chairman and Committee Chairs and questions raised by Members of the Public answered. With the "Social Distancing" rules the maximum number allowed into the Town Hall is 12. During the ensuing discussions Cllrs put forward the following ideas:

- Consider moving the Meeting to larger premises.
- Hold the Meeting via Zoom
- Arrange for any questions to be submitted prior to the Meeting and the answers provided via Zoom or email.
- Publish the reports in the Beacon then hold an open forum via Zoom.

After the discussion the Council agreed to the Chairman's suggestion that the decision be deferred until after the Prime Minister's statement on the 22nd February.

### Accounts

The Council approved the "Accounts for Payment" list circulated prior to the Meeting.

The Council agreed to appoint Mr Ian Crowe FCA as its internal Auditor for the year ending 31st March 2021

### Date of next Meeting

Wednesday 17th March 2021 at 7.30pm via ZOOM.

The Meeting closed at 8.35pm

## Road Closures Advance Notice

Both Jenkins Lane (from the A46 across to the A4173 Pitchcombe to Edge road) and Wick Street (from Hawkwood College to Stratford Park) will be closed from 7th April to 9th April 2021 to allow for works on behalf of Gigaclear.

A section of Sevenleaze Lane (the road from the Beacon across to Edge) will be closed from 24th May to 16th June 2021 to allow for works on behalf of BT Openreach.

## Church garden update

Many thanks to those who have donated to the improvement of the flower bed in the churchyard. At present, we are awaiting a faculty (planning permission from the Diocese) so that work can be continued. To date, weeds have been cleared and splendid replacement compost bins are in place. It is hoped that we can proceed with some planting soon.

*Joan Warner, Freda Steed, Jo Richardson, Pauline Breeze, Chris West*

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# Interested in becoming a Parish Councillor?

It is election year for Painswick Parish Council with elections scheduled for Thursday 6th May 2021. Painswick Parish Council is a Warded Council with 7 Councillors from the Painswick Ward, 1 from the Edge Ward and two each from the Sheepscombe and Slad Wards.

To become a Parish Councillor you must be a UK or Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, and be at least 18 years old. To be eligible to stand for an election, you must also

- be an elector of the parish, or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish, or;
- during the previous 12 months have worked in the parish (as your principal or only place of work), or;
- for the whole of the previous 12 months lived in the parish or within three miles of the parish boundary.

Painswick Parish Council is a "Gold Accredited" Council under the Local Council Awards Scheme and prides itself on helping our local communities. It is often parish councils that are turned to for support. By becoming a Parish Councillor you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support.

Parish Councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities. Once elected, Parish Councillors term of office is for a maximum of four years. If they then want to stay in the post they can stand for re-election.

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk will be running an information evening on Wednesday 24th March 2021 at 6 pm via Zoom for anyone wishing to gain a greater insight on to the role of a Parish Councillor. If you wish to attend please advise the Clerk, Roy Balgobin by email: [clerk@painswick-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@painswick-pc.gov.uk) or telephone 01452 812722. If you are unable to attend the meeting please feel free to ring the Clerk for an informal chat about the role.

*Roy Balgobin, Clerk*

# Elections Job Opportunities

Have you ever considered working at one of our Polling Stations? We are looking to recruit motivated staff to fill a number of important paid roles on election day.

On Thursday May 6th 2021 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire, County, District and Parish Council elections will be taking place. Planning is already underway and we would like to reassure you that our highest priority is the safety of our staff and our electorate. We will be adhering to Government Guidelines, so our Polling Stations may look a bit different and in order to deliver this plan, we will need extra staff at many of our Polling Stations. These are paid roles across the whole of the Stroud District - and the Elections Team are keen to hear from you.

More information about the role and how to apply can be found here: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/elections-job-opportunities>

Applicants must be over 18, eligible to work in the UK and not affiliated to any political party.

*Helen Whitehead, Elections Support Officer, Stroud District Council*

# Are you registered to vote?

In order to vote in the upcoming Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire, County, District and Parish Council elections taking place on May 6th 2021 you must be registered on the Electoral Roll. Planning is already underway and we would like to reassure you that our highest priority is the safety of our staff and our electorate. We will be adhering to Government Guidelines, so your Polling Station may look a bit different. Please help us to help you keep safe by following the guidelines.

To register to vote, please go to [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). You will need your date of birth and national insurance number and registering only takes a few minutes. If you are not able to cast your ballot at a polling station or would prefer not to vote in person you can apply for an "Absent Vote". Stroud District Council Elections web page has all the information you need:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/how-do-i-vote>

From here you can find out all about how to vote including:

- Check if you are registered by using a quick link. (Register to vote deadline - Midnight, Monday 19 April 2021)
- Voting by Post – request or download an application form (Postal vote deadline - 5pm, Tuesday 20 April 2021)
- Voting by Proxy – request or download an application form (Proxy vote deadline - 5pm, Tuesday 27 April 2021)

*Helen Whitehead, Elections Support Officer, Stroud District Council*

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## Painswick Library Bookclub

Our recent Library Book club read was *Old Baggage* by Lissa Evans. The unappealing title and front cover disguise what a gem this novel would turn out to be. Set mainly in 1928 it tells the tale of Mattie, a feisty indomitable middle class woman 'who is not yet sixty' and whose passion to raise the voice and role of women remains as strong as it was in her former suffragette years. Her friend and fellow suffragette Florrie Lee, known as The Flea, and their housemaid Ida, provide the framework in which Mattie continues with her struggle to raise female political awareness and to improve the education and ambitions of young girls and women.



The novel is well researched with accurate historical detail and gives voice to the constraints and prejudices experienced by early 20th Century women. It exposes the gender and the class and social inequalities that existed and is set against the rise of Facism in Britain. 'Old Baggage', a derogatory term used of Mattie by one of the characters, aptly sums up how her past relationships and political struggles continue to shape her actions in later years. The main characters are delightful and the narrative is witty and warm. It was an easy read and enjoyed by all.

The next Library Book club read is *The Shadow King* by Maaza Mengiste, which we will discuss on Monday 15th March at 2pm.

*Pat Andrew*

## News from El Contador Yew trees and almonds

The almond trees are skeletal now, stripped bare by the savage, bitterly cold winds we endure up here at this time of year. Yesterday we discovered a lonely tree amongst all those sleeping boughs, on the verge of gamely bursting out into pink blossom. An early variety we think, planted in error years ago, more at home and comfortable on the relatively warmer, lower slopes. In a couple of months, as our welcome visitors Penny and Ian Eastwood discovered, we shall be floating in a sea of pink and white blossom, greeting Springtime, bearing almonds through the hot Summer and then on to the almond harvest beginning again in September on our mountain plateau, to arrive in Painswick for Christmas.

Our small "parish" has worked hard to keep out this dreadful virus, but sadly it has arrived in the village. A number of households are isolating, a family member sadly in hospital. There is a 10pm / 6am nationwide curfew and we are, like many 100's of parishes in the country, locked within the parish boundaries. Everything is closed apart from the surgery, chemist and a small Londis type store. The village is like a ghost town and because of the high winds we even have tumbleweed blowing through the streets.

Our farmers are carrying on regardless - as Mr Slinger will appreciate. It's ploughing time and during the day huge tractors with their evil looking attachments are rumbling down our street. Our jabs are delayed for reasons you probably all know, but vaccine supplies will be arriving soon - so we're told.

It's the British way to "make the best of it" which we and I'm sure you all are trying to do. Thanks to Celia Lougher and Yew Trees WI for your good wishes. After all this is over - and it will be - if you're passing, come and knock on our door, for a proper coffee and a plate of almonds - in the Spring preferably!

*Christopher Piper-Short. El Contador*

## Yew Trees WI Corrupt politicians

Is politics more corrupt today than ever before? This was the unexpected question posed to members of Yew Trees WI when they gathered on zoom for their February meeting.



John Butterworth the guest speaker's subject was 'The Hotel with the famous guest list', so if his audience was expecting to be entertained by learning about the private lives of glamorous film stars, the question may have come as rather a surprise. However, there were surprises a plenty in Mr Butterworth's talk of patrons of The Lion Hotel in Shrewsbury and its incredible history over four centuries. A hotel that was one of the top ten coaching inns in England at the end of the 18th century, due to its strategic position on the route from London to Dublin and the reliability and speed of its coaches. Imagine, in those days a Christmas card posted in Painswick on 24th December would be delivered to Shrewsbury on the 25th!

The speaker left his audience to come to their own conclusion on his opening question, after regaling them with stories of two of Shrewsbury's MPs: Benjamin Disraeli and the amazing 'Mad' Jack Mytton. Mad Jack was a regular patron of The Lion, who in 1819 spent a fortune on bribing the residents of Shrewsbury to elect him as their MP and then spent only 30 minutes in the Chamber of the House of Commons.

Over the years The Lion has certainly seen more than its share of celebrities, from Charles Darwin and Charles Dickens to The Beatles and famous sportsmen, not to mention visitations from a few ghosts! Hopefully when travel is once more allowed members of Yew Trees will be able to add their names to The Lion's guest list too.

Sadly next month's meeting on March 23rd, when we learn about Ancient Egypt, will also have to be on zoom; but it does have its advantages - no chairs to put out! As February's meeting was an open one we were delighted to welcome the husbands of a number of our members.

*Celia Lougher 812624*

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# The Painswick Centre news



## Play the lottery to support the Centre!

At over 100 years old the Centre is expensive to maintain, so we're really excited to announce that we're part of the new Lucky Severn Lottery. It's a community lottery which will be drawn every Saturday night, starting on 20th March. Match all 6 numbers and you win the jackpot. Tickets are £1 each per week, and the top prize is £25,000! 50p of each ticket will come directly to the Centre, and another 10p will be distributed to other good causes in the Stroud area. Visit [www.luckysevernlottery.co.uk](http://www.luckysevernlottery.co.uk) and search for The Painswick Centre to support us. Good luck!

## Covid safe desk or meeting space

While current advice is to work from home whenever possible, we recognise the need for individuals to have some uninterrupted time, or for organisations who are following the guidance and have staff working from home, to get them together for a small socially distanced meeting. We can offer space to help. For more details please email [info@painswickcentre.com](mailto:info@painswickcentre.com)

## Tell us to whom you want to say Thank You

How can we say thank you to everyone in our local area who has soldiered on during the pandemic and kept things together? To our health workers, bin collectors, neighbours, shop assistants, posties... and many more. We invite YOU to nominate anyone local that YOU would like to thank (you can make as many nominations as you wish). Please send your nominations to [info@painswickcentre.com](mailto:info@painswickcentre.com) with your name, your street, the name of the person you'd like to thank, and the reason you'd like to thank them - you can attach a photo of them too if you'd like. The Painswick Beacon has agreed to publish names of all nominees, and we will display all the names at The Painswick Centre. Later this year we plan to invite the whole village to an event, where we will acknowledge, thank, and celebrate all your nominees.

*Susie Andrews*

## A first Thank You - to the Pharmacy

On being told that staff at the Pharmacy were amongst the first in line for a big Community Thank You (see above), the Pharmacist Adis Kikic has responded with some insight into the pressure that he and all the staff have been under.



## An annus horribilis

It has been a difficult and sad year for most, if not all of us. Pharmacy's role as a whole has been greatly challenging to say the least, but on the whole very fulfilling thanks to a great community spirit. At the start of the pandemic, we saw a huge spike in work volumes from 300 daily prescriptions to over 1000



on occasions. This lasted for several weeks and to compound matters further, staff shielding and isolating caused the workload to at times, feel overwhelming. During this period, my staff and I would work until 3-4 am, just to be able to cope with the extra demand. Additionally, we had to get used to new procedures, drug shortages and guidelines which could change on a daily basis.

Uptake of our delivery service increased exponentially, with Oli (our delivery man) at times delivering prescriptions until well after 9pm. The shop was very busy too, with some pharmacy staples such as Paracetamol selling out completely. The phone didn't stop ringing from morning to evening and medical advice queries quadrupled overnight.

In years to come, I will be able to show my son Louis, photos of him sleeping on a camp bed in the middle of the shop floor, whilst my wife Penny and I continued working into the following morning. Now that we are on the cusp of exiting this period of upheaval, I would like to thank all of our patients and the wider community for their support. I must also extend a huge thank you to all of my staff and colleagues, who have shown huge resilience and dedication during this time. Here's to a better 2021 and beyond!

*Adis Kikic*



Anne-Marie Randall  
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## Food drop off in Painswick

On Tuesday 16th February we had another very successful collection – a huge thank you to each and every one of you! We were very grateful that the weather turned milder on the day and perhaps encouraged a few more people to venture out to the collection points. By 12 noon we had three cars full with tins and jars of food, and also lovely treats such as chocolate and biscuits. We know these will be so much appreciated and enjoyed by those who receive them. It's quite humbling to see people carrying heavy bags across the village to support the Foodbank so enthusiastically. It is clearly a charity and a cause that is close to many people's hearts. When we delivered the donations to the Foodbank at Brimscombe, the volunteers there were amazed that we had collected so much in just two hours! They assumed it had been over several days. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Please may we ask for another great turn out in March? We never take it for granted. The next drop off will be in Painswick on: Wednesday 10th March 10am-12noon in Stamages Lane car park, outside the church and by the stocks. Suggested items are: baby wipes, toilet roll, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, pack of razors, toothpaste, toothbrush, washing up liquid.

But, as always, any non-perishable items will be gladly received. Please do check use by dates so that we can provide the most appropriate support to those in need.

We also continue to collect laptops and ipads for Archway School so if you still have an unused item lurking somewhere, please do consider donating it to young people who are struggling with online learning.

*Joan Warner, Philippa Miller, Margaret Radway, Pippa Dickinson, Pippa Medcalf, Jude Lindley 07950 651228*

## Make Music Day in Painswick

We at The Painswick Centre would like to do something for Make Music Day and would like anyone else in the village who might be interested in taking part to contact us. Make Music Day is a free international event that happens on 21st June each year. It started in France in 1982 and now takes place in 125 countries. To quote from the website ([www.makemusicday.co.uk](http://www.makemusicday.co.uk)): "Completely different from a typical music festival, Make Music is open to anyone who wants to take part. Every kind of musician — young and old, amateur and professional, of every musical persuasion — pours onto streets, parks, plazas, and porches to share their music with friends, neighbours, and strangers. All of it is free and open to the public."

Our plans are at a very, very early stage, but we envisage a "Painswick does Make Music Day" event of some kind. The exact shape of it will depend on how Covid restrictions change. At best we would see a series of music performances in and around the Painswick Centre. At worst, this year might need to be mostly virtual, and act as a springboard for a bigger and better event in 2022. Come what may, we would follow the Make Music Day principles that it should be free, open to all music, without hierarchy of genres and practices, and open to all. This year it will be taking place on a Monday, which will probably focus it as mostly an evening event.

We would love to work with other organisations and individuals in the village to make this happen. It could be a great opportunity to bring the village together after lockdown. If you would be interested in participating, please email [info@painswickcentre.com](mailto:info@painswickcentre.com).

*Martyn Smith*

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## News from St Mary's

March marks the beginning of Spring. There is some debate these days whether the official start is 1 March or the quarter day on 20th March. I associate Spring with the flowering daffodils. Their bright yellow flowers lift the spirit and trumpet lengthening days and warmer sunshine. There are other signs of hope too with Covid 19 vaccinations proceeding apace and infection rates falling.



We are now into the season of Lent. Traditionally, this season is a time of penitence and prayer in preparation for Easter. It is marked by the liturgical colour purple. Lent used to be a time when people gave up some luxury item such as eating chocolates or drinking alcohol. Nowadays the accent is towards giving something extra to help the community. This could be a special generous donation to a chosen charity or giving more to a local food bank.

Another way to mark Lent is to study a devotional Lent book. Several new books have been published this year including "Thy Will Be Done" by Stephen Cherry and The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book "Living His Story".

At the time of writing there is no indication yet of when Covid rules will be relaxed sufficiently for services in church to be resumed. Services are continuing via zoom and many people throughout the benefice are joining in. The Sunday service of Morning Prayer each week is at 10.30am. During Lent there is an extra service of Compline every Thursday evening again via zoom. The key for both of these services is published weekly in the news sheet "Beacon Light". If you do not receive this news sheet but would like to, please contact Andrew Leach, email – [ajpleach@gmail.com](mailto:ajpleach@gmail.com).

Have a good Lent. Wouldn't it be good if restrictions were lifted sufficiently so that we could celebrate Easter in church!

*David Newell*

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# The War Memorial – making progress

The response to the article about the war memorial which appeared in last month's Beacon was clearly emphatic. With one exception, which expressed a desire to retain the high yew hedge in order to protect visitors from the noise of the traffic thus creating "a peaceful setting", all the other respondents, including five military personnel living in Painswick, advocated a range of actions to be taken to improve the site.

There is clearly concern about the gradually deteriorating condition of the stonework and lettering as well as the fact that the height of the hedge means the memorial itself is almost hidden from view. Overall the consensus seems to be that the memorial should be made more visible which means either reducing the surrounding hedge to about one metre in height or taking some or all of it out altogether.

The problem of the lettering is more complicated. Although it is at present legible - though barely - it is definitely deteriorating, not helped by the fact that the damp atmosphere created by the yew hedge causes lichen to grow on the stone. Strong feelings have been expressed by readers about this aspect. The following sentence exemplifies the general tone of many responses. 'The way it [the lettering] has been allowed to become illegible is an insult to the grieving population of Painswick who contributed to its construction and to the memory of the men of two world wars who lost their lives.'



Unfortunately the stone is very soft and re-working the lettering would be problematic. Two possible solutions have been suggested. An information board, similar to those at six sites already within Painswick, containing the names of the dead could be placed to one side of the stone memorial. Alternatively, a low stone wall could be erected to one side with metal plaques attached bearing the names. This would be in keeping with the plaques on the tombstones in the adjacent churchyard.


Grants can be obtained for memorial restoration work and already at least one Painswickian has contacted the War Memorial Trust in this regard. Others, both individuals and groups, have expressed their willingness to contribute towards the costs involved. At this early stage however, it is important to consolidate ideas as to exactly what plans should be drawn up and consequently it is necessary for real support to be demonstrated. If you are a local artist or landscape designer would you be willing to present some initial outline drawings of possible ideas for the site?

## Are you an EU citizen? Settled Status help offered

Following the UK's departure from the EU, the government has launched the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS).

If you are an EU national and have been resident in the UK by 31st December 2020 you can apply for settled or pre-settled status. The deadline for applications is 30th June. EU nationals who do not apply by the deadline risk losing their right to live, work and study in the UK, and could also lose access to public funds, pensions and the opportunity to apply for British citizenship.

Stroud & Cotswold Citizens Advice will be helping people to understand the scheme and how to apply up until 31st March. If you, or anyone you know needs help on this please contact Paul Lock:- paul.lock@ca-scd.org.uk or 01285 425871.



*Peter and Jane Rowe*

The great majority of responses have emphasised the need to take action which would result in highlighting the feeling of pride and respect for those named on our memorial. There is also a strong sense that the whole site should be more prominent in our consciousness. As one respondent writes, 'The memorial garden might be made into a place for more general reflection.' And another person talks of 'opening up the space ... a central green place in the village.'

Overall, one respondent's words certainly reflect and definitely sum up the views of many – 'I sincerely hope that the work is done to preserve this important memorial.'

*Carol Maxwell*



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## Nigel Burt (1933 - 2021)

Nigel was born in Bristol in 1933. He attended Clifton College where he excelled at sport. After leaving school, he continued to play rugby for Clifton once representing Gloucestershire. He spent 23 years working for Harveys of Bristol, where he was export manager. Subsequently, he worked as a marketing consultant before retiring in 1997. Nigel and Jane were married in 1963 and, after living briefly in London and Lancaster, returned to the Bristol and Bath area in 1969. They moved to Painswick in 2002 and have 2 children, Tim and Sarah, 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Tim and Sarah both live locally.

Nigel and Jane soon settled into the Painswick community and were introduced to St Mary's Church and the Painswick Music Society. They came to the concerts the following season and enjoyed them and it was Nigel who suggested having an extra concert, which he could arrange, to be given by the Russian choir "Voskresenije" from St Petersburg as a fund-raising event for the Church. It turned out to be a huge success and over the next few years four more concerts were arranged. This was just an introduction to the way Nigel would give considerable financial support to the church.

Dylan Davies writes that "Nigel contributed much to the life of St. Mary's church. He served on the PCC and was its secretary for a number of years. He proposed the Yew Trees sponsorship scheme and having persuaded the PCC of its potential he then set up and managed the scheme. The book of sponsors which can be found in the church is testament to his success." He was also actively involved in upgrading the Church Rooms to an acceptable standard for the church and community activities and establishing a plan for viability, turning his hand to anything and everything from painting the interior to clearing leaves from the doorways and the car park in the autumn. Dylan notes that "he was also a keen social user of the Church Rooms and his presence behind the bar enlivened many a Christian Aid supper."



### Beacon Subscriptions

The Beacon is your magazine. It is delivered free to all houses within Painswick and most of the work of writing, producing and delivering it is provided free on a voluntary basis, involving up to a hundred different people for a single issue. But we are dependent on subscriptions, together with advertising income, to cover the substantial cost of printing the Beacon every month as well as other costs. We are very grateful to those residents who subscribe year after year to keep it going and hope you will continue to do so. We also ask new residents and those who have not previously subscribed, or have done so on an occasional basis, to consider contributing. There is no fixed subscription, but as a guide the average contribution last year was just over £12.

An envelope and payment slip are enclosed with this month's issue and envelopes can be left in the Beacon post box next to the telephone kiosk on New Street. We are happy to accept payment by a variety of means, including cash, cheque and the continuation of the bank transfer scheme. To keep track of bank transfer subscribers, we ask for all electronic payments to be given a reference code that will identify the subscriber. If you have received one of our unique reference codes, please continue to use the same code. If you would like to pay by electronic means for this and subsequent years, please e-mail me at [subscriptions.beacon@painswick.net](mailto:subscriptions.beacon@painswick.net) with your name and address, asking for a reference code.

Costs for Pitchcombe, Edge and postal deliveries vary and are notified separately.  
*Jacek Wolowiec*

Nigel was a member of the Painswick Probus club and President for 2007-2008, organising a memorable trip to the Houses of Parliament. As Mike Steed, the present President says, his regular presence at meetings and his long term commitment to the club will be sadly missed.

His presence at parties and social gatherings will also be sadly missed by many and some of the dinner parties that he and Jane hosted, including those where guests had to turn up suitably dressed to take a part in a play, will be remembered for a long time. As a supporter of Bath Rugby he had to put up with regular banter from local Gloucester supporters, and Keith Hardwidge remembers giving him a Gloucester scarf for his 80th birthday. Nigel even wore it for a while, but it later re-appeared wrapped round his dog's neck!  
*Peter Jenkins*

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# Harriett Wemyss

## Elected a District Councillor for Painswick

In an election for the Stroud Rural District Council in December 1894, the first ever such election, Painswick elected three councillors - Mr George Trotman, Mr Arthur Blake and Miss Harriett Wemyss. That third name may be a surprise for anyone used to the idea that women didn't even get the vote until at least after the First World War. Back in 1894 most women certainly were unable to vote, and many men couldn't either. Voting was essentially linked to property ownership and few women owned property. It was not until 1918 that voting was extended to cover almost all men and many women, and 1928 before all women got the vote.



Harriett Wemyss (1841 - 1928)

DISTRICT COUNCIL			VOTES
1.	Mr George Trotman	...	234
2.	Mr Arthur Carter Blake	...	228
3.	Miss Harriett Catherine Wemyss		204
	Mr Joseph Everatt	...	154
	Mr George Ayers	...	123

But 34 years earlier than that, a woman in Painswick had not only been allowed to vote, but to stand for election and had been elected. Surprising as that may seem now, it was probably not much of a surprise at the time to anyone in Painswick. For Harriet Wemyss had by then convincingly demonstrated the energy that she could bring to almost any role.

She had been heavily involved with a scheme to resettle children in Canada, providing a home for them in Painswick while awaiting transfer and on occasion travelling with them herself. She had established a Convalescent and Training Home for Women, and then a home for working women and girls with disabilities, that went on to become the St Mary's Home on Stroud Road, closing only in 2000. She had established a local committee to find homes to board out workhouse children, and had gone on to be elected in 1892 as a Poor Law Guardian on the Board that administered the workhouse, the first woman ever to be elected to the Stroud Board. Her sister Alice was also the only woman to be elected to the Painswick School Board in 1892. So when the Local Government Act of 1894 created Rural District Councils with councillors also taking on the role of Poor Law Guardians, Harriett Wemyss was simply the best qualified candidate.

That might have seemed unlikely when she was born in India in 1841 and even more so when her father, a Captain in the Bombay



Alice and Harriett Wemyss at Washwell House with maids and gardeners

Engineers, died back in England in 1848, leaving his wife Eliza with two young children and pregnant with a third, Alice. The family moved to Stroud and Eliza later remarried, but died a few months later, in 1863, leaving the three children orphaned. Fortunately for them, their uncle, Sebastian Dickinson, had also returned from India in 1854, aged only 38, but having already made a fortune at the Bar and had set up home at Brownhill Court on Wick Street. He married Frances Hyett, daughter of William Henry Hyett of Painswick House, leading to a long line of Hyetts and Dickinsons with Painswick connections and when his sister Eliza died, he took on responsibility for her children.

Neither Harriett nor Alice ever married, but Sebastian bought Washwell House on Cheltenham Road for them, where the two sisters lived together for over 50 years. Alice died in February 1928 and Harriett six months later, just long enough for her to see the passing of the Representation of the People Act, which finally gave all women the vote.

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## ... and the Wemyss Memorial

During 'lockdown' I have been reading 'Gyde Orphanage Remembered'. As a new resident of Gyde House, I was particularly interested in the contribution by Robert Norris, who lived at Gyde House between 1921 - 1928. He describes a visit to a Miss Wemyss at Washwell House to collect cookers and to meet some of the variety of animals, including retired Shire horses, that she had befriended.



Eric Gill's bird-bath in the War Memorial Garden commemorates the lives of Harriet and Alice Wemyss and their love of creatures, which are depicted on the panels of the bath. This story also interested me, since the cleaning of the bird-bath had been discussed at meetings, when I was serving on the Parish Council, however, I knew nothing of its history then.

Another piece of the puzzle of the life and times of the people of Painswick, for me, has been brought to life.

*Ann Burges Watson*

The photo (left) of the bird bath covered in ice on 13th February, was taken by Jim Mutch. Unfrozen photo (right) by Peter Rowe.



## Michael Breeze (1941-2021)

Michael Breeze, who has died aged eighty, was an active member of the community for almost twenty years. Born in Wrexham during the second world war, Michael grew up in Beckenham, Kent and trained as a dentist at Guy's Hospital in London.

Michael and his wife, Pauline first visited Painswick in the 1960s, after a wrong turn on their way home from a holiday in the Lake District took them through the Stroud valleys. It was love at first sight! They became frequent visitors after that before buying their house in Randalls Field in 2001.



A talented actor who shone in the role of Thomas More in 'A Man for All Seasons', Michael took part in a number of productions for the Painswick Players but also helped behind the scenes. Michael was also a member of the badminton club, a devoted season-ticket holder of Forest Green Rovers, a regular attendee at Probus events and could often be seen walking his dog along the footpaths of the Painswick Valley. He will be fondly remembered by his family, friends and all that knew him.

*Alex Breeze*

## Do you have one of these?

If you live in an old house in Painswick, it's possible that you have something like this near ground level on the outside of the house, and may never have known why it was there. Do let us know if you do.



They tend to be found in cloth making areas, and at least in Yorkshire, where the example above was photographed, they're known as Lant Spouts. Their purpose is to direct urine into a tub below, so that it can be collected. Stale urine was a valuable commodity for the softening and fulling of cloth as it produced ammonia, an effective cleansing agent.

John Chandler, a Gloucestershire historian, says that the local word here may have been 'sig' rather than 'lant'. William Partridge, a Stroud clothier who emigrated to America, wrote a treatise on such matters in 1823, claiming that cider and gin drinkers gave the worst urine and beer drinkers the best.

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# George Bragg 1940-2021

George Bragg, who has died, moved to Painswick with his wife and 3 children in 1984. He was born in Torquay & was interested in sport from an early age. He sold programs as a boy at his nearby beloved Torquay United Football Club & was a life-long supporter.

He came from a seafaring family, so on leaving school he trained for the Merchant Navy in Plymouth. He spent 2 years travelling the globe with Shell tankers & enjoyed this experience, but being away from home for up to a year at a time was not for him.

He joined the Midland Bank & this became his lifelong career. He met Kay in Bristol where they were married. He joined a local football team there & very inconsiderately broke his leg while playing, a few weeks before his first child was born! Over the next 18 years the bank transferred him, every two years, to a different branch around the West Country. He joined Round Table & was a founder member of Topsham, Exeter & later elected chairman in Dorchester. When working in Gloucester he was a member of Gloucester Rotary Club.

Thinking it would again be a short stay in Painswick, he soon found the local sports clubs. He joined the Badminton Club & was a member for almost 20 years & became chairman during this time. He regretfully had to stop when he tore his achilles tendon. He was also a member of the Tennis Club, playing all year round on the courts at the Recreation Ground & later Broadham. He was elected President of the club & together with Anthony Fisher, was instrumental in moving the club to Broadham. He spent a considerable time liaising with the Rugby Club & working on ways to finance the project. This paved the way for further courts and lighting to be added over time.

When George was no longer able to play these sports, due to his injury, he began to play golf & was a member of Minchinhampton Golf Club. During retirement he was invited to be a governor at The Croft School. He enjoyed this work for several years & only left as he began to spend more time each year with his daughter, who lives in Melbourne. He derived great pleasure in watching his grandchildren play sports & when he was no longer able to participate himself he still followed a variety of televised sport. He recently fell & broke his hip & sadly passed away after contracting pneumonia.

*Editor's Note: At the time of George's death, Torquay United were top of the National League*



A photo from the Beacon archives - June 2000  
George (right) as chairman of the Badminton Club presents a trophy to David Linsell and Delyth Allen

*Kay Bragg*

## Painswick Community Support – here for the long run!

Nearly one year on, the work of our group continues, offering practical support and befriending for anyone in need in our community. Our telephone and email are still manned 7 days a week, 9am until 5pm.

We are also working with the surgery and starting to engage through local clubs and organisations to further our befriending efforts for those who are feeling isolated and alone within our community. As we all remain hopeful that restrictions will start to lift soon, we look forward to our befriending activities moving beyond a friendly phone call.

We are pleased to say we now have 30 volunteers who are full DBS certified, with a further 5 in the final stages of the process. Many thanks to our brilliant volunteers who have taken this up, and the Parish Council for their support in making this happen. The details of 17 of our volunteers have been provided to the central Covid Vaccine Co-ordinator based at Rowcroft Medical Centre to support the local vaccination programme. Thank you to them for offering their support for this critical programme that we hope will enable us to all return to some semblance of normality.

We are here for the long run, not just for Covid! Please get in touch if you, or someone you know needs some support. Call us on: 07956 203087 Or email: [painswickcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:painswickcommunity@gmail.com)



*Abigail Smith*

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# Painswick Stream – Help Prevent Localised Flooding

On December 23rd 2020, heavy rain fell onto already saturated hillsides, causing Painswick Stream to reach its highest level since 2007. Water poured in rivulets down the valley's steep lanes, augmenting the rapidly rising flows of the many side streams. The main stream rose quickly and late in the day burst its banks – mostly harmlessly - in numerous places. Most residences along the Stream, as it passes through Painswick, are not at risk of flooding but some stand too close for comfort. Some villagers remembered the flooding of their homes in 2007 and feared something similar before Christmas. The mills, mill ponds and sluice gates that give the valley such character and are a wonderful reminder of Painswick's industrial past, are always vulnerable at such times.

About a mile of stream bank separates Loveday's Mill at the foot of Vicarage Street / Beech Lane, and King's Mill downstream. Between these two mills are Brookhouse Mill, Capp Mill, Painswick Mill and Skinner's Mill. The Stream's natural flood plain has been extensively interfered with, sometimes helpfully but in other ways harmfully. Straight, man-made channels might safely speed water through at one point, only for the surging stream to burst its banks when it reaches a man-made constriction like a narrow culvert under a road. At times of unusually heavy rainfall it is difficult, or even impossible, to prevent flooding. However, helpful action can be taken.



Stroud District Council has for some years been working on holding back the flow of rising stream water in places where it is safe to do so. Slowing the rise of Painswick Stream in its upper reaches helps to reduce the risk of



downstream flooding. In addition to Natural Flood Management measures, there are helpful actions that others can take, particularly those who live or work alongside the Stream. The photographs show large pieces of cut wood that travelled down the Stream on December 23rd, coming to rest in gardens and sluices, and firmly jammed across one small bridge. Lumps of wood and other items can travel long distances and cause damage to others' property when the Stream is in spate. A cut tree trunk made its way to the sluice gate at King's Mill, where it jammed firmly in one open gate and the stream heavily burst its banks; King's Mill was flooded. Large piles of cut wood are even now clearly visible just a few yards from the Stream and might easily be in it and contribute to localised flooding next time – and there will be a next time – the Stream bursts its banks.

None of us can stop the rain but we can take care to prevent potentially hazardous items being washed into the Stream. Please help to prevent such things from causing the damage, mess and expense of flooding.

*Phil Taylor, Streamsider and member of the Painswick Stream Management Group*

## New Pop-Up Shop planned for summer months.

The creativity and inventiveness of many Painswick residents will be on display this summer in the village's new pop-up shop, Handmade in Painswick. The brainchild of two Tibbiwell Lane residents, Sandie Randle and Anne-Marie Randall, the Pop-up will



be based in the Gardener Room at the Painswick Centre during June, July and August. The shop will stock the work of artists, artisans and crafts people who live and produce their work in Painswick. It is an opportunity to invest in the creative pulse of the village and to provide an outlet for the many and varied pieces produced locally. The shop will be open every day during the summer months and will be staffed by the makers themselves. Handmade in Painswick has received welcome support of both the Painswick Centre and the Parish Council. There has also been a wonderful response from local artists and artisans wanting to be part of this venture. If you are a local maker and would like to be part of Handmade in Painswick, then please get in touch through the Facebook page @handmadeinpainswick. This summer when visitors ask you for directions to the shops – you will know where to send them!



*Sandie Randle and Anne-Marie Randall*

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# Martyn's Atlantic Crossing

continued from front page

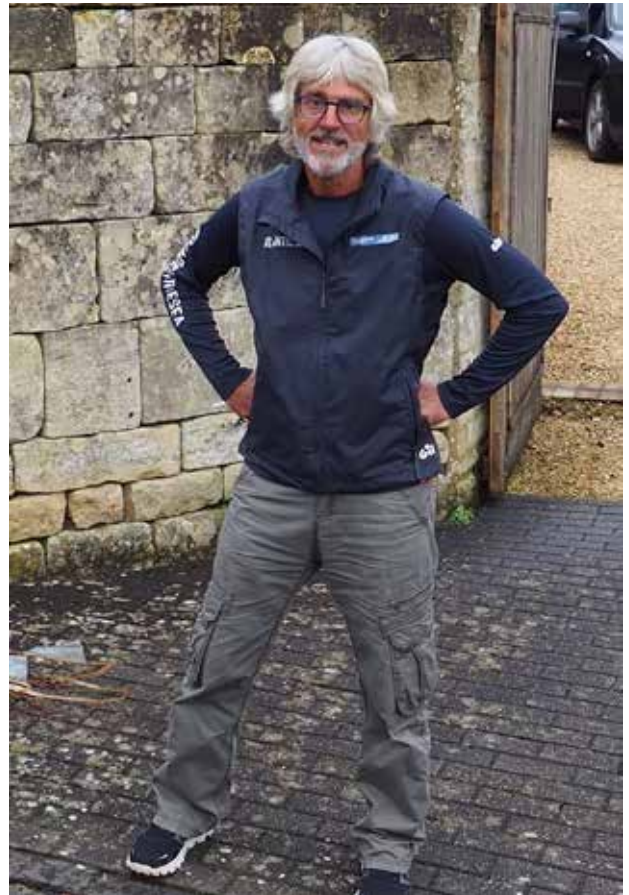
It is possible, and definitely recommended, to watch Martyn's arrival in Antigua by looking up Atlantic Challenge on Facebook. It is truly moving and heart warming, well worth watching.

In his younger years Martyn had experienced mental health problems and much of what he has now achieved stems from the realisation, which emerged from this experience, that it is always necessary to think positively. It is no surprise therefore that sponsorship for his crossing is in aid of his chosen charity, HorseHeard, which promotes and develops emotional health, wellbeing, resilience and confidence especially for young people and servicemen. Its success record in this respect is excellent and much praised. There is still time to sponsor Martyn via <https://www.gofundme.com/f/atlantic-solo>

Martyn is very keen to express his thanks to all in Painswick who have supported him in whatever way throughout this amazing endeavour. On Monday 22nd February he returned home to Painswick with Lyn, who had flown out to greet him at the finish line. We look forward to the time after lockdown when everyone will be able to congratulate him in a manner befitting such a champion. Martyn is without doubt a true inspiration and his achievement is nothing but spectacular, exceptional and amazing. He is the pride of Painswick.

*Carol Maxwell*

*Martyn (right) back in Painswick after his epic feat*



## Jottings

How do you tell age of a tree? As a rough estimate, for a live tree, measure around the trunk, about a metre up from the ground; accurately since a tree will expand round the middle by about 2.5 cm a year. Divide this figure (in centimetres) by 2.5 to get the tree's age. Trees like Oak and Beech grow more slowly so divide by 1.8; pine trees are fast growers so divide the girth by 3.13. Trees in a wood grow more slowly than trees out in an open field or park.

It is harder to work out the age of a good field hedge. Look along a 30 metre stretch of hedge and see how many species of tree there are. Generally, the bigger a tree the older the hedge. Count the woody species of the hedge such as hazel nut, hawthorn, Blackthorn (sloe), buckthorn, spindle, ash, sycamore, oak etc.. Not things like brambles and ivy. The number of different species in your 30 metre sample length gives a rough indication of how many centuries old the hedge is. Some are probably old enough to have been planted under the Enclosures Act whilst some single species hedges may only be a hundred years old.

Then take into account the number of plant species that you have growing around the base of the hedge. Older, established hedges support more plants and animals. Thick, short hedges which are trimmed every year are good for smaller birds and the taller hedges for the bigger birds. The larger hedges offer good shelter for farm animals and bigger wild-life when the weather is bad.

A lot of hedges have been taken out in the last hundred years as modern farming practices involved larger machines and farms have merged. Big housing estates have been developed on the lower, flatter land; leaving the slopes and rougher land for farming and horses. If you look carefully and know what to look for in our landscape, you can see just how many fields and hedges have been lost.

*Martin Slinger*



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## Welcome support for children Robin's contribution

With growing concerns about the health and wellbeing of our children and young people in these constrictive times, it is good to report that Robin Watkins-Davis has once again taken positive action to provide help and support. Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL) has funded Robin to produce videos, essentially featuring yoga and wellbeing sessions appropriate to different age groups, which have been sent out to schools free of charge within the county.



GHLL, funded by Public Health and Gloucestershire County Council, was launched in 2012 for schools and colleges as a result of a growing awareness of increasing problems, both physical and mental, amongst children and young people. In recent years children have become far more susceptible to harmful influences and threatening behaviours, especially through social media, than was the case in the past. During lockdown it is believed that such problems are likely to have multiplied and grown and Robin's videos are aimed at and designed for both primary and secondary school pupils and particularly during lockdown and home learning times. Carefully planned to develop focussed thinking and physical and emotional wellbeing for specific age groups, the potential benefits are wide-ranging and incalculable.

Furthermore, GHLL and Active Gloucestershire have funded Shift (Robin's yoga identity) to train 20 primary and secondary school teachers in yoga and wellbeing skills and techniques to enable them to 'help with self care, prevention of mental health issues and increase young people's resilience'. The plan is to extend the training to a further 20 teachers in a few months time. It is a pilot scheme which is being evaluated by GHLL but nonetheless is considered overall to be a positive step forward.

Robin is leading the training with her team consisting of Florence Cross, who is also from Painswick and is the UK's youngest qualified yoga teacher, and Lucy Kingsley who is a primary school specialist. As a yoga teacher Robin has always been genuinely concerned with and involved in the welfare of young people (she herself is only 22) and during the past three years she has worked continuously to put into practice ideas which have proved highly effective in helping many to deal with the anxieties and stresses which face the young today. She is an exceptional young woman and this is definitely a meritorious and very welcome scheme.

*Carol Maxwell*

## Hosts of Golden Daffodils on your doorstep!

By the time the calendar gets to March, you can certainly feel the year turning and winter's chills seem as though they are on the way out, bar the odd burst of snow and blast of icy wind. This is the month when Rococo

**Painswick  
Rococo  
Garden**

says "goodbye" to the snowdrops and "hello" to the daffodils which grace the orchard and banks with their cheery golden heads. Many thousands of bulbs have been planted in recent years by our Friends and volunteers. Last year was the first time they all bloomed, but that was during the first lockdown, so this is your first chance to see them in their spring splendour. They make a beautiful sight and will provide you with some breath-taking photo opportunities! As ever you will need to book an arrival time online in advance and opening dates are likely to be Thursday – Sunday, although this may vary depending on government guidance at the time. Please check [rococogarden.org.uk](http://rococogarden.org.uk) or ring 01452 813204 for the very latest.

With pandemic-related restrictions still in place, enjoying the freedom of the Garden as a member may be the perfect option this year. With a "Staycation Summer" on the cards, membership gives you access to beauty and tranquillity right on your doorstep – plus there's easy parking and great coffee. Single membership starts at £27.50 for 12 months - you can find out more at [rococogarden.org.uk/join-and-support/](http://rococogarden.org.uk/join-and-support/)

Thank you for your support during this third lockdown. At the time of writing snowdrop visitors are around 25% of what they would normally be. As a registered charity, how well we can look after this magical place for the benefit of all depends on the income we can raise. If you have visited the Garden for local exercise this year, our sincere thanks go to you. If you would like to donate to support us, you can do so via JustGiving very simply via [rococogarden.org.uk](http://rococogarden.org.uk) We're excited that spring is imminent - we hope you will share it with us.

*Tim Toghill, volunteer & trustee*

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## Terry Parker

Some eagle-eyed readers may have noticed that, very unusually, the name of Terry Parker has been missing in recent months from the list of names in the Beacon Team that is usually found on the back page.

Having been one of the small group that started the Beacon back in 1978, Terry has been involved with it in one way or another throughout its entire existence, for most of that time as one of the editors. He has recovered well from a recent health scare, but after 43 years has decided to take a step back from the front line of work on the Beacon. We still call on him though for regular support including proofreading and some Parish Council reporting, and have been unable to persuade him that it might be time to stop the particularly hilly delivery round that he takes on cheerfully every month.



The current pandemic has made it difficult to say thank you to Terry in the way we would have liked to in more normal times, and as we don't have a photo of a suitable presentation, the photo above of the original Beacon team will have to do. The photo was taken in 1988 at a celebration of ten years of the Beacon, with a youthful Terry on the right and a few other faces you may still recognise.

If your memory needs prompting, all the names are given at the bottom of the back page.

## Property Report

By the time you read this, it will be known whether or not the Chancellor has decided to extend the Stamp Duty holiday for a few more weeks or months. But around Painswick the market seems to have moved on anyway, with the problem now being a shortage of sellers, rather than of buyers. Agents have few properties left on their books and would be happy to hear from you if you are thinking of selling.

Amongst the properties being newly offered are Mirfield, a well-maintained two bedroom bungalow set back from Stroud Road, with view over open fields (Hamptons, £495,000) and Mulberry House, a modern detached 3 or 4 bedroom home on Churchill Way (Murrays, £795,000). The Mill House in Pitchcombe, a 5 bedroom old mill full of character, came briefly onto the market through Murrays at £895,000, but is already under offer. Thorne in Friday Street, another old house with lots of historical interest, but in need of some renovation, is still available at the time of writing at £500,000 through Hamptons. Also in Friday Street, New House is a three bedroom apartment with an impressive roof terrace (Murrays, £385,000).

Properties recently sold include the former delicatessen in Friday Street, The Cottage in Vicarage Street and Corner Cottage in Bisley Street (all Murrays), 12A The Croft, Turnstone House in Greenhouse Lane, Brooklands Cottage in Sheepscombe and Commodious Chapel in Edge (all Hamptons) and Greenacres in Cheltenham Road (Moulton Haus). Contracts have been exchanged on Hambutts Orchard in Edge Road and on 10 Gyde House, while the sales of Dormy House on Kingsmill Lane and Windrush in Beacon Close have completed.

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# Beacon Grazing Update



The Dexters have now been moved from the Beacon and have gone for a long vacation to Holcombe Farm until they return at the end of this summer. Last year the move was problematic as Reckit Ralf didn't want to go in the trailer and gave us a right run around. This year we created a metal compound and fed them some hay in it every morning for a week before the move. This allowed them to become comfortable in it. We could then shut them in it, before the trailer was backed up. The loading only took two minutes.

This year the cows have been out for over seven months and have grazed three paddocks. They have been pushed quite hard so the vegetation is cut right back. Conservation grazing is a fine balance between the animals welfare and trampling the ground (poaching.) In the past we have tried to use commercial farmers' cows, but this has been unsuccessful because they are unwilling to let their cattle lose condition (i.e. lose weight.) Supplementary feeding is ideally not allowed on Sites of Special Scientific Interest for fear or introducing seeds not native to the site. If fed hay, the cows are less likely to graze on less palatable vegetation. Losing weight in winter is perfectly normal for wild herbivores. Our cows are checked daily and their condition monitored by local stockmen, Back from the Brink and our own vet.

We had to move the cows from the last paddock because vegetation was running out and the poaching becoming more obvious. Poaching is essential for maintaining the grassland habitat; hooves gently move divots, creating bare earth patches in which seeds can germinate and bare earth loving insects can flourish. Even heavy poaching, typically on paths the cows follow and around the water trough, will generally grow over in the spring. The guidance is that this level of poaching should not exceed 10% of the grazed area. Excessive poaching in wet weather, where the soil turns to liquid mud, is bad.

We have had comments about the "damage" done by the cows, it will recover quickly. By contrast the consequence of footfall and bike tyres is far more damaging. Initially on new vegetation, plants are damaged by trampling and crushing. As a one off event this is not too serious. However, continuous use compacts the soil, starving roots of oxygen and causing water to run off rather than percolate through the soil. The nature of the vegetation soon changes and may disappear all together.

PBCG has decided to invest in the NoFence GPS controlled paddock system. This allows virtual paddocks to be used, the cows learn to use an audible warning signal (from the collars they wear) when they approach the "fence". A pulsed shock is used as a last resort. Trials have shown most cows learn to respect the audible warning very quickly. This will mean difficult, small areas can be grazed and a considerable cost saving by not having to use electric fencing. Many people will be glad not to have electric fencing, but of course this means it won't be as obvious where the cows are. We envisage putting up temporary warning signs in the general area of the cows.

*Paul Baxter*

# Local History Teaser

Judy Russell from Vicarage Street contacted us to point out that her mother, Lulu Swain, was included in the photo in last month's Beacon. She was also able to identify it correctly as being from the WI Market and to hazard a guess at a few of the other names. For that photo we did in fact have a list of the names. Back row (l to r): Janet Dent, Joyce Smith, Gladys Hobbs, Helen Briggs, Moira Barstow, Muriel Andrews. Front row (l to r): Katharine Jones, Isabel Jones, Lulu Swain, Queenie Grant, Dorothy Cox, Annette Bretherton, Dorothy Hurn. The photo dated from 1987 and also showed a kneeler made by Dorothy Hurn with pictures of typical WI produce.



(Photo courtesy of Stroud News)

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Please let me know your dates for the Village diary, including any Zoom meetings. [diary.beacon@painswick.net](mailto:diary.beacon@painswick.net)

**March**

- |      |    |  |              |                 |
|------|----|--|--------------|-----------------|
| Wed  | 3  | Cotteswold naturalists: Farmsteads and Buildings - researching the past for the future. Dr Alan Wadsworth Enq 813228 | Talk by Zoom | 2.15 for 2.30pm |
| Tues | 23 | Yew Trees WI - Ancient Egypt. Ged Cassells   | Talk by Zoom | 7.30pm          |

**April**

- |      |    |   |              |                 |
|------|----|---|--------------|-----------------|
| Wed  | 7  | Cotteswold naturalists: AGM + Environmental and ecological benefits of Stroud water canal restoration project . Anna Tarbet. Enq 813228 | Talk by Zoom | 2.15 for 2.30pm |
| Tues | 27 | Yew Trees WI Spring event - A year long walk in Woodchester Park. Robert Bryant   | Talk by Zoom | 7.30pm          |

**Painswick Surgery Patient Group (PPG)  
Over 1000 vaccinations a week at Rowcroft**

Vaccinations remain top of the agenda again this month of course. Our Primary Care Network continues to operate at Rowcroft Surgery with two to four half day sessions a week depending on vaccine supply. This has seen over a thousand vaccinations each week despite the huge complexities of the system. For example, during the week I am writing in, on the Monday, sessions were planned for three days, on the Tuesday the quantity of vaccine promised caused that to be cut back to two sessions and it became clear that it would be Pfizer not Oxford/AZ vaccine. This meant more volunteers needed, space needed for after vaccination sit-and-monitor and the inevitably slower throughput. Despite this all went smoothly and about 1100 people benefitted. We really have a remarkable local NHS team and their resilience will now be stretched even further as second jabs overlap with first-timers.



Many people are also now getting national NHS letters advising them of the larger vaccination centres though the nearest of these for us is in Gloucester. Given the success locally, there does not seem to be much benefit from this offering and waiting for your call from Painswick Surgery will assure you that you will get the appropriate follow-through invitation for your second jab. So advice to just wait until you are called seems to offer no disadvantages.

Scams are becoming an increasing problem and you must remain vigilant. Painswick Surgery is now using an efficient text system called 'Accubook' which invites you to click a link to make an appointment for your vaccination. This refers to your Doctors by name to make it as obviously genuine as possible. No vaccination offer will ever ask for bank details or inappropriate personal information. There is never a charge for any part of the NHS vaccination process. If you cannot receive texts you will be phoned so please don't phone the Surgery – they are busy enough already. If you suspect a scam, please report it to [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk).

Non-Covid medical concerns remain important and the Surgery emphasise that they are open as always for your treatment. The eConsult system is helping them significantly to keep this going so please do use it if you possibly can – and forgive it for its early stage imperfections!

*David Perry*

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# PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

## NEW APPLICATIONS

S.21/0101/HHOLD 1 Severn Cottages, Vicarage Street  
Single storey garden room extension.  
S.21/0140/FUL The Painswick, Kemps Lane  
Provide screening roof cover over bin store area in rear kitchen courtyard.  
S.21/0190/HHOLD Hammonds Cottage, Wick Street  
Conversion of existing garage into an ancillary annexe, including alterations to roof and the addition of a lean-to to accommodate solar panels (Re-submission following approval of S.20/0935/HHOLD).  
S.21/0180/FUL Land At Yokehouse Lane  
Erection of 3-bay stables and manure store.  
S.21/0179/FUL .Land At Yokehouse Lane  
Conversion of barn to dwelling (C3) with single and two storey extension.  
S.21/0126/HHOLD The Old Carriage House, Edge Lane, Edge  
Proposed single storey orangery lean-to to rear extension.  
S.21/0166/HHOLD North West Stable, Brownshill, Court Wick Street  
Residential conversion to provide ancillary accommodation, renovation of stables and reinstatement of store building.  
S.21/0167/LBC North West Stable, Brownshill, Court Wick Street  
Residential conversion and renovation of stables and reinstatement of store building.  
S.21/0212/HHOLD Halfpenny Cottage, Tibbiwell Lane  
Replace dormer windows with double glazed frame and casement to match existing, installation of 2 Velux, roof windows and a circular window to rear gable.  
S.21/0213/LBC Halfpenny Cottage, Tibbiwell Lane  
Replace top floor front and rear dormer windows with double glazed frame and casement to match existing, installation of 2 Velux, roof windows and a circular window to rear gable. Installation of secondary glazing to remaining window frames and internal alterations.  
S.21/0200/TCA The Spindles, Far End, Sheepscombe  
T1 (Sycamore) - crown reduce by 2-3 metres, remove dead wood and strip ivy.  
S.21/0223/TCA Shetlands, Far End, Sheepscombe  
T1 (cherry) - remove. T2 (sycamore)-remove. T3 (sycamore) – remove.  
S.21/0168/TCA Verlands, Vicarage Street  
T1 Western red Cedar - Fell to ground level. T2 & T3 Common Lime - Crown reduce by 2-3 meters, remove epicormic

growth and deadwood, to reduce sail.  
T4 Copper Beech - Crown reduce by approximately 2-3 meters, Remove crossing/dead branches.  
S.21/0335/HHOLD Greenleas Longridge, Sheepscombe  
Extension to create new atrium & extended balcony with associated internal alterations. This is an amendment to the previous approval of S.20/0295/HHOLD.  
S.21/0304/HHOLD Geldeston, Back Edge Lane, Edge  
Proposed extensions & new garage.  
S.21/0380/HHOLD Brookhouse Mill Cottage, Tibbiwell Lane  
Construction of dormer windows and new porch.  
S.21/0359/TCA Hedges, Gloucester Street  
T1: Leylandii Tree: Crown lift by 2m and lightly trim sides. T2: Apple Tree: Trim top by 1.1m and reduce sides by around 0.4m and general pruning.  
S.21/0378/TCA Fieldcroft, Sheepscombe  
Removal of Field Maple.

## CONSENT

S.20/2605/CPE The Little Bridge House, Stepping Stone Lane  
Change of use of land to residential following planning consent to erect a private garage on 9/7/1981 (planning ref S. 5016/C).  
S.20/2709/HHOLD Orchard View, Cockshoot, Sheepscombe  
Single storey rear extension.  
S.20/2726/TPO Lullingworth, Stroud Road  
Dismantle tree nos. 0152; 0153; 0154; 1772; 1773; 1776; 1779 as identified in attached Arborists report.  
S.20/2747/FUL Longridge Court, Bulls Cross, Sheepscombe  
Installation of new window.  
S.21/0006/HHOLD Bunch Of Grapes, Cheltenham Road  
Proposed ground floor side extension, first floor glazed sunroom, floor plan redesign and all associated works.  
S.21/0049/HHOLD Gravel Hill, Slad Road  
Installation of a flue forming part of a biomass heating system (retrospective).

## REFUSED

Street Trading Consent – For Coffee and Cake to be sold from a converted Horse Box, Ramblers Car Park, Golf Course Road.

### Mini-Ads

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## Surprise Packages

On the morning of Saturday 20th February, the lane to Sheephouse was decorated at intervals with green packages of dog mess. Eleven bags were placed in the middle of the lane and about 50m apart. This was not a random act and begs the question: Why would someone do such an unpleasant thing?



As the culprit is unknown, any answer to that question is destined to be conjecture. However, it is tempting to suggest that it was an act that merely highlighted a problem that already exists and is arguably worsening, namely the revolting tendency of some dog walkers to throw their poo bags into hedgerows.

The mystery might not be solved, but one thing is indisputable and that is the simple fact that leaving filled poo bags out in the open or thrown to one side is, to put it mildly, unhygienic and anti-social. Please stop!

*Phil Taylor*

## MINI-ADS

WANTED: We are a local family searching for a **4+ bedroom period 'forever home'** with a large garden / land. Please get in touch if thinking of selling: 07968 843773

**Two slide projectors.** One Aldis, other Boots, neither automatic. Free. Tel 01452 813094.

For sale: **8 years of Sight & Sound**, the BFI's Monthly Film Magazine, 2006-2013 + Indexes (Aug 2008 missing). £20 or donation to Citizens Advice. Buyer collects. 813228

**Online House Items Sale** - Haresfield - due to imminent move. Lovely rustic French cherrywood furniture plus many knick knacks, all at genuinely bargain prices! For full details email: [MarkhamSC@aol.com](mailto:MarkhamSC@aol.com)

For sale: **12 inch globe** of the world. £10 or donation to Citizens Advice. 813228

For sale: British army **safari camp bed**. £10 or donation to Citizens Advice. 813228

**Rental property required** while between selling our house and buying another. Ideally 2-3 beds, outside space, in Painswick or within 5 mile radius, from end March/early April. 07468 496513

# Personal Column

## Condolences

To the family and friends of ANGELA MATHEW who sadly passed away in October. She leaves her partner of 35 years, Vivian Bendall and two children, Guy who has two boys and Laura who has one son. Many people will remember Angela who lived with her husband John in the Court House for a number of years.

To the family and friends of NIGEL BURT of The Highlands who passed away peacefully on Sunday 7 February in Cheltenham General Hospital aged 87 (tribute on page 9).

To the family and friends of DOROTHY GEORGINA SUTTON, who died on 30th January, aged 95 after a short period in hospital. Georgina lived for many years in Berry Close and was well known through her many and varied activities in the village. She was particularly well known for her various roles with the Painswick Dramatic Society and Painswick Players, acting, directing, in administrative roles and for a time as Chairman. The funeral notice can be accessed at <https://www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/funeral-notice/30-01-2021-dorothy-georgina-sutton/>



Georgina Sutton

### Additional copies of the Beacon

are available from the Best One or online, where the Beacon can be seen in full colour at [www.painswickbeacon.org.uk](http://www.painswickbeacon.org.uk)

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It is with great sadness the family of LESLIE JONES announce his death on 11th February after a long illness aged 82. Leslie lived all his life in Painswick and will be remembered by Jill, his loving wife of 61 years, his son Adrian & daughter Angela, Paul & grandson Reece. His battles with serious medical issues over many years showed his courage facing life's challenges always with a smile and never complaining. Leslie stayed strong until the end.

To the family and friends of GEORGE HERBERT BRAGG who passed away aged 80 on the 9th February. Beloved husband & father to his wife Kay and children Nik, Louise and Helen. George was well known in the village for his sports activities. There is a tribute on page 12. For those who wish to pay their respects the funeral cortege will be leaving Stamages car park at around 11a.m on Monday March 8th.

## Thank you

PATRICK DALY'S family would like to thank the Painswick community for their support and turn out for his funeral on 16th February. Everyone's support has been huge comfort and he would have so enjoyed greeting and speaking with you all!

The family of MICHAEL BREEZE would like to thank their many friends in Painswick for their kindness and in particular the cards and beautiful flowers that they have received since Michael's death on January 22nd. There is a tribute to Michael on page 11.

## Goodbye

ANN AND ALAN SIMMONS have now moved to Buckingham to be nearer their family. They have lived in the Cotswolds for almost 50 years and have made many friends, all of whom they are going to miss so much. Due to lockdown they were unable to say goodbye but hope to visit once life becomes normal again.

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.

## Beacon Committee Photo

The members of the original Beacon Committee shown in the photo on p16 are (l to r): Rachel Taylor, Graeme Horton, Eddie Buttrey, David Gunton, Helen Horton, John Polhill, Lois Wiggins, Lynn Steer, Terry Parker

## NEXT ISSUE

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