

Volume 39 Number 11

February 2017

# Fire Station to be converted into dwelling houses

Stroud District Council planners have given their consent to the County Council's application to convert Painswick's former fire station into two dwelling houses. Although the successful application does not necessarily mean the conversion will go ahead, the expectation must be that the work will commence shortly. The Parish Council has written to the Chief Executive of Gloucestershire County Council requesting a grant towards community projects in compensation for losing a valuable community asset (and loss of local employment). The response to the Parish Council's Clerk was that there were no grants available at present but that provision should be applied for through the planning process. However, the District Council has advised the Parish Council that funding towards community projects can only be considered for developments of ten or more dwellings and that whilst Stroud District Council has advanced its Community Infrastructure Levy policy, Painswick cannot actually benefit from this either as it is not being adopted until April 2017.



It was therefore resolved at the January meeting of the Parish Council to write to Stroud's Member of Parliament, Neil Carmichael, stating that the Council feels that "it has been unfairly penalised by the transitional changes in policy and it is totally unacceptable that the Local Government Authority (who owns the building) is unwilling to address this anomaly". The Parish Council concludes in its letter, "Therefore, can we please ask you to assist us in bringing about a fair resolution for the residents of Painswick?"

# Local children support Rotary shoe box scheme

Pupils at The Croft School had not only been thinking of what **they** would get for Christmas.

They had also been thinking of children in Eastern Europe who would receive very few presents. Between them, with support from the Rotary Club of Stroud, pupils at The Croft (shown on right) and two other local schools have filled with gifts a mini-mountain of over 100 shoe boxes.

The gift of a shoebox that contains toys, toiletries, educational items or household goods is a drop of happiness to the young people of Eastern Europe, principally Belarus, Romania, Moldova and Ukraine, who live in a world of poverty. For many, it will be the first present that they have ever received and it lets them know that someone, somewhere cares. For further information visit: http://www.rotaryshoebox.org

Michael Little





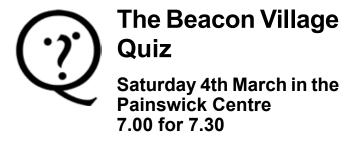
# Film Night

#### Friday 3rd February

Doors open from 7pm. Screening starts 7.45 at the Painswick Centre

#### Bridget Jones's Baby

Entry £6.00 including one drink. Payment on the door.



Teams of four could come from clubs or societies, local street or just a group of friends

If you wish to reserve a table, then a quick email to John Barrus at barrusjp@yahoo.co.uk will prompt an acknowledgement or drop a note in the Beacon post box. The cost per team including light refreshments is £20.

### PARISH COUNCIL NEWS from the Council meeting on January 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 and on-line at the Parish Council's web site.

There were no members of the public present and no questions had been received. Chairman Martin Slinger opened the meeting and moved swiftly on to the main Agenda.

#### Apologies for absence

The Clerk, Roy Balgobin, reported that apologies had been received from Cllrs Roey Parker, Steve Morris and Abigail Smith. These were accepted by the Council,

#### Matters of Urgency

There were no matters of urgency to discuss.

#### **County Councillor's Report**

The Councy Councillor was not present at the Meeting nor had a report been received.

#### **District Councillor's Report**

District Councillor Julie Job was present at the Meeting. The Clerk, Roy Balgobin advised the Meeting that residents of The Park had queried why the refuse lorry that collected the food waste was able to drive around "The Park" to collect the food waste but other refuse vehicles of a similar size did not causing considerable inconvenience to local residents. Ir was agreed that the Clerk would take up this matter with the District Council. District Councillor Julie Job confirmed that she will also raise the issue with the appropriate Department.

# To receive an update and consider revised action for the garage groundwork

At the December Meeting the Council had agreed to replace the single Cemetery Lodge Garage that had been destroyed by a fire with a double garage. Clerk Roy Balgobin advised the Meeting that after clearing the fire damage the Contractor found the site had a significant gradient. To prevent future issues with the new base for the double garage the Contractor recommended building a retaining wall. The wall would be created by driving 150mm steel RSJ's into the ground and then slotting landscaping two sleepers into the RSJ's to create a 400mm high wall. The additional cost would be  $\pounds 1150$ . After discussing the matter the Council agreed that Chairman Martin Slinger and Cllr Mike Fletcher would meet with the Contractor and report back to the Council.

To consider a draft letter to Mr Neil Carmichael MP regarding the disposal

#### of the old Fire Station

Chairman Cllr Martin Slinger read out a draft of a letter that it was proposed to send to the local MP. The main thrust of the letter was that the decision to close the Fire Station, which had provided local employment, now left Painswick without its own dedicated Fire Station. It appears that the Community will receive no compensation for the loss of service or contribution from the subsequent sale and development of the building. The final version of the letter may be viewed in the Parish Council Office and on the Parish Council's web site.

# To receive an update on the meeting with The Croft School Council

Chairman Cllr Martin Slinger reported on the meeting with The Croft School Council. The minutes of the meeting are available on the Council's web site and may also be viewed in the Parish Council Office.

#### **Responsible Financial Officer's Report**

The Council agreed payment of the various invoices.

#### Ward Reports

Cllrs Ann Daniels, John Clifford and James Cross all stated that there were still ongoing problems with dog fouling in the village, the Church Yard and in particular on the Recreation Ground. Cllr Rob Lewis then drew the Council's attention to a serious complaint he had received about dog mess being deliberately smeared over play equipment in the Recreation Ground. Clerk Roy Balgobin will immediately arrange for George Hodder, Council Handyman, to clean the equipment and for regular visits to be made by the District Council's Dog Wardens. They work both day and night and would take immediate enforcement action against offenders. The Clerk will also draft a Public Notice warning residents about the penalties of dog fouling.

Cllr Mike Fletcher stated the light that illuminated the path to the surgery was "still out".

Cllr Ian James queried the policy on gritting roads in Sheepscombe. As a result of the snow fall on the 13th January there had been a multi vehicle accident at the bottom of the hill in Sheepscombe. The road had not been gritted and as it was in the shade the snow had not melted. The school also had to be closed. Clerk Roy Balgobin will discuss this matter with Highways Dept and ascertain if the road is classified as "primary" or "secondary" for gritting.

The Meeting closed at 7.55pm

# Advance Notice Road Closure

**Edge Road**. This road will be closed from 20th March to 24th March. This is to allow for a new gas connection by Wales and West utilities. For further information contact the office on 08000 514514.

Caroline Cogram, Gloucestershire County Council

# Parish Council Christmas closure.

For those who wondered why the Council offices were shut the week before Christmas, the reason was due to the requirement to carry out electrical work and a redecoration of both Offices.

Martin Slinger



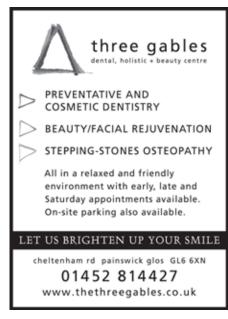
# 5% increase approved for the 2017/18 Precept.

Last month the Parish Council approved a 5% increase in the local parish precept for 2017/2018. Below is outlined the key income and expenditure covering the current financial year and the budget for 2017/18. Although the sums appear small when set against the District and County Council taxes it is in everyone's interest that the monies are well spent. The Beacon would welcome any comments from readers on the approved increase and how it is spent. Individual comments would not be published but a resume would be outlined in the next edition.

### Budget/Precept for financial year 2017/2018

Item	Estimated 2016/2017	Budget 2016/2017	Budget 2017/2018
Expenditure			
Town Hall Expenditure	7639	8300	5800
Land & Buildings Staff costs Buildings Maintenance	28222 11064 13748	25000 11000 15000	32000 4500 15400
Rec Ground Warden Traffic Footpaths TIC	2100 800 1000 100 500	2100 800 1000 1000 750	1650 800 1000 1000 750
Admin Services Staff costs grants Insurance Admin costs	37482 2500 4021 11315	37000 2500 4300 10000	39640 2500 4100 10700
Total expenditure	120491	118750	119840
Income			
Funeral fees Town Hall inc Other income	8500 6500 6203	8500 6500 5250	8500 6500 7400
Total Income Total Expenditure Net Expenditure Precept approved	21203 120491 -99288 92800	20250 118750 -98500 92800	22400 119840 -97440 97440

The Increase in the 2017/18 Precept of 5% equates to  $\pounds 2.61$  per annum on a D band property





# Advertising in the Painswick Beacon Closing Date 12th February

Each year at this time the Beacon allocates the space for box adverts (that appear at the bottom of many pages of the Beacon) for the twelve months from April. The process starts with advertisers wishing to take a box advert completing a Booking Request Form. These forms have been sent to all current advertisers and are available from Peter Rowe (see contact details on the back page) or from the website www.painswickbeacon.org.uk – click on "how to advertise".

The allocation process gives priority to requests from Painswick businesses, those requesting the 5cm tall box adverts, and looks to avoid having too many adverts providing the same service. Requests must be completed and returned by 12th February; after that bookings will only be accepted if any space remains. Last year the demand for space exceeded supply (the Beacon restricts advertising to 20% of available page space), and some requests had to be turned down.

Peter Rowe



General Builder Ltd Extension : Renovation: Stonework Kitchens: Bathrooms: Patios: Plastering Dry-Stone Walling: Plumbing: Plastering		
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$\sim$		



# Vicky's Pilates

January is often that time when we think about how fit, or perhaps unfit, we are. It is therefore good to report that a new pilates class started on Tuesday mornings at the Painswick Centre early in the month.

Vicky Bush was for many years a highly qualified university computer science lecturer. When her elderly father became increasingly and distressingly disabled and immobile Vicky decided, after careful consideration, that a change of direction was in order. She embarked on a very thorough and lengthy pilates teaching course with Body Control Pilates, one of the country's leading organisations in the field, and is now fully qualified. As she points out, it is so important that any form of physical exercise should be taught properly and with expertise. Instigated by her father's condition, Vicky emphasises the need to maintain physical mobility, particularly as we grow older. "It is critical to keep moving and strengthening and pilates is a safe way to do that," she says. The added bonus of course, as with all exercise, is that it keeps the mind active too and in a class there is also the social side. The Tuesday class at present focuses on strengthening and mobilising together with balance and breathing.

Although so well qualified, Vicky intends to take further courses specialising in specific health conditions thereby building up her own experience and knowledge. Pilates has been in existence for about 100 years and within its programme has utilised elements from other forms of exercise such as yoga and ballet. It is now widely respected as a highly beneficial, even therapeutic, activity. The class is held upstairs in the Painswick Centre on Tuesdays 9.30-10.30am. Everyone, men and women of all ages, is welcome. Vicky can be contacted for further information by email abcPilates@btinternet.com or tel. 07934977171.

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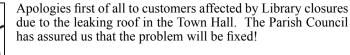


I have to say that January is my least favourite month, short days and this one seemed particularly wet and dreary. Most wildlife seems in a state of shut down..... at least there's slash and burn to look forward to!

The first work party after Christmas was by current standards poorly attended (too much festive cheer perchance!) but the last one was back up to mid-teens. We are currently working hard on the Madam's Wood end of the Beacon alongside of the B4073, removing scrub and some more mature beeches to encourage grass regeneration. The longer term objective is to connect up areas which support the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and give them more suitable habitat to breed in. The Duke is considered an "umbrella" species. If it can breed successfully then conditions will be right for many other species of plants and insects to flourish.

A number of people have asked what is the PBCG doing and what is the point. In response I have booked The Golf Club from 7pm on Wed 15th Feb and will give a short informal talk about the group's methods and aims. The object will be to stimulate a Q & A session. The bar will be open. This is an open invitation to everyone, so if you are interested do come along.

Paul Baxter



## New Books for February include:

#### Adult Non-Fiction:

Ann Widdecombe, Strictly Ann. The Autobiography; Clarissa Dickson Wright, Rifling through my drawers; Tom Marcus, Soldier Spy; Maureen Lipman, I Must Collect Myself.

Two new Guidebooks: Insight Guide to India, and Marco Polo, Perfect Days in Ireland

#### **Adult Fiction:**

NSWIC

IBRA

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PAINSWICK BRACON CONSERVATION GROUP

David Mitchell, Slade House; Jojo Moyes Sheltering Rain; Susan Hill The Betrayal of Trust; Charles Cumming A Divided Spy; Jo Baker A Country Road, A Tree

Spoken Word CD Ken Follett, Eye of the Needle

The full list is on the Library desk

Ian Cridland

## Painswick Electrical Services 40 years' experience Free Estimates All electrical work undertaken PART P REGISTERED 24-hour Emergency Service Inspection & Testing DOMESTIC DOMESTIC NSTRUER 01453 758342 07850 784899

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

## **Ben Pearse Carpentry**

Offering a complete woodworking service including kitchens, staircases, doors, windows, built in furniture, wooden flooring and all aspects of carpentry

Qualified and Insured

Tel: 07791639635 Ben.pearse@hotmail.com

Carol Maxwell

# DASH

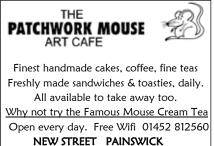
- Delivering Aid to Stroud Homeless

Dash was started to support the work of Marah, the Stroud charity which works with homeless and vulnerable people in Stroud, providing a hot meal several times a week, advice, support and friendship. For the last 7 years we have run a small change collection (5ps, 2ps and 1ps - the small coins that clog up your pockets) and in the last 6 weeks alone this, together with money raised by the Big Christmas Card in St Mary's Church, has enabled us to send £310 to Marah (total over the years has been £3800!). Any bags of change, however small, will be welcomed by Alison Robinson (812 286) or Francis Watson (812 071), who will call to collect them if that is more convenient for you. Marah works closely with the Stroud Food Bank in the provision of emergency food packs. Currently the Food Bank is appealing for tinned fruit (400gm), UHT milk (1 litre), sugar, jam and small jars of coffee. Contributions can be placed in the collecting boxes near the door of all the Stroud and Gloucester supermarkets or, if you shop locally, in the boxes at the back of Painswick and Cranham churches or in Murrays Estate Agency.

All your donations, big and small, are gratefully received and responsibly used. Thank you for your generosity over the years and in the future.

Alison Robinson, Tel 01452 812 286.





www.thepatchworkmouse.co.uk

# **PROBUS Women**

Simon Trapnell who helped establish and is now a Director of 'Nature in Art', the World's first museum dedicated to art inspired by nature, was our Speaker on 9th January and his subject was 'Looking at Pictures'. Sounded straight forward enough. We would be looking at pictures. Yes. However, not just 'at'. Our senses were transported to a different level and it was a revelation understanding more fully the Artist's intent. Looking right into the picture and understanding what to look for. Can the surface of that leaf, rock, scrubland be felt - by sight? Can the movement of birds and waves be imagined and heard? Can the mood of Lions and other wild animals be identified? Can an obvious silence become a calming moment in time?

We were told that in some instances, when paintings of animals and birds actually showed more detail, the finished work lost movement and the end result was less life. In order to convey mood and movement, knowing when to stop is an art itself and by simply not placing the main subject in a central position leads the eye to further exploration. Simon explained that there is no right or wrong way in art. Artists work to suit themselves. Some complete the subject first and paint background last and others the other way round. David Shepherd and Peter Scott are recognised Worldwide for their work depicting nature in art and cave-dwellers did exactly the same thousands of years ago and their nature in art displayed on cave walls is still viewed and valued today.

The museum, Nature in Art (www.natureinart.org.uk) is housed in Wallsworth Hall just off the A38 at Twigworth, a Georgian mansion built around mid 1700's on the site of a Tudor timbered house and displays examples of not only paintings but textiles, ceramics, ethnic art, sculpture and many other genres. Nature given life by various art forms and a preservation in itself.

Next meeting - Monday 13th February. Ian Mackintosh speaking about the History of Stroud and its textile origins. All welcome. Please join us 10.00am for 10.30am. Guests £3.

delia Mason

# **Painswick Community Choir**

Monday evenings 7pm - 8.30pm at The Painswick Centre.

TENOR SINGERS - wanted in PAINSWICK COMMUNITY CHOIR! The tenor section in our Choir is a mixed group of both women & men singers. However, singers for all voice parts in the Choir are also welcome to join us. Please get in touch if you would like to sing with us.

We sing songs in a variety of styles from around the world, as well as original new choral compositions, in wonderful 3 - 4 part harmonies. We are a friendly group of singers and we fill the hall with glorious harmonies every week.

Please get in touch if you are interested by contacting our choir leader Sophie Sterckx. Tel: 01453 298138 / Email: sophie@sophiesterckx.co.uk / Website: Painswick Community Choir

# **Error in Painswick Directory**

In the Building and Decorating section.

Brinkman Building Delete 812924 Substitute 812903







# Lent courses 2017

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1st

Ecumenical courses have been organised in the area. All welcome Please phone the number quoted to register your interest in joining a group

1	Day & Time	Leader	Venue	Contact name & Tel
2	Monday aft 4.00 -5.30 pm starting Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>	Karen Riding Limited spaces	Overdell Sheepscombe	Liz & Peter Davies 01452 812211 or Karen 01452 813844
3	Wednesday aft 2.00 – 3.30pm starting Mar 8 <sup>th</sup>	Terry Parker (5 weeks) Returning Home: Chris- tian Faith in Encounter with Other Faiths	Merrills Friday Street Painswick	Denise Magauran 01452 814570
4	Thursday aft 2.00 – 3.30pm starting Mar 2 <sup>nd</sup> OR	Canon Michael Irving (6weeks) St John's Gospel Chapters 13 to 19	9 Canton Acre, Painswick	Clare & Michael Irving 01452 814242
5	Thursday eve 7.30 – 9 pm starting Mar 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jesus' farewell to his Dis- ciples and His Passion		
6	AFTER EAS- TER Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 3 – 4.30pm	Revd. Mike Holloway 'This Risen Life' What does resurrection mean?	Church Rooms Painswick Café Style	Revd Mike 01452 814082



# **Messy Church**

THURSDAY 9th FEBRUARY

15.30 to 17.15 in the St. Mary's Church Rooms, Painswick

Join us as we listen to the Parable of the 'Pearl of Great Price'. Enjoy crafts and play games and join us for a delicious tea.

Messy Church is a family event so all children should be accompanied by an adult.

Any queries please contact Fiona Gill:

Mobile: 0777 151 3382 or Email: fiona.gill@psalms.uk.net



# News from St Mary's

There are a number of weeks between Epiphany and Lent when the liturgical colour is green. The number of these weeks depends on the date of Easter. Last year Easter was early so this time was short. This year Easter is late so there are four weeks when the liturgical colour is green. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday which is 1st March.

February is a quiet month this year coming between Epiphany and Lent. For many years, Churches Together around Painswick have sponsored the setting up of Lent House Groups to meet during Lent. These groups are designed around a particular course to study together, in order to get to know each other better and understand and respect our differences. There are several different organisations which produce Lenten studies. For instance this year the Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) have produced a course entitled "The Living Cross" which explores God's gift of forgiveness and new life. Further details about Lent groups are mentioned elsewhere in this publication and will be posted up in both the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches.

Messy Church will be meeting during the month on 9th February at 3.30pm in the Church Rooms. This group caters for young children and their parents exploring Bible stories together. There is a theme for each meeting and the children participate in activities, crafts and stories. Towards the end of the meeting the group share a meal together.

During February each year St Mary's organises a marriage preparation day for couples; planning to get married during the year. This helps couples understand better what is involved in Christian marriage and what preparation needs to be done for the wedding service. This year the preparation day is on 25th February in the Church Rooms. Couples have found that this preparation day is well worth attending. An added bonus is the chance to meet other couples planning to get married and share expectations and anxieties with them. Marking the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday 1st March there will be two communion services in the benefice. There is a morning service at 9am at Pitchcombe and an evening service at Sheepscombe at 7.30pm.

David Newell





## Women Botanical Artists

At the start of the new season on the 13th January both old and new members enjoyed a fascinating talk by Joyce Barrus on Women Botanical Artists including out Beatrice Potter

amusing anecdotes about Beatrice Potter.

February will be a busy month for the Club with a talk on the 10th by the well known and popular Peter Berry, about his many travels - this one is called "Dead Sea to Damascus". On the 24th a talk on the life of Katherine Parr, Henry the V111's sixth and last wife, by Mike Bottomly. Squeezed in between, the club will be hosting a Community Lunch at Ashwell on the 13th.

Looking further ahead our first outing will be to Malvern Priory on the 10th March.

Why not join us at our February talks and sign up for the March outing.

Mike Kerton



### Diversity in Garden Flora and Fauna

The last Bird Club trip of 2016 was to enjoy the wonders of Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, espying the flood of winter migrants. The highlight sighting was of the Bittern, that waterside bird with the lightening, dagger -beak, amazing 'reed' camouflage and such a dramatic boom!

For the first 2017 meeting, we join the Gardening Club at the Church Rooms on February 8th at 7.30 to agreet David Priddis, former chairman of the Gloucestershire Bat Group and keen naturalist. He promises to present aerial views of his large garden as well as to illustrate the amazing diversity of flora and fauna in all their ecological wonder. One thousand cowslips, 400 spotted orchids and bird species in their 20's must exemplify the vast array of data for your inspection?

All visitors as ever are very welcome (£3)

Wendy Addy



## Fairtrade

Fairtrade event on Saturday 11th March in the Church Rooms at 9.30am.

Come and enjoy a delicious, fairly traded breakfast! Cereal, fruit, juices, etc with lots of fresh coffee, tea or hot chocolate. A great start to the weekend.

Frances Watson



UpCycled Gardens Re-Purpose, Re-Use

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SABINA MARLAND 07946 915317 / 01452 812290 sabina.marland@btinternet.com

# The extraordinary Berkeleys



The Berkeley family, they of Berkeley Castle, certainly have a colourful history. The direct descendants of a Saxon noble, they have occupied the castle for 26 generations. At the January meeting of the History Society, David Smith, retired county archivist and archivist of the castle since 1980, recounted the family's extraordinary history.

Given the castle by Henry II as a reward for services rendered during the Stephen and Matilda dispute, they were in the front rank of the peerage system as barons from 1154. Over the following couple of centuries the castle was taken from them several times as they became embroiled in various political rebellions and problems – King John and Magna Carta, the Battle of Bannockburn to name but two occasions.

There is a true wealth of documents, many thousands in fact, stored in the muniments room at the castle and through his work there David has been able to uncover the truth about many incidents including the murder of Edward II there in 1327 and indeed details of extensive building in the 1340s. The family were known as soldiers and politicians but they were also very learned and founded Katherine Lady Berkeley School in the 14th century which was unique at the time.

Unfortunately there were many family disputes over claims to the property culminating at one point in the violent Battle of Nibley Green in the 15th century. The dispute continued at great expense for years. During the Civil War the castle was sieged again, changed hands five times and was badly battered, eventually reverting back to the family. In the 18th century a strong illegitimate line led to a prolonged dispute over ownership claims into and throughout the 19th century. The legitimate line was back by the 20th century and the castle is now definitely the oldest in the country owned continuously by the same family.

At the next meeting Carolyn Heighway will give a presentation on Anglo-Saxon Gloucestershire. Croft School, Tuesday 21st February, 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Carol Maxwell



# **The Croft School News**

Staff and pupils have returned from the festive break ready for what already looks like being a busy and productive term at The Croft.

We are very lucky to have been invited to join the Engage programme run by the community team at Gloucester Rugby. As a result we are able to send some of our Year Five and Six pupils to Kingsholm for an afternoon a week for six weeks where they will be learning about different values and skills connected with Rugby and being part of a team. They will be identifying, through a series of fun, interactive activities, how these values and skills can support them in school with their learning. The selected children have already been to Kingsholm twice and are thoroughly enjoying the experiences and learning so far.

I would like to congratulate two of our young musicians for taking and passing their grade one exams at the end of last term. Libby Turner achieved Grade One in Clarinet and Daniel Dougherty achieved Grade One on the piano – Well Done!

Rebecca Gore, Head Teacher

# Julian Telling Garden Services

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# Two veritable gems on our very doorstep

Not many villages can claim to have an outstanding tourist attraction in their midst. Painswick of course has not one, but two such gems of national significance on its very doorstep. The Rococo Garden is unique, the only surviving one of its kind, and Prinknash Bird Park is recognised as a very special and thriving example among the very few bird parks nationally.

## Painswick Rococo Garden

Have you been along to the Rococo Garden recently? If the answer is no, then some delightful surprises lie in wait for you there. During the past few months some fabulous developments have taken place providing an even richer experience for visitors. It starts with the cafe building. Visitors now enter by a different door to obtain tickets and to access the shop and cafe. Large screens have been removed and the layout changed and the upshot is that the beauty of the building is now very much in evidence. It is light and airy and quite grand for a former coach house. The cafe feels roomier, more versatile but still offering its usual excellent fare. It is always a good venue for lunch with many dishes using produce from the garden. The shop is a delight with its choice gifts, many of which are locally made or supplied.

As for the garden, well there is now so much to enthuse about. Quite apart from the well-established features and enchanting



woodland and garden areas, several sections are at last truly family-friendly and a real must for children. The maze is always popular but the nature trail in particular has many new and exciting features to be discovered en route. There is a huge tree swing, a see-saw, a noughts and crosses tree trunk, a picture quiz, a willow den in the Queen's Lodge and the hermitage, a child-size willow hideaway, just to name a few.

Dominic Hamilton, the manager for just over a year now, is keen to point out that the developments are in keeping with the purpose of the garden. "They are positive developments," he says "and there are more to come." In particular, there are plans for the summer and specifically the school holidays which should attract more families. When children do visit they are usually thrilled – "Best day of my life so far," remarked one six-year-old!

Furthermore, a parent and toddler group with an emphasis on creative play and outdoor activities for two hours is due to start at the garden on Tuesday, 7th March. More information will be available about this.

The Rococo has made such wonderful progress since work commenced to rediscover it in 1984. There is a sizeable feature on it in January's Cotswold Life and an article on the history of the garden appears in Painswick Chronicle Number 10, available at Painswick Pharmacy. The team works hard to make it the undoubted success that it is and it is worth remembering that it is a charity with all profits going towards the restoration of the garden. Dominic is always looking to the future and uses his valuable experience to put sound plans into action. And the Rococo is so lucky to have Steve Quinton as head gardener. The team of volunteers is also vital, undertaking a range of tasks such as meeting and greeting at the desk, gardening, administrative jobs etc. More volunteers are always needed so do get in touch if you would like to be involved.

And of course, last but certainly not least, the snowdrops. February is the month and they are not to be missed. Do go along and experience the wow factor for yourself. Painswick's Rococo Garden is a magical place.

## Prinknash Bird Park

- Melanie Meigh writes:

The Bird Park's Winter Wonderland event has been hosting Christmas for nearly 10 years and in 2014 was nominated one of the top ten Rural Attractions for Christmas in the UK by The Sunday Telegraph and in the top three by the Huffington Post due to its beautiful lights that illuminate the park during the Christmas period.

Looking back to The Bird Park's past, Painswick locals can pretty much take ownership of this attraction which was created by Philip Meigh in 1973 by re-establishing the discarded monastic fishponds and creating parkland from the fields hunted on by Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn who stayed at the locally named 'Old Abbey'. The Bird Park has grown over the years, been hugely popular with all age groups and has certainly stood the test of time. As other such attractions close The Bird Park has simply gone from strength to strength. Philip Meigh lived in Painswick for most of his life and I, his daughter Melanie, was born in Longridge House in 1961, taking over the Park in 2008 after his death. I have had many challenges thrown at me but the most important thing is that I remain true to the original vision of my father, keeping follies and fowl living in harmony in a beautiful setting. This allows the public the chance to



lose themselves in a magical peaceful valley, spending time with rare wildfowl, tame fallow deer and of course the many other inmates of the Park.

My father and I had always had plans to build a new entrance and in 2013 after three years of submissions and meetings the Bird Park was awarded an EU grant by DEFRA enabling us to build a beautiful Prime Oak Visitor Centre which opened in 2014. This new local facility works at every level with large full height windows which afford great views of this historic valley. On winter days when you do not feel like bracing yourself for a walk or simply do not have time to visit the Park and all you want is a change of scene and a delicious hot chocolate then look no further. Below there are much needed welfare areas, space for incubation, offices and staffroom.

On sunny days visitors enjoy the huge south-facing balconies where it is lovely to enjoy coffee and a chat with friends whilst enjoying the reindeer going about their daily business in the enclosure below. This area of outstanding natural beauty is



now secure and visitors can enjoy the views of the Park's lakes and rolling Cotswolds countryside. The new centre has a super shop and a free car park.

There are always things going on in The Bird Park. Children's events start from Easter to its Winter Wonderland event for Christmas. Children's parties are held in the delightful Gypsy Caravan and clubs and schools meet here for many different reasons. Resident artists come and go throughout the year and as art is so embedded in the Park's history it seems only natural that you would find sculptures such as the 'Swift' created by Ben Moseley (Sheepscombe) situated in the first pool as you enter the Park, or the Tom Hill sculpture 'Henry' by the Castle Folly.

This is indeed a home-grown tourist attraction created by a man with a dream which I, his daughter, intend to keep alive.

It is vital that we do not take these two wonderful centres for granted simply because they are so close by. They have so much of interest to offer, each remarkable in its own way. Do go and spend time exploring both, take family and friends, show your support and, most importantly, discover the sheer joy of being there.

Carol Maxwell

# Jottings

## **Plough Sunday and Plough Monday**

Plough Sunday is celebrated on the 1st Sunday after Epiphany and thus falls between the 7th and 13th January. A plough is taken down the aisle of the church to be blessed and a sample of soil is brought forward to be blessed also. The service took place in Painswick Church until some 20 years ago when it was transferred to Edge Church. More recently they have added the blessing of garden tools brought along by members of the congregation. At Edge they bring an old horse plough into the church, but in other communities, for example Upton St. Leonards, a modern state-of-the-art tractor and plough will be parked outside.

This tradition goes back to the C13th, when a lighted candle (plough light) would be set before a plough in the church on Plough Monday. The plough may be taken around the village and householders would donate some money for the parish funds. The reformation banned plough lights, but the tradition persisted. Up until C20th in many rural areas Plough Monday was a holiday and ploughing matches were held.

In the C18/C19th many of these traditions developed around the country. In the eastern counties, the plough lads adopted a kind of mummers play, which would be toured around the village with the plough. By this time they were collecting money for themselves or 'cadging' as it was known, similar to carol singing and wassailing. The plough might be dressed in flowers and accompanied by a fool and a 'Betsey', a man dressed as a woman. In Gloucestershire they had special songs and rhymes asking people to 'Tip a poor ploughboy... so set us a job and give us a bob'. Certain groups were notorious for cadging 'with menaces'; if the householder did not give generously the plough would be pulled across their lawn.

My thanks to Steve Rowley for his advice in the preparation of this article.

Martin Slinger





## **Painswick Probus**

## Vergeltungswaffen – Retaliation Weapons.

Vergeltungswaffen, retaliation weapons,

the name given by Hitler to what we know better as the V1 and V2 rockets and the subject of a recent talk by

Bill Affleck to Painswick Probus. Germany was prevented from developing armaments following WW1 but not rockets. Initially Hitler was not interested in the V weapons but by 1943, with the state of the war, he was changing his stance.

The V1 was really a small unmanned plane, built of sheet steel to save aluminium for aircraft and propelled by a pulsejet which gave it it's distinctive sound. Range and course were set at launch and a propeller device measured distance and cut the engine over the target. The V1 was catapult launched from a ramp and flew at 3000ft and nearly 400mph which made it difficult to combat with fighter aircraft. Initially concrete launch ramps were built on the French coast but these were easy for the Allies to locate and bomb so moveable launchers were developed.

The first V1 was launched in June 1944, one week after the D-Day landings but by October 1944 the launch sites had been pushed back and London was out of range. Nevertheless a staggering 9,500 V1's were launched at the South East at a rate of 150 per day. The last V1 launch was in March 1945, one month before the end of war in Europe.

The V2 was a totally different proposition – the forerunner of the rockets we know today. A liquid oxygen/alcohol fuelled rocket which reached an altitude of 50 miles and flew at supersonic speeds. Defence with anti-aircraft guns or fighters were futile. The first V2 launch was in September 1944 on Paris and on the same day London was targeted from The Hague. In total 3170 V2's were fired, many at London but more than half at targets in Europe as the Germans retreated. In fact Antwerp received most with 1610 compared to London's 1358.

In many ways a sombre topic but also an interesting and technically fascinating one, very well presented by Bill Affleck.

John Wylde

# **Painswick Playgroup**



# Easter Egg Hunt- Date for your Diary

The annual Painswick Playgroup fundraising egg-stravaganza will take place on Saturday 15th April. The Easter Egg Hunt this year promises to be another great family day out with the traditional trail through the village, a bouncy castle, live music, food stalls and a raffle with fantastic prizes amongst other things! Keep an eye on the Painswick Playgroup Facebook page for more information but make sure the date is in your diary!

Lizzie Bennett



If you haven't been to a Wick-Flix screening yet then you are missing a treat. Painswick's very own Community Cinema is up and running and judging by the feedback from the 70 or so who came to our January screening (Florence Foster Jenkins) it's a great evening out. Wick-Flix is more than just a movie – so come on your own or as a group to the Painswick Centre and meet new friends from across the valley.

We have an exciting line-up planned and now that this initiative has momentum we have some great ideas to build on to make Wick-Flix a must-go fixture in the Village Diary.

Friday 3rd February Bridget Jones's Baby (Cert 15) Britain's most famous and much loved singleton, Bridget Jones's, is back again in this third film in the unconventional romcom series. This time she is expecting!

Friday 3rd March Sully (Cert 12A)

In 2009, Chesley Sullenberger (Tom Hanks) successfully ditched his Airbus on the Hudson River saving the lives of all his crew and passengers. This compelling movie looks behind the scenes at what happened and the subsequent blame game. Bar opens at 7pm. Screening starts at 7.45pm. Entry £6 including one drink. Payment on the door.

You can find out up-to-date information on what's coming up at the dedicated Wick-Flix page: www.thepainswickcentre. com

David Chapman

# **Gyde Almshouses Charity**

Registered Charity Number 201098

A Vacancy has arisen for an Almshouse at Gyde Road Painswick

In order to qualify for an almshouse the applicant must either have been a resident in the Parish of Painswick, Gloucestershire (i.e. the civil Parish of Painswick, Edge, Sheepscombe, Slad and Uplands) for a period of 5 years last preceding his or her appointment or must be a native of the Parish and have been a resident in the Parish for 10 years or periods amounting to not less than 10 years at any time and must be 55 years or older, or be in the opinion of the Trustees by reason of ill health, infirmity or accident unable to maintain himself or herself by his/her own exertions.

For an application form, please contact Mrs S Baker – Clerk to the Trustees, 14 Green Close, Uley, Dursley, Glos. GL11 5TH Tele: 01453 860379

Email: shanibaker7@gmail.com

Closing Date for Applications: 28th February 2017





PRINKNASH ABBEY PARK, NEAR PAINSWICK, GL4 8EU



# **Community Lunches**

This village 'institution' has been going since 1970 (at least), providing homemade vegetable soups, cheese and fresh bread each Monday lunchtime between October and March. For many years it was held at Christ Church Hall in Gloucester Street until in 2010 the church closed down and we moved to Ashwell Centre. Each of the 20 weeks a different village group – from Croft Primary Year 6 to Richmond Village - are hosts, preparing and serving all the lunch

Two of us organise it all – firstly, David Linsell who is Treasurer, banking each week's collection and distributing the year's total to local good causes which YOU, the village, suggest - raising about £1400 each year. Secondly, I, Rita Bishop, am the Coordinator who liases with each group (by e-mail & 'phone) and ensures all the equipment is present at Ashwell. I have done that job since 2010 and now Dave (Bishop!) & I are leaving Painswick after 13 years here to live down in South East London near our daughter and family.

We therefore ask for a new volunteer – or pair – or group! - to take on the task of Coordinator after the end of this session in March. The Lunches seem such a worthwhile activity for this village to continue to raise funds for young and old members of the village.

We welcome ANY suggestions for the future of the Community Lunches. Please contact us:

Rita Bishop (814205) or David Linsell (812464)



By the time you read this, we'll be well into our busiest time of the year. Thousands of people will visit us this month to see the millions of snowdrops that bloom in the valley garden. There are fifteen varieties of snowdrop at the Garden, including the famous Galanthus 'At-

kinsii' which was discovered here by James Atkins, who lived on the estate in the 1800s. It is especially prized for its size and beauty. As well as the snowdrops, this is a good time of year to see the wonderfully long lasting Cyclamen coum and an array of hellebores from deep purples to white.

Over the winter, we've been busy with a number of changes at the Garden, both inside and out. The Coach House (which houses our cafe and shop) has been refurbished to provide more seating, better serving space and a brighter interior for visitors. We also have a brand new coffee machine, capable of serving the finest handmade lattes, cappucini and so on. The Cafe is a popular destination in its own right, thanks to its easy parking and fantastic homemade food.

Meanwhile, the garden team have been busy working on restoring our historic landscape. Like any garden, this one grows and develops, but every now and then, it's good to take a step back, consult historic garden experts and look at our source - in our case, the 1748 paint-ing of the Garden by Thomas Robins. As a result, we have started work on bringing the landscape back in to line with the vision of its 18th century creators, opening up vistas and reinstating some missing details. This spring you will see a brighter, lighter garden emerging.

We hope to see you soon.

Tim Toghill, Volunteer and Trustee



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# Ursula's Titanic endeavour

Ursula Daws is a determined lady. She is cycling in the wake of the Titanic from Portsmouth to New York, a distance of 5473 kilometres. Well, sort of ... Starting on this epic ride early in January, she pedals away on a very sophisticated exercise bike every morning immediately after breakfast, averaging about 10 kilometres a day. She then adds this distance to the tally she is carefully recording with the aim ultimately of completing the full distance.

Ursula is a resident of Richmond Village and she has embarked on this project in memory of a dear friend who was also a resident there and who died very recently. "She was a fantastic and brave person," says Ursula, "very intelligent, a good friend and indeed a friend to everyone. She was a special person." Ursula has in the past completed the Tour de France and the Cotswold Way in similar style in order to raise money for good causes. This time however, she is not fund-raising but doing it simply in her friend's memory.



Ursula has three children and four grandchildren and the family came to live in Sheepscombe in 1987. Twelve years ago she moved into Richmond, a decision she now sees as a blessing. She has suffered from anorexia for 50 years, a complex and debilitating condition little understood even in the medical world. Having undergone several treatments to no avail in the past, in the gym in Richmond she discovered for herself the benefits of working on the exercise bike, a very technological piece of machinery. For her it has proved to be a superlative therapy combined with real enjoyment. Ursula emphasises the fact that finding this out for herself rather than having it imposed by medical experts is very important. A further key feature is the companionship it brings because other people are there too, benefiting in the same way. "It has been my salvation," she says.

When the idea of following the Titanic was suggested she straightaway saw it as a fitting challenge. "I can't do much generally so I'm doing this because I can do it." When asked if she really would do it every day the response immediately and emphatically was, "No question, absolutely!" Spend time with Ursula and you know that she will make it – and of course, at least there will be no icebergs to deal with on this journey!

Carol Maxwell

# Aspects of Painswick.

St. Mary's Flower Guild

As part of the Painswick Summer Arts Festival, St. Mary's Flower Guild will present Aspects of Painswick in flowers, in the Church, from Thursday 24th August to Monday 28th August. Wishing to showcase the many different facets of life, in this village, we would like input in the form of a small donation towards flowers and some relevant artefacts from any society/interest group that would wish to be represented.

In order to facilitate planning, early registration of interest is necessary.

Further details are available from Freda Steed 01452 812 376 or fredasteed@ btinternet.com or any member of the St. Mary's Flower Guild

Freda Steed



## Wildlife and ecology at the National Memorial Arboretum with the Cotteswold Naturalists

On Wednesday 1st March, Jim Brown will be giving a talk on the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA). He will describe how, in just over 10 years, an old gravel pit and landfill site

has become a haven for wildlife as well as a focus for remembrance. This meeting will take place at 2.30 pm in the Painswick Centre and is in anticipation of the Club's 3-day excursion to Historic Leicester, when we will visit the NMA on the journey north to our hotel at Market Bosworth. Bookings are now being accepted for this trip (tel 01453 836618 for a programme and booking form).

A few places are left for our guided walk around Colesbourne Park for snowdrops and other late wintering flowers, starting at 11 am on Thursday 16th February. I have offers of lifts for those without transport. £16 including coffee and introductory talk. Our trip will conclude with an optional lunch at the Colesbourne Inn. Enq. 813228.

We also have a booking on Wednesday 29th March to see the touring exhibition of the Warrior Treasures: Saxon Gold from the Staffordshire Hoard at Bristol Museum. The day will also include visits to the city's two cathedrals - ancient Anglican and modern Catholic, both examples of spectacular architecture. The coach leaves Stamages Lane car park and the cost is £33 including morning coffee and afternoon tea.

Non-members are welcome to our meetings and events. Please contact me for further details.

Jane E Rowe 813228



# **Painswick Music Society Concerts**



Painswick Music Society's 2017 season promises to be an especially memorable one with four Saturday afternoon concerts by internationally recognized artists. The first, on March 25th, is a very welcome return by the violinist Tasmin Little accompanied by John Lenehan with a programme comprising works by Schubert, Franck, Fauré and John Ireland. The Carducci Quartet who play on April 8th, are regular visitors

to St Mary's but on this occasion they will be augmented by the charismatic clarinettist Julian Bliss and friends for a performance of Schubert's great Octet and their programme also includes the Clarinet Quintet by Weber.

The 3rd concert on April 29th is by another of the UK's most distinguished chamber ensembles, the Fibonacci Sequence Piano Trio comprising Daniel Pioro (violin), Benjamin Hughes (cello) and Kathron Sturrock (piano), who will be playing trios by Beethoven, Schubert and Mendelssohn. The final concert on May 13th is by one of the world's greatest choirs, the Sixteen under their founder Harry Christophers, whose programme is entitled Poetry in Music, and includes settings of words by Edmund Spenser, Robert Burns and W H Auden among others, and music ranging from the 16th century to the present day. Composers include Thomas Weelkes, the 19th century Bristol born Robert Pearsall, Britten, Tippett, Howells, Sir James Macmillan and Jonathan Dove, not to mention Gerald Finzi, who lived at Kingsmill here in Painswick in the 1920s



Membership, giving access to all four concerts, costs £45, and individual concert tickets are

priced £18 for April 8th and 29th, £20 for March 25th and £23 for 13th May or £5 for children, can be purchased from The Painswick Pharmacy (01452 812263), online at www.painswickmusicsoc.co.uk, from Dennis Morgan on 01285 821854 (pmsglen@gmail. com) or, subject to availability, at the door. Please note that individual tickets for the Sixteen will not be available until Monday 27th February. The concerts start at 3pm in St Mary's Church Painswick and afternoon tea is available afterwards in the Church Rooms.

Chris Swain



**PMAG** 

What - no German Opera? was felt by some of us when we heard on 5th January that Alex Nichols was indisposed (now greatly improved, happily) and there would be a different programme. Luckily, Howard Allen stepped into the breach with "Folk Music and the Great Composers" and we greatly enjoyed hearing recordings of many well-known major compositions with folk music connections:

Vaughan Williams, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Liszt, Chopin, Grieg, Tchaikovsky, Bartok and Stravinsky.

On 19th January we moved to what was for some of us a lesser-known composition region: Robert Crockford in "A Baltic Cruise" paid a musical visit to each of the Baltic countries with a particular emphasis on local and choral music recordings. In addition to Nielsen, Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, Shostakovitch and Sibelius, there were less well-known composers like Gorecki, Miskinis, Karlsons, Tormis, Rautarvaraa, Crusell, Berwald and Alfven whose music sounded delightfully different.

Ralph Kenber



# **Sports reports**

assembled by John Barrus

# Painswick Golf Club

Last month has been less amenable for golf, with family commitments over the Christmas/New Year period, and then rain and a certain amount of early morning mist. But we are fortunate at Painswick that the course drains well, and there have also been bright clear crisp days that make golf a delight at this time of year.

In the Seniors Section, there have been two competitions since my last report. The January Stableford took place in challenging conditions and won by John Courts with 35 points. And a 5-club Social Bogey competition held on 19th January was won by John Hitchcock with a score of +7. Congratulations to the winners.

The club welcomes visitors – whether golfers wishing to play the course or members of the public wishing to use the clubhouse for refreshments and meals. For more details, please call 01452 812180.



# **Rugby Football**

#### Painswick 19 Minchinhampton 14

On a freezing cold Saturday towards the end of January Painswick met local rivals Minchinhampton in a Gloucestershire Division Two match. The early exchanges indicated that it was likely to be a close game after the Minchinhampton skipper had left the pitch injured it was Painswick who took an early 5:0 lead.

However by halftime it was Minchinhampton just ahead 7:5. In the second half Painswick started well taking the lead again 12:7 but Minchinhampton fought back again to nose ahead14:12. But Painswick had the last word with a late converted try to win 19:14.

After an uninspiring season so far this was a welcomed win by Painswick. Painswick now lie 10th out of 12 in Div 2  $\,$ 



Picture courtesy of the Stroud News and Journal

# Painswick RFC starts the first girls teams in the area

Painswick RFC, is set for another first as its newly formed girls' rugby squad is set to make its mark. Girls from Stroud High, Archway, Kingshill, St Peter's, Churchdown and Gloucestershire International School have joined to form the only girls' teams in the area.

Head coach, Martin Lewis says, "Painswick RFC is a family oriented club driven by a passion for rugby and enjoyment of the game. We make sure everyone is accommodated for, focusing on players having a great time, meeting new friends and most importantly, leaving with a smile on their faces. Starting our girls squad this season was a natural progression in the club and we are all incredibly excited – England's next star could be playing right now."

The club is looking for more players of all ages and abilities to join. Practice takes place on Sundays between 12.00 - 2.00pm at Painswick RFC. Contact: Martin Lewis, T: 07535 643063, E: elmarto@sky.com for further information or just pitch up and play!

Painswick RFC is the oldest village rugby club in England - a fact commemorated in the Museum of Rugby at Twickenham. Early games were played in white or work clothes making it difficult for the players to distinguish who was the opposition. So, the Painswick vicar at the time persuaded his wife to cut up her red curtains for sashes for the home team and the 'Cherry and Whites' name was born. Painswick still proudly wear the colours today. The story goes that Painswick lent Gloucester a set of shirts at their inception, but the Cherry and Whites from Kingsholm never returned them. To commemorate Painswick's 130th anniversary, and to return the favour done by the village side all those years ago, in 2012 Gloucester presented Painswick with the full set of set of Zurich championship winning shirts as worn at Twickenham. Painswick RFC is proud of its long history of providing rugby in the village and surrounding districts. Started by a senior side all those years ago, playing in their work shirts and now providing rugby on Sundays to some 260 mini and junior players.

# Tennis

# Painswick Junior wins GLTA award.

Regi Ristic North, at the recent AGM of the Gloucestershire LTA, was awarded the accolade of 'The Mary Eyre Junior Player of the Year" receiving a certificate and a £100 to be used towards further coaching. The criteria for the award were:

- Enthusiasm and commitment to tennis
- Some competition success
- Loyalty to their club (member of a team, helping younger players etc.)
- Aware of fair play and the spirt of competing
- Potential to develop further

Regi had been nominated by the Painswick Club



# Painswick Theatre Club in 2017

As the year gets going I hope interested residents will be planning to join the Painswick Theatre Club. As many know, the Club is organised for the benefit of members and has for many years offered the opportunity to see selected theatre productions within easy travelling distance. Invitations to join have been sent out but if you are interested and have not received one please contact me, 812575.

Our first outing is to see The Miser, staring Griff Rhys Jones and Lee Mack, in Bath on 11th Feb. At the time of writing I do not know if tickets will still be available but you are welcome to enquire. Other planned visits are to see The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time in Oxford, House and Garden at the Watermill Theatre, near Newbury and Anthony and Cleopatra at the RSC Stratford. *Ross Munro* 

# Capriol Chamber Orchestra

Stroud is very fortunate to have an excellent Chamber Orchestra as well as a Symphony Orchestra. The Capriol Chamber Orchestra plays a wide range of repertoire from Baroque to the present day. It is conducted by Jonathan Trim and led by Cathy Hill. Music lovers are in for a treat at the Capriol Orchestra's next concert on Saturday 11th February at St Mary's Church at 7.30pm where they will hear, Rossini – Overture 'La Cenerentola: Trim – Elegy for Caroline: Holst – St Paul's Suite: Beethoven – Symphony no 7 in A Major.

Tickets are available in advance  $\pm 10/\pm 8$  from orchestra members or the Tourist Information Office, Stroud (01453 760900) or  $\pm 11/\pm 9$  on the door. Accompanied children FREE.



# A walk on the wild side....

Our January meeting took us on a brisk walk through the seasons in the Cotswold countryside. Roger Umpelby, with the aid of some wonderful photos revealed to us our beautiful flora and fauna in close up and encouraged us to look in more detail at some of the things we may take for granted.

On February the 8th we join forces with the Bird Club for a talk by David Priddis, on the 'Wildlife of a Gloucestershire Garden'. As gardeners we understand how important it is to encourage wildlife to help maintain a healthy eco-system, so its sure to be a very popular evening. Do come along, even if you are not a member, the charge is only £4 to include refreshments and a very warm welcome.

There have been a couple of alterations to our 2017 programme, so please do check the website for up-to-date information and as soon as we have confirmation there will be details of our plant sale and outings.

Well we thought we'd finished raking the leaves last Autumn but there seems to be quite a mushy accumulation in odd corners and on paths, so on with the wellies and gloves!!

C & G Bond.



Gill Cannon writes," to those of you who I have not had the opportunity to meet this year Happy New Year. I do hope that you all have a peaceful and fulfilled 2017.



As promised I would like to confirm that the work with the three other agencies Neighbourhood Wardens, Fire and Police continues and I am pleased to confirm the dates of our Painswick surgeries below. We welcome residents from Painswick but also from the outlying villages to join us if there are any issues affecting you or people you are concerned about. We will be holding surgeries in our other local villages and these will be advertised locally and through the Parish Clerk.

Our Community Safety surgeries will take place in Painswick Town Hall between 10am and 11am on the following Wednesdays; 1st and 29th March, 26th April, 24th May, 21st June, 19th July, 16th August, 13th September, 11th October, 8th November, 6th December.

Whilst we look forward to the spring we must remember that evenings are still relatively short and the weather still likely to be inclement. I would urge everyone to think of those in our communities who are less able to get out and about and could suffer isolation at this time of the year. If you are concerned about anyone in your neighbourhood please do not hesitate to contact me and I will do all I can to help.

Gloucestershire Trading Standards and the Fire and Rescue Service are warning people of the dangers of using cheap electrical chargers following recent incidents. Batteries or chargers without overload protection can overheat, leading not only to electrocution and burns, but they can explode and cause serious house fires with potentially tragic circumstances.

Gloucestershire Trading Standards and the Fire and Rescue Service offer the following advice:

- Only use reputable original manufacturer devices and electrical cables.
- Use the correct charger supplied with the device not a USB port on a computer.
- Don't leave appliances charging for long periods of time they should be removed from the power source when they are charged.
- Don't attempt to charge a battery, which looks as if could have been damaged or dropped.
- Don't cover items when you are charging them
- Don't overload extension cables with multiple appliances.
- Make sure you have a smoke alarm and test it regularly.

The Village Agent scheme is county wide, helping over 50's with information and support. Please call me to arrange a home visit or email me and I will be in touch." gcannon@ villageagent.grcc.org.uk. 07776 245767

## **PROPERTY REPORT for January from Hamptons International**

In writing my first article for 2017 I feel obliged to wish everyone a Happy New Year but in reality this seems a long time ago and February is looming. We've avoided the perils of snow so far this winter but the worst weather may still lie ahead! This year has truly got off to a flying start in the property market. We have already agreed more sales in January than in any year since 2007 and we still have a week to go! What is more reassuring is that this activity is across a broad cross section of the market and not only restricted to the lower end as we often find at the start of the year in Painswick.

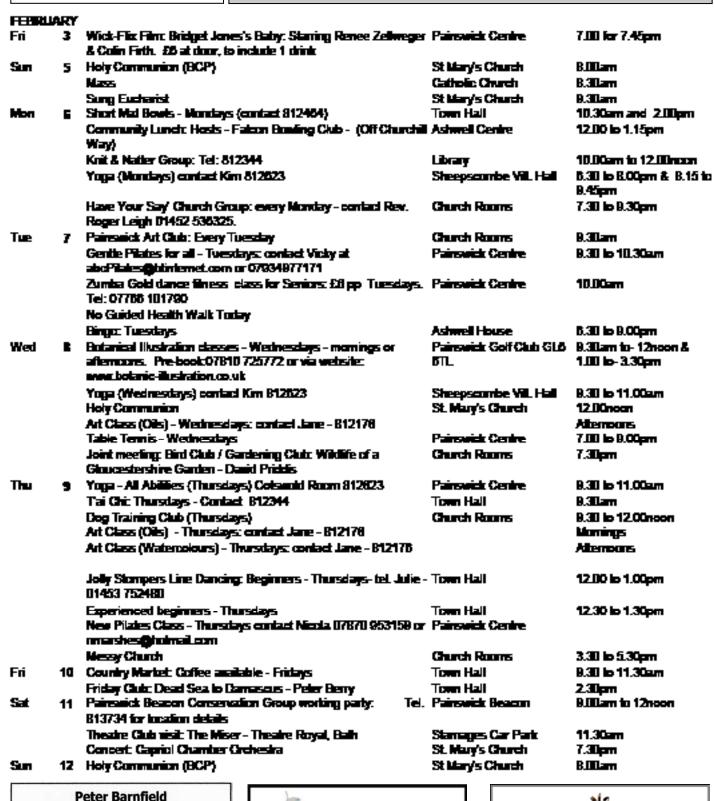
Hamptons International research has identified that last year 74,000 Londoners bought homes outside of the Capital. This is an increase of 15% on 2015 and the highest number since 2007 with a staggering 40% of first time buyers living in London ending up buying outside the Capital. With this in mind, I am pleased to report that here at Hamptons we are not simply listing your properties on Rightmove, Zoopla and around 40 other websites in the hope of finding a buyer – we are pro-actively taking properties up to London to present them to prospective buyers. On Saturday 4 March we will be making the most of our extensive network of London offices by taking over five of those offices in the latest of our very successful Roadshow events profiling the best of our properties to active London buyers. If you want your property to be included in this exclusive event, instruct us to sell your house before 24 February and you're on your way!

We have lots more exciting events lined up for the year ahead including an exciting partnership with Disney and once again we will be a headline sponsor for the Gatcombe Festival of British Eventing but more about this in due course. If you happen to be passing Tesco in Stroud on Friday 3 February do please pop in and drop a coin in our bucket to help raise funds for Cancer Research UK. Finally, I wish to thank all the youngsters who took part in our "Santa Stop Here" competition and to congratulate our winner, 4-year old Cameron Lansdowne, who is now the proud owner of a Mini Micro Scooter – pedestrians of Painswick beware!

Guy Tabony, Branch Manager



The Painswick Beacon detailed as far as space permits



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Sun	12	Hely Communica (BCP)	St Mary's Church	8.00am
		Mars	Catholic Church	8.3 Dam
		Informal Holy Communion	St. Mary's Church	9.30am
nom	13	Probus Womer: History of Skoud - Ian Machinicsh	Church Rooms	10.00 for 10.30am
		Community Lunch: Hosts - Friday Gub - (Of Churchill Way)	Ashwell Centre	12.00 lo 1.15pm
Tue	14	Guided Health Walk (one hour) Tuesdays. Eng. 813228	Town Hall	2.15 km 2.30pm
Wed		Problem From Medicine to Movies and Back - Dr Tom Shannon		10.0Cam
		Evening Prayer	St. Mary's Church	5.00pm
		Paircalick Beacon Conservation Group Information evening:	Painswick Golf Club	7.00pm
		Ever nondered what we are up to? Come & find out		
			Town Hall	7.7
Thu	46	Parish Council Meeting Colleswold Naturalists' Guided Walk for Snowdrops: Pre-book		7.30pm 10.45 fer 11.00am
1 114		on B13228		10.463 KBP 11.00ABM
		Music Appreciation Group: Nore from an escenitic collector	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sun	15	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's Church	B.Mlam
		Mass	Catholic Church	B.3Ilam
		Sung Eucharist	St Mary's Church	9.3 Usini
Mon	20	Copy Date for March Beacon		
		Community Lunch: Hosis - Richmond Village - (Off Churchil	Ashwell Centre	12.00 lo 1.15pm
-				
Tue	•	Colleswold Naturalists Talk & Teac Ethiopia Renisiled: Southern Tribes - Ann Dickinson: Eng. 01453 836618		2.30pm
		No Guided Health Walk Today		
		Local History Society: Anglo Saxon Gloucestershire -Carolyn	Graft School	7.30pm
		Heightapy		<b>-</b>
Fri		Friday Club: Kalherine Pan' - Matthew Bottomly	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	25	· · · · · · ·	Painwick Beacon	B.III.am to 12noon
<b>6</b> -	~	B13734 for location details		o <b>m</b>
Sun	~	Holy Communica (BCP) Mass	St Mary's Church Gatholic Church	BITLE IN BATLE IN
		Pairsaid: Praise	St Mary's Church	9.30am
Mon	77	Community Lunch: Hests - Eint Gub (Off Churchill Way)	Asharel Centre	12.00io 1.15pm
Tue		Guided Health Walk (one hour) Tuesdays. Eng. 813228	Town Hall	2.15 for 2.30pm
		Yew Trees W.J.: Objects of Interest - Sandra Asheniord	Church Rooms	7.30pm
MARC				
Wed	1	Probus: African Elephants - David Lemon	Pairwick Centre	10.0Cam
		Colleswold Naturalists Lecture: Wildlife & Ecology at National Memorial Arboretum - Jim Brown. Eng. 813228	Painswick Centre	2.30pm
Thu	,	Nusic Appreciation Group: Handel	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri		Wick Fix Screening: Sully - 25 at door to include 1 drink	Painwick Centre	7.00 for 7.45pm
Sat		Narch Issue of The Painswick Beacon published		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
		Beacon Village Quiz	Pairweich Centre	7.00 fer 7.30pm
Mon		Knit and Natler Group	Library	10.0Cem
		Community Lunch: Hosts - Painsaick Beacon Conservation	Ashwell Centre	12.00 lo 1.15pm
-	-	Group - (OF Churchill Way)		
Tue	•	Guided Health Walk (one hour) Tuesdays. Eng. 813228 Bird Club: Professional Wildlife Artist - Jackie Gamer will show	Town Hall Town Hall	2.15 fer 2.30pm
		paintings, followed by AGM		7.30pm
Wed		Gardening Club: Colour & Form in the Garden - Tom Burns	Church Rooms	7.30pm
Fri		Friday Club outing to Mahem Pricry		
Sat			Painswick Beacon	9.00am to 12noon
		B13734 for location details		
Mon	13	Probus Women: The Glamorgan Henilage Coast - Rose Healet	Church rooms	10.00 fer 10.30am
		Community Lunch: Hosts - Park Residents - (Off Churchill Way)	Ashwell Centre	12.00 lo 1.15pm
Wed	15	Probuss A Ride Round England: One Man, One Horse, 30	Painswick Centre	10.0Cem
		Cathedrais & 2,700 miles - William Residancey		
		<u> </u>		

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

PLANNING MATTERS Information received from the Parish Council

#### **NEW APPLICATIONS**

S.17/0040/FUL LAND AT TERRENO, Longridge, Sheepscombe

Erection of self-build two bedroom 'ecohome'.

S.17/0050/HHOLD TARN HOUSE. Court Orchard

Remove existing utility room and replace it with a larger building to form a kitchen extension.

S.17/0063/HHOLD WORGANS BARN, Folly Lane

Removal of existing porch and construction of a two storey extension. Removal of existing lean-to outbuilding and the construction of a self contained unit/annex to the main dwelling. Changes to windows. Installation of a new sewage treatment plant.

S.16/2845/TCA THE CLOTH HALL, New bathroom cabinet £25. Youth's moun-New Street

1m

S.17/0005/TDAY Kingsmead

T1 Dead Ash trunk, ivy covered with Large 8' x 3' pine kitchen table - end/ extensive rot base/hollow stem - Fell. S.17/0152/HHOLD & S.15/0153/LBC HAZELBURY COTTAGE, Edge Road Rebuild section of wall.

#### CONSENT

S.16/2582/HHOLD MAGPIE HOUSE, Lower Washwell Lane Side extension, first floor extension and

new dormer windows. S.16/2528/HHOLD CARTERS

COTTAGE, Hammonds Farm, Wick Street. Proposed construction of two storey

extension, new garage block and alterations to existing porch.

S.16/2461/FUL DUTCHCOMBE FARM, Yokehouse Lane

Erection of one dwelling to replace the former fire damaged farmhouse.

S.16/2123/LBC THE OLD HOUSE, Slad

Repairs and replacement of roof to the outbuilding/store within the boundary of the listed property. Rebuild roadside supporting wall as recently damaged and now leaning.

S.16/2623/FUL LAND AT EDGE HILL BUNGALOW, The Green, Edge Lane



Erection of a covered yard for livestock. S.16/2617/FUL FIRE STATION, Pullens Road

Conversion of former fire station into two dwelling houses, including required demolition and extension.

S.16/2750/HHOLD ROSE COTTAGE, Catswood Lane

Construction of first-floor extension (resubmission of application S.16/2001/ HHOLD)

#### WITHDRAWN

S.16/2251/HHOLD GROVES CLOSE, Stroud Road, Edge.

Extension, alterations, new entrance porch, pool and detached garage.



tain bike excellent condition £25. Set of Yew - trim all over and reduce height by three ornamental copper pans £30. Various brass, copper and wicker plant containers £5 LATCHETTS, each. Tel. 01453 764544

> centre footbars - £265 ono - 07769674525 for picture/details.

> 42" Colour TV for sale £20. Excellent condition, eight years old, would need a freeview/sat box Tel 812942

> For Sale: Indesit Freezer will fit under worktop. Perfect condition, hardly used. £50. Buyer collects. Please telephone 813122.

> Advanced single building plot for sale. Quarter acre adjoining Edge Road with PP for a 4-bed house. Enquiries to Edward Young. Tel 07876 502991.

Mini-Ads and Business Primarily for Painswick residents Text maximum 30 words. Flat charge £5. Mini-Ads free to subscribers. Provide text, your name, address and contact details with payment in advance Deadline as for all copy (see back page). More info: call Peter Rowe 813228, or email: advertising.beacon@painswick.net

#### **Tree Surgery Garden Maintenance** Seasoned Firewood

Garden maintenance Fencing

Hedge trimming Patio cleaning

Fraser Hall Brookthorpe Gloucestershire 07766 132903 Fully qualified and insured

# BUSINESS

A cosy cottage for two beside the coastal path in the Pembrokeshire National Park. Dog friendly, holiday let. www.dyfedcottage.com

Need help around the house? Cleaning, ironing, etc. Call Jo on 07783 672245

Wanted - Part-time Maintenance Technician with electrical knowledge for 24 hours per week, £8.00-£9.00 per hour depending on experience. Please send your CV to lorraine.mills@richmond-villages.com

Weekend Babysitter! Teenage boy (15) with experience of x3 boys under 9 years - available for babysitting at week-ends/ school holidays - £6.50 an hour - good references available! Please phone/text Archie 07443 643386

Painswick Home & Garden: - providing a choice, service, value & knowledge. Decorating & home renovation, stone & brickware. Bespoke log & wheelie bin stores, fencing, paving & drives. Call 07532 111114 or email PainswickHG@ hotmail.co.uk

Personal homecare: Swithin Fry 01452 813274 swithinfry@gmail.com. Registered with Heartfeltcare.co.uk. Autobiography audio service: Record your life story in the comfort of your own armchair! Enquiries as above.

Private hire / Cabs. Airport transfers. Call Jason 01452 812037 or 07810 212837

Bring your "Beacon" to Prinknash Bird & Deer Park's New Visitor Centre. Purchase one hot drink and get one free! Open daily 10.00 - 5.00. Valid February 2017. Free Parking.

Superb Dexter Beef ready mid-February mixed boxes - Roasting joints, steaks, braising, casseroling cuts, mince and steaks included. Excellent value - £100 per box. Tel. 812879





# 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.

## Congratulations

To PERCY AND MARGARET FRANKLIN who are celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary on February 11th.

## Condolences

To the family and friends of PENELOPE HOPE FOWLER of Gloucester Street, Painswick who died peacefully on December 29th in her 90th year. She was the widow of Jim Fowler and mother of Mark and Sarah. A thanksgiving service was held at St Mary's on Friday January 13th.

## Thank You

To all my lovely friends for their kindness and generosity after my short stay in Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. I'm doing well and am pleased to be home. HELEN BAKER.

To the kind man who took my grey leather school bag into his house and found my details to return it to me when I left it at the bus stop. ALICE BRADLEY.

PIPPA DICKINSON would like to thank all those who joined in this year's carol singing. We raised £185 for Shelter. Well done everybody! However a number of torches were not recovered; if you have one still in your coat pocket could you call me on 812965. They are my bike lights and are much missed on dark winter evenings.



# **Police Report**

'Firstly I'd like to introduce myself, I'm Police Community Support Officer Debbie Collicott based at Stroud Police Station. I recently took over from Colin Drewett who retired after many years of service to the area.

My experience, having been in this role for eleven years, was previously covering the Stonehouse area.

For those of you interested in crime statistics I am able to update you that there were a total of five crimes reported during the period 1st January 2016 to the 21st January 2016. These consisted of a selection of burglaries, criminal damage, and on line fraud. I'm pleased to say crimes for the period 1st January 2017 to the 21st January 2017 have seen a marked decline, with only two crimes being reported, both thefts.

Should you need to contact me please feel free to email me on Debbie.Collicott@ gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk or to report criminal activity please call our non-emergency number 101 for assistance. Obviously in an emergency situation don't hesitate to call 999.'

The Beacon has been asked by readers to try to give a more detailed analysis of crimes in our area and perhaps a review of outcomes. This issue will be taken up with Debbie. Below are the crimes reported for November taken from the Police Web site.

Golf Course Road area Canton Acre Gloucester Street Hyett close Victoria Street Criminal damage and arson Violence or sexual offence Anti social behaviour (ASB) ASB Damage to buildings & vehicles. Under investigation Unable to proceed

Investigation complete



# Parish Council garage burns down.

As indicated in the above Police report the Parish Council garage off Golf Course Road was burnt to the ground by vandals in November. A replacement double garage has been agreed at the recent Council Meeting. NEXT ISSUE Publication date SATURDAY

March 4th 2017

Deadline for all copy MONDAY February 20th

for editorial attention only use **beacon@painswick.net** 

or hard copy - preferably typed Beacon post box - New Street

All copy must include author, address and contact telephone number. Photographs and advertising art work original at 600dpi in JPEG

#### web site - about us www.painswickbeacon.org.uk

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

### The Beacon Team

Co-ordinating Editor this month

Terry Parker 812191 terence5545@btinternet.com

**Editing Associates** 

John Barrus 812942 barrusjp@yahoo.co.uk Alastair Jollans 814263 apjbeacon@gmail.com

Next Month's Editor Alastair Jollans 814263 apjbeacon@gmail.com

Personal Column Vicky Aspinall 812379 rgrasp@tiscali.co.uk

Diary Edwina Buttrey 812565 mikeandeddie@thebuttreys.com

Feature writer and DirectoryCarol Maxwell813387Carolmaxwell@talktalk.net

Sport John Barrus 812942 barrusjp@yahoo.co.uk

Distribution Celia Lougher 812624 celia@lloydstone.plus.com

**Treasurer** Richard Aspinall 812379 rgrasp@tiscali.co.uk

Advertising Peter Rowe 813228 advertising.beacon@painswick.net

Subscriptions Jacek Wolowiec 813295 subscriptions. beacon@painswick.net