

The Painswick Beacon

Volume 48 Number 5

August 2025

Painswick Crowned Gloucestershire Village of the Year 2025

The competition for Village of the Year 2025, organised by the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council was judged over four categories: Community-Led Health and Wellbeing, Climate and Environment, Inclusive Community and Digital Innovation.

The award was formally presented at a ceremony held at Highnam Court, with Adrian Gyde, Chairman of Painswick Parish Council, and Delyth Allen of the Painswick Community Support Group, proudly accepting the honours on behalf of the village.

Painswick achieved first place in both the 'Inclusive Community' and 'Climate and Environment' categories, and was named runner-up in 'Community-Led Health and Wellbeing'. Following a rigorous judging process, the panel selected Painswick as the overall champion, recognising the village for its consistently high standards across all areas of community life.

In an interview with BBC Radio Gloucestershire, GRCC Chief Executive Barbara Piranty praised Painswick's achievement to being strong across all the categories.

Painswick Parish Council extends its heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to the competition entry, and, most importantly, to the entire community. This award is a reflection of the dedication, passion, and hard work of local residents and organisations, who together make Painswick an inclusive, welcoming, and vibrant place to live.



On other Pages:

p5 Disgusting Sandwich; p6 Black Gold;
Help Required - Longfield p3; Painswick Centre p10

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - report from the meeting held at Richmond Village on Wed 16th July 2025 by David Allott

Parish Council

The July meeting was held at Richmond Care Village and two residents asked questions before the formal meeting began. Answering the first, about the recent accident in (one-way) Bisley Street, the Chairman, Adrian Gyde, advised that Painswick Council are soon to meet the GCC Highways Manager and will ask if they will carry out a Highways Safety Audit at the location. Answering the second query, about high speeds of vehicles from Stroud passing the Richmond entrance as they approached Painswick, the Chairman advised that there already is police enforcement as well as the Community Speedwatch Volunteers who carry out regular speed checks at this location. (As appropriate the police will follow up by contacting offending drivers.)

The meeting continued with the formal reports:

County Council:

Speed limits. Against a background of the premise that reduced road speeds increase safety the County Council is introducing a double initiative. For now it is asking for "expressions of interest". More is given later in this report. Essentially the two parts are:

1. The "Community 20s" engagement seeks to assess the appetite for 20 mph limits.
2. The "Safer Roads" initiative focusses on reducing speed limits on roads where there have been accidents.

District Council:

Strategy for new council homes.

Stroud District has a significant shortage of "affordable homes". In May this year there were over 2,700 households waiting for social housing on the district's register plus a further 1,300 pending valuation. Currently there are no plans for Painswick to help with this 4,400 homes need, but the situation may change. For background it is worth appreciating that the situation is worsening. Many "smaller" landlords are selling

their properties and rents are rising significantly. This makes it more difficult for many to find and afford a home. However, Stroud has built 276 Council Houses since 2014 and plans another 96 over the next four years. Also it has an increased budget of £15 million to buy new homes. Clearly this will not be enough; it is less than 10% of the 4,000 needed.

Chairman's Report

Adrian Gyde reported his concerns about the lack of prior notification to Kingsmill Lane residents of a recent road closure. (This occurred at the same time as works in Tibbiwell and Greenhouse Lane effectively trapping vehicle owners at home!) He asked the Clerk to check with Highways to learn why the residents were not notified of the temporary road closure. The Chairman also advised that the Traffic Committee is exploring the potential extension of the village speed limit (30mph) to beyond the Rococo Garden entrance.

Speed Limits

(See also at County Council above) The Council agreed to register their two "Expressions of Interest" in the County initiatives subject to the recognition by GCC that current schemes and needed urgent safety schemes were not delayed.

Telephone Kiosks

A working group, initially consisting of Councillors Mackenzie-Jenkin, Cash, Roberts and Gibb will recommend uses for the two recently purchased ex BT telephone kiosks.

Grants

In response to requests the Council approved grants of £100 each to the Sheepscombe Coffee Morning and to Painswick Summer Evening Arts Walks.

Ward Reports

Slad: Councillor Andy Cash updated news of the traffic speeds issues. (For more details please go to Parish Clerk's minutes on the Painswick website.) In essence, many residents are not satisfied with the 30mph limit in the village and

the 60mph zone to the south en route to Stroud. Speeds have been monitored with about 25% exceeding 36 mph and a high of 51 mph in the 30 mph area. Other peak speeds were 60 mph and 70 mph!

Ash die-back work. Recent fellings beside the Slad Road to Stroud have left a 20-30 foot steep drop with only poor, old fencing remaining. (This is reminiscent of the A46 stretch at Painswick. Still unresolved and dangerous). This drop serves to support requests to change speed limits.

Edge: Councillor Selina Gibb updated the Council on Edge's Speedwatch team, proposals for defibrillator, and Highways works to cut back an obstructing hedge.

Sheepscombe: Councillor Sandra Hunking updated the meeting on various matters including white lining. Councillor Roey Parker gave news of a village cockerel perceived as noisy!

Error

The telephone and email details given for County Councillor Gary Luff in last month's report should have read: email: Gary.Luff@gloucestershire.gov.uk Mobile: 07773 778050

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Greg's back

Greg Thatcher is always a really welcome sight in the churchyard every summer, so much so that many would doubt that summer had actually arrived if he was not to be seen sitting at his easel drawing his chosen yew. An artist with an international reputation based on his Painswick art works - his latest work was on display in an international exhibition in April/May - Greg and his wife Jan love their time spent here. With the exception of a Covid year they have been in Painswick every summer since 1991. This year they arrived in mid-July and will remain until 22nd August.

Already Greg is hard at work creating new drawings and finalising others, all focussing on one or other of the churchyard yews. His passion for these trees is very evident and his knowledge and understanding of them is certainly impressive, unsurpassed in fact. Always happy to engage in conversation about them, his relationship with them and of course his art work, he enjoys the fact that already many Painswick residents and visitors have taken the opportunity to stop by for a chat.

The picture shows Greg at work on his first day back this year. A Canadian who currently lives in America, his work is fascinating, amazing. Do go and say hello, have a chat and watch this incredible artist at work.

Carol Maxwell



Your help is needed

In last month's Beacon a request for volunteers to help in Painswick's charity shop, Longfield, highlighted the need for such assistance especially in the current financially challenging situation faced by Longfield which may need to close some of its shops. Our Painswick shop is definitely special in many respects and it is important that it continues to thrive, particularly being one of Longfield's smaller outlets.



Voluntary help is essential. Painswick's Longfield is to a great extent dependent on such help. It is definitely very fortunate to have Mel as manager. She is exceptional and under her management the shop is certainly regarded as a quality outlet. In the past there was also an assistant manager but in the current circumstances she is the only employee. Mel explains that volunteers, much needed therefore, would be welcome for as many or as few hours as they wanted. Even two hours per week would be appreciated. Can you help? A commitment of just a few hours would be very welcome.

Longfield shops exist with the sole aim of raising money for a very worthwhile cause. Painswick's Longfield, though quite small, has the potential for contributing significantly to this end but it needs more assistance. Why not consider this, even for a couple of hours each week? Do call in and speak to Mel about the possibilities.

Our Bisley Street shop is exceptional. With top quality clothing for men, women and children, beautiful and interesting bric a brac, toys, books, jigsaws (why not buy one, put it together, return it and buy another one each week?), houseware etc and with frequently changing stock it is always worth popping in. We need to buy as well as to donate in order to not only guarantee our shop remaining open but also for the charity to continue its wonderful work locally.

Carol Maxwell

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Frauds & Fakes

On Thursday 10th July the Painswick Centre was well attended for 'Frauds and Fakes: Paintings that Fooled the World' by Georgina Bexon, writer, art advisor, consultant art historian at the Oriental Club in London and official guide at Tate Modern.

Beginning with an overview of Galleries and Collections worldwide, Georgina noted that over 20% of works hung and perhaps 90% of contemporary art in circulation may be fake or forgeries.

This set the context for a wide-ranging exposition of the history of forgeries, the principal artists involved, the major forgers and their techniques.

Starting in Egyptian tombs and Romans faking Greek art, Georgina then took us to the High Renaissance and the revelation that Michaelangelo was a prolific forger. His meteoric rise to fame followed when the discovery of a scam led to the buyer Cardinal Riario commissioning the young genius.

Stories of forgers down the centuries kept the audience enthralled including that of Han Van Meergeren. Specialising in Vermeers in the 1930's, he became embroiled in the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands even selling paintings to Hermann Goering. Indicted for collaboration after the war he escaped the death penalty by painting a 'Vermeer' for the trial judges to prove his capability.

Georgina covered works by Rembrandt, Modigliani, Van Gogh, Rothko and Pollock noting also that Salvador Dali signed blank canvasses to undermine the corrupt art establishment as he perceived it.

The techniques that forgers utilised, and the Technical Imaging Techniques used to counter them provided a glimpse into a world of shadows. This wide ranging and fascinating subject was covered by Georgina with erudition and wit to the delight of the Painswick audience.

Arts Society next meeting at the Painswick Centre is on 11th September 'The Genius of Antonio Stradivari'. All Welcome: details on www.theartsocietypainswick.org.

David Cutler



Summer Exhibition

Artists Vicky Hendzel-Walker and Millie Wood Swanepoel will be holding, a ceramics exhibition in the Church Rooms from Friday 22nd August till Monday 25th August.



It will be a chance to meet the artists and view a wonderful display of Ceramic Pieces, Prints and Mix-Media.

The exhibition is open from 10.00am to 4.30pm each day. For more information contact either Vicky www.vjh-ceramics.com or Millie www.milliewoodswanepoel.com



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Painswick based

Disgusting Sandwich

Summer at Rococo Garden is in full swing, with vibrant planting, woodland shade, two special events and a family trail to enjoy.

Late-summer colour is peaking, with *Achillea*, *Asters*, *Helenium*, *Hollyhocks*, *Hydrangeas*, *Sunflowers* and *Verbena* all looking their best. *Helianthus 'Lemon Queen'*, a soft yellow perennial sunflower, shines before autumn *Cyclamen* begin to appear.



The café menu now features even more produce from the Kitchen Garden – fresh, seasonal and straight from the soil.

Every day throughout the summer holidays, between 10am - 5pm, children are invited to step into the wonderfully silly world of The Disgusting Sandwich - a brand-new interactive trail designed by local illustrator Hannah Shaw. They will help Badger solve the mystery of who ate his sandwich! As they follow the trail, little explorers will decorate their own delightfully disgusting version along the way.

Wild Arts return on Friday 1 August at 6:15pm with a magical evening of opera on

the Bowling Green. Their brand-new production weaves together favourite pieces from the world of opera into one beautiful love story – full of passion, intrigue and glorious music. Bring a picnic and settle in for an unforgettable night.

For younger audiences, IKP present a magical and silly retelling of Cinderella on Bank Holiday Monday 25 August at 11:00am. This family-friendly show is packed with surprises and plenty of audience participation – a perfect summer holiday treat.

Marta Gardner



Vandalism at Rococo

On the evening of Thursday July 17th a range of wanton damage was carried out in the Garden between 6.00 and 7.00pm. Several secondhand books and the garden roller were thrown into the lake and parts of the children's Disgusting Sandwich trail were torn up and thrown around. The perpetrators were captured on the CCTV cameras and the local PCSO will be talking to them.

Jottings

Horse flies, including deer flies, and often called cleggs are in the fly family, *Tabanidae*. Some are called botflies, others gadflies. The female obtains proteins from blood to produce their eggs. The eggs hatch grow and then soon into their prey and at times humans. It was thought that this was because they could detect body heat.

Their bite is painful and can transfer other problems but not usually for humans (if a person gets bitten try not to scratch it as it only makes it worse). If you work with animals it is best to keep yourself covered up. Animals like us like shade but animals like horses, cattle and other species out in the open, attract these flies. With horses you may see them stamp their feet or twitch; or you may see them standing side by side, one swishing its tail over the other.

If you are organic then the use of normal chemicals to treat the problem is out so you may have to use other organic ways. One solution is Clover flies: you buy the eggs under guidance of a professional such as a vet, put them out. They hatch as *Pteromalid* wasps which are parasitoid on horseflies, stable flies and house flies. So they are good around herds of cows where flies are a nuisance.

Martin Slinger

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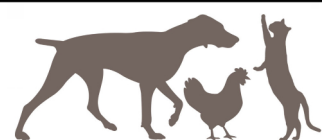
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'Black Gold' – The Secret to Thriving Gardens

Gardeners across the Cotswolds are raving about an unlikely hero in their planting success - alpaca poo. Known affectionately in horticultural circles as 'Black Gold,' this organic and natural fertiliser is being produced right here in Painswick by the beloved residents of Tibbiwell Alpacas.

What makes it so special? Alpaca fertiliser boasts the highest balanced nutritional content of any natural fertiliser, with rich levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, the essential trio for healthy plant growth. Thanks to alpacas' highly efficient digestive systems and varied vegetarian diets, their manure is nutrient-dense, low in odour, and doesn't need to be composted before use. It improves water retention and encourages stronger root systems. Simply apply it straight to your soil for improved structure or create a liquid fertiliser by adding to your watering can.

This eco-friendly by-product is not only sustainable and renewable, but also incredibly gentle on plants, making it suitable for everything from vegetables and herbs to delicate flowers and shrubs.

Local gardeners can now get their hands on this gardening gold at Handmade in Painswick on Bisley Street, at Exedra Nursery, or directly from Tibbiwell Alpacas.

To learn more about the alpacas behind this miracle fertiliser, visit:

www.tibbiwellalpacas.com



Sandie Randle

Probus report

On Thursday 17th July 2025 we were delighted to receive an update on the work of the Medical Detection Dogs charity by Dr Fiona Baskett who is a retired GP and writer as well as a dog-lover with a passion for science.

We were reminded of the remarkable ability of trained dogs to use their keen sense of smell to detect characteristic traces in urine or sweat samples, or to alert a client when a specific medical hazard arises. Further research, funded in part, at least, by the NHS, has increased the understanding of how dogs perform these feats accurately after typically 2 years of training. Now trials show that dogs can be trained to detect various forms of cancer, bacteria, malaria, and a neurological diseases. The list grows as funding permits.

Research in 2014 showed that successfully trained dogs were capable of detecting tiny traces (around one part per trillion - equivalent to one teaspoon of sugar in two Olympic sized swimming pools) - of the odour created by different diseases.

Pioneering work is focused on understanding how these highly trained disease detectors could expand the world of diagnosis through the recognition of volatiles, and help scientists and medics develop faster and cheaper ways to detect diseases, such as cancers, neurological diseases and bacterial infections much earlier than is currently possible.

The Charity works closely with fellow researchers, academic institutions both in the UK and internationally, and NHS Trusts, and has published several peer reviewed papers about its work.

Equally impressively, medical alert dogs can now detect 15 conditions leading to life-saving and life-changing outcomes (think Parkinson's, Addison's, severe allergies, blood glucose levels etc).

Fiona believes that the Charity will have global impact and lead to earlier and much improved detection of cancer and other deadly diseases, as well as contributing to the fight against anti-microbial resistance.

One observer suggested that Painswick might one day sponsor a dog and handler to seek out explosives, drugs and medical conditions on a regular basis?

Henry Hall





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The best, the freshest ... let's not lose it

Despite a shortage of shops in Painswick we are very fortunate inasmuch as there are some exceedingly good visiting sales people. One of these is undoubtedly Pete who arrives every Friday morning shortly after 9.00am in the Town Hall car park. His refrigerated van contains a wonderful array of the very best, the freshest, fish you will find anywhere.

Pete has been faithfully coming to Painswick now for 14 years. His fish is top quality, caught the previous day by fishermen from Grimsby on small boats and then brought immediately overnight to this area where Pete prepares it for sale to us in Painswick. It could not be fresher. Most fish available for us to buy in supermarkets etc is not fresh in the same way, as generally it has been caught out at sea and often kept in frozen conditions on the big fishing vessels for many days, even weeks, before being brought ashore.

Pete cannot always predict exactly what fish he will bring from one week to the next as it is of course totally dependent on what has been caught the day before. He does however, in addition to his fresh selection, usually have fish pates, smoked fish, roll mops etc. An added bonus is that Pete's fish is very competitively priced compared to that in many other outlets.

We are lucky to have such a wonderful service in Painswick and it would be truly sad if we lost it. It is vital therefore that we continue to purchase our fish regularly on Friday mornings from Pete to ensure his continued presence. He is in the Town Hall car park until about 11.15am. And remember, fish is definitely good for you.



Carol Maxwell



Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club - Future Plans

Earlier this summer, Club members enjoyed an exclusive visit to Woodchester Mansion, pictured, a Grade 1 listed Victorian Gothic building, designed by Benjamin Bucknall for owner William Leigh. Leigh was a perfectionist who actively supervised all the work. But costs spiralled, and after his death, Leigh's son could not afford to complete the project, so it was never habitable. The seclusion of the house has contributed to its survival; however, the Woodchester Mansion Trust still needs substantial funds to ensure that the building does not deteriorate further.

The Mansion is not just unique for its architecture – but for the bats too, because the attics house maternity roosts. During the tour, members watched the bats and their pups on special cameras.

We are busy finalising the Lecture Programme for the 2025-26 season, with a wide range of subjects covering natural history, archaeology and the environment. Talks already lined up include the restoration of a Portuguese medieval ship discovered on the riverbed of the Newport Usk; the intriguing Battle of Nibley Green – or the last skirmish on English soil involving private armies; and the welcome return of Kirsty Hartsiotis to talk about the work of Women Artists in Cotswold Churches. We shall also hear about the MOD War Detectives from Alexia Clark who is a member of a small team at Imjin Barracks, Innsworth, tasked with identifying missing British service personnel from WWI and WWII, and the Korean War.

2026 marks the 180th anniversary of the Club's foundation. We have plans for visits that link back to the Club's earliest days, and several special lectures, on local subjects and people.

For further information about membership of the Club please contact John Elbert, Membership Secretary by email: CNFCMembershipSec@outlook.com

Further information about the Club and its activities can be found on the CNFC website www.cotsnatsfield.club

Jane Rowe, 813228, Email: cotsnats@gmail.com



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Summer Update

The most important thing to report is that the cows have passed their recent TB test. Gloucestershire is a TB hotspot but given our herd has been TB-free since we acquired them and they are quite isolated from neighbouring herds, we now only have to test them annually.



We are now in the second year of grazing all year round. Last year, the wet summer resulted in copious vegetation growth and meant we did not graze as much of the site as we would have liked. This led to a discussion about getting more cows. This summer has been the opposite; no meaningful rain since March has left the Beacon looking brown and parched. However, we have been able to move the cows regularly (thanks to NoFence). They are in excellent condition as they have still found plenty to browse on. It seems likely we will buy two more Dexters later in the year. They will be trained in the NoFence system at their home farm in Slad before being released on the Beacon.

I feared butterfly numbers were low this year. However, surveys from other sites indicate that the numbers are not too bad. However, the drought means, in many cases, the relevant food plants may have been desiccated before the eggs are laid on them. This does not bode well for the populations next year. Warm, wet winters and mild, wet springs are other examples of extreme weather patterns that can affect the population of insects the following year. Chalkhill Blue butterflies have been seen in good numbers and interestingly in areas not usually associated with them. They normally live in discrete colonies, so the drought conditions may be forcing them further afield in search of kidney vetch, their food plant.

The glowworm surveys have produced interesting results. Since we started them in 2021 peak numbers occurred in the third quarter of July, but recorded numbers have steadily declined. Early indications for this year show a slight increase in numbers, but the peak is three weeks earlier.

Date for your Diary.

Our annual meeting will be at the Town Hall at 19:30 on Thursday, 11th September.

The evening will start with a summary of our year's activity followed by the usual drinks and cakes. Afterwards, our guest speaker will be John Parker from the Gloucestershire Arborists Association. He will present a brilliantly energetic presentation about his career with trees.

Paul Baxter

Another inspiring woman

Yew Trees WI monthly meetings are advertised as having 'speakers' who give 'talks'. June's meeting was no exception. The subject of the talk was "Life and Times of an Adult Tutor" but when it ended and Freda Steed came to give the vote of thanks Freda selected her words carefully and praised Sue Dove for her 'performance'! What an inspiring teacher this charismatic lady must be. Sue has taught a variety of subjects including Equality and Diversity, Basic Cooking, Music and Improving your Wellbeing to adults with physical and learning disabilities, mental health problems and to prisoners. Her Mission Statement states she has a passion for increasing confidence in those deemed vulnerable. She achieves this by using her creative talents, by looking at life differently, a wonderful sense of humour and an apparently inexhaustible supply of energy. Her skills were demonstrated to the full when she asked eight members of her audience to step to the front, she equipped each with a wooden spoon and a plastic toy handbell and within minutes they had performed a rendition of 'Jerusalem'. What a lady!

There is no official meeting in August although members are looking forward to getting together for a summer supper at The Falcon.

Celia Lougher 812624



'The Talented Mr Ripley'

Would you like to join our group visit to the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham for a performance of 'The Talented Mr Ripley', an adaptation for the stage of Patricia Highsmith's novel, on Friday 5th September 2025 at 7.30 pm? Over 20 members of Yew Trees WI, and their friends and family have already booked. Contact me for last-minute tickets (£22 each, Stalls seats).

Jane Rowe 813228 (answerphone).

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Painswick Surgery Patient Group (PPG)



All change for the NHS? Again??

Forgive a little cynicism but approximately 10 top-down structural reorganisations of the NHS have taken place in the last 25 years. Have any of them settled in and shown results? Many people now refer to them as re-disorganisations as so little time is given to proper implementation across such a complex organisation – one of the biggest employers in the world. The latest is the government's recently announced 10 year plan Fit for the Future which envisages three major fields of change: from hospital to community; from analogue to digital; and from treatment to prevention. It aims to move healthcare into local communities and away from hospitals. Neighbourhood Health Centres will be open in the evenings and weekends to improve accessibility. The NHS App will be developed to allow people to perform more tasks digitally. And money will be invested in key areas to prevent future health issues such as obesity and HPV injection uptake. That's what they say, read more here: tinyurl.com/NHS-10yr-Plan.

The 10yr plan puts ever greater emphasis on patients taking responsibility for their own 'care navigation'. PPG member Bill Summerskill considers some of the existing arrangements:

Self-referral access to health care

From continence to mental health, a wide range of NHS services are available without the need to visit a general practitioner. Self-referral, in which an individual requests a service directly from the specialist provider, can result in faster, more appropriate, and more convenient care. Self-referral helps people to manage their own health and to choose the care that suits them best. No wonder that self-referral is a crucial strategy to expand care in the new NHS 10 year plan.

To realise the full potential of self-referral, and the circumstances under which it can be used safely, requires information about eligible conditions and local providers. At present, these details are scattered. A good starting point is the referrals page of the Painswick Surgery website (<https://painswicksurgery.nhs.uk/services/referrals/>). Additional services are listed on the Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Trust website (<https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/self-refer/>). Referral methods differ between providers: some require an online form; others a telephone call. A single, comprehensive portal that details local services and links them with users would be preferable. Towards that end, there are plans for more community-based health centres, and, by 2028, an updated NHS smart phone App with self-referral options. Eventually, the NHS App is envisioned to become a "doctor in the pocket", through which many health and related activities will be managed.

Self-referral to pharmacists, audiologists, and opticians are commonplace, boosted by their visible presence in many communities, absence of a complex referral process, and the value of the care that they provide. These features of location, simplicity, and esteem should provide a model for the future growth of self-referral. Indeed, self-referral will be essential to address the progressive demands on health services as a result of medical advances and an ageing population. In such a scenario, there is a risk that better health outcomes will be increasingly linked to an individual's digital access and technical literacy, particularly the knowledge of when and where to self-refer. Familiarity with the NHS app, and its current features for repeat prescriptions, test results, and booking some appointments, is good preparation for future self-referral opportunities.

GP Patient survey

The results of this have just been released at the time of writing and a first look will show you how most of the important quality indicators are looking very positive for the Painswick Practice. We would be happy to receive comments when you've looked at the results here: <https://tinyurl.com/mr4b62wx>

Erratum

Last month's bulletin included a typo when quoting the Practice statistics for May stating 'that 11530 appointments took place that month'. Disappointingly, the true number was 1530. Yes, our GPs are not superheroes after all – just heroes!

David Perry, Patient Group Chair

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Join the Team at the Heart of the Village

Painswick Centre is Hiring a Centre Manager

The Painswick Centre, a cherished community hub since 1906, is looking for a new Centre Manager to help oversee its day-to-day running and support its growing programme of events and activities.

From cinema nights and food truck evenings to yoga classes, skittles, and pop-up markets, the Centre plays an essential role in village life. It's a space for everyone – and now we're looking for someone with energy, organisation and a people-first approach to take on this part-time, paid role.

The Centre Manager will be the go-to person for coordinating bookings, liaising with volunteers and users, maintaining the facilities, and helping to promote all that's on offer. You'll need to be comfortable juggling different tasks – one moment chatting with a hirer, the next touching up paintwork or sharing a Facebook post – all while keeping calm and community-focused.

The position is approx. 25 hours per week (ideally mornings, but flexible) at £18/hour. You'll work alongside the Board of Trustees and a growing team of volunteers, with the freedom to bring your own ideas to promote and improve the space.

If you've got experience managing buildings or offices, enjoy working with people, and want to help keep the Painswick Centre thriving for future generations, we'd love to hear from you.

Apply Now: email ceri.chaplin@painswickcentre.com

Want to know more? Call Adrian Gyde (07770 881695) or Ceri Chaplin (07534 963021)

Deadline to apply: 17th August 2025

The Painswick Centre Needs You!

As the heart of our village, the Painswick Centre is more than just a building — it's a shared space where community happens. From classes and coffee mornings to performances and parties, it plays host to the things that bring us together. But to keep it thriving, we need you.

We're currently on the lookout for new volunteers to help with both regular and occasional tasks. Whether you have green fingers and can help water the plants, a practical touch to check heating or lighting, or just a bit of spare time to help set up rooms with chairs and tables for events — we'd love to hear from you. A few hours here and there can make a big difference!

We're also looking to grow our team of Trustees. Having recently secured the future of the Centre, we're ready to take the next steps — and we're looking for new energy and fresh perspectives to help us shape the future. Whether you're a young person wanting to get involved in the community, someone recently retired looking for a rewarding role, or just someone who loves Painswick and wants to give something back — you could be just who we're looking for.

Save the Date: Painswick Centre AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 22nd September at 7pm at the Centre. Everyone is welcome — it's a great chance to hear about our plans, meet the team, and find out how you can get involved. Full details will be in the September Beacon.

If you'd like to express an interest in volunteering or becoming a Trustee — or just want to know more — please pop into the Centre or email me at ceri.chaplin@painswickcentre.com.

Together, let's keep the Centre buzzing.

Ceri Chaplin, Painswick Centre Chair of Trustees



End of Season Round-Up and a Big Thank You!

Wick-Flix rounded off its 2024/25 season with a fantastic screening of *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy* on Friday 18th July. Despite the balmy summer evening, we were thrilled to see such a great turnout — clearly nothing stops Painswick's film fans from enjoying a good night out at the movies!

This season has seen one of our most diverse line-ups yet, offering something for everyone. We kicked off the year in January with the brilliantly sharp *Wicked Little Letters*, followed by a romantic classic *Ghost* in February — the perfect choice for Valentine's Day. March brought us the darkly comic *Thelma*, while April delighted audiences of all ages with the return of everyone's favourite marmalade-loving bear in *Paddington* in Peru. In May, we enjoyed the gripping drama *The Critic*, and in June, the thought-provoking thriller *Conclave* kept us guessing until the end.

If you missed any of these — where have you been?

Wick-Flix now takes a summer break but we'll be back in September with the film everyone is talking about: *The Salt Path*, screening on Friday 12th September. More details will be in next month's Beacon, so stay tuned!

A huge thank you to our incredible team of volunteers, our loyal sponsors, and of course, our brilliant audience. Wick-Flix simply wouldn't happen without you.

*— From the Wick-Flix organising committee:
Dawn, Ally, Becky, Karen and Ceri*

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The Friday Club: Support from the Gloucestershire Carers Hub



Our latest speaker, Stephen Moore, pictured with Friday Club members, outlined the work of the Gloucestershire Carers Hub (GCH), which supports Carers – whether they be family, neighbours, or friends of the person needing care, whether still living in their own home or in a residential facility. GCH's support is just a 'phone call away, and extends to local get-togethers with other carers, online sessions, and even outings. GCH also provides advocacy when carers felt their needs are being ignored.

We were alerted to the importance of 'NHS Orange Folders' which are designed to hold personalised care and support plans. These could include 'Me at My Best', a form to help health and care professionals know important information about an individual, and ReSPECT plans, which outline a patient's wishes for an emergency when they may not be able to make

decisions or communicate to paramedics and other health professionals. Stephen said that it was also still vital to complete 'Power of Attorney' Forms to ensure that your wishes for your health and finances are known and can be carried out.

Carers were encouraged to register straight away with GCH, even if everything is currently running smoothly, by tel. 0300 111 9000.

Also pictured, Kate Peake (right) modelling a silk polonaise court dress; at our June meeting, Angela Rendall described how Georgian ladies, in what was described as the 'age of extravagance' would wear wide panniers, uplifting corsets and hidden accessories underneath their dresses. These dresses were elaborately pinned in place – bringing us neatly back to Painswick, where pin making had been introduced into the parish in 1796 as a means of providing employment to the poor in the workhouse. By adapting former fulling mills, Painswick became a major centre for pin-making.

Finally, we are hopeful that The Friday Club will survive! We have attracted some volunteers and would like a few more. More news after our AGM on 19th September.

Jane Rowe 813228



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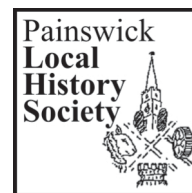
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Painswick historic crimes August ...5



1825

Thomas Papps, guilty of having feloniously stolen a pick axe, the property of Daniel Roberts. 18 months in penitentiary and once whipped.

1855

Charles Halliday and Edwin Bartlett, guilty of stealing from a garden at Hazle House a quantity of potatoes, onions and carrots. Fined 1/- plus 6d the value of the vegetables, and in default to be imprisoned at Horsley for 28 days. *Stroud Journal*

1855

Mary Ann Lawrence v William Lawrence, husband and wife, he charged with assaulting his wife. Complainant: I have been married 2 years and my husband is a carpenter. On Saturday last I had been at work all day at home. About 6 o'clock my husband came home to tea. I had left a basin on the stairs, which defendant broke on coming down stairs, and immediately thereupon he began striking me about the head; he said he would give me a good hiding, he struck me several times. I was stunned for some time and he came and struck me again. Then I went to strike at him, but he seized hold of my hand and held me till I turned faint. I then spat in his face. He struck me 3 days previously. I gave no provocation whatever. I work at needlework. Defendant said the reason he ever beat his wife was because she told of him in neighbours' houses and he had continually remonstrated with her. On this occasion he did not strike his wife in a way to hurt an infant. The magistrate advised defendant to live peaceably with his wife. Fined 2s 6d and costs 8s or in default committed to Horsley for 14 days. Defendant on leaving the court said he should never live comfortably with his wife, and the best thing would be for them to separate. *Stroud Journal*

1865

Caroline Taylor, 17, domestic servant of Mr Thomas Skinner, charged with stealing 5 pocket handkerchiefs, a pair of boots and a brooch the property of Miss Skinner. When confronted she denied it and same night ran away. She was fetched back next morning by a policeman and the missing articles were found in her box. Sentenced to 3 months hard labour. *Gloucester Journal*

1865

Charles Davis, age 39, 5ft 2ins, hair light brown, eyes grey, visage oval, complexion fresh, cut left eyebrow, mole centre back. Trade: labourer. Married with 5 children, known to P.C. Charged with the murder of Sarah Maria Davis. Guilty; condemned to death; sentence commuted to penal service for life. Warrant to Millbank Prison. *There was a very full account of this trial in the Birmingham Daily Post. The victim was his wife whom he had beaten to death – the coroner's report described 38 bruises on the neck and face, a large cut at the back of the head, many wounds on the body and bruises on the legs and her hair had been 'plucked' out by him. Two of their young children were called as witnesses. The verdict was 'Wilful Murder'.*

1895

Edward Cooke summoned for refusing to quit the Star Inn. Charles White the landlord's agent deposed that the prisoner came to the house with others, and cut capers in the bar. He threatened to box the ears of the landlord's father, and being refused drink said he would serve himself, and went and lay on the piano. Fined including costs 15s. *Stroud News*

1905

Albert Edward Gyde, labourer, charged with being drunk in Painswick and further charged with assaulting Edith Harding of the Fleece Inn at the same time. *There follows a long explanation of the whole incident which ended with the defendant punching the victim on the head and knocking her down into a pool of water. They had previously been together and he accused her of 'walking out' with others.* Mr Apperly described the prisoner's record as a sad one, there had been three cases of drunkenness in the present year. The prisoner had been in the Army but had left it now. He made no defence. Fined 6s and 4s costs or 7 days imprisonment for first case; 14 days hard labour for second charge. *Stroud News*

Carol Maxwell

Military History Collecting and Research Group

Are you a history buff, genealogist or militaria collector? If so you may be interested to join us in Swindon Village Hall, Cheltenham, GL51 9QP on the 2nd Thursday or every month, for entertaining and educational talks on the men, their medals, and military history, from across the globe and throughout time.

Arrive at 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start The evening wraps up at about 9:30pm.

Informal and Friendly, our meetings are a great way to learn something new and a place to discuss your passion for collecting medals and military memorabilia. Membership is open to all adults.

For more information contact Len Evans at the Soldiers of Gloucester Museum, Gloucester Docks, tel. 07801 472 396 or Steve Lewis, Q&C Militaria Shop, in Cheltenham on 01242 519815.

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Painswick Gardening Club



Twenty two members of Painswick Gardening Club visited Wortley House Gardens near Wotton-under-Edge on July 9th. We were met by Jessica Dickinson who gave us a brief history of their thirty years developing this garden. We enjoyed a glass of Prosecco and some lovely titbits; and armed with maps and plant lists, toured the estate. The pleached lime avenue, pond and Italian garden looked idyllic in the evening light and we returned home gazing across to the Severn estuary, at the strong red sunset. Thank you to the Committee for organising this Event and transport.



Weather permitting, we may be able to have a couple of Club Socials during our Summer break before meeting again in the Painswick Town hall, in September.

Joyce Barrus

New Season

Amazingly it is August already and we are looking forward to our 2025/6 programme which begins on the 18th September. We start with a Musical journey around the British Isles.



The Henry Wood promenade season has about four weeks to run (note that the Bristol Beacon is one of the few venues outside of London with concerts still to come on 21st and 22nd of August). Thankfully the Proms programmes this year seem to have reversed recent trends and have included less music that seems to belong to Glastonbury and Radio one.

With the last night of the Proms in early September and the 3 Choirs Festival in Hereford already a memory PMAG is ideally positioned to provide some continuation with a wide range of subjects including the anniversaries of Camille Saint-Saëns (Organ Symphony), Maurice Ravel (Bolero) and Johann Strauss.

With the very best performances in the best sound on DVD and CD the delights of Austria, Poland, Bohemia and beyond will be on offer. Visiting speakers will transport us to Brandenburg, Ireland, Cheshire and Crickley Hill (the scene of an infamous risqué motorcycle ride!) Celebrated operas, the work of different composers, based on a shared literary source will feature and so much else.

PMAG would very much like to encourage new members to join us in the Town Hall for these fortnightly Thursday afternoon meetings. Beginning on September 18th, they continue through to the end of April next year and are the most sociable of gatherings and include breaks for refreshments and conversation. Why not come and give it a try?

Michael Grey

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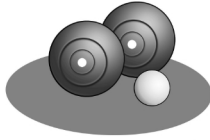
Painswick Sports

assembled by John Barrus

Falcon Bowling Club

On Wednesday July 16th, The Painswick Falcon Bowling Club were proud to host a Dutch Family of 18.

They wanted to visit our Club and learn our history and play on the oldest bowling green in England, founded 1554. Their ages were from 84 Grandfather to 12 Grandson and they were a delightful Family who spoke better English than Members!! The Family name is— Van den Ham and they are mainly based in Nykerle in the Netherlands. The other main celebration was the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Jan and Wil, the Grandparents which was on the 16th.



It was a lovely and very friendly afternoon and we hope The Falcon helped to promote and improve international relations.

The photo shows the happy Family and the age spread.

John Newhill

Pickleball



With the continuing good weather club sessions have been well supported and in most cases using all four courts. More matches and coaching sessions are planned.



Picture shows a successful picnic and friendly tournament evening held in early July. New members welcomed contact Ruth at ruthandtrevor@btinternet.com

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Season update from Painswick Cricket Club



A highlight of the summer at Broadham Fields is the atmosphere on a Friday night, where over 100 juniors, coaches and parents celebrate the end of the week with some cricket. This season our youngsters have had a great season. We have fielded teams at under 19's, 15's, 13's and two under 11's sides as well as festivals for our under 9's and a girls section that goes from strength to strength each year. This has been our most successful youth season in years, with more fixtures than ever, and culminating in an exciting final fixture of the season where they managed to win their league. Local club faces and coaches Adam Wager and Bruce Walker masterminded an end of season thriller away at Stroud, where the team edged victory in the last few overs. Many of the team also play rugby together for Painswick, with familiar surnames such as Mayo, Coombs, Bradshaw and Russell continuing family traditions of representing Painswick sporting sides.

The future is bright and we look forward to watching this team progress for many years to come!

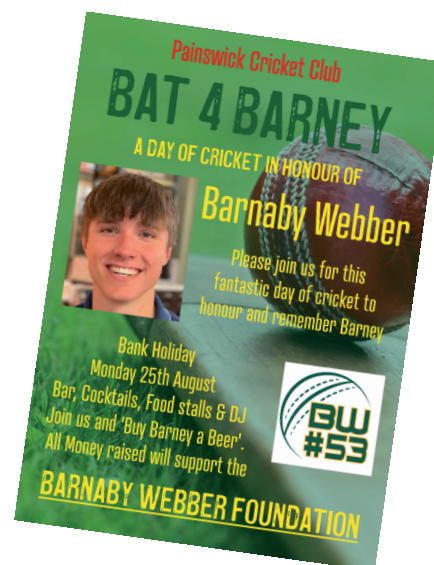
Bat 4 Barney

Painswick Cricket Club will once again host a cricket day, 'Bat 4 Barney', in memory and honour of Barnaby Webber on bank holiday Monday 25th August commencing at 10am.

Barney was an avid cricketer and history student at Nottingham University. Barnaby alongside his friend Grace O Malley Kumar and local man Ian Coates were tragically murdered 2 years ago in Nottingham.

Painswick cricket club are supporters of the amazing, 'Barnaby Webber Foundation'. The charity was created by his family and friends, to not only honour this beautiful and talented young man, but share his love of the game in communities everywhere and support young people facing many life challenges.

Please join us on this wonderful day for family and friends to come together and remember Barney.



Painswick Golf Club

Silver Tray Competition.

This is an annual competition between the original members of the North Gloucestershire League: 8 clubs, Broadway, Cirencester, Cotswold Hills, Lilleybrook, Minchinhampton, Ross on Wye, Stinchcombe and Painswick on a rotational basis. This year's event was held at Painswick Golf Club. Playing in pairs, there was a 12 hole foursomes in the morning followed by 18 holes 4-ball betterball in the afternoon. Painswick ended the winners and the Silver Tray was handed over by last year's winners, Ross on Wye. Picture shows the winning Painswick Team captained by Finlay McLean.



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PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

S.25/1120/LBC

Dovecot Cottage, Stepping Stone Lane
Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a replacement single storey extension.

S.25/1080/HHOLD 1 Churchill Way
Erection of a single storey side extension.

S.25/1160/TCA

Fiery Beacon, New Street
Bay tree - Remove.

S.25/1173/HHOLD

3 Gloucester Road
Erection of a single storey side extension.
Erection of two outbuildings.

S.25/1209/TCA

Pathways Tibbiwell Lane T1. False acacia - fell. T2. Cherry tree - felling or trimming 2 meters from the top.

S.25/1146/HHOLD

Rockleigh, Kings Mill Lane
Erection of two storey side extension and reconfiguration of parking area.

S.25/1308/HHOLD

Appleways, Gloucester Street
Erection of rear single storey sun room, raising of existing garage roof to convert existing garage into store & utility.

S.25/1295/LBC Horsepools House, Sevenleaze Lane, Edge

Replacement ceiling beams to cellar/floor beams to living room.

S.25/1311/HHOLD & S.25/1312/LBC
Horsepools House, Sevenleaze Lane, Edge

Erection of a single storey extension with glazed canopy. Alterations to fenestration.

CONSENT

S.23/2414/LBC Horsepools House, Sevenleaze Lane, Edge

Window alterations & replacement.

S.25/0852/VAR Hambutts House, Edge Road

Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) from S.24/1966/HHOLD - amendments to roof

S.25/0926/LBC Hambutts House, Edge Road

Removal of asbestos garage and erection of a replacement garage, solarium and solar panels. Replacement of asbestos roofing (scheme to include solid roof over solarium).

S.25/0903/VAR Land At Briarfield House, Stroud Road

Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) from S.23/2308/FUL (Appeal: APP/C1625/W/24/3346466) - alterations to the design of the dwelling.

S.25/0987/HHOLD Marden House, The Highlands

Installation of new windows & dormer window (retrospective), erection of

double garage, conversion of existing garage.

S.25/1160/TCA Fiery Beacon, New Street

Bay tree - Remove.

S.25/1177/TCA The Old Surgery, Gloucester Street

Silver Birches x 2. Reduce by a third in height (5-6 meters for tree 1 and 4-4.5 metres for tree 2) and spread in proportion as previously. Cherries x 3. Reduce in height by between approximately a quarter and a third (2.5-3 metres) as previously and the sides in proportion.

S.25/1209/TCA Pathways Tibbiwell Lane T1. False acacia - fell. T2. Cherry tree - felling or trimming 2 meters from the top.

REFUSED

S.25/0680/HHOLD

Hammonds Cottage, Wick Street
Erection of replacement garage and annexe.

Property Report

The Lamp House, (Murrays, £1.195m) is an elegant Georgian house next to the Town Hall, overlooking Victoria Square and the Churchyard. It has 4 bedrooms, a private walled garden and parking space by the side-gate. Another period property benefiting from views of St. Mary's Church, but from the opposite direction, is 4 Stroud Road, an end of terrace property with 3 bedrooms (Murrays, £550,000).

For more modern properties, Hamptons have a choice of two quite different houses on Churchill Way, each detached with four bedrooms. Fourwinds is now offered at £650,000, while 25 Churchill Way comes to the market via the modern method of auction with a guide of £360,000. A three bedroomed house, 9 Churchill Way is also available through Murrays at £325,000 and Hamptons have 12 Berry Close, a 3 bedroom mid-terrace property (price on application).

At Richmond Village, apartment 17, one of the largest independent living apartments, is now available at £675,000 and for assisted living there is apartment 3/5 (£270,000). See the Richmond website for details.

In Blakewell Mead, a private road just off Edge Lane, Firle Cottage is a chalet bungalow-style property with 4 beds, garage, gardens and parking (Murrays, £725,000), while on Wades Lane in Pitchcombe, Hedge Row, a 4 bed family home with swimming pool and gym came very briefly onto the market through Murrays at £800,000, but went very quickly under offer.

Other properties going under offer this month through Murrays are Hill View in Beacon Close, The Old Stores in Cranham and Maryland at Far End, Sheepscombe. Through Hamptons 11 Hyett Close and Hale Lea on Kingsmill Lane have gone under offer as has The Gables on Friday Street through the Blue Book agency. Hambutts Edge on Edge Lane, Woodside on Kingsmill Lane, 6 Hyett Close, 2 Court Cottage on Butt Green, Angels Roost on Vicarage Street, Jenkins on Lurks Lane in Pitchcombe, Hillfield on Grunters Lane in Edge and Bopoto in Slad have all exchanged and/or completed.

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Regular Village Activities. Please contact Vicky Aspinall on cvasp.26@gmail.com

Mondays	Gentle pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538	Painswick Centre	8.45 - 9.45am
	Improvers pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538	Painswick Centre	9.50 - 10.50am
	Beginners/improvers pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538	Painswick Centre	10.55 - 11.55am
	Ballyhoo modern dance classes. Julie ballyhoochalford@gmail.com	Painswick Centre	from 3.45pm
	Community Choir. Contact sophie@sophiesterckx.co.uk	Painswick Centre	7.00 - 8.30pm
	Short Mat Bowls. All equipment provided. 2.00/session	Town Hall	2.00 - 4.00pm
	Mindful Meditation with Kate. kate-beatty.co.uk/07793 126234	Painswick Centre	12.30 - 1.00pm
	Painswick Singers . Contact Jean Jones 01452 813545.	Richmond	5.00 - 6.00pm
	Paradise Art Studio evening classes. takepart@paradise-house.org.uk	Paradise House	6.30 - 8.30pm
Tuesdays	Zumba with Martina 07891 194396	Painswick Centre	9.45 - 10.45am
	Painswick Art Club £35/term. Contact Joyce Barrus on 01452 812942	Church Rooms	9.30 - 1.00pm
	Rococo Sprites. See www.rococogarden.org.uk	Rococo Garden	9.45 am
Wednesdays	Strength and Balance class for the over 60s. Contact Trish Tenn on 07956 4666617 or tennpatricia@gmail.com	Painswick Centre	10.00 - 11.00am
	Painswick Bridge Club. Contact Peter Sibley on 812126 or Margaret Wilson on 812305	Church Rooms	6.45pm
	Table tennis. Contact David Harris on 07453 027766. £5.00/person/session	Painswick Centre	7.30 - 9.00pm
	Yoga with Kate. www.kate-beatty.co.uk/07793 126234	Painswick Centre	7.30 - 8.45pm
	Classical Pilates Mat Classes Jo on 07968 799741 or info@daleypilates.co.uk	Painswick Centre	10.30 - 11.30am
	Strength and Conditioning Circuits. www.lovelifeladies.co.uk	Painswick Centre	12.30 - 1.30pm
	After school art classes. Term time only. classes@painswickcentre.com .	Painswick Centre	3.45 - 5.15pm
Thursdays	Morning Market	Painswick Centre	8.15 - 9.45am
	St Mary's Mums, Contact 07833 727701. Term time only	Church Rooms	9.15 - 10.45am
	Nurturing yoga. Contact Kim on yoginikim@icloud.com	Painswick Centre	9.30 - 11.00am
	Vinyasa Yoga. Contact Kim on yoginikim@cloud.com	Painswick Centre	11.15 - 12.45am
	Tai chi. Contact Joe on 07960 753782	Painswick Centre	1.30 - 2.30pm
	Dog Training Club. Contact Fiona Chapman on 01452 812462 or fiona.chapman123@btinternet.com	Painswick Rugby Club	9.30 - 12.30pm
	Qi Gong Classic Exercise - jeffdocherty@yahoo.com	Town Hall	9.30 - 10.30am
	Classical Pilates Mat Classes. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or info@daleypilates.co.uk	Town Hall	5.45 - 6.45pm
	Takeaway Food Night	Painswick Centre	5.00 - 8.00pm
Fridays	Yoga for Backs. Contact Kim on yoginikim@icloud.com	Painswick Centre	9.30 - 11.00am
	Ballet with Claire Tracey. Contact BalletClaire@outlook.com	Church Rooms	9.30 - 10.30 am
	Painswick Community Hub Café. All welcome	Town Hall	10.00 - 11.30am
	Church Choir Practice. cgsuain:btinternet.com or 01453 822998	St Mary's Church	5.30 - 6.30pm
	Classical Pilates Mat Classes. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or info@daleypilates.co.uk	Church Rooms	11.00 - 12.00pm
	Painswick Baby and Toddler Group - Term time only	Youth Pavilion	9.30 - 11.30am
Sundays	Mass	Catholic Church	8.30am
	Quaker Meeting for Worship	Meeting House	10.30am
	Aikido www.gloucestershireaikido.club .	Painswick Centre	8.30 - 11.00am



Village Diary

Please let me know your club and society dates for the diary on cvasp.26@gmail.com

August

Fri	1	Wild Arts. More information and tickets from info@rococogarden.org.uk	Rococo Garden	6.15pm - 9.30pm
Sat	2	Painswick Beacon published		
Tues	5	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Church	9.00am
Wed	6	Holy Communion	Richmond	11.30am
	6	Gardening Club: Evening Social. To book a place contact 07743 377260	Millcroft, Stepping Stone Lane GL6 6RU	6.00 - 9.00 pm
Sun	10	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's Church	9.30am
	10	Family Worship	St Mary's Church	11.00am
Mon	11	Library Book Club	Library	1.30 - 2.30pm
Tues	12	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Church	9.00am
Thurs	14	Open garden and Plant Fair in aid of NGS	Richmond Village	10.00 - 3.00pm
	17	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church	11.00am
Tues	19	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Church	9.00am
	19	Prayer and Praise	St Mary's Church	7.00pm
Sun	24	Deadline for Beacon copy		
	24	Beacon Praise	St Mary's Church	11.00am
	24	Sausage and Cider Sizzle	Painswick golf club	
Mon	25	IKP productions: Cinderella. Two performances. Info@rococogarden.org.uk to book tickets	Rococo Garden	11.00am and 2.30pm
Tues	26	Yew Trees WI: Summer Supper. Members only. Must be booked in advance	Shires Room @ The Falcon	7.00 for 7.30pm
Wed	27	Midweek Communion	St Mary's Church	11.00am
Sun	31	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church	9.30am
	31	Evensong	St Mary's Church	6.30pm

September

Fri 5 Painswick Beacon published



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Sewing Hope: The Pachamama Project and a Community Workshop

In a world where basic needs are too often out of reach, a movement quietly stitching dignity and compassion into every seam has emerged. The Pachamama Project, an inspiring grassroots charity, was born during the isolation of the COVID-19 lockdown by then 20-year-old Bristol University student, Ella Lambert. Struggling with painful periods herself, Ella was driven by empathy and purpose to tackle a global issue too often ignored: period poverty.

The charity is dedicated to making reusable sanitary pads for women and girls who lack access to menstrual products. Designed to be comfortable, sustainable, and long-lasting, each pack contains eight pads that can be washed and reused for up to four years. Access to these essential items means girls are able to attend school consistently and women can continue with work and daily life, rather than being forced to stay home during their periods, missing out on education and opportunities, and further reinforcing gender inequality.

The scale of the impact is already impressive. Over 2,500 volunteers have come together, helping more than 20,000 women and girls worldwide, from schoolgirls in Uganda, Palestine and Syria, to refugees in Lebanon and Afghanistan, where hyperinflation has made even basic hygiene products unaffordable luxuries.

Inspired by a Times article about Pachamama, Painswick local Vicki Moore saw an opportunity to make a difference. Gathering with friends over coffee and conversation, she launched a regular sewing group with a mission to contribute. This group has met 18 times, producing around 40 pads per session, totalling an incredible 760 pads so far, and



helping 95 women in Lebanon, Uganda and Afghanistan. Their sessions aren't just about sewing; they are about community, learning, and empowerment.

Join Us for a Community Workshop! In collaboration with Handmade in Painswick, a community Pachamama workshop will be held on August 21st from 1-4 pm in the Church Rooms. Everyone is welcome, no sewing experience is required! There will be a demonstration, and Vicki along with the Painswick Pachamama team will provide step-by-step guidance throughout the afternoon. A minimum donation of £10 is requested to help cover costs. Any excess funds will be donated to Pachamama. Can't stay the whole time? No problem, drop in for a session that suits you. You'll be asked to choose a time slot when booking.

Reserve your spot at: <https://www.handmadein.uk/event-details/the-pachamama-project-community-workshop>

This is a chance to be involved in a project that's making a real difference. Volunteers will not only gain new skills but also the rewarding experience of helping women and girls around the world. Together, one stitch at a time, we can help end period poverty and restore dignity to those who need it most.

If you're inspired to start your own Pachamama circle, Vicki is happy to offer support and guidance. To learn more, visit: www.thepachamamaproject.org

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Personal column Condolences

To the family and friends of DOUGLAS ROBINSON, who had lived in Painswick since 1996 and passed away peacefully at Park View Care Home in Gloucester on June 23rd. A former Chairman of the Conservation Society, he was also responsible for many years for the maintenance and upkeep of the church clock. There will be a Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Painswick on Thursday August 14th at 2pm to remember Douglas and celebrate his life.

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 cvasp.26@gmail.com

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MINI-ADS

South Devon Holiday Rental. A lovely four-bedroom house to rent in Thurlestone, South Devon. Ideal for beach, walking, golfing holidays and exploring the stunning South Hams region. Call Vicki 07789 963886.

Help in the House. Do you need help with your housework, your ironing, doing your shopping? If so give Jo a call on 07777 177071.

Lovely Spanish villa for holiday let in Sotogrande near Gibraltar. 4 beds and 4 bathrooms, heated pool, secluded garden. Suitable for families and golfer's paradise. Contact: sfona1702@gmail.com for details.

Black Voices Concert St. Laurence's Church, Stroud GL5 1JL 7pm Saturday September 6th www.ticketsource.co.uk/blackvoices £15 + booking fee (16 & under £8) "Europe's leading female a cappella quintet".

Mini-Ads

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Provide text, your name, address and contact details with payment in advance. Deadline as for all copy. More info call Peter Rowe, or mail: advertising.beacon@painswick.net

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The audience for Much Ado about Nothing at the Rococo Garden as the evening sun sets over the performance.