

The Painswick Beacon

Sine praeiudicio

Volume 38 Number 9

December 2015

*Christmas Greetings
to all our readers*



and Best Wishes for 2016

Also this month:

Proposed Development at Land East of A46 Cheltenham Road and South of The Park
Parish Council seeking signatures to their petition to fight proposed closure of Painswick's Fire Srtation
Shopping in Painswick
Christmas Services and events

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS from the meeting held November 18th by Mike Kerton

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

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

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The meeting was opened by Chairman Cllr Rob Lewis. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Roey Parker, Ian James, Emma Smith and James Cross. As there were no public questions the Chairman moved swiftly on to the Agenda.

Land South of the Park

The Council unanimously agreed a Statement to be submitted to the District Councils Development Control Committee Chairman. Cllr Rob Lewis will attend their meeting. The Statement urges the Committee to refuse the application. See page 3.

Matters requiring a decision

There were eleven matters requiring a decision.

- Old Fleece, Bisley Street. Proposed change of use from office to Hair Salon on ground floor and a single apartment on the upper floors. As there had been approval for a previous planning application for change of use to domestic premises the application only applied to the ground floor. Unanimous agreement to support the application.

- Rosebank Cottages, Slad Road, Slad. Various internal alterations to listed building. Unanimous agreement to support the application but need to draw District Council's attention to children sleeping in the attic and need to ensure safe exit in the event of a fire.

- Washwell Cottage, Lower Washwell Lane. Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of two detached dwellings with garages. Unanimous agreement to support the application.

- The Manse, Gloucester Street. Two applications – one for a listed building. Two storey extension and internal alterations and window and door replacement. Removal of existing rear extension. Member of the public, Ross Munro, pointed out to the Council that Gloucester Street was in a Conservation Area. Unanimous agreement to support the application, subject to the Council being shown any comments made on the Application by English Heritage.

- Woodcote, The Highlands. Single storey extension. Unanimous agreement to support the application.

- Corinium House, Sevenleaze Lane, Edge. Alterations to garage and extension to form office, gym, sauna and recreation room. Unanimous agreement to support the application subject to the proviso that the old garage is not converted to living accommodation.

- Columbus Cottage, Cheltenham Road. First floor rear extension. Unanimous agreement to support the application.

- Downton House, 16 Gloucester Street. Willow leaf pear. Selective thin crown by 15%. Re-shape crown by removing bulge

over greenhouse. Unanimous agreement to support the application.

- Wordings Orchard, Sheepscombe. Yew – reduce to approximately 2m in height to allow new crown to form to enable easier trimming. Unanimous agreement to support the application.

- Briar Cottage, Sheepscombe. Ash – remove. Unanimous agreement to support.

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Martin Slinger opened the meeting and as there no questions from members of the public moved quickly on to the main Agenda. The Clerk, Roy Balgobin, reported that apologies had been received from Cllrs Roey Parker, Ian James, Emma Smith and James Cross

Matters of Urgency

A request had been received from PANtastic Painswick for a donation to help cover the cost of retuning their instruments. They are a "Steel Pan" Band and meet in the Youth Club. The Council unanimously agreed a donation of £100.

County Councillors Report

County Councillor Jason Bullingham was unable to attend the meeting but had circulated his October report which had been published in the November edition of the Beacon.

District Councillors Report

District Councillor Nigel Cooper was present. In his report he confirmed that the local plan, covering the period 2006–2031 was about to be finalised. The plan sets out the terms under which development should take place in Stroud District up until 2031. The main disagreements have been over the number of new dwellings and their location. This has now been agreed with the independent Government Inspector and Councillors will be asked to endorse the proposals at their meeting on the 19th November. Once the plan has been accepted the Council will be in a better position to defend the District from speculative planning applications from predatory developers.

The fortnightly garden waste scheme will start in February 2016 and will run until the end of November each year. (For details see page 9 - Ed.)

A careers fair was recently held at Stratford Park Leisure Centre. There were over 70 stalls representing colleges, companies and the service industry sectors. It was aimed at adults, students and older school children with their parents. This was the third year the fair has been held and it will be held again in 2016.

To receive correspondence from Neil Carmichael MP with reference to the Post Box at Tibbiwell

Chairman Martin Slinger advised the

Council that a letter had been received from the MP which attached a copy of a letter the MP had received from Royal Mail regarding the damaged post box in Tibbiwell. Royal Mail confirmed that the Victorian wall box had a broken bottom hinge which could not be repaired without removing the box from the wall. Due to the age and type of box it was thought that the postbox is unlikely to survive removal. Unfortunately as the postbox was beyond economical repair it would be permanently welded shut, painted black and left in situ. They also pointed out that there were seven alternative boxes within 850 meters. Cllr Rob Lewis interjected saying "as the crow flies". In his letter Neil Carmichael stated that he had made numerous representations to Royal Mail regarding the Tibbiwell postbox. He realised that both the Council and local residents would be disappointed by this final decision to permanently close the box but he was unable to pursue the matter further. The Council also expressed their disappointment with the decision which would inconvenience many people in the area. Cllr Rob Lewis proposed that the Council send a letter of thanks to the MP for his efforts in trying to convince Royal Mail to repair the box.

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Review. To consider a response and appropriate actions

Chairman Cllr Martin Slinger advised the Council, that together with the Vice Chairman Ann Daniels, he had met the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade on the evening of the 17th November to discuss the proposal to close the Painswick Fire Station. Amongst the questions asked by the Council were why Painswick was selected for closure when the reduction in call outs was only 6% in the last 12 months, the second lowest in the County, whilst other stations had seen reductions of over 30%. The impact of loss of income for members of the retained brigade and the effect on the local economy. Also, why had a recent advert for staff recruitment to fill vacancies not included the Painswick vacancies?

The Chief Fire Officer explained that Painswick Fire Station costs £52,000 a year to run with future projected replacement costs of £240,000 for a fully equipped fire engine and protective clothing. Chairman Cllr Martin Slinger advised the Council that Painswick was always supplied with an engine previously used by a larger station and that the Fire Brigade leased all the protective clothing. Under the terms of the lease any protective clothing that was damaged or stained during a call out was replaced under the terms of the lease, the damaged/stained clothing was returned to the leasing company.

There was unanimous agreement by the

CLRs that the closure of the Fire Station would not be in the best interests of the Community. This was despite the assurances from the Chief Fire Officer that full time fire fighters in Stroud or Gloucester would provide emergency response within acceptable levels.

Clerk Roy Balgobin advised the meeting that the local County Councillor, Jason Bullingham, had declared an interest in this matter and would not be able to assist the Council – a close relative is a fire-fighter. Despite contacting other County Councillors no one had agreed to represent Painswick at County Council Meetings.

Roy Balgobin then explained that it was possible to “force” the County Council to debate the recommendation to close Painswick Fire Station by the public signing an online petition. Chairman Martin Slinger proposed and Cllr Abigail Smith seconded a proposal to arrange an on line petition to oppose the closure of Painswick Fire Station. *See item on page 5.*

To receive an update from the Traffic Committee, following their meeting of the 4th November

At the meeting on the November 4th Chair, Cllr Abigail Smith outlined to the Committee her report that had been published in the November Beacon. In addition she confirmed the imminent introduction of Police Motorcycle Speed Camera Enforcement Units. The Motorcycle Units will have the same equipment as the Camera Enforcement Vans and will be used in the same way to record and charge speeding motorists, but will take up less space to park up. The Police have confirmed that there are no suitable sites in Painswick to park a Van so Painswick will be one of the first places that the Motorcycle Units are deployed. Currently the Units are awaiting the resolution of some software issues before being deployed.

Fair Trade. To confirm the Council's continued commitment to maintain Painswick Fair Trade Status

The Council unanimously agreed to maintain Painswick's Fair Trade Status

Responsible Financial Officers Report

The Council agreed payment of the various invoices.

Ward Reports

None

To consider a proposal for the letting of St Mary's Street Units

The Council resolved that because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public leave the meeting

Mike Kerton.

Proposed Development at Land East of A46 Cheltenham Road and South of The Park **Re Full Planning Application for Erection of eight 3-5 bedroom market houses and nine 1-3 bedroom affordable dwellings. Statement to be read out at the DCC meeting:**

Painswick Parish Council would like this committee to refuse this application.

The use of this site for a Rural Exception Site should only be recommended if the site was used to meet the real need for Affordable Housing. It appears that the Affordable Housing element is being used as an excuse to build large attractive houses on this sought after location. Please note that if this was for a normal site; for a development of 17 dwellings there would still be a requirement to provide 6 affordable dwellings; therefore the net benefit is for just 3 additional affordable dwellings. We do not consider that this meets with our expectations for an Exception Site. This application proposes 8 large market houses with no justification for the split to just 9 affordable dwellings. As such Painswick Parish Council does not believe that any benefits from this proposal outweigh the overall harm.

We do not feel that the mix meets the criteria of Core Policy CP9 on Affordable Housing which states that 'affordable housing should broadly reflect the dwelling sizes and design in the proposed development'. Only two of the dwellings for the affordable housing proposed are for 3 bedrooms, the rest of the mix is for 2 x 1 bedroom maisonettes and 4 x 2 bedroom houses. This compared to the Market Houses of 3 x 5 bedroom houses, 3 x 4 bedroom houses and 2 x 3 bedroom houses. There is further concern that a separate access has been proposed for two of the houses. The council's own policy is that; affordable housing should be well integrated within the wider site and indistinguishable by either design or location from market housing.

The Cotswold Conservation Board have objected to these proposals; as it will cause an harmful spread of development into an area of countryside and that it fails to conserve the landscape of the area which has been identified as worthy of protection as part of an AONB. We agree that these proposals will cause significant harm to the AONB and the benefits proposed do NOT outweigh this harm.

We therefore urge you to refuse this application.



Annual Christmas Quiz night!

What is the most fractured human bone? What animal is on the golden Flemish flag? What is both a French wine region and a luxury American automobile?

Any ideas? If so, I hope you're feeling brainy because it's that time of year again – the annual Club Pulse Quiz night! Dust off your lucky socks and brush up on your trivia to be in with a shot of winning the coveted Club Pulse Quiz night trophy!

What you need to know is:

When: Monday December 7th . 7:15-8:30pm

Where: Painswick Youth & Community Pavillion

Who: All ages

How much: £1 entry

Teams sorted on the night

Light snacks and refreshments

See you there!

Fiona Gill, fiona.gill@psalms.uk.net

Cup Cakes for Carers



As a financial journalist, I loved press conferences in my 20s and 30s; time to read up on the subject gave me an advantage. Back at head office, I hated "meetings": there weren't many of them, but I looked out for the bureaucrats, the jobsworths and the political manipulators.

That changed. In my 40s and 50s I listened to learn. Later, there was joyous intimacy with friends at the Suffolk Carers' meetings and its acapella group.

Now I'm old and forgetful, sometimes deeply troubled by sadness that goes far beyond my original carer's remit. This was a job for Cup Cakes. Yet, in November, I promptly forgot the Beacon copy, and the following Cup Cakes meeting that would have eased any worries I had, and probably a few more.

Problems apart, carers might just be lonely or need a short break from looking after a family member or friend. Newcomers are welcome.

We have a drop-in tea party (free), usually in the Green Room at the Painswick Centre from 2.00-4.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month - so next **meeting December 8th**. For details phone Pat on 813326

Bill Cochrane

AND - If you read this early on the day the Beacon is published (Saturday, December 5th) you've still time to go to the Painswick Beacon Hall to see the Hexagon Theatre Company perform Pyrenees by David Greig, who is one of the leading British playwrights. See November's Beacon. 7.30 start. Tickets £10.

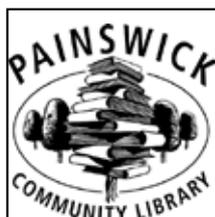
DASH - Delivering Aid to Stroud Homeless - A plea for compassion and help.

In the midst of very understandable concern over the terrible plight of homeless refugees, it is important that we do not overlook the needs of our local community. Over the years people in Painswick have been very generous in their support and in the past 12 months alone the small change collection (of 5ps, 2ps & 1ps) has raised more than £465 for the work of Marah, the charity which provides hot meals, food packs, advice and help to the homeless and disadvantaged of Stroud. Contributions of tinned food and dry goods can be placed in the boxes at the back of St Mary's Church or in Murrays Estate Agency and will be taken to the Food Bank where they will be shared between Marah and the Food Bank itself as appropriate. Donations of small change can be given to (or collected by) Alison Robinson (812286) or Frances Watson (812071) – please keep it coming, it may be small change but it makes a big difference.

Our special Christmas request this year is for toiletries, chocolates or nice biscuits for a seasonal gift, which again can be taken to St Mary's or to Murrays.

Alison Robinson

Season's Greetings to all our readers and computer users!



We hope that you all have a great holiday period – for us the holiday will be a little longer than usual:

Our landlords, the Parish Council have organized the removal and temporary replacement of the rather rickety windows in the library early in January, so the library will have to be closed while they do that. Permanent replacement windows will be put in at a later date to be announced. We will benefit from a lighter, brighter library and the ability to open the windows in the summer months.

As a result of the Christmas Break and the work on the windows, we will close the Library at

1.00pm on Wednesday December 23rd,
re-opening on Monday January 11th at 2.30pm.

Thereafter at the usual times:

Mondays	2.30 – 5.30pm
Wednesdays	10.00 – 1.00 and 2.30 – 5.30pm
Fridays	10.00 – 1.00 and 2.30 – 5.30 pm
Saturdays	10.00 – 1.00

Book issue dates will be adjusted to account for the closures

Ian Cridland

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Painswick Fire Station Some facts not quoted in the consultation document:

In November's Beacon we summarised facts quoted in a paper issued by Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service regarding the future of the Painswick Fire Station. The facts there presented supported the proposal for closure. The Beacon has been sent other facts or observations which put the other point of view. These have been provided by Alastair Jollans who says they are mostly taken from the Gloucestershire Fire Service Review at <https://gloucestershire-consult.objective.co.uk/file/3592033>. See also his letter on page. In the interests of fairness and presenting a balanced commentary we also publish these below.

- Just over £50,000 p.a. is less than 10% of the cost of a full-time fire station and a very cost-effective way of operating.
- Yes, a new fire engine costs £240,000. But Painswick's engine is second-hand, 6 years old and not in need of replacement. Capital costs are anyway spread over many years.
- Yes, incidents in Painswick have reduced by 6% over the last 5 years, but for the county as a whole have gone down by 20%.

- One recent house fire (off Yokehouse Lane) happened to be in a position where a Stroud engine could get there quicker, but that would not be (and has not been) the case in many other areas.

- Painswick's average turn-out time is recorded as 5m and 1 sec, less than 3 and a half minutes slower than the fire engine from Stroud which has a full-time crew, so would be substantially quicker to an incident in Painswick or beyond. Painswick's turn-out time is actually faster than for the second engine in Stroud.

- Stroud Fire Station could not meet the current guideline response time of 8 minutes for an incident in Painswick, and even less so in Cranham or Sheepscombe. This guideline would have to be relaxed to 9 – 12 minutes.

Painswick is assessed as having no high risk premises, but we have many old houses packed close together, narrow streets and problems of access, all requiring local knowledge. Richmond Village, Ashwell and Paradise House all need and deserve rapid response times.

- Painswick station has average annual responses of 45 and average availability of 95.5%, according to the Fire Service's own review, although they choose to quote lower figures in their consultation document. Several other engines have lower figures for annual responses and for availability.

- Availability has fallen a little because of restrictions on recruitment. Ironically these have now been lifted and several people have come forward for selection and training.

- Painswick station is well placed to provide back up support to incidents in Stroud, Gloucester and Cheltenham and has done so often. Removing it would reduce operational flexibility and resilience.

- The larger fire engine from Stroud would find it even more difficult to access narrow streets in Painswick, often partially blocked.

- The Painswick Fire Service voluntarily attend many local events, like the Painswick Feast or the Croft School fete, in their own free time, because they are part of the local community. Does anyone think full-time firemen from Stroud would do the same?

- Fire prevention work including home visits, advice on fire prevention, smoke alarms etc, is carried out by the Painswick Fire Service and is unlikely to be improved by getting rid of it.

- The fire station helps preserve important rural jobs that would be at risk without it.

A plea from the Parish Council for your support.

If we achieve 5000 plus signatures then we can have a full debate in Council and we will nominate a suitable spokesperson
Roy Balgobin

SAVE PAINSWICK FIRE STATION

Painswick Parish Council resolved to fight the proposed closure of the Painswick Fire Station and agreed to set up a petition on the Gloucestershire County Council website. The petition can also be signed in the Parish Office, the Library, the Pharmacy and Richmond Village reception. **Please note signatures are required before January 4th 2016.** If you wish to sign it on line the website details are:

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/mgepetitionlistdisplay.aspx?bcr=1>

Please follow the instructions as you will need to register first before you can complete the E-Petition.

The Council also agreed to write to all of the surrounding Parish Councils asking them to encourage their residents to sign the petition.

The petition reads as follows:

Painswick Fire Station is at threat of closure. As part of proposed cuts to the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, this retained fire service has been targeted for closure. This is despite Painswick having the second lowest percentage reduction in call outs in Gloucestershire and providing emergency services to a number of communities within 8 minutes, which couldn't be equally serviced by other stations. This closure would directly impact the communities of Painswick, Sheepscombe, Pitchcombe, Bisley with Lypiatt, Whiteway, Cranham and Upton St Leonards, Holcombe as well as the many thousand motorists using the A46 and the B4073. We are looking for your support in our fight against this proposed closure – please consider signing the following petition:

“We support local firefighters. We do not support cuts in frontline emergency cover. We call on you, Gloucestershire County Council, not to accept the recommendation to close Painswick Fire Station.”

If we can achieve 5,000 plus signatures we will then be entitled to have a full debate with the Gloucestershire County Council in which we can present sound reasons for the retention of this extremely important Fire Station.

Roy Balgobin
Clerk to the Parish Council

PLEASE SUPPORT PAINSWICK FIRE STATION



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NEW YEAR'S EVE

Entertainment on New Year's Eve

01452 810030

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Christmas 2015</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">special services and events throughout the area compiled by Churches Together Around Painswick</p> 					
Sunday	December 13th	4.00 pm	St. James the Great, C of E	Cranham	Christingle service
		4.00 pm	Methodist Chapel	Sheepscombe	Carol service
Monday	December 14th	11.30 am	Resthaven	Pitchcombe	Carols
		6.30 pm	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Croft School Carols
Thursday	December 17th	6pm- 8pm	Carols around village - for Christian Aid	Painswick	Meet at Falcon Inn at 6 pm
Saturday	December 19th	7.30 pm	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Thames Head & Painswick Singers Xmas Concert . Messiah & carols (Tickets £12 on door)
Sunday	December 20th	8.30 am	Our Lady & St. Thérèse, RC	Painswick	Mass
		10.30 am	Friends Meeting House	Painswick	Christmas Meeting
		11.00 am	St. John the Baptist, C of E	Pitchcombe	Carol service
		11.00 am	Holy Trinity C of E	Slad	Morning prayer & Children's Nativity
		4.00 pm	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Service of Lessons & Carols
		6.00 pm	St. John the Baptist, C of E	Edge	Carol Service with Beacon Choir
		6.30 pm	St. John the Apostle, C of E	Sheepscombe	Carols by candlelight
Wednesday	December 23rd	8.00 pm	Woolpack Inn	Slad	Carols
Thursday	December 24th	4.00 pm	St. John the Apostle, C of E	Sheepscombe	Crib Service
Christmas Eve		4.00 pm	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Crib Service
		4.00 pm	St. James the Great, C of E	Cranham	Crib Service
		4.00 pm	St. John the Baptist, C of E	Edge	Crib Service
		11.30 pm	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Midnight Service
		11.30 pm	St. James the Great, C of E	Cranham	Midnight Service
Friday	December 25th	8.30 am	Our Lady & St. Thérèse, RC	Painswick	Mass of the Nativity
Christmas Day		9.30 am	St. John the Apostle, C of E	Sheepscombe	Holy Communion
		9.30 am	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Family Communion
		10.00 am	St. John the Baptist, C of E	Edge	Christmas rejoicing service
		10.30 am	St. John the Baptist, C of E	Pitchcombe	Christmas family service
		11.00 am	Holy Trinity, C of E	Slad	Christmas Eucharist
		11.00 am	St. James the Great, C of E	Cranham	Family Communion
Sunday	December 27th	8.30 am	Our Lady & St. Thérèse, RC	Painswick	Mass
		9.30 am	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Benefice Communion
		10.30 am	Friends Meeting House	Painswick	Meeting
		10.30 am	Methodist Chapel	Sheepscombe	Morning service
		6.00 pm	Holy Trinity, C of E	Slad	Carols by candlelight
		6.30 pm	St. James the Great, C of E	Cranham	Service of Lesson & Carols

For details of services at St Peter's Grange see www.prinknashabbey.org or the notice board in the foyer of the RC Church in Friday Street, Painswick

Christmas Blessings to one and all

David Bishop, for CTAP

Handel's Messiah (Part 1) & Christmas carols at St Mary's Church

The Painswick Singers and The Thames Head Singers join for this year's musical celebration of Christmas in the beautiful surroundings of St. Mary's Church on Dec 19th. at 7.30pm. The choirs will be accompanied by Stroud's Capriol Chamber Orchestra with organist, Christopher Boodle, in a performance of Part 1 of Handel's Messiah with other selected highlights and seasonal pieces. Christopher Boodle will perform 'Sleigh Ride', his own composition that took last year's audience by storm! The concert will be conducted by Andrew Hopwood and will include traditional Christmas carols with opportunities for audience participation, the perfect way to get into the Christmas spirit. Tickets £10, children free, from The Patchwork Mouse Coffee Shop, New Street, or Telephone Gordon Owen on 01452 621151.

Maurice Maggs

Sue Ryder

Autumn Fair

Despite the inclement weather on Saturday, many people from Painswick and surrounding districts still turned out to support us. Although numbers were down, it was, once again, a very successful event. So far we have raised a total of over £1,400, with further donations to follow. This will enable Leckhampton Court Hospice to purchase a much needed piece of equipment.

Angela Follows

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CHRISTMAS at St Mary's

This is a joyous time of the year as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God become man. We shall be celebrating this momentous event in a number of ways at St Mary's.

The Christmas programme starts with a festival service of nine lessons and carols on Sunday December 20th at 4 pm led by our augmented choir. This is an opportunity to hear the Christmas story through Bible and other readings and to sing the familiar carols which we only use during the Christmas season. The pattern for this traditional service was set by Kings College Chapel, Cambridge.

On Christmas Eve there will be a Crib Service at 4pm. This is a popular informal service for all the family. This year we will be presenting the Christmas story in a different and more unusual way. Any children who want to come dressed as a nativity character are welcome to do so but there will not be an opportunity to dress up during the service.

Spanning the time from Christmas Eve to Christmas Day we have the traditional Midnight Mass commencing at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve. This service presents a unique opportunity to welcome in Christmas Day, reminding us of that starlight night when Jesus was born.

For those who do not manage to attend Midnight Mass there is an informal family communion on Christmas Day at 9.30am. This is a child friendly service providing an opportunity for families with younger children to attend a Christmas communion.

We wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas and look forward to welcoming you to some of these Christmas services.

David Newell

Sign up for garden waste collections

The district's households can now sign up to have their garden waste collected and recycled. As part of improvements being made to its waste and recycling services between now and the end of next year, Stroud District Council is introducing an optional, paid for service, which will allow residents to have their garden waste collected.

Councillor Simon Pickering, chair of Stroud District Council's Environment Committee, said: "Residents can sign up to the new service now although collections will run from February to November each year. There's an initial, one-off £20 charge for the wheelie-bin and an annual subscription fee of £36. Whilst we are already lucky enough to have a large number of residents who are dedicated to home or community composting, this collection service will be a welcome option for many keen gardeners."

Subscribers to the service will receive a brown wheelie-bin for grass clippings, twigs, leaves, bark, hedge cuttings, flowers, plants, weeds, fallen fruit and small branches, which will be collected fortnightly over the 10-month period from February to November. The annual subscription fee equates to a charge of £1.64 per collection.

Councillor Pickering added: "When the service begins it will be available to the majority of households, however if you currently have to use a green bag rather than a wheelie-bin for your recycling you should contact the council to see if the service is available to you. Households which generate a large amount of garden waste can have more than one bin and it's also perfectly fine for neighbours to club together and share their garden waste bin."

The introduction of the garden collection waste scheme will see the current system, where paid for garden waste bags are used to collect garden waste and sent to landfill, come to an end in January.

Residents can sign up online at www.stroud.gov.uk/gardenwaste or by calling the council on 01453 754424

Press Release: from Stroud District Council

Painswick Gardening Club; Quizzers Cup up for Grabs

Despite the unfortunate omission of my November article, it was a great turnout at the November talk and the Club clocked up more memberships that evening. Don't worry if you haven't been able to get to the last 2 meetings; come along and join on **December 9th**; you'll receive a warm welcome. On behalf of the Committee, I'd like to thank everyone for their support; it is greatly appreciated.

I was very disappointed that I couldn't make it to Paul Hervey-Brookes talk due to an untimely garden injury (are they ever timely?!) resulting in a few days of premature 'armchair gardening'. The Club is very grateful to Paul for setting aside time from a manic work schedule. I have it on good authority that the sizeable audience was treated to a fascinating and enlightening array of facts and anecdotes which stirred a whole host of emotions; a very different, serious and thought provoking subject.



On a festive note, don't forget that the Gardening Club Christmas Quiz takes place on 9th December (Church Rooms, 7.30pm start). It's inevitable that as we move into December diaries fill up and there are more events to go to than there are days in the week. Following on from the success of last years quiz, this year promises to be a fun filled evening with a super raffle, wine, festive nibbles....and a bit of a quiz with Quizmaster, Steve Quinton from the Rococo Garden! You really don't need to be a fount of all garden knowledge to come and enjoy this evening (although I do wonder if the winning team from last year have been swotting in a bid to retain the title?!) and if you aren't a Member but fancy coming along as a visitor (nominal charge) we'd love to see you. The coveted Cup has been polished in preparation!

And last, but by no means least, I'd like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Active 2016.

Caroline Bodington (Committee Member)

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Citizens Advice Bureau rebranded

The Beacon understands that the Stroud and District Citizens Advice Bureau is changing its name as part of a re-branding of the service. It will now be called Citizens Advice Stroud District.

**citizens
advice** Stroud
District

Citizens Advice Stroud District is a local charity which provides free confidential independent impartial advice on a range of topics to help people solve their problems whatever they are. The most common issues are, employment issues, managing, debt and money, consumer problems, relationships, housing, law and rights, discrimination, tax, healthcare, education and more!

A highly trained team of volunteers and experienced specialist case workers provide a full range of advice services. These can be accessed in various ways to suit you best:

- Online and email advice at <http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/>
- Phone Advice - call 0808 800 0510 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10am – 4pm, Free from landlines, payphones and some mobiles.
- Face-to-Face at various drop in centres. The nearest one to Painswick is at Brunel Mall, London Road, Stroud GL5 2BP which is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 10am to 1.45pm.

All the details of opening times and how to access advice are contained in Citizens Advice Stroud District leaflets called "Where can I get advice? and also on the website.

Looking Forward To 2016 - With the Field Club



At this time of year, members of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club are given a glimpse of the plans for next year's excursions and social events.

2016 is the 300th anniversary of the birth of 'Capability' Brown, so it is fitting for the Club's excursions to include Croome Court in Worcestershire, Brown's first landscape design and architectural project. Later in the year, we will be able to consider two other sharply contrasting landscapes: Stourhead – a magnificent parkland surrounding a Palladian mansion in Wiltshire; and a contemporary garden in Somerset created by Piet Oudolf, the internationally-renowned landscape designer from the Netherlands. The gardens surround a gallery with exhibitions devoted to contemporary and modern art, the fourth to be established by Iwan and Manuela Wirth and Ursula Hauser, who opened their first gallery in Switzerland in 1992.

Sharp-eyed travellers on the A46 to Nailsworth may have spotted vineyards climbing up the sides of the valley and perhaps wondered whether the grapes are turned into wine. Members will learn the answer from Fiona Shiner, the owner of Woodchester Valley Vineyard, who will describe the challenges of establishing a Cotswold valley vineyard. The evening would not be complete without some wine-tasting!

Natural History will feature in a visit to Oxford University's Natural History Museum where members will have 'behind-the-scenes' tours with the curators to see some of the collections not on public display.

Fans of industrial archaeology will be tempted by a visit to the Newport Grade-I listed Transporter Bridge over the River Usk. They can also enjoy some of the history dating from the Romans onwards at the adjacent Newport Wetlands, which were created by the reclamation of a fuel ash disposal site used by the local steel industry. A short trail takes visitors out past pools and reedbeds full of birdlife to the East Usk Lighthouse overlooking the sea.

Our first meeting of the New Year is on Wednesday January 6th at 2.30 pm at the Painswick Centre when Angela Applegate from the Holst Birthplace Museum will give a talk on 'Music, Friends & the Cotswold Hills: a life of Gustav Holst'. Details of other future meetings, excursions and the 2016 guided walks programme can be obtained from me.

Jane Rowe (tel 813228)

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Christmas shopping? THINK PAINSWICK FIRST

Finding something a little different, exclusive even, to give as a Christmas gift is both desirable and yet frustratingly elusive. Before you set off on your search in a big town therefore, do take a look in Painswick first. You may be surprised.

The **Pharmacy** is packed with a lovely selection of goods including extra special toiletries, fun hot water bottles, delightful heatable warmers, edibles (Fair Trade, Thorntons and Divine), Bronnley and Baylis & Harding toiletry gift sets, fragrance packs (David Beckham, Gaga and Beyonce), gift packs for children and much more. There is something for all ages and the prices compare very favourably with the big stores.

Dawn's Shed has some super Christmas charity cards on offer in addition to the usual excellent range of other cards. Packed into this magical tiny space are also many little gift ideas, jewellery, wrapping paper and a lovely range of quirky and intriguing goodies. Dawn will not be able to open the shed for some time in the new year so it is important that we support it now.

Meggie's, located behind The Falcon, offers a lovely range of Cotswolds hand-made items including jewellery and home-ware, flowers, delightful Christmas decorations, cards, candles, gift wrap and adult colouring books (said to be excellent therapy for stress). Throughout December Christmas wreaths, hand-made by Painswick's Bespoke Flower Company, will also be available.

Painswick Fabrics has a stunning range of beautiful silks, cottons, velvets and linens plus an assortment of associated items such as tassels and throws.

Best One as usual is well-stocked with papers, magazines, boxes of confectionery, sweets as well as all the essentials. Closed only on Christmas Day it can, as always, be relied on to supply our basic needs.

Kate Rich's little shop is a gem, packed enticingly with a complete range of lovely items of china, glass, pictures, ornaments, jewellery, linen and more, both vintage and contemporary. It is all delightfully displayed. Kate, and her mother before her, have run this lovely shop for 38 years in Painswick – now there's a real achievement deserving of our continued support.

Longfield, the charity shop, has something for everyone – local scene Christmas cards, tree decorations, games, Christmas gift packs, fabulous evening wear for both men and women, books, toys, bric-a-brac and children's Christmas story books. Approche,

recently opened, offers stylish quality knitwear, a selection of books and pictures and some interesting pieces of furniture.

Pete will be selling his top quality fresh fish in the Town Hall car park on Friday mornings from 8.30-11.00 until 18th December. Christmas specials will also be on offer including smoked salmon sides and packs supplied by Severn and Wye Smokery, prawns, crevettes, tiger prawns, dressed crabs and dressed lobsters. Requests for special orders should be placed with Pete by 12th December.



Eating out is also special in Painswick over the festive period.

The Bistro offers a special lunch on Christmas Day, lunch and evening meal on Boxing Day and a special menu complete with live music on New Year's Eve. Booking is essential. Christmas parties can be catered for throughout December and again booking is essential. The Bistro will be closed from 4th – 24th January.

The Royal Oak will open as normal on Christmas Eve and from 11.00-1.00 for drinks on Christmas Day. Boxing Day will be very special and great fun at the Oak, open from 12 noon to 10.00pm for a Onesie and Sausage Festival. Six different flavour sausages will be offered (there will also be fresh fish) and a prize given for the best onesie. New Year's Eve will be a party evening with a free buffet from 6.00pm onwards.

The Falcon offers a special Christmas menu from 1st December. Opening hours will be as normal apart from Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day when the Falcon will open only at lunchtime for booked tables. On New Year's Eve there will be a special menu and live music. Parties are welcome throughout the festive season but booking is advisable.

The Patchwork Mouse has lots of seasonal goodies in addition to its excellent provision of beverages and cakes. It will close on 23rd December and re-open on the 28th.

Our shops and eateries are special, competitive in their prices and definitely different from the usual high street chains. Do explore Painswick's outlets first – you may be pleasantly surprised. Our shops need your support.

Carol Maxwell

Project St Mary's Sociable Safari Supper

Sociable it certainly was as 84 people met and mixed with friends, neighbours and strangers on November 19th to share friendship, food and wine.

Safari it certainly was. Beginning with starters in the Church Rooms guests moved on to their first hosts for their main course. This involved scattering in eights to ten homes in every corner of the village on foot. Fortunately the weather was kind! The twenty five people that were driving to The Highlands for their supper found that a large mobile home had collapsed on the A46 blocking their way. The police closed the A46 and drivers had to reverse and go up Gloucester Street and trek over the Beacon to gain access to their supper!

Supper was superb. Generous and varied main courses were provided by the hosts and then another mass movement took place at 9.00pm as guests made their way to another ten homes for delicious desserts and coffee.

Project St Mary's improving facilities in the Church for everyone has got off to a flying start. As well as being a splendid social success the sum of around £1,400 was raised to begin the planned projects.

Janet Jenkins



Painswick Beacon Conservation Group News

Last month we had our AGM when our speaker was James Blockley, Trails Officer at the Cotswolds Conservation Board, who told us about National Trails and the Cotswold Way in particular.



Did you know that the Cotswold Way is 'twinned' with paths in Canada and South Korea? James will soon be walking the entire Cotswold Way but with a rather strange backpack- containing a Google Streetview camera so within a few months we will be able to walk the Cotswold Way from our armchairs.

At the AGM I was elected chair, David Little as secretary/treasurer with the rest of the committee comprising Alan Simmons, David Allott, Derek Wakefield-Brown and Paul Baxter. I would like to thank the committee (and those who stood down during the year) for all their hard work running the group and its activities. Thanks also goes to Terry Parker who acts as liaison with the Parish Council and everyone who came to a work party. In my report as chair I spoke about the what we have achieved in the last 12 months.

As well as our regular work parties (15 last season with 25 scrub-bashers on one memorable occasion!) we would like to hold some guided walks on the Beacon and record more of the flora and fauna. Member and keen golfer Peter Rowe has shown me some photos of orchids he had taken while on the golf course. So many people spend time regularly on the Beacon we would love to learn more about what you see and record on the Beacon. If coming to a work party on a winter's day is not your thing maybe a walk in summer sunshine looking for bee orchids or Duke of Burgundy butterflies might be!

In the new year, we may be having work parties on Sundays. For more information on our activities and work party dates please take a look at our website painswickbeacon@wordpress.com.

Polly Lillico

*Chair, Painswick Beacon Conservation Group
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POPPY APPEAL 2014



Early returns for this year's Appeal are promising an increase over last year's collection of approximately 10%. This is a terrific result because 2014 (the centenary of the commencement of WW1) was a record for Gloucestershire and stands nationally at £45.8 million (also a record).

In 2015 the collection from Painswick, Pitchcombe and Edge is within a pound or two of £5,000.

My sincere thanks to my collectors for all their efforts on behalf of the Appeal and also to all who contributed so generously.

Russ Herbert

Unsung heroes Reflections of a Poppy Seller for Remembrance Day

This year I became a Poppy Seller for the first time. I failed to duck in time before Russ Herbert, who does a marvellous job organising this for Painswick, asked me to be a seller for the road in which I live. Russ does a great job – see above article – so I accepted the "invitation" but what I never expected was to find out in less than the 20 houses in our road there were so many dramatic stories of fortitude and bravery during WWII. It made me feel very humble and one needs to realise that there are still individuals living amongst us, or who had close family members, who had committed acts of bravery. Others had experienced the consequences of war at home. Doubtless all other roads in Painswick would contain similar stories.

In one house, for example, we have the Navigator of a Wellington bomber who, after many sorties, was shot down in 1944 over Luttenberg en route to bomb Maribor rail yards. The crew parachuted out; the pilot was killed but he and the other crewmembers survived. He hid for two days but was captured by the police and imprisoned in Stalag Luft 7 (at Bankau, Silesia now in Poland). On January 19th 1945 he and 1,500 other prisoners were marched out in bitter cold with minimal rations; after marching 257 miles over many days the survivors were then taken by train to Stalag III 32 miles south of Berlin. This camp is now best known for the films *The Great Escape* and *The Wooden Horse*.

In another house I met a lady who was helping her father to live independently locally. He was a member of the 1st Lord Lovat SBS (Special Boat Service Group) - just 26 of them. Before D Day they went in and out of France preparing for D day (taking beach samples, rescuing a captured spy) and on D Day itself he was in the first wave at Arramanches with Lord Lovat, landing to the skirl of bagpipes. By the end of the day Arramanches was captured; the key to installing the Mulberry harbours. He spent 3 months in France witnessing a blood bath at Caen. Afterwards they were pulled out and he was sent to the Far East to fight the Japanese. Thence to Burma and in January 1946 took part in the task of assaulting the Arakan Peninsula resulting in the relief of Hill 170 - its outcome broke the spirit of the Japanese 54th Division.

In another house there was a lady who remembered and saluted the deeds of her grandmother who was in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

These stories would be worthy of recording in more detail for posterity.

There were also stories of those left at home during the war and how it affected people and of hardships. One gentleman had been at school in Guernsey when war was declared; the school arranged an evacuation to England as 'British refugees' just hours before the Germans overran Guernsey. Immediately after completing school he joined the army. After leaving Guernsey he never saw his parents for 7 years. I know of a lady living in Manchester during the war and one night, when she was in an air raid shelter found out the next morning that a bomb had destroyed the other half of the sem-detached house, which was her home, during the night.

It is absolutely right to remember those who fell in the line of duty, but it is also important to remember with gratitude all the others who took part in the battles but lived and of whom some are still with us. They, too, need to be remembered with our gratitude and honoured.

Peter Jenkins

Mencap Coffee & Cakes

Thank you so much to everyone who helped at the above event and especially those who turned out on a very wet Saturday morning to support people who have learning difficulties in Stroud & District. You really turned up trumps and we made a magnificent £620. Thank you Painswick for your constant support.

Marion Sadler

Painswick remembers - Services of Remembrance

The Remembrance Sunday Service was held in St Mary's Church on Sunday November 8th. The service was led by Rev Andrew Leach. The order of service was prepared by the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland organisation and as such was an ecumenical occasion with members of other denominations participating. After the service in the church the large congregation moved to the war memorial for the laying of wreaths from St Mary's Church and from Croft school.



Laying the wreath from the Croft School



Photo by Trevor Radway

On the eleventh of November the Act of Remembrance was held at the War Memorial at 11am. Thankfully, unlike last year when rain fell throughout the service, the day was dry and relatively mild. The non-denominational service was led by the Vicar, Rev Mike Holloway. The Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Martin Slinger, read the lesson. The Vicar in his address spoke of the members of local families who had given their lives for the nation and then read the names of those who had fallen in the First and Second World Wars: their names etched on the War Memorial. Wreaths were then laid at the Memorial by members of local organisations.

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Rest and Recuperation for Rococo

Rococo Reflections

The Rococo Garden undergoes a little bit of TLC during November and December, a short period of rest and recuperation before the annual Snowdrop Season – our busiest time. We close our gates until January 10th 2016 but the staff go into overdrive to make good the wear and tear that over 25,000 visitors make and of course to assist and tame the seasonal changes that nature brings.

Steve Quinton, our Head Gardener, with his regular staff and volunteers value the short closed period to keep things in top order. That includes maintaining the three miles of paths, as well as repairing and installing handrails to make it easier for less able visitors to get about. The Beech Tunnel Arbour, which has taken over seven years to grow, needs some new supports and new farm gates, which are supplied with the help of The Friends of the Garden, are improving the look of our perimeter fences. The highly praised Kitchen



Garden will undergo an autumn tidy and be prepared for planting in the spring and summer when it will continue to supply the garden Café in The Coach House. Even our 45 benches, where visitors rest and admire the views, need to be checked and maintained.

We will also be saying goodbye to Claire and Paul Moir (pictured) who have worked to make the garden such an important part of Painswick life, and we will be saying hello to our new Garden Director, Dominic Hamilton, who will be taking it forward to its next exciting era of development. We have also welcomed to the team a new Trainee Gardener, Barnaby Sawyer. We hope you will say hello to the staff working on the garden next time you visit – they are always happy to tell you about any aspect of this magical place.

For your diary, we will be holding a special event for Painswick residents on 15th and 16th January, when you will be very welcome to meet some of our team, have a stroll around the garden and enjoy a drink “on us”. An invitation will follow with the next issue.

Happy Christmas from the staff, volunteers and trustees to all of our Painswick residents and friends.

Tim Toghill, Trustee

Jottings

The holly berries are red and plentiful, waiting for the field fares to come and clear them from the trees. They used to say that you should cut holly at the end of the first week of December and put it into buckets of water in a cool place so the birds can't get to it; this is fine, but do remember not to put the cut sprigs in a central-heated room until you're ready to display them otherwise all the berries will drop off.

There have also been lots of apples around here this year, but the fallen fruits can cause havoc with the cattle. If the animal swallows a very large apple it could get stuck at the diaphragm and then then we have to find a way to push it on through into its stomach. And if they eat too many apples they can get drunk. Unlike humans, who tend to get drunk

slowly, cattle will continue to eat and not get ill immediately. This is because cows have four stomachs, so the apples go into the first (main) stomach and gradually ferment in there. This can cause huge problems. An emergency caesarian section on the stomach can result in up to a small barrow-full of semi-digested apples being removed. If this isn't done then the gases from fermentation can build up, causing bloat which, if not treated, will kill the animal.

We're keeping a particular eye on the cattle at the moment; the recent wet and warm weather can cause pneumonia in small calves. If one calf in the shed gets pneumonia, it is most likely the rest will have also caught it within twenty-four hours. Pneumonia can prove fatal, so we listen for the cough, watch out for high temperatures and, when necessary, take action quickly.

Badgers wander through the grass looking for slugs and worms. Farmers are

now trying to keep badgers away from animal feed in buildings. Some farmers fence around the badger sett to keep them away from the cows and the feed. Whilst this stops the cattle getting to the sett, it doesn't stop the badger getting out as they will dig their way out in order to feed.

Martin Slinger

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Pudsey Day At The Croft



Mrs Hartley set Class R and the whole school a huge challenge to help raise as much money as possible to support BBC Children In Need. It was a record breaking day and the children raised an amazing £374. There was great team work

all around and it was brilliant to see our champion cake sellers!!

Together we explored our measuring skills and made some delicious vanilla cupcakes and some chocolate rice crispy cakes.

We had a Pudsey inspired non uniform day and Painswick Playgroup joined us to have the biggest teddy bears picnic. Then later we had some very energetic 'wake & shake' activities with Class 2. Well done everyone!



Events that are happening this term:

● **On the 7th, 8th and 9th of December** there will a nativity performance "little angel gets her wings" for the parents and grandparents of the children of Key Stage 1.

● The Friends of the Croft Christmas Fayre will be held on **Thursday December 10th 5— 7.30pm**. Please come along and enjoy the festivities.

Sam Partridge



Murder Trials at The Painswick Centre!!!

The Beacon Hall in the Painswick Centre was full to capacity on Friday October 9th, when Sir Alistair MacDuff gave an informative and most entertaining talk entitled Murder Trials and other Memories from the Bench. This was delivered with an intermission for pre-ordered drinks. In the course of the evening it became evident that Sir Alistair's considerable acting ability and his sense of humour contributed greatly to enliven a subject, that could have been rather dark. He also gave the audience the opportunity to interact and challenge their initial opinion that judges were too lenient. Comic examples of "contributory negligence" using video clips were shown on the Centre's recently purchased audio/visual system. The proceeds of the very successful evening went to Longfield.

Halloween

On Friday October 30th, 52 children, accompanied by parents were entertained by a splendid, spooky Halloween Party, in the Beacon Hall. The Hall with lights dimmed for effect was expertly decorated, with bats and witches; the new audio visual system was used to great effect, to enhance the mood. The programme was well organised with a selection of traditional party games, but the most entertaining game was, when children converted their parents into Egyptian mummies using rolls of toilet paper. This was so effective that one toddler thought she had lost her mummy. The standard of fancy dress was exceptional. The winners were Arlo Starke aged 8 – a zombie, and Sky Morris aged 6 – pirate girl. Drinks from the bar and party snacks complemented this very enjoyable occasion. We look forward to another great evening next year.

Attic Sale

The Next Attic Sale will be held on Sunday January 31st 2016 in the Beacon Hall from 10-2pm. As per usual we will have Bacon Butties and Tea and Coffee on sale from the kitchen. So be prepared with all your goodies and recoup you Christmas monies! Tables available for £10.

What's on

An update on regular activities at the Centre:

Mondays

Pilates – 9-11am Cotswold room – Heidi 01453 731806
Kids Karate – 3.45-5pm Beacon Hall – Jo 01452 813684
Zumba - 6.30-7.30 Beacon Hall - Jess Lee
Badminton – 8-10pm Beacon Hall – John 01452 814349
Community Choir – 7-8.30pm – Cotswold Rm – Sophie 01453 298138

Tuesdays

Zumba Gold – 10-11am Beacon Hall – Sam 07766101790
Cupcakes for Carers – 1-4pm Green Room – Pat 01452 813326
Ladies Badminton – 2-4pm Beacon Hall – Margret 01452 812461

Wednesdays

PROBUS – 10-12pm Beacon Hall (fortnightly) – Ian 01452 813977
Field Club – 2-4pm Beacon Hall (Monthly) – Jane 01452 813228
Bridge Club – 7-10pm Cotswold Room – David 01452 813150
Table Tennis – 7-9pm Beacon Hall – David 01452 812464

Thursdays

Yoga – 9.30-11am Cotswold Room – Kim 01452 812623
Slim Fit – 9.30-10.30am – Beacon Hall – Julie 07886486577
PADFAS – 10.15-12.30pm Beacon Hall (Monthly) – Janet 01242 604658

Pilates – 7-8pm Cotswold Room – Nicki 07870 953159
Badminton – 8-10pm Beacon Hall – John 01452 814349

Sundays

Tea Dance – 2.30-5pm Beacon Hall (Monthly) - Sam 07766101790

Jennie Barber, Painswick Centre Manager

Police Report for November

Over 500 police officers in Gloucestershire Constabulary are now using new mobile devices to promote a more effective and efficient way of working.

The Samsung Galaxy Note 4 devices, which were introduced across the force area in July 2015, have enabled officers to remain on the beat rather than travel back to police stations to complete paperwork and tasks on computers.

The project, involving over £2 million of investment, means that around 80% to 90% of work that officers were previously completing in an office will eventually be carried out within the community on the touch screen devices. This includes taking statements, issuing vehicle tickets, monitoring emails, arranging calendar appointments, updating incident logs and filling in stop and search forms. Many of the applications have proved vital, such as Google translator when liaising with members of the public who have little or no English. Several more useful programmes will be introduced onto the devices in the coming months.

Over 20 large retail outlets have agreed to actively promote officers to use their public facilities. The outlets, including Sainsbury's and Tesco stores across Gloucestershire, are highly supportive of officers using their cafes and restaurants to carry out work on the mobile devices. Each officer is provided with a card to display which emphasises that they are mobile working. Gloucestershire Constabulary are currently in talks with smaller businesses to ensure this process can be implemented in the most rural of areas.

Although most front line officers are currently utilising the technology, which is highly security protected, it is hopeful that in the near future the devices will be provided to those in the force's Public Protection Bureau and Criminal Investigation Department.

Chief Inspector Neil Smith of Local Policing said: "I think it's one of the greatest practices we've ever introduced and will allow our officers to give the very best service to our communities.

"The public will be seeing officers, PCSOs and Special Constables on these devices. One strong message we want to communicate to anyone who sees an officer sat in a café and working on a mobile phone, is that they're not browsing social media or shopping online, they're contacting victims, updating jobs and doing it whilst being visible and accessible.

"There is still a lot of work to do with this project, but within the last four months, the benefits are greatly outweighing the costs – for the organisation, victims of crime and our communities. I think this has been and will be the biggest change for the good in every single aspect of policing."

This month we have seen a number of Road Traffic Collision (RTC's) on the A46, resulting in road closures whilst incident enquiries are carried out. With the weather deteriorating, it is recommended that all drivers check their vehicle lights on a regular basis, and ensure that window screens are clear BEFORE driving off.

There has been one incident at Painswick Beacon relating to theft from vehicle. Please ensure there are no valuable items, including handbags left in vehicles if using the Painswick Beacon Car Park, whilst going for a walk onto the Beacon. Any suspicious persons or vehicles should be reported to the Police by telephoning 101.

Additionally, suspicious vehicles have been reported (with good intent) by Members of the Public, along Wick Street and Tibbiwell Lane. The description of persons and vehicles given has been extremely useful in identify potential crime patterns in the area. Thank you.

Finally, with Christmas looming, remove all valuables from vehicles, or if shopping (place it in the boot away from sight).

Colin Drewett BEM, PCSO 9107
Rural Environmental Liason Officer (RECLO)



Now that was a flood!

At the November meeting of the Society members were presented with the astonishing facts about the great Severn Estuary Flood of 1607. Rose Hewlett certainly enlightened us as to the extent of what has been described as the greatest natural disaster to affect communities living along the Bristol Channel and the estuary.

The flood covered a huge area including parts of Devon, Somerset, South Wales and Gloucestershire. Evidence explaining the details is to be found in contemporary pamphlets, letters, chronicles, papers, diaries, pictorial woodcuts and poems and in particular the disastrous consequences are all too prevalent in these accounts. Rose's exceptionally professional and thoroughly researched presentation tracked the course of the storm from its beginnings in Devon, up into the Gower and Somerset and lastly to Gloucestershire.

The two dramatic factors in this event were the phenomenal speed with which it happened and the scale of the devastation. It took less than five hours to do its worst – 'Many who were rich in the morning were beggars before noon.' Many lives were lost, thousands of sheep were drowned and buildings, agricultural land, bridges and causeways destroyed. It was the speed of the moving waters which is commented on in the reports of the time and the horrific nature of the storm.

Was it a tsunami? Was it a storm surge? The cause of this disaster is still debated.

The Society does not meet in December. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 19th when John Putley will give a presentation entitled Stand and Deliver! John's presentations are always both highly entertaining and very well informed. Croft School, 7.30pm, everyone is welcome.

Carol Maxwell

Fresh off the Press

Packed with yet more fascinating information about Painswick's past, Painswick Chronicle Number 18, published by the Local History Society, is now available. This edition covers a truly broad range of subjects spread across a 400-year time span. The history of the public bath house - so important to public hygiene at a time when so many houses had no bath – coincides partially in time with a young woman's personal memories of working as a land army girl during the First World War. The story of the railway, planned to run from Stroud to Painswick but which was finally abandoned, is told from the benefactor's point of view.

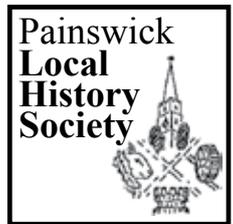
A fascinating history of policing in Painswick reveals much about our 'criminal' past and a 17th century muster roll acts as a sort of census painting a picture of the Painswick community of 400 years ago. And finally, research into apotropaic, or witch, marks reveals the extent to which Painswick residents in the distant past lived in fear of evil spirits and witches and the measures they took to prevent them entering homes.

This and previous editions of the Chronicle are available from Painswick Pharmacy or direct from Carol Maxwell tel.813387. Also available from the latter are: Gyde Orphanage Remembered; Painswick, Time Chart of a Cotswold Village; Barks and Bites from Bow-Wow Land (if you live in Painswick you need to know about the Three Old Men and the longevity associated with the town!).

... and furthermore

Painswick certainly played its part in the First World War. The book Painswick and the Great War explains the many ways in which Painswick was deeply involved in all aspects. At this time when 'the war to end all wars' is being remembered a century on, this book helps us to understand how all small communities had to deal with a situation on a scale never before experienced. It is available from Painswick Pharmacy, Patchwork Mouse, the Community Library or direct from Carol Maxwell tel. 813387 or email carolmaxwell@talktalk.net.

Carol Maxwell



Lots of goodwill in Painswick

The annual Painswick Goodwill Evening took place on Friday 27th November. In spite of the rainy night many residents and visitors supported the event which was centred on the Painswick Centre and the Town Hall where there were many potential Christmas presents for sale. There was considerable entertainment at the Beacon Hall with contributions from



The Croft School Choir, The Croft School Ukuleles, the "Pantastic" Steel Band, the Gloucester Morris Men and the Painswick Community Choir. The Tourist Information Centre, now located in what was once the gravedigger's hut, became Santa's Grotto with Father Christmas (see page 24) meeting many young people to whom he gave presents. He also invited them to write letters with their Christmas present wishes and post them in his mail box. It was a very enjoyable evening to which the organisers, not least Chris Mercer, deserve much credit.



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North Norfolk birds

The Gloucestershire Naturalists' Society partnered with the Bird Club in a joint meeting in the Town Hall on November 5th when Jim Almond, a keen birder and wildlife photographer, gave an illustrated talk entitled 'North Norfolk - Here I come!'.



This premier location for bird-watching was evident in the splendid photography of winter visitors, including thousands of Pink-footed Geese grazing in the fields and a similar number of waders including the Bar-tailed Godwits and Dunlins grazing on the mudflats. Summer rarities on the heathland included Turtle Doves and Dartford Warblers.

Our next event is in the Town Hall on Tuesday February 2nd at 7.30pm when Steve Watson will give an illustrated talk on the Peregrine Falcons in Gloucestershire. All welcome, visitors £3.

Bill Boydell

PROBUS Women

Christmas is fast looming up. Sprouts are simmering, Turkey is ordered, decorations box out of the attic but, deep amid the winter flurry of activity, is the daunting task (for most of us) of achieving a perfect Christmas cake and one iced to within 'mm' of the much expected Wow-factor! So, on November 9th when our Speaker was Christine West, demonstrating cake decoration, answering questions and giving us useful and helpful tips PERFECT! We were spell bound by her knowledge and expertise and couldn't get the questions out fast enough.

Numerous gadgets are on sale now relating to cake decoration but Christine said that if we used the best ingredients, took time in preparation, thought well ahead and had everything to hand and stayed calm cool and collected we should achieve our goal without overspending. Imagination plays an important part in the decoration design and Christine had on display one of her Christmas cakes. This was slanted and was beautifully iced and adorned with skiing penguins and Christmas trees. We were shown how to make the penguins using black, orange and white fondant icing and, once those eyes were dotted with 'edible' pen - they lived! The added bonus was that once everyone had 'wowed' the cake, the penguins could be given out to the children. We all vowed to have a go. Of course, as all experts, Christine made it look so easy!

Christine also demonstrated techniques to achieve 'lace' icing as well as beautiful fondant flowers. Very impressive and maybe more for the experienced 'icers' amongst us but demonstrated to us all just what could be achieved in our own kitchens if we put our minds to it.

Some of her many tips were

Line cake tin carefully : ensure all ingredients suit allergy sufferers : if worried about centre being cooked - put in oven on lower temp. and for longer : once cooled, brush top with brandy, melted apricot jam, marzipan/fondant icing : after icing store cake in cardboard boxes and not airtight tins.

Particularly for us at this time of the year Christine's advice and guidance was, as the saying goes, simply the icing on 'our' cake!

December - Members Christmas Lunch, The Falcon
Next Meeting January 11th. Travellers Tales - talk by Nicholas Clark. All welcome £3. 10am for 10.30am

delia Mason

Yew Trees WI

**BBC
Broadcasting
House, Bristol**



It was a privilege for a group of us to visit BBC Bristol on October 13th as it is the source of so many excellent programmes. For instance we had insight into the pre-planning of Natural History programmes such as "Patagonia". This took seven years to produce and it used modern techniques such as drones and penguin and fish cams for its spectacular effects.

In the Radio Gloucestershire studio we made our own radio presentation based on a script from "The Archers". Members played the roles and added sound effects with magnetic tape, coconut shells and boots in a tray of gravel!

The Points West studio was much smaller than expected but it was packed with cameras and computers. We appreciated the many skills needed by presenters like Alex Lovell. Not only are they trained journalists with in-depth knowledge of news items but they have to juggle with a range of high-tech equipment as well. Did you know that the weather forecasters' presentations are unscripted and they have no auto cue?

Treasuring your memories by Scrapbooking

How many of us have piles of photographs filling every drawer at home? On October 27th Jane Gray-Wallis showed members how to create order and beauty in preserving our memories through scrapbooking. She explained that a story helps to give focus to an album. A wedding album demonstrates this with sections devoted to the preparations, service, reception and honeymoon. Jane suggested places to go to buy acid free paper, suitable adhesives and other materials and then she constructed a typical page. Descriptions, explanations and labels needed to be added to add meaning and context to the photos. Most of us were encouraged to go home and try out these ideas.

On Tuesday, December 15th at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms there will be the Christmas Supper.

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**Painswick Arts
&
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Saturday
December 19th
Painswick Town Hall 10am - 2pm

Letters

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

Proposed closure of fire station

Sue and Al Jollans write from Vicarage Street:

The consultation document from the Fire Service presents some carefully selected facts to justify closing Painswick Fire Station, as did the recent drop-in session. The feedback questionnaire makes it quite difficult to object to closure, by only ever presenting it in the context of reducing risk and improving protection.

But there are other facts that tell a different story and closing the station would not reduce risk or improve protection. It would increase response times, lose vital local knowledge and destroy another part of the fabric of the community. For £52,000 p.a., Painswick gets a superb, cost-effective service from local people working part-time, on call for up to 120 hours a week.

There has been a fire engine in Painswick for almost 120 years. If it goes now, it will never come back. We hope as many people as possible will respond to the consultation and support our local firefighters.

Painswick Theatre Club

Diana Barclay and Geoff Archer, Chair and Treasurer, have decided to retire from an active roll in the Painswick Theatre Club. Diana and Geoff have been the mainstay of the Club for more than 25 years and we have all enjoyed their selection of varied and entertaining visits. They depart with our grateful thanks and best wishes.

Painswick Theatre Club is for everyone who just never gets around to booking shows for themselves but who enjoy an eclectic mix of performances. Our annual subscription is just £10 for the year to cover incidental expenses. In return our members are invited to 6 shows selected from theatres from Bristol to Birmingham and from Oxford to Malvern. Coach travel is arranged, and for matinee performances we plan to arrive with time for lunch before the show, ... no worries about driving and parking!

This year our visits included Merchant of Venice at the RSC Stratford, Far From the Madding Crowd at the Watermill, Newbury, and Jeeves and Wooster at the Playhouse, Oxford.

For next year we already have tickets for Rehearsal for Murder, a classic 'who done it' at Malvern in late January and for Cymbeline, Shakespeare's less well known work sometimes described as a tragi-comedy and some times as a romance, at the RSC Stratford late May.

If not already a member and 'theatre without worries' is for you then contact Ross Munro on 812575 or Sue Leighton-Boyce on 676723 or email PainswickTheatre@aol.com

Ross Munro

Are you a Historic House owner?

We have been passed a communication from Betty Television Company in regards to a Channel 4 series about country houses. They are currently looking for owners of historic houses. They say they produce highly acclaimed programmes for all the major broadcasters, including 'Country House Rescue', 'Shopgirls: The True Story of Life Behind the Counter' and 'Servants: The True Story of Life Below Stairs'. They are currently contacting owners of beautiful period houses across Britain to ascertain any interest in taking part in the series. The series is both a celebration of the history of British country houses and an exploration of what it takes to manage a stately home in the 21st century. By looking at what's involved in their upkeep today they say they also hope to tell the story of how their inner workings have changed over the years.

If you are the proud owner of an historic house and would like some help and advice about managing it, Betty Television Company claim that this series could be for you. They say "Maybe you have taken over your family home - along with generations of amassed possessions - and are keen to bring a sense of order to the house. Or perhaps having bought a mansion you are finding the reality of maintaining it, harder than you'd anticipated". They say they are "working with cleaning experts - who are typically obsessive about hygiene and order - and a range of specialists in the conservation of historic homes and artefacts" and that "the series aims to breathe fresh life into some of Britain's most treasured homes". To find out more phone 020 7290 0663 or email houses@betty.co.uk

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Henry VIII and the Field of Cloth of Gold.



At their meeting on October 28th the Painswick Probos were treated to a lively and well illustrated talk by Gillian White entitled "Henry VIII and the Field of Cloth of Gold".

Mainly through the efforts of Cardinal Wolsey the Treaty of London had been signed in 1518. This was a non-aggression pact between the major European powers, including England, France, Spain and the Holy Roman Empire, in response to the threat from the Ottoman Empire. Concerned that the treaty was falling apart Wolsey arranged a meeting between Henry and Francis I of France.

It is this meeting, held in 1520, which was to become known thereafter as the Field of Cloth of Gold. Both kings were young men in their twenties and saw the meeting as an opportunity to outdo each other in a show of their wealth and it is for this reason, rather than any political outcome, that the event is remembered. Henry set sail in a fleet of vessels carrying an entourage estimated to be around 6000 people and accompanied by Wolsey and the queen, Catherine of Aragon. They landed in Calais which at the time was in English control and then travelled to the meeting sight where they were met by Francis I and his entourage of similar proportions.

The English were accommodated in a grand tent draped with Cloth of Gold and adorned with other gold decorations. Francis' tent is recorded as similarly opulent although no illustrations survive. Cloth of Gold is an enormously expensive material made from silk where one of the threads is spirally wound with gold strands. Henry himself, the Queen and Wolsey were accommodated in a mock palace transported from England for the occasion. In front of the palace were two fountains which flowed with wine and ale for the duration of the jamboree.

Gillian enthralled her audience with descriptions of the inventories for the event, the banquet menus, the tournaments and other somewhat dubious entertainments. Despite all the excesses Gillian was in admiration of the organisation and logistics involved, noting that the Tudor civil service was by then a very efficient and well-oiled machine.

But all the expense was for nought. Within weeks Henry was plotting with Spain against Francis and by 1542 England and France were again at war.

John Wylde

Well - it was certainly a "surprise" on October 29th: 3 lady flautists - Teresa McIver, Jenny Unsworth and Sue Stephens, all local, regaling us with lovely melodies composed by De Fesch, Bach, Doppler and Taffanel, accompanied by



Rob Kempner on the electronic keyboard. We admired a selection of modern flutes and Teresa gave us a survey of the history of flute making.

On November 5th we went to enjoy listening to the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The main work was Brahms' first symphony which begins with the pounding of a broken heart and ends with the kind of melody that comes once in a lifetime. It was a gripping way for rising star conductor Omer Meir Wellby to make his Birmingham debut. First though he raised the curtain with Wagner's magical mystical Prelude to Lohengrin and introduced artist in residence Baiba Skride in the dark poetry of Schumann's only Violin Concerto.

Imagine having a good Sunday roast lunch in the beautiful surroundings of Ingleside House in Cirencester, then going into an intimate venue, a cinema with comfy seating, good sight lines and Hi-Fi-sound to experience operas true to the original and free from producer concepts or other foolishness - that is what Bijou Opera offers. Janet & John Honeywill gave us a wonderful taste of the recent offerings at our meeting on November 12th. We heard excerpts from Nabucco, The Magic Flute, Don Pasquale, Romeo & Juliet, Land of Smiles, I Capuletti e I Montecchi, Poliuto, Tannhauser, La Traviata, La Cenerentola, Madam Butterfly, Il Matrimonio Segreto and Der Vogelhandler. A most enjoyable evening. If you are interested in joining (I have already done so) please contact them at www.bijouopera.co.uk

Because of maintainance work we cannot use the Town Hall for our meeting on January 7th. we shall instead use the hall at Richmond Village which they have generously made available to us.

Ralph Kenber and Alex Nichols



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Sports reports

Painswick Tennis Club

Over 30 members attended the annual general meeting of the club.

The junior presentations were made by the club coach Lorraine Ristic, who provided glowing reports on the award winners.

The Maureen Connolly cup was awarded to Thea Dyer as the most improved girl. The Boris Becker cup was awarded to Felix Jack as the most improved boy. The Peter Bolton cup was awarded to Florence Law for her enthusiasm, spirit and fair play.

Lorraine reported that the junior section of the club is thriving. Any junior who would like to join in the group squad should contact Lorraine on 07775 606399.

Nigel P. Barnett



Left to right: Thea, Lorraine, Felix and Florence



Golf Club

We have been blessed with good warm golfing weather until the last week or so. The wetter, colder weather provides a greater challenge, but we are fortunate at Painswick to have a course that is rarely closed because of waterlogging. It is a time that we often see and welcome golfers from other courses to Painswick.

The Senior's section held their presentation evening on 4th November, with the AGM on November 5th. The presentation evening is a celebration of the year's successes with cups and trophies presented to the winners of the main competitions. At the AGM, a new captain is elected to lead the Seniors' section for the year. Thanks were given to Terry Coleman who stands down after a successful year, and a warm welcome was given to John Courts on his election for the coming year. The photo shows David Walker, Club Captain, (centre) presenting John Courts (right) and Gerry Wilson (left) with the Winter Fourball Shield at the presentation evening.

Painswick Golf Club welcomes visitors in the clubhouse for refreshments or meals, Sunday lunches and Christmas meals. Please contact Mike or Tom Horton for details and bookings (812180).

Peter Rowe



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Without wishing to cause distress amongst our readers, I was astonished to read recently that each winter one older person dies every 7 minutes from the cold.

Research highlights that there is a general lack of awareness of the effects that cold weather can have on an older person's health. A recent survey showed that many people wrongly believe that hypothermia is the main cause of excess winter death. There is also a belief that leaving a window open at night to let in fresh air is good for your health, whereas the opposite is true – breathing in cold air lowers body temperature and raises the risk of chest infections.

Cold weather causes a massive increase in associated health problems: heart attacks, strokes, pneumonia, depression, worsening arthritis and increased accidents at home (associated with loss of strength and dexterity in the hands)

- 70°F (21°C) is the ideal temperature for your living room
- 64°F (18°C) is the ideal temperature for your bedroom
- Keep your bedroom window shut at night

If you have an older friend or relative close to you, some of the advice given here may help them prepare for the winter season:

- Call in or visit more often if the cold weather stops your friend or family member from getting out and about. Calling in on someone can help keep their spirits up and make them feel less isolated.
- Make sure they have basic food items in the cupboard or freezer in case it's too cold to go shopping.
- Pick up prescriptions if it's too cold for them to go out, or find out if their local pharmacy offers a prescription pick-up and delivery service.
- Make sure they don't have a fall. Bring round a mixture of salt and sand for putting on steps or paths in icy weather.
- Encourage them to keep warm. Check with the recommended temperatures given above. Low temperatures increase the risk of flu and other respiratory problems and can raise blood pressure.
- Help them get a benefits check to make sure they're claiming everything they're eligible for. I can arrange a benefits check, or you can use some of the online benefits calculators available through Age UK, Gov.UK, Citizens Advice, Turn2Us and other information websites

If you are over 50 and would like any advice or support, please call me to arrange a home visit to discuss how I can help.

Information in this article was taken from the Age UK website.
Lou Kemp 07776 245767

PROPERTY REPORT for November from Hamptons International

With a heavy frost this morning and only 24 more working days until Santa arrives I think we can conclude that we are now firmly on the road to Christmas. In many years past, the house selling business will have tailed off by now but, as we sit here in late 2015, it still seems to be business as usual.

Hamptons Research Department have recently gone back to review our housing market forecast from last autumn to see if things turned out as we expected. We anticipate ending 2015 with annual price rises in the South West of around 4.5% - less than in London, the South East and East of the country but more than Wales and the North of England. Looking ahead to 2016, we forecast increases in this region of around 5% - marginally higher than those forecast for Greater London. It seems that the main thing we have learnt is that supply problems are more stubborn than we had thought. Overall, the outlook is for modest, single figure price growth across the country. Despite about 53,500 completions of private homes in England in the first half of 2015 (an increase of 16% on the same period a year earlier), there were 15% fewer homes for sale in 2015 than in the same period in 2014. Economic conditions are improving, but there are still constraints on affordability even though wages are beginning to rise – the lack of stock available for sale will support prices in the short term but this is expected to ease as we move into 2016.

If you intend to sell your house in 2016, start the process now by calling us for a no-obligation market appraisal based on actual

sale prices so that you are ready to hit the ground running in the New Year in order to take advantage of the shortage in supply of houses on the market – remember, the early bird catches the worm!

New instructions recently include: Pyll House, a superbly renovated and extended period gem with landscaped gardens and six acres of paddocks; 5 Randalls Field, a spacious 4 bedroom family house with scope for modernisation; 5 Brookhouse Mill, a beautifully presented property forming part of a converted mill complex; New Inn House, a Grade II Listed substantial period property in The Camp; Little Hardwick, an extended dormer bungalow with versatile annexe/studio room in Portway, Upton St Leonards; and 6 Ivy Lodge Barns, a barn conversion in the heart of Birdlip. Recent sales agreed include Copper Beeches and 12 Randalls Field in Painswick, Midsummer House and Riflemans in Slad, New Inn House in The Camp, High Hedges in Brookthorpe and 1 Hillview Cottages in Great Witcombe. Properties now sold are Baraclough House, Beech Cottage, 15 Hyett Orchard and Dormy House in Painswick, Down Court Cottage in Slad, 7 Knapp Cottages in Brimpsfield, Tudor Cottage in Gloucester and Highcroft in Birdlip.

Finally, we would like to wish a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year to all of our clients, past, present and future and we look forward to catching up with you all in 2016.

Guy Tabony, Branch Manager



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DECEMBER

Sat	5	Liberal Democrats Coffee Morning & Book Sale: All Welcome	Town Hall	10.00am to 12.30pm
Sun	6	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Sung Eucharist	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am
Mon	7	Painswick Valley Toddler Group - Mondays (school term time only) Short Mat Bowls - Mondays (contact 812464) Community Lunch: Hosts - Wednesday Ashwell Group (Off Churchill Way) Yoga (Mondays) contact Kim 812623	Pitchcombe Vill. Hall Town Hall Ashwell Centre Sheepscombe Vill. Hall	9.50 to 11.30am 10.30am 2.00pm 12.00 to 1.15pm 6.30 to 8.00pm & 8.15 to 9.45pm
		Last Community Choir of this Session Have Your Say' Church Group: every Monday - contact Rev. Roger Leigh 01452 536325.	Painswick Centre Church Rooms	7.00 to 8.30pm 7.30 to 9.30pm
Tue	8	Zumba Gold dance fitness class for Seniors: £6 pp Tuesdays. Tel: 07766 101790 Health Walk (One Hour) - Tuesdays: Enq. 813228 Cupcakes: Support group for helpers of homebound through illness: Tel 813326 Bingo: Tuesdays	Painswick Centre Town Hall P. Centre Green Room Ashwell House	10.00am 1.45 for 2.00pm 2.00 to 4.30pm 6.30 to 9.00pm
Wed	9	Botanical Illustration classes - Wednesdays - mornings or afternoons. Pre-book:07810 725772 or via website: www.botanic-illustration.co.uk Yoga (Wednesdays) contact Kim 812623 Painswick Toddler Group - held at Painswick Children's Centre: Wednesdays Holy Communion Table Tennis - Wednesdays Probus: Christmas Dinner with the Ladies Gardening Club: Christmas Quiz Parish Council Meeting	Painswick Golf Club GL6 6TL Sheepscombe Vill. Hall Croft School St. Mary's Church Painswick Centre The Hill, Stroud Church Rooms Town Hall	9.30am to- 12noon & 1.00 to- 3.30pm 9.30 to 11.00am 10.30am to 12noon 12 noon 7.00 to 9.00pm 7.00 for 7.30pm 7.00 for 7.30pm start 7.30pm
Thu	10	Yoga - All Abilities (Thursdays) Cotswold Room 812623 T'ai Chi: Thursdays - Contact 812344 Dog Training Club (Thursdays) Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners - Thursdays- tel. Julie - 01453 752480 Experienced beginners - Thursdays New Pilates Class - Thursdays contact Nicola 07870 953159 or nmarshes@hotmail.com Music Appreciation Group: Christmas Tea Party	Painswick Centre Town Hall Church Rooms Town Hall Town Hall Town Hall Painswick Centre	9.30 to 11.00am 9.30am 9.30 to 12.00noon 12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm
Fri	11	Country Market: Coffee available	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	12	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 813734	Painswick Beacon	9.00am to 12noon
Sun	13	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Informal Holy Communion	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St. Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am
Mon	14	Probus Women: Festive Quiz by Eleanor Harper, followed by Lunch at The Falcon	Church Rooms	10.00am
Tue	15	Tea & Carols Around the Piano - All Welcome: Tel. Clare Irving - 814242 if you would like a lift Yew Trees W.I.: Christmas Gathering	Church Rooms Church Rooms	2.30pm 7.30pm
Wed	16	Last Table Tennis session Evening Prayer	St Mary's Church	6.00pm
Thu	17	Carol Singing around the Village Arts and Crafts Market Painswick Singers, Thames Head Singers, with members of the Capriol Chamber Orchestra - highlights from Handel's Messiah, with carols for choir & audience.	The Falcon Town Hall St Mary's Church	6.00pm 10.00am to 2.00pm 7.30pm



Sun	20	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Sung Eucharist Service of Lessons and Carols	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St Mary's Church St Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am 4.00pm
Thu	24	Crib Service Midnight Mass	St Mary's Church St Mary's Church	4.00pm 11.30pm
Fri	25	Family Communion	St Mary's Church	9.30am
Sat	26	Copy Date for January Beacon		
Sun	27	Mass Benefice Holy communion	Catholic Church St Mary's Church	8.30am 9.30am
Thu	31	New Year's Eve Shin Dig: Funky Disco, Bubbly & Fireworks at Midnight	Painswick Golf Club GL6 6TL	8.00pm to 1.00am

JANUARY

Wed	6	Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club Lecture: Music, Friends & Cotswold Hills: Life of Gustav Holst - Angela Applegate. Enq. 813228	Painswick Centre	2.30pm
Thu	7	Music Appreciation Group: "Z"	Richmond Village Hall	2.30pm
Fri	8	Friday Club: History of Punch & Judy (Town Hall closed)	Church Rooms	2.30pm
Sat	9	January Issue of The Painswick Beacon published		
Mon	11	Probus Women: Travellers Tales - Nicholas Clark Community Lunch: Hosts - Painswick Centre Trustees (Off Churchill Way)	Church Rooms Ashwell Centre	10.00am 12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	12	Cupcakes: Support group for helpers of homebound through illness: Tel 813326	P. Centre Green Room	2.00 to 4.30pm
Wed	13	Gardening Club: Fifty Shades of Green - Sue Russell	Church Rooms	2.30pm
Tue	19	Local History Society: Stand & Deliver - John Putley	Croft School	7.30pm
Thu	21	Music Appreciation Group: The Three Choirs	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	26	Yew Trees W.I.: You Never Know Who You'll Meet as a Physiotherapist - Ann Williams	Church Rooms	7.30pm
Sat	30	Theatre Club Outing to Malvern to see Rehearsal for Murder	Stamages Car Park	12.30pm

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

Christmas Draw

Each year we put the receipt numbers of our subscribers into our high tech "hat"- a random number gizmo. The first four numbers to come up define the lucky recipients of our prizes. Even before this edition has reached their doorsteps we hope to have delivered:

A **bottle of whisky** to Mr & Mrs Moore, Tibbiwell, the first subscribers out of the "hat".

A half **bottle of liqueur** of repute to the second fortunate winners, Mr and Mrs John Luke and **boxes of chocolates** to Mrs Fiona Chapman and to Mr James Woodham who were third and fourth in the subscriber department.

A **bottle of brandy** to Anne-Marie Randall, the advertiser who, among the many we value, had drawn lucky.

Happy Christmas, and thank you all

Surgery opening Times etc

The Beacon has abstracted Christmas opening times from the Surgery winter newsletter and give these below for information:

Thursday, December 24th 8.30am to 1.00 pm,

Friday December 25th and Monday December 28th: Closed

December 29th to 31st: 8.30am to 6.00pm

Friday January 1st next year: Closed

For medical assistance you can phone surgery number to be directed to the out-of-hours service from 6.30pm to 8.00am weekdays and all day weekends and bank holidays. Also for non emergency there is available NHS 111 for medical advice.

The Beacon notes with interest that hearing aid clinics are to be arranged on a monthly basis on the 4th Thursday of each month (except December) for hearing aid maintenance, cleaning, re-tubing and new batteries service. Next clinic 28th January 28th. Contact reception staff for an appointment.

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PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

S.15/2312/HHOLD SKIPPETS COTTAGE, Damsells Mill Lane, Sheepscombe: Create private off street parking for two cars.

S.15/2448/LBC OLD FLEECE, Bisley Street - Proposed change of use from offices to Hair Salon on ground floor and a single apartment on the upper floors.

S.15/2449/LBC ROSEBANK COTTAGES, Slad Road, Slad = Fire place opened up to full extent of the inglenook. Partition wall erected in attic. Staircase on ground and first floor replaced. Cupboard and doorway enclosing stairs, removed and altered. Attic window top wall/ceiling excavated to reveal original beams. Plaster has been added, next to stairs, going up to the attic has not been replaced with lime mortar. Balustrade has been erected to surround the new staircase in the attic. The current balustrade will need LBC as it's not part of the original staircase.

S.15/2501/FUL WASHWELL COTTAGE, Lower Washwell Lane - Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of two detached dwellings with garage.

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

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

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

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

S.15/2227/TCA WORDINGS ORCHARD, Sheepscombe - T1 Yew - Reduce to approximately 2m in height to allow new crown to form to enable easier trimming as required.

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

S.15/2583/HHOLD CORINIUM HOUSE, Sevenleaze Lane, Edge - Alterations to garage and extension to form office, gym, sauna and recreation room.

S.15/2549/OUT LAND AT SUMMER STREET, Stroud - Residential development for up to 20 dwellings (including a minimum of 30% affordable housing), demolition of stables, planting and landscaping, informal open space, surface water attenuation, a vehicle access point from Summer Street and association ancillary works with association open space and landscaping with all matters reserved, with the exception of the main site access.

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

S.15/2645/TCA CHURCH ORCHARD, Far End, Sheepscombe - T1 Field Maple, T2 & T3 Cypress - Fell.

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

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

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

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

S.15/2493/FUL MOBILE HOME, LYNCOMBE FARM, Cheltenham Road - Retrospective application for siting of mobile home with terrace and small decking area for temporary period of three years.

CONSENT

S.15/2297/HHOLD CEDAR HOUSE, Stamages Lane - New Oak framed extension.

S.15/2178/TCA COTSWOLD 88 HOTEL, Kemps Lane - Eucalyptus - Remove and replace with dwarf shrubs.

S.15/2403/TCA MULBERRY HOUSE, Churchill Way - T1 Taxus (Yew) - Crown lift to clear trunk to 2m (Height 7m, Spread 6m). Existing lateral branches 1m from ground - finished vertical height 2m from ground.

S.15/2227/TCA WORDING S ORCHARD, Sheepscombe - T1 Yew - Reduce to approximately 2m in height to allow new crown to form to enable easier trimming as required.

REFUSED

S.15/2142/HHOLD WASHBROOK MILL, Edge Road - Alterations and extensions to existing building.

WITHDRAWN

S.15/2093/LBC SHETLANDS, Far End, Sheepscombe - Alterations to listed building approval. Revised external wall finish to extension, viz, alteration from cedar boarding to provide external wall finish of through coloured lime render on extension. Reduced footprint at Lower Ground Floor.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Painswick Baby and Toddler group is a weekly session for children aged 0-4. The group is run by mothers who attend, but we are also looking for additional help from someone without children (and therefore the freedom to use both hands!). We are flexible on days, but ideally would like someone at least once a month. Call Marisa on 07773 368 702 or email marisavaughan@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

MINI-ADS

Size 16 Vyella lined navy Raincoat and Vyella Grey Jacket with velvet collar. Pale blue lined raincoat and 2 GRAZIA Italian Suits. Fawn suede Gilet. All good condition £10 each 813128

Large Italian cream sofa, 3 seater, plus matching, large armchair. Phone for details 812293

6ft X 3ft Riley pool table solid legs, MDF. Pool balls & cues. Also with 2 MDF boards making it into table tennis. £120 ono. 07976222025 / 814524

BUSINESS

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

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MINI-ADS are free to subscribers.

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

The Personal Column

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

Condolences

Our condolences to the family and friends of CAROLE PITT who died on November 11th. Carole was mother to Phil, Danny, Amy and Barbara, grandmother to Olive and Lily and sister to Jenny Blood. She lived in Canton Acre, Painswick for over 20 years and was well known for her soft furnishings and garment alterations, Carole will be very much missed by so many.

And to Adele Lambert following the death of her husband Derek on November 3rd. Derek, a keen indoor bowls player, was a retired Educational Psychologist who had worked in Gloucestershire. Sincere thanks to the wonderful staff at Gloucestershire Royal for their kind and attentive care.

Congratulations

Our congratulations to BEV WHITING and father ROSS JONES on the birth of Iris Evelyn Jones on November 12th at her home at 9 Stamages Lane, Painswick. The proud mother is doing a great job and father Ross Jones feels ten feet tall.

and **congratulations** to IRIS BRANSON, mother of Carol Maxwell and a frequent visitor to Painswick, 100 on 23rd December.

Change of address

Please note that HAROLD WOOD has moved to 12 Hyett Orchard, Painswick, Gloucestershire GL5 6RJ



See article on page 15

Fancy a challenge? Where it all happens

If so why not consider joining the BEACON TEAM.

We are dedicated to multi-tasking and the range is as listed on this page.

Whether you could help on a regular basis or just occasionally with any of the tasks and spreading the load would be most welcomed. We think we are a pretty friendly and professional group and there is great satisfaction whatever the contribution.

We can arrange to "explain all" and await your verdict. But hearing from you in the near future would be helpful. Computing skills are useful for some tasks but not essential. So why not contact us and find out more.

The Cover Picture

The photograph on the front page was sent by Rita Bishop, We had other good photographs offered this year. Our thanks to readers who offered them for consideration.

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

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