

The Painswick Beacon

Sine praeiudicio

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March 2018

Traffic calming survey to be carried out

At the recent Parish Council meeting, Traffic Committee Chairman Cllr Abigail Smith proposed that the following question be put to the public. "Would you support the installation of physical traffic calming measures (eg speed cushions, speed tables, pedestrian islands) in the 20mph zone along the A46 and B4073? Yes/No". The proposal to carry out a survey was given unanimous support. The proposal stemmed from the meeting of the Traffic Committee in December when County Council Highways Officer, Mr Dan Tiffney, told the meeting that for the County Council to give consideration to the introduction of speed cushions and other measures the following would be necessary: a survey to be carried out with a minimum 20% response from the electorate to the question along the lines "Do you support traffic calming measures? If there was a majority in support the Parish Council would be required to match fund the total amount which was estimated to be between £3k and £5k. There would be a requirement to seek to have the proposal, both survey and ultimate scheme, included in the County Council's budget which is set in February each year.



Vehicles negotiate one of several 'speed tables' that calm traffic along Stonehouse High Street

Following a request by the Parish Council the Beacon agreed to distribute the enclosed questionnaire with this edition.

... and progress on the missing link?

Highways England have published two alternative options to complete the notorious 'missing link' in the A417, between Nettleton and the Air Balloon pub and on down the hill to Brockworth. Over the last five years there have been 52 injury accidents on this stretch and 5 fatal accidents, as well as huge congestion and pollution. Now a period of consultation runs until 29th March, with a series of consultation events in the area and information points, including one at Stroud Library. The final Consultation event will be at Henley Bank High School in Brockworth from noon to 8pm on Thursday 8th March.

Some 30 different options have been reviewed as part of the process, including more radical, but more expensive, options involving tunnels, but only two options are included in the final consultation. They both involve new sections of dual carriageway bypassing the Golden Heart to the north, the main difference being that one then curves back to the current route past Birdlip, while the preferred option continues across open countryside. Both loop round towards the Air Balloon and involve demolition of this pub before swinging down the hill. Both schemes have three lanes going up Crickley Hill and two lanes going down, and either scheme would cost just under £500m. The similarity of the schemes raises some questions about the value of the consultation. After consultation, there will be a decision on the preferred route in late 2018. Work is unlikely to start before 2020 and would take around 3 years to complete.

April issue of Beacon

Would all contributors, advertisers and distributors please note that the April issue is to be published this year on Easter Saturday, 31st March, and not on the usual first Saturday of the month. The copy deadline is on Monday 19th March.

40 years of the Beacon

Next month's edition of the Beacon is of particular significance as it marks the fortieth anniversary of the journal's first publication. The Beacon team has been very grateful to those parishioners who over the years have helped in different ways with the journal's production, not least the distributors, advertisers and subscribers without whom the Beacon could not have flourished. The changes in production methods since 1978 have been astonishing. In those early days, a manual typewriter was used and as computers had yet to become a household feature, contributions had to be typed and placed into columns. Now, virtually all items for publication are emailed in typed form and the use of Desk Top Publishing means that the items can be taken directly into the draft Beacon pages.

The anniversary is also the occasion for Eddie Buttrey, one of the original team that produced the Beacon 40 years ago to step down - see story on page 3.

Route 66

Stagecoach has introduced a number of changes to its bus routes and times with effect from Sunday 18th February. The 61 has become the 66. It still connects Cheltenham with Stroud along the A46 through Painswick but its destination after Stroud is now Gloucester via Stonehouse and Standish. It remains an hourly service through Painswick in both directions. During the day on weekdays, buses from the church are at 11 minutes past the hour to Stroud and mostly at 5 to the hour to Cheltenham. Other times mornings and evenings. Copies of the revised timetables are available from the Community Library and the Parish Council Office.



Easter Egg Hunt Saturday 31st March

The Easter Egg Hunt organised by Painswick Playgroup is now an important fixture in Painswick's calendar. This year it's on Saturday 31st March from 12 noon to 4 pm, starting and finishing in the Churchyard and following a trail around the village. Bouncy castle, face painters, stalls, music, parachuting teddy bears. Maybe even a visit from the Easter Bunny.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS from the Council meeting on February 21st 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.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chairman Cllr Rob Lewis opened the Meeting and as there were no public questions moved swiftly on to the Agenda.

Apologies for absence

The Council accepted apologies for absence from Cllrs Edd Crownshaw, Roey Parker, James Cross, Ian James, Steve Morris and Abigail Smith.

Matters Arising not on this Agenda

Chairman Rob Lewis advised the Meeting that at long last the ongoing problems with the District Council's Planning Portal had been resolved. Both local Parish Councils and members of the public could now access and comment on online Planning Applications.

Cllr Lewis then discussed guidelines for site visits by the Planning Committee. If a Cllr thought that a site visit was necessary they should contact either the Clerk or Deputy Clerk. Currently site visits were arranged on a Saturday morning but if that was not convenient for Cllrs please advise the Clerk and an alternative day would be agreed. Once it was agreed that a site Meeting was required the Clerk would e-mail all members of the Planning Committee and a date would be agreed.

Matters requiring a decision

There were eight matters requiring a decision:

- S.18/0083/HHOLD STEPPING STONE COTTAGE, Kings Mill Lane. Erection of extensions and replacement garage. There was one objection from a neighbour. The proposed two storey replacement garage, with a pitched roof and windows on the second storey, would not only block light into their garden but mean their property would be overlooked from the windows. It was unanimously agreed to object to the application.
- S.17/2879/HHOLD THE GREEN HOUSE, The Green, Edge. Extension to rear of house. As the plans were not yet available and a 3 week extension had

been granted by the District Council it was unanimously agreed to defer this Application to the next Planning Meeting.

- S.18/0197/FUL EDGEcombe, Edge Lane. Single dwelling. The Chairman advised the Council that an Application to erect a single dwelling, on the site, had been supported in 2015. However the revised plans were of a futuristic" design including a copper clad pitched roof and a copper fascia. There were objections on the web site. After a discussion it was unanimously agreed to object to the application, the proposed cladding was out of keeping with the area.

- S.18/0217/FUL 4 COURT ORCHARD. Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of three bungalows. The Chairman reminded the Committee that they had agreed to support a previous application at their October Meeting, subject to a report by the District Council's Tree Officer. As there were still objections on the web site and two letters of objection had been received by the Parish Council, the applicant had now requested that his application be discussed by the District Council's Development Control Committee. After a discussion, it was unanimously agreed to support the application but to ask that it be considered by the Council's Development Control Committee to allow greater transparency.

- S.18/0320/HHOLD CYPRUS COTTAGE, Sheepscombe. Rear extension. Unanimous support, subject to confirmation from the Ward Councillors who were not present at the Meeting.

- S.18/0327/LBC WOODSIDE HOUSE, Slad Road, Slad. Internal works. Unanimous support.

- S.18/0290/HHOLD and S.18/0291/LBC THE BARN (Hill Farm) Conversion of existing building to provide ancillary habitable accommodation and new car port. After a long discussion the Committee unanimously agreed to object to the application due to the size of the proposed new car port and the impact it would have its surroundings. However, there was unanimous support for the proposed conversion of the existing buildings.

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Cllr Martin Slinger opened the Meeting and asked if there were any public questions.

Public Questions

Mr Ross Munro thanked the Council for the prompt action they had taken to quickly arrange a Health and Safety Certificate and Public Liability cover and the Volunteers who had worked hard, despite the weather, to ensure that the Christmas Lights were displayed on the Yew Trees in the Churchyard. He asked the Council to consider owning the Christmas Lights as the previous owners no longer seem to be in operation. The Council agreed to assume ownership of the lights, subject to there being sufficient volunteers. The Council appointed Cllr Dawn Dart to act as its "Christmas Lights Lead Councillor." She will liaise with Mr Munro.

Apologies for absence

The Council accepted apologies for absence from Cllrs James Cross, Roey Parker, Steve Morris, Ed Crownshaw and Steve Morris.

County Councillor's report

County Cllr Keith Ripington was not present but his report to Cllrs had been circulated prior to the Meeting. The Clerk, Roy Balgobin, advised the Meeting that the Highways Local Funding, awarded to each County Councillor, had been increased from £10k to £20k during the setting of the County Council's Budget.

District Councillor's Report

District Cllr Nigel Cooper commented on the District Council's Meeting due to be held on the 22nd February. It was anticipated that the Merrywalks Shopping Centre would be acquired by Dransfield Properties who planned to carry out a regeneration of the Centre. They had approached the District Council for a £2m loan. The proposed increase in the Councils proportion of Council Tax is 2.99%.

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To consider public consultation on traffic calming measures

Cllr Abigail Smith, Chair of the Traffic Committee, advised that in recent months the County Council had indicated that if the Council could demonstrate strong public support for the installation of physical traffic calming measures - speed cushions, speed tables or pedestrian islands in the 20mph zone along the A46 and B4073 - they would consider this further. Cllr Smith recommended that the Council hold a public consultation by way of a survey questionnaire, to canvass the views of the local community. It is vital that the survey is completed by the end of March if the cost of the works are to be included in the 2018/19 County Council Budget. If the result is in favour of physical traffic calming measures then the County Council will undertake a site study and design. At that stage, a public exhibition of the scheme details can be arranged.

To consider various projects and funds

The Council agreed to a request from Cllr Abigail Smith that a sum of £3.5k be set aside for any possible survey needs as a result of the physical traffic calming measures consultation.

The County Council has created a new fund - "Growing our Communities Fund" - with a grants Programme that invests in Active Communities by supporting projects and activities that will make a positive difference to local Communities.

The level of funding is £30k over a three year period, spread over each County Councillor's Ward. It is suggested that the fund should be used to support community initiatives that:

- contribute to identifying and reducing social isolation
- develop self supporting community hubs
- digital/virtual support networks
- promote healthy lifestyles
- support safer neighbourhoods

As well as Parish Councils, Community or Voluntary Groups, Registered Charities, Schools, and in some cases Religious Groups, can also apply for funding. Any application must be supported by our local County Councillor.

Responsible Financial Officer Report

- The Council agreed payments in accordance with the report circulated by the Clerk
- The Council agreed to appoint Ian Crowe FA as the Council's Internal Auditor for the year to 31st March 2018
- The Council noted that the Internal Financial Controller had conducted the internal financial checks

Ward Reports

Chairman, Cllr Martin Slinger, expressed his concern that the "pay machine" in Stamages Lane car park was not functioning correctly. Clerk, Roy Balgobin, reported that the problem

had been reported on 3 occasions to the District Council. Despite visits by Engineers the problem is still ongoing. District Councillor Nigel Cooper will investigate the matter with the appropriate Council Officers.

Cllr Ann Daniels reported that the footpath along Pullens Road has not been cleaned and that there are large leaf deposits on the pavements.

Cllr Rosie Nash reported that the Street Sign in Vicarage Street is still missing. The Clerk reported that the matter had been reported to the District Council. District Councillor will investigate. Also that the Church Donation Box, sited in one of the external pillars has been stolen. The Clerk confirmed that the PCC were aware and the matter is now subject to a Police investigation. Plus the drain outside the Nurses House was blocked. The Clerk confirmed that the matter had been reported to County Highways.

Cllr Mike Fletcher reported that the grass verges at the junction of Pullens Road/A46 were being damaged by vehicles driving over them when turning left. The Traffic Committee will investigate and seek a solution.

Eddie Buttrey 40 years of service

An important feature in the Beacon for many years has been the village diary. This was first included in the second edition and has appeared in the journal every month to the present day. The member of the Beacon team responsible for the diary's production throughout that period has been Eddie Buttrey (pictured below), who is now taking the opportunity to step down. Forty years is a long time and all will be grateful to Eddie for such dedication. We will have the opportunity to express the Beacon team's appreciation more formally at an event next month.



Eddie Buttrey

The Beacon is delighted that Vicky Aspinall has agreed to assume responsibility for the production of the diary.



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Painswick Probus Mountain Rescue and Stroke Awareness

At the end of January Vince Williams came to talk to Painswick Probus about mountain rescue in the UK. When required a Mountain Rescue Team of volunteers will be called out by the Police in response to a 999 call. Their skills are often used, along with their colleagues in SARDA (Search And Rescue Dogs Association), to locate persons missing due to illness or other mishap while walking or climbing in difficult terrain.



On St Valentine's Day Jen Robinson-Slater spoke about stroke awareness and the role of the Stroke Association charity. Survival rates have doubled in recent years but the incidence of strokes is rising due to longer life expectancy and lifestyle changes. The Association directs its efforts in three ways: research into stroke prevention, support for stroke victims, and campaigning for better treatment, which is still a bit of a postcode lottery.

Key points:

1. Follow the FAST principles even if the symptom(s) are short-lived. "Time lost is brain lost."
2. Measure and record your blood pressure regularly – the Pharmacy can do this for you free of charge and advise what to do if the pressure is too high.

Much more information is contained in a longer report at our website: http://painswickprobus.org.uk/?page_id=83

Henry Hall

Women's Probus Katherine Parr

On 12th February we enjoyed a fascinating insight into the life of Katherine Parr, the surviving wife of Henry the VIII. Our speaker, Mike Bottomley was dressed as Miles Coverdale, a court official of the time. He told us of Katherine's fairly lowly birth at Kendal and her parents' determination to educate her and her siblings, to enable them to marry well. Although her father died when she was five years old, her mother was a determined woman.

Katherine was married four times, first to Edward Burgh, of Gainsborough Old Hall, Edward died and she is widowed at 19 years old. She then marries John Neville, Lord Latimer, who was very rich and owned many castles. They resided at Snape Castle in Yorkshire. He dies after falling out with the King, so she inherits his estate.

In 1543, she moves to London, where her brother and sister are part of the court, her sister Ann was the only maid of honour to all Henry's six wives. It is here that Katherine meets Thomas Seymour, whom she falls in love with. Henry then proposes to Katherine and she feels it is her duty to marry the King, which she does. Henry trusts her to the extent he makes her Queen Regent whilst he is away fighting in France, he also bestows on her many gifts and jewels.

They are married for three years and then Henry dies; fairly soon after she renews her acquaintance with Seymour, and eventually they also marry. Katherine dies at the age of 35, soon after giving birth to a daughter, Mary.

We were grateful for a very informative and well-illustrated talk. Our speaker, next month is Angela Newman, her talk is entitled "From Bahrain to the UK by Volvo". Visitors are welcome, at a cost of £3, so come for coffee at 10.00am, talk starts at 10.30, on Monday 12th March.

Sarah Taylor

Music Appreciation Group

February was a busy month for the Club with two Meetings and a Concert Outing to Oxford. On the 1st Anwen Walker spoke to us about her life-long love of the Harp. She reflected not only on the long history of its construction but also on the playing of such a magnificent instrument. She illustrated her talk with several examples of Harp music composed over many centuries. Importantly members were enthused by her knowledge, enthusiasm and wit which shone through her presentation.



A few days later on the 4th we went to the Oxford Coffee Concert, held in the Hollywell Music Room, and set in the middle of old Oxford Colleges. Built in 1748 it is the first purpose-built Concert Hall in Britain. We listened to the Carducci String Quartet play the Hayden String Quartet No 4 and then Bartok's String Quartet No 1 which nearly brought the house down! Being so close to the musicians made you feel part of this stunning concert.

The 15th saw the return of our Chairman, Alex Nichols, who gave an exhilarating talk on the French Composer, Jules Massenet. During his life Massenet composed over 40 operas, 4 ballets, 300 plus songs and numerous orchestral and piano pieces. We listened to extracts from Don Quichotte, Werther, Thais and Manon. A very enjoyable evening.

What's in store for March? On the 1st, we have Tim Brain returning to present the life and works of Ralph Vaughan-Williams. On the 15th, Dennis Morgan will be presenting an intriguingly entitled talk on "Music Moving Pictures". Finally on the 29th David Simpson will be presenting music from his ten favourite piano compositions.

Our Meetings start at 7.30pm and are held in the Lower Hall in the Town Hall. Why not join us for an interesting and stimulating evening of light Classical Music!

Mike Kerton

Fairtrade Wine Tasting Saturday 10th March

11.30am to 1pm at the St Mary's Church Rooms. £3.50 on the door. Everyone welcome. Fairtrade Fortnight is this year between 26th February and 11th March. Painswick is an accredited Fairtrade community. This means the local committee encourages local shops and eating places to use items of food and drink designated "Fairtrade". The purpose of Fairtrade is to ensure farmers and workers in Third World countries are paid an agreed fair rate for their produce.



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Yew Trees WI Stress Management and Sleep

Christopher Piper Short provided salted almonds from Spain to go with the mulled wine at the opening of the meeting on 23rd January, 2018. Subscriptions were paid for the coming year and we were very pleased to welcome some new members. However, tributes were paid and a minute's silence was observed for Marion Sadler who died recently, as she had been a loyal and long-standing member.



The speaker for the evening was Janet Dowling, a clinical hypnotherapist, who took for her theme "Stress Management and the Importance of Sleep". She made it clear that we cannot remove stress from our lives but there are strategies that we can adopt to deal with anger, anxiety and depression. It is essential to try and get eight hours sleep in every twenty four hours when we can process the accumulated stress of the day. If we do not do so stress builds up. Positive activity, interaction and thinking can make us focus on the things that we can do and such distractions can lead to a happier life. The talk was thought-provoking and made us consider the ways in which we might improve our well-being.

Some of us went to an entertaining talk by Michael Portillo in Cheltenham. This was engaging for it encompassed stories of his former political life, family involvement in the Spanish Civil War, worldwide railway journeys and, of course, sartorial splendour. Now we are looking forward to a planned theatre visit and some outdoor excursions when the weather improves. Do join us.

The next meeting will be on 27th March at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms when Ged Cassell will talk on "Galapagos: Darwin and Evolution"

Janet Jenkins

Maritime History with the Cotteswold Naturalists

At our next meeting on March 7th at 2.30 pm in the Painswick Centre, Ken Ingamells will talk about 'the Search for the North West Passage'. For over 300 years explorers risked their lives to search the Arctic for a sea-passage between the Atlantic and Pacific, with the aim of establishing lucrative trading routes between Europe and Asia.

Closer to home, we have two local trips organised: on 15th March, a tour of National Star College, at Ullenwood, near Cheltenham which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. The College provides specialist further education, training and residential services for people with disabilities and acquired brain injuries. A choice of tour is available, either morning or afternoon. Cost is £10 to include a donation and refreshments in the College's award-winning Bistro.

Then, on Thursday 22nd March, we shall visit Coate Country Park, near Swindon, using the lakeside walks and bird hides to look for wildlife. Our visit is timed to coincide with the young herons noisily anticipating their parents' next visit to the heronry with a beakful of fish.

Booking for our main programme begins on 7th March with visits to St. Fagans National Museum of Welsh History and The Royal Mint (14th June), Wells Cathedral and the Bishops Palace and Garden (25th July), the SS Great Britain & the new 'Being Brunel' Museum, Bristol Harbourside (23rd August) and a 2-night, 3-day Autumn visit to St Albans, where the first Christian martyr St. Alban died at the hands of the Romans at Verulamium. Contact me for more details.

Jane Rowe 813228

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Painswick Gardening Club Spring is Springing

I love this time of the year although I'd prefer a bit more warmth! Sowing, hoeing and almost mowing ... and so many plans for the year ahead but still time to wander with a mug of tea and just enjoy the bulbs and buds.



This year the Club has planned monthly speakers and events throughout the whole year - apart from August. I mentioned last month that we had some great speakers lined up. A sea of faces greeted Tim Walker recently and he didn't disappoint. A truly inspirational and talented man captivated and entertained his audience all evening: so many laughs!

We're chuffed that Member/Visitor numbers are increasing each month - yes, you can still join up. I'd like to thank absolutely everyone for supporting the Club: it's much appreciated. If you fancy listening to Ross Barbour (Helen Picton's husband - Picton Nurseries, Malvern) talk about 'Unusual Bulbs' on March 14th (Church Rooms, 7.30pm), come and join us (visitors £4 p.p.). I believe he could be bringing plants for sale too.

A hitch prevents me confirming the date of our plant sale until next month but we will be holding one! If you're spring cleaning sheds etc and have gardening paraphernalia and terracotta pots that you don't need, we'd be delighted to take "stuff" off your hands...along with surplus seedlings, cuttings etc; thank you. Off to weed....again!

Caroline Bodington (Committee Member)



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Parish Council Presentation Award for Leighanne

In last month's Beacon we reported on the presentation of the Gold Award to the Parish Council by the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils. There was another presentation made that evening by Council Chairman Martin Slinger to the Council's former apprentice Leighanne Mills. Leighanne had passed her NVQ Level 2 in Horticulture some four months ahead of schedule. Cllr Slinger presented Leighanne with her certificate and expressed the thanks of the Parish Council for her commitment in working with Parish Handyman George Hodder in ensuring the parish was well maintained. Cllr Slinger also presented Leighanne with a print of a painting of St Mary's Churchyard by local artist Anthony Churchill. Pictured are Leighanne with Cllr Slinger at the presentation.



Snowdrops and after

Snowdrops get the Rococo year off to a magical start and this season has been spectacular as anyone who visited the garden will have seen. We've had a very good start to 2018, with visitor numbers up on last year and our new rustic play area proving very popular with families. As the snowdrops begin to fade, new growth is bursting all around. Visitors will see daffodils, tulips, wood anemones and an abundance of spring bulbs especially around the Red House and Exedra. As you walk around, you will sense the Garden waking up after the cold of winter.

Rococo Reflections

If you visited the Garden during snowdrop time with children, you may have completed our new snowdrop sticker trail, featuring a family of loveable wildlife characters created by local author and illustrator Hannah Shaw. They're back for the Easter holidays and we've some great adventures planned! The Easter Trail starts on Friday 30th March and is a great way to spend a few hours in beautiful surroundings - plus there's the attraction of chocolate prizes to be won.

Talking of events, we're in the process of firming up our programme for the rest of 2018, which includes outdoor theatre, yoga, and wildlife walks amongst other delights. For the latest information and booking details, visit the events page at www.rococogarden.org.uk.

Thank you to all those generous people who have recently donated books to our second hand book stall. Following our plea for preloved volumes - particularly paperbacks by current authors - we have restocked the book shelves and they are helping to bring in much needed extra income to continue with the restoration of the Garden. It's very popular with visitors and your contributions are very welcome. We are always happy to collect bags of books from your home if you are unable to get up to the Garden - please call us 01452 813204 to arrange.

Tim Toghill, trustee and volunteer

Guitar Recital at Pitchcombe

Keith Hyett will be playing tunes from his new collection 'Memories of You', as well as pieces from his four previous collections at Pitchcombe Village Hall on Friday 6th April.

'Forest in the Moonlight' will take you for a walk through a forest on a moonlight night. Keith told the Beacon that he likes drawing from the surrounding landscape to write his music. One of his pieces, although having a flamenco feel, is very much inspired by a view from a tower on the Cotswolds edge. 'The Mill' tells the story of the water going through a mill, as it starts in the collecting pool and then goes through a channel which leads it to the wheel and finally flows out into the stream.

Another big influence on his music, he says, is poetry. He has used the poetry of Thomas Hardy and other English poets, all of whose work has given inspiration for rhythm and melody. The first piece he composed in this way is called 'Timing Her', which has a call and answer feel to it. Like a lot of his music it is quite a moody piece, and it can really capture your imagination transporting you into a parallel and enchanted world.

Parkinsons

We are starting a 'Parkinsons' get together with refreshments each month at Richmond Village and anyone interested and wishing to spend a relaxed and informative afternoon is welcome. We are hoping that this will develop into a popular friendly club in lovely surroundings from 2pm to 4pm. Also anyone who wishes to book lunch in the restaurant can simply telephone in advance. The first meeting is on Wednesday 28th March.

Maggie Daley, Parkinsons UK

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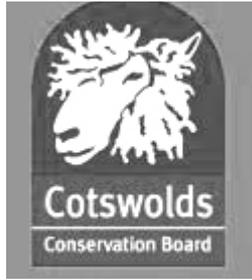


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Cotswold Voluntary Wardens 50 years on



In 1966 the Cotswolds were designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and two years later a group of volunteers under the leadership of Major Ray Clarke came together to form the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens with the aim of preserving the Cotswolds from physical damage and of maintaining the beauty of the AONB for people to enjoy. Two of the early volunteers were Barbara Blatchley, who many people will know still lives in the centre of Painswick, and John Workman who lived in Sheepscombe.

Fifty years on this fledgling organisation has grown to over 400 strong and operates in five areas of the Cotswolds. The Wardens come from all walks of life and bring a wide range of experience and skills to the operation of the organisation. Many wardens turn out on work-parties responding to requests for help from landowners, Parish Councils and the general public mending dry stone walls, installing styles and foot bridges, clearing footpaths and planting trees. Other wardens deliver a programme of guided walks throughout the year, whilst others patrol the Cotswold Way on a regular basis to ensure the route is kept up to a high standard.

In 2017 the Wardens gave a total of 48000 hours of their time, they led 330 guided walks enjoyed by 4764 people, installed 133 gates on public paths and cleared 30 km of path to keep rights of way open. In addition the Wardens have been involved in the conservation of iron-age hill forts, clearing scrub from limestone grasslands, restoring grazing and coppicing woodland.

The Wardens regularly work with schools to encourage the use of the "outdoor classroom" and have helped Public Health England with a tick survey to assess the risk of Lyme disease in the area. The Wardens also assist other voluntary groups such as the Butterfly Trust, the Woodland Trust and locally the Beacon Conservation Group.

The Wardens are always looking for new members so if you are interested in joining or would just like to know more about what we are doing to improve access and appreciation of the countryside go to www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk or pick up a copy of the "Cotswold Lion" news sheet from a library.

Royden Hales. Cotswold Warden

The Painswick Centre A busy month ahead

An eagerly anticipated event in Painswick village life is the Annual Beacon Village quiz. This takes place in the Painswick Centre on Saturday 10th March. On Saturday 31st March we have another established village event - Painswick's annual Easter Egg Hunt. To quote the organisers, Painswick Play Group, it's going to be an "Eggstra Special Fun filled afternoon". The Egg Hunt starts and finishes in the beautiful Painswick Churchyard. Maps will be available to find each of the "egg-stravagantly" decorated eggs around the village, with puzzles for adults as well as children. The Painswick Centre will be on the hunt with a bouncy castle, and refreshments in the bar.

The skittle season is now well under way, and the local teams, the Wickians and the Farmers will be playing during the month. Early in the month on Friday 2nd March, Wick-Flix will be featuring the recent blockbuster film Dunkirk. We would also add advance notification of our AGM which takes place at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 24th April. After the AGM, we would like to share with you an exciting new vision for future development called Painswick Centre Project 2022. Looking at the short, medium and long term, how do we want the Centre to continue to serve the Village?

The Gardiner Room, currently occupied by ACP, becomes available soon. Expressions of Interest are now being sought from potential renters. Please contact us before 10th March.

*Mike Hill, Millstream House, Kingsmill Lane, Painswick, GL6 6SA
Tel: 01452 812605*

100 Years Ago Good news and bad news

In Europe the war was still raging and at home there was serious rationing. In Painswick itself women were by now used to doing all the jobs previously done by men and of course some of them had just been given the right to vote. For two Painswick men at the Front there arrived two very different pieces of news.

The Rev. R. Bartlett, temporary Chaplain to the Forces, and formerly Congregational minister in Painswick, was mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's despatches for distinguished service. Later, in June, it was reported that in the King's Birthday Honours List he was to be awarded an O.B.E.

Sadly though, there was also a report in Stroud News of the death of Pte. Tom King at his parents' home in Vicarage Street. '... The deceased soldier had had a short army career, having been invalided out of the service after a few months training. He contracted pleurisy, and subsequently developed consumption, and despite the best care and attention it was impossible to prolong his life. He bore his suffering with a cheerfulness characteristic of the British Tommy, and by his death a useful young life has been lost to the community.'

A full account of the war and its effects on Painswick is in the book Painswick and the Great War, available in Painswick Pharmacy.

Carol Maxwell

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News from St Mary's

March includes both Lent and Passion Week this year so it is a busy month. Friday 2nd March is celebrated as Women's World Day of Prayer. To mark the occasion a service has been prepared by the women of Suriname which will be held in the Catholic Church at 11am. This service is not exclusively for women. Men are also invited.



Painswick Music Society concerts begin this month in St Mary's. The first concert is on Saturday 24th March at 3pm. It will feature the Schubert Ensemble widely recognised as one of the world's leading exponents of music for piano and strings. Single tickets are £18 each with students at £5. They are available at Painswick Pharmacy or at the door.

Palm Sunday, the beginning of Passion Week will be celebrated on 24th March with the usual services throughout the benefice. During the following week there will be a service of Morning Prayer each day in the church from Monday to Friday at 9am.

On Maundy Thursday 29th March the usual annual service will be held in Gloucester Cathedral. This will feature the diocesan clergy renewing their Ordination Vows and the blessing of the holy oils to be used throughout the diocese in the coming year. This service is open for anyone to attend and is an opportunity to support our own clergy.

Easter Sunday is on 1st April. The morning communion service at 9.30am will be led by Revd Andrew Leach. Come along and celebrate Easter.

David Newell

Messy Church Thursday 8th March



3.30 - 5.15pm in the St. Mary's Church Rooms, Painswick. The theme for our next session is "Second Chances" where we will be exploring the Easter story. Please join us for some story related activities, as well as a delicious tea together.

Messy Church is a family event, so all children should be accompanied by an adult. Any queries please contact Fiona Gill: Mobile: 07771 513382 or Email: fiona.gill@psalms.uk.net

Eastertide at Painswick Churches

Holy Week

For details of services for Holy Week, please see local notice boards. For more information contact 01452 813407.



Good Friday March 30th

Procession of Witness 10.30am. There will be a procession from the Roman Catholic church in Friday Street to the roadside cross by the Lychgate for a short service before processing up New Street, down Bisley Street and back to the Church Rooms where there will be Hot Cross Buns and tea and coffee. Everyone is welcome to join the procession.

Easter Day April 1st

- 6am. Benefice Dawn Eucharist at Edge Church.
- 8.30am. Mass of the Resurrection at the RC Church of Our Lady & St. Therese in Friday Street.
- 9.30am. Easter Family Communion at St. Mary's Church.
- 10.30am Meeting for Worship at Friends Meeting House, Vicarage St.

We hope you will join us at one or more of the services.

Friday Club

The Club's exciting 2018 programme continues. At our last meeting in January Howard Allen gave an interesting and stimulating talk on his "Reflections on 100 years of educational change." As a retired Headmaster he covered the impact of the change from "Secondary Modern" to "Comprehensive" schooling and the ongoing difficulties over "Grammar Schools." We were all surprised by the number of questions the talk generated - so many that we almost missed our cup of tea!

On the 9th February Janet Dowling explained the importance of at least 8 hours sleep each night. She set out ways of clearing our minds of worries before we settled down for "a good night's sleep" including the fact that counting sheep is a positive way of clearing our minds! Gentle snoring could be heard from one side of the hall!!

Then on the 15th a party of 20 of us visited the Everyman in Cheltenham to watch the play "Quartet". A very enjoyable afternoon, made all the more memorable by the excellent miming by the four stars of the famous quartet from Verdi's Opera Rigoletto.



And so to March. On the 9th Celia Hargrave will be talking to us about "Being a Magistrate" which will no doubt raise many interesting questions. We have arranged another outing this time to the Bristol Aerospace and Concorde Museum. If you would like to join us and enjoy "walking through" Concorde please contact Ann Williams on 01452 812344, cost £25 per person. The coach will be leaving Stamages Lane Car Park at 10am and leaving Bristol Aerospace at 3pm. Places are limited. Our Meetings start at 2.30pm in the Lower Hall in the Town Hall. We look forward to greeting both existing and new Members in March.

Mike Kerton

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Exploring the Falklands

Members and Visitors experienced a splendid illustrated talk by Philip Muggridge on the scenery and wildlife of the Falklands at the Club's recent meeting. Special features included vast colonies of penguins and cormorants.



The next meeting is our AGM, on Tuesday, March 6th at 7:30 pm in the Town Hall, Painswick. This is followed by illustrated talks of two of our members' birding experiences on Sanibel on the Gulf coast of Florida, America; and the Galapagos Islands off South America. Visitors are welcome @ £3.

Bill Boydell

Spring in the Air

I read my notes from last year's March article and found myself wanting to say the same things! The last month seems to have been particularly wet and all the paths on the Beacon are in a terrible muddy state. However buds are swelling, snowdrops and crocuses are out and I've spotted some primroses, spring is on the way.



The Beacon is suffering from increased footfall and many paths are getting wider year on year. It is only natural that people move to the path edges when it is wet and muddy, but this causes compaction of the soil and further erosion and ultimately damages the grassland we strive to conserve. One really should try not to deviate from the original path. This applies to bikers as well!

The cows have just about eaten all the grass in their Holcombe field and are now being supplemented with hay. We may be able to ease the situation by grazing them on an adjacent field for three or four weeks. If the weather warms enough then the grass on the first paddock should start to grow enough for them to be returned.

Natural England and the Butterfly Conservation are really impressed with the rate of progress our work parties are making with scrub clearance. A big thank you to all who have turned out, especially in the awful weather we have had. We haven't had to abandon a meeting yet.

We are currently clearing areas in the three small quarries to the west of the cemetery. The southern one (we called Bottle Bank quarry after the huge stache of buried bottles found nearby) was extensively worked on last winter. We have just finished working on the northern one below the second tee. It's now called Win's bank after a new volunteer who worked so hard on the steep slopes for three successive work parties. We now are working on the middle one but it doesn't yet have a name (Middle Quarry?) All three are good habitat for butterflies and offer shelter from cold northerly winds. We have ring barked a number of trees. This kills the tree but leaves it standing as a deadwood habitat for invertebrates and fungi.

Paul Baxter



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Easter Concert Friday 23rd March

Richmond Painswick is pleased to host a Charity Easter Concert at Richmond Village, Stroud Road, Painswick, at 3.30pm on 23rd March. The Singers will be performing several Easter favourites, including some audience participation, under the leadership of Howard Williams.

Entry is free, but is by ticket only. Capacity is limited, so please call Sonia Harte on 01452 810203 to book your ticket. Refreshments will be provided, and there will be a retiring collection on behalf of the charity 'Gloucestershire Young Carers.'

The Singers rehearse every Monday evening, at Richmond, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. We would be delighted to have new members to join us, to sing in a relaxed and friendly environment. Auditions are not required. Please contact Membership Secretary, Jean Jones, on 01452 813545.

Longfield 'Light up a life' Richmond come to the Rescue

Longfield Hospice was due to hold its Light Up a Life service and tea in December at its base in Minchinhampton. However a snow storm meant that the service had to be cancelled. It's a service of remembrance and celebration and provides people with an opportunity to remember loved ones who have died.

When Richmond Village heard what had happened they stepped in and last week hosted an afternoon tea for 60 people, providing the food and the premises free of charge. "When we heard about what had happened it seemed the natural thing to do to step in and help", said Sonia Harte, Richmond Senior Village Adviser. "Longfield is a charity close to our hearts", she said, "Many of our staff and their families have been supported by Longfield".

Guests were treated to an afternoon tea served with vintage china. Richmond also provided prizes for the raffle. Andrew Fletcher, Chief Executive of Longfield said, "Thanks to the generosity of Richmond Village we were able to hold this very special tea. Having the opportunity to remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones is so vitally important and I know many were disappointed when the bad weather put paid to our original event. Now, thanks to Richmond Village, we could hold this special event. Our two organisations have a great deal in common – we both support people to enable them to have a better quality of life and more confidence in managing the challenges of later life".

Painswick Garden off to Malvern Spring Show

Last summer Painswick Library celebrated its fifth birthday on the theme of gardening. The Knit and Natter group which meets regularly in the library were challenged to knit a garden. And they did.

After the display the garden went into hibernation until we heard about the Sue Ryder hospice project to exhibit a knitted “Work of Heart” show garden at Malvern. The library garden was immediately offered to Sue Ryder and all the knitters were delighted to hear it had been accepted. They also set about knitting hearts. These will be hung on a tree and sold at Malvern to raise funds for the hospice in Leckhampton.

On Thursday 22nd February there was a special Knit & Natter session in the library to hand over the flowers, birds, bees and dozens of hearts to Claire Young who is the inspiration behind the garden, knitted in memory of her late husband. Ann Williams and Sue Kerton our organising “Knit and Natters” were also pleased to welcome Morna Holliday (Chairman Painswick Sue Ryder committee) to this special session.

If you would like to join this knitting group please contact Sue or Ann. The heart knitting pattern is available on the library desk. For more information on the “Work of Heart” garden please see www.workoftheheartgarden.org.

Pat Francis



Help protect our Yew Trees By sponsoring a tree

In 2015 we asked local people to help preserve the historic yew trees in the churchyard by sponsoring a tree to help with the increasing costs of maintaining the churchyard. The offer was over-subscribed which has helped the church to keep the trees and grounds well groomed – the cost of this is around £10,000 per annum. The majority of sponsors in 2015 were private and the support of villagers was much appreciated. However, we were very grateful of support from Painswick Parish Council, Probus, the Painswick Hotel, Painswick Conservation Society, Friends of St Mary’s Home, Church of Our Lady & St Therese and the Ancient Society of Painswick Youths.



We now inviting offers of sponsorship from April 1st. The cost of sponsorship is £99 for three years. Trees can be individually selected and a chart of the available trees can be found in the church porch. Sponsors will receive a certificate acknowledging sponsorship and the names will be written in a leather-bound book unless they wish to remain anonymous.

If you do not wish to sponsor a tree, donations supporting the scheme will be very welcome. Donations will be used to support The Reservations Trees, The Baptism Tree and the Marriage Tree. Please make your cheque payable to the Painswick PCC (Yew Tree Appeal) and send to the Beacon Benefice Office, the Lychgate, Stroud Road, Painswick GL6 6UT. Tel: 01452 814759. E-mail: lychgateoffice@btinternet.com Office open: 9am to 11am, Monday to Friday.

Charles Garstang

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Tasty new enterprise

The reporting of a new business in Painswick is always good news. If it also marks the return, albeit in a new format, of a previously popular and much valued service then double rejoicing is in order. Ian and Jai Calvert ran the very successful Thai restaurant which closed about ten years ago much to the disappointment of many regular customers. Now they have started up a new food service which will certainly be welcomed by both former and new customers.

Thai 2 Go is a food delivery business which is definitely rather special. With over 30 years experience in providing Thai cooked food, Jai prepares and cooks authentic Thai cuisine in a commercial kitchen in her Painswick home. This is immediately frozen in a blast freezer for speed and hygiene and then stored in a deep freeze chest. The prepared food is contained in plastic food boxes. Customers can order as many boxes as they want – there are eleven dishes from which to choose - and they will be delivered, frozen, the next day. Ian does most of the deliveries.

Jai emphasises the fact that all the dishes are made with fresh ingredients and are authentic Thai recipes with no added extras. She was a cook in Thailand before meeting and marrying Ian. Preparing and cooking the dishes in their newly converted commercial kitchen, which has been given star approval rating by the local authority and is separate from the family kitchen, Jai explains that it is very satisfying to know that the food going out to customers is ‘the real deal’. The kitchen is stunningly set up with immaculate stainless steel worktops and state of the art freeze facilities.

“It is hard work,” says Jai “but enjoyable, and the good feedback makes it really worthwhile.” In fact they’ve had excellent reviews and former customers have already shown their erstwhile loyalty by renewing their custom. Jai is passionate about what she does and very keen to ensure that customers enjoy the experience of her authentic Thai food.

Ian works as a precision engineer as well as doing the deliveries in the evenings. He and Jai have lived in Painswick for many years

Library News for March

At the Community Library we have free wi-fi and four computers available for borrowers. Just ask at the desk for more information.

In response to increasing interest from residents to learn more about internet safety and money management Gloucestershire County Council is offering free 30 minute courses via the ‘Learn My Way’ platform. These can be done either in your own home or using the library computers. If interested please pop into the library for access information.

A volunteer at Stroud Library has kindly written 110 leaflets on various IT/digital topics including digital photography, how to use Microsoft Word, how to find online bargains, best medical websites etc. A full list is available at Painswick Library.

New books for March include:

ADULT NON-FICTION

Wendy Mitchell - Somebody I used to know – recently featured on Radio 4

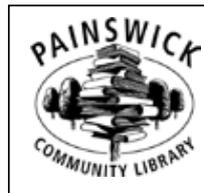
Matthew Walker – Why we sleep – the new science of sleep and dreams

ADULT FICTION

JP Delaney – The Girl Before; Katie Fforde – A Secret Garden; Jo Jo Moyes – Still Me; Steff Penney – Under a Pole Star; Harvey Sagar – Sorrows to the Stone (local author).

Please note that the library will be closed over the Easter weekend from Good Friday 30th March until Easter Monday 2nd April inclusive. Good reading

Pat Pinnegar



Ian and Jai with daughter Lily in the new kitchen

and have a daughter, Lily, (seen here with Ian and Jai) who is a pupil at Stroud High School and was formerly a pupil at the Croft School. They are enthusiastic in their endeavour to serve only the best, the freshest, truly authentic Thai food to local residents. Do try it, it’s very good indeed.

Orders can be placed by phone (after 4.00pm) on 812183, or by email to iancalvert1@btinternet.com or go to their Facebook page: Thai 2 Go.

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Community Wellbeing Service

Many things affect our health and wellbeing, such as where we live, how we spend our time, our financial situation, and our relationship with friend and family. Sometimes we all need a helping hand, someone to listen to us when we are struggling, or perhaps someone to find out what help is available in our local community. Independence Trust is proud to have been commissioned to deliver the new Community Wellbeing Service for residents of Stroud and Berkeley Vale. The Community Wellbeing Service has been commissioned by NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and Gloucestershire County Council. It brings together Village and Community Agents and Social Prescribing in a new, exciting service for local people.

There is a Community Wellbeing Agent local to you. Her name is Angela King and she will become a familiar face at Painswick Surgery. She can be contacted on 07817 763028 or 01453 755711. Her email address is: aking@independencetrust.co.uk. Angela is pictured below.



Angela King, the new Community Wellbeing Agent

Who is the service for? The service is free and available to anyone over the age of sixteen living in Gloucestershire, or who is registered with a Gloucestershire GP. The Community Wellbeing Agents have extensive knowledge of local services. We can:

- Talk to you about the challenges you may be facing and what would help you
- Offer advice, information and practical support
- Actively signpost you to services that can help you find solutions to everyday problems
- Discuss your interests and hobbies and help you find local groups you can get involved in.

Would you like to find out more? Ring us on 0345 863 8323 and press option 2 for the Community Wellbeing Service or visit our website: www.independencetrust.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Beverley Polson, Service Manager

Samara's Aid

A big thank you to all the Beacon readers who contributed winter clothes and other items to send out to people in the refugee camps in Syria. Together we filled twenty boxes, which Sue Jollans and I delivered to the collection point, Norton Church, near Tewkesbury.



As you can see from the picture the church more closely resembled a warehouse, as it was packed with boxes, bags, bedding etc, all destined for the camps. In the course of the next few days the items were sorted and packed into lorries ready for their journey. Simon Trapnell, Registered Collector in Gloucestershire for Samara's Aid, stated that 452 boxes of aid were donated locally, together with wheelchairs, crutches, Zimmer frames and a range of baby equipment.

The items will be given to internally displaced people by other Samara volunteers in Syria and Iraq. Currently there are 26.8 million people in those countries in need of humanitarian assistance. In addition there are 30,000 war-related injuries every month in Syria. Samara's Aid is also raising money to provide desperately needed medical care. If anyone would like to know more about this aspect of the work please contact me.

There will be a shipment of lighter clothes and other necessities later in the year. If anyone would like to start collecting bars of soap (not liquid,) tooth brushes, toothpaste, new underwear for children and adults, socks, shoes, (new or used and in good condition) towels, stationery and pens for the next consignment, that would be a great start. There are so many in need of our help

Frances Watson 812071

Longfield Finance and Benefits Advice Workshop

To be held on Thursday 22nd March, 6.30-8.30pm, as a one-off session, at Longfield, Burleigh Lane, Minchinhampton, GL5 2PQ. This is a free workshop providing financial and benefits information and advice to patients with a life-limiting illness, and for anyone who provides unpaid care or support to them. The workshop facilitator will provide general benefits advice relevant to all, but will also tailor the workshop to participant's needs. An information booklet will be provided, as will light refreshments.

An individual appointment may also be booked for a 1:1 consultation, if people need assistance with applications or more specific help. For more information or to book a workshop place please call us on 01453 886 868 or email day.services@longfield.org.uk

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Stroudco Food Hub

Oliver Muller who manages Stroudco tells the Beacon that “Stroudco was founded in 2007 as a co-operative jointly owned by local producers and local consumer members. Having previously operated from various locations in Stroud, we are currently based at the Congregational Church in the town centre. Anyone can apply to sell through Stroudco and anyone can shop. We facilitate the selling and buying of local produce a bit like an online farmers’ market. This means consumers can get a wide range of local produce all in one place, with the additional option of a home delivery. Producers set their own prices and we add a mark-up to cover our own costs. An additional benefit is that the produce comes largely plastic-free.

Consumers pre-order their shopping through our website by Thursday 7.30am each week and we collect, collate and distribute orders by mid-afternoon each Saturday. Some shoppers also help with the food sorting or with deliveries, for which they get food credits. Our online shop is at <https://openfoodnetwork.org.uk/stroudcoshop>”.

Oliver says “We would also be very happy to support anyone wanting to set up their own food hub in Painswick or to run a collection point for Stroudco”. Oliver will be pleased to provide more information. He can be contacted on 0770 883 1000 or 01453 297781.

Half past two

In the afternoon

On Saturday 17th February 2018 at 2.30 pm some people in Painswick felt the earth move. Your correspondent felt the settee moving sideways for about 6 or 7 seconds. Tremors seem to occur here about every 10-12 years and this was the fourth one he has experienced. There has been no recorded local damage. The epicentre was about 12 miles north of Swansea 4.5 miles deep. The Richter Scale reading was 4.4.

In the morning

On Sunday morning 10th February 2018 at 2.30 am some local residents were disturbed by felons removing donation boxes from two large stone pillars in Painswick St Mary’s Churchyard. It seems



crowbars may have been used to prise out the metal boxes causing considerable damage to the stonework. Do you know anyone who may have carried out this crime? Have you seen a discarded crowbar on your walks around the village? Please telephone the Church Office 814795, or the Police on 101 if you can help.

Trevor Radway

Jottings The spice of life

One morning going to feed some cattle in one of our fields, I noted that most of the hedging around it was of hazel, with beautiful catkins showing now. There were differences: our typical hazel has long, yellow male flowers; but others had different lengths and colours. It seems there must be different varieties of hazel. Looking up the genus “Corylus”, I found there are some twenty-five species native to temperate regions of the northern hemisphere. The Cob nut and the Filbert species which can also be found in our hedges may well have been planted to form the hedge.

There are evidently ten types of Beech Tree in the Northern Hemisphere. We have two types on the Recreation Ground in Painswick. People keep telling us that the middle one of our big trees is dying, but it is not, it just gets its leaves later than the others in the spring and loses them earlier in the autumn.

There are two main species of Elder, but because of the rise in the drinks industry, the horticulturists are breeding new ones. There are three main species of Elm: The English, the Wych and the Smooth leaved elms. Dutch Elm disease is still around. When some elm trees seem to get to about twenty feet tall, the bark becomes rougher and you start to see the disease appear.

There are many varieties of willow. White Willow seems to be the commonest of the timber tree species and the best in the manufacture of cricket bats, basket making and other products. Then you have the Osier willow, good for basket rods, rods for fish traps and lobster pots. Goat, Grey, Purple, Crack, Golden, Weeping and so on.

We have three species of buttercup that give us the yellow flowers that cover our fields in summer, the Creeping, the Meadow and the Bulbous buttercups. A local seed merchant says he can put as many as a hundred different grass varieties to make up seed mixes to sell.

Martin Slinger

Pat Burrows writes from Castle Close



We are fortunate to live near the A46 which now has fantastic opportunities for fishing. At the moment I believe the fish are quite small but if, as seems likely, we just wait a little longer we may be able to catch salmon in our larger potholes. Lucky us!

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Sports reports

assembled by John Barrus

Painswick Golf Club

For many golfers, the organisation and running of a golf club is something that goes on behind the scenes. Painswick is a not-for-profit members' club. It is managed and lead by a small unpaid team of its members who are elected at its AGM. Key roles are that of President and Chairman. These have been carried out in recent years by Mike Hoey, until ill health meant that he had to give up the roles last October. Like many at the club, I would like to recognise and thank Mike for his enormous contribution over recent years. By the time you read this article, the club will have elected a new team, about which I will report next month.



The Ladies and Seniors sections held a social Bowmaker on 23rd January. The final scores were very close, with four teams being separated by only 2 points. The winning team was: Lesley Wylde, George Paton, Norman Pullin and Stewart Price with a score of 103 stableford points. In the Seniors section the monthly stableford competition took place on 8th February and was won by Norman Pullin with a score of 36 points. The next stableford competition will be held on 8th March.

Painswick Golf Club welcomes visitors – whether golfers or just those seeking refreshments or a meal or a venue for an event. This month, there will be a Medieval Banquet on the evening of 16th March to which golfers and visitors are invited. For more details this event or other matters please phone 01452 812180.

Peter Rowe

Rugby

Two successes for Painswick. Earlier in February Painswick achieved a close win against Westbury-on-Severn winning 24 points to 22 and securing a bonus point victory. On Saturday 17th February Painswick played Cainscross at Broadham and achieved a convincing victory against the visitors 38 : 10.

Future dates for your diary –
10th March against Gloucester All Blues at home
7th April against Norton at home.
18th May Presentation evening at the Old Lodge 7pm.
Spectators are most welcome to all games and to share the hospitality afterwards.

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University Challenge Second chance for Painswick Student

Painswick's Dom Hewett makes another appearance on University Challenge this Monday, 5th March, and this time it's make or break. His Bristol University team have already lost one quarter final match, and a second defeat in their match against Ulster University, would see them drop out of the competition. A win though would give them another attempt and two wins would see them safely through to the semi-finals.



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Tennis Coaching at Painswick Tennis Club

Spring is fast approaching and may even already be upon us judging by the beautiful weather that we have had lately! So now it's time to turn your minds to tennis once again and we would like to encourage you to come and join us at our fantastic club situated at Broadham Fields.

We offer high quality coaching to players and potential players of all levels by our brilliant tennis mad team of coaches. We hold regular group coaching every afternoon & evening of the week for children from as young as 3 years old up to the age of 18 and at every level from mini tennis upwards. Our Junior Holiday Camps are held throughout the summer and our growing competitive programme takes place on Saturdays alongside the Junior League Matches where our boys and girls have a chance to practice what they are learning in some low key interclub matches.

Of course, we also run tennis coaching for adults as well at all levels, both individuals and groups, and all of this is played in the middle of the most outstanding countryside views in the whole of the county! If you are interested then please don't hesitate to get in touch and ring me on 07775606399 or email me on tennis@lorraineristic.com.

Lorraine Ristic Head Coach, Painswick Tennis Club

Glos. Winter Tennis league results

A successful winter of tennis for Painswick in the league with the A team 4th in division 1 and the B team promoted from division 2 to division 1. The C team was 4th in division 4 whilst the D team was promoted from division 5 to division 4.

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Exciting new Saturday class for children

Painswick has a veritable plethora of clubs and societies covering a very wide range of interests for adults, but perhaps not many for children. It is therefore good to report a new activity specifically aimed at children aged 5-11. ARTSPACE Painswick is a creative, all-encompassing art class which takes place in the Town Hall on Saturdays from 2.00pm until 3.30pm during term time.

This is a series of art classes with a difference. It is about exploring many different styles, techniques and materials, discovering possibilities and developing skills and ideas in a creative environment. This of course in itself yields a host of other benefits – social awareness and team cooperation, self-confidence, observation skills, motor skills, artistic development to name but a few. The sessions are also great fun.

Local artists representing a wide range of art practices are guest speakers invited to inspire the children by introducing them to different styles and demonstrating various techniques. The children can then use different media to experiment creatively and with an informed knowledge. They are encouraged to engage in discussion and to ask questions so that, as well as developing an awareness of elements such as composition, colour, texture and perspective, they are also learning about art history and self expression through art.



Anthony Lewis Churchill started the classes in January with a small group and within a month through word-of-mouth the numbers grew considerably. Anthony has an impressive background from which to design and run the scheme. Having studied graphic and interior design he worked for several years for John Lewis as a retail designer and later in retail management. Then came a complete change of career when he became a puppeteer starting with Sooty and Sweep and going on to many more of a similar nature on television and on the stage. He gained much experience across the entertainment industry.

Later he gained a degree in child care and for the past six years has run his own company to help children with needs through creative arts. He is also a life coach for companies in need of support. Anthony's combined experiences more than qualify him to engage in these activities. He sees the Painswick art sessions for children as offering so many potential benefits. Furthermore, a percentage of the fees is given to the Parish Council specifically for the children's facilities on the recreation ground so Painswick is also benefitting. At present Murrays are sponsoring the art materials and equipment used in the classes and Anthony would really appreciate others to offer sponsorship too.

These classes are great fun and an excellent way for children to spend their Saturday afternoons. There is a website www.anthonylewischurchill.com. Anthony can be contacted by email lewisanthony108@gmail.com or telephone 07403045357.

Carol Maxwell

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Local History Society Sticks and stones

Our intended speaker for the meeting on 20th February was struck down by the flu, but fortunately Dr. Ray Wilson, Secretary of the Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology, was able to step in at short notice.



Paying his second visit to Painswick in a month, he delivered a fascinating talk on 'Stroud's Other Industries', illustrated by a wealth of photos of the town's industrial past. 'Other' of course meant other than Cloth, and many of these other industries have been based in the old cloth mills. In many cases they still are, as we're lucky that so many mill buildings have survived.

One major industry in the 19th and early 20th Century was stick making – walking sticks, umbrella handles and so on. At one point the business occupied up to twenty former cloth mills in the Stroud area (including in Painswick), and employed around 2000 workers. There have been several major engineering companies in the town and other industries have of course included stone quarrying and pin making, both of them important in Painswick.

The next meeting of the Society will be on Tuesday 20th March – 7.30 pm at the Croft School, when the speaker (flu permitting) will be John Putley, on the subject of 'Gloucestershire Gargoyles'.

Alastair Jollans

Beacon Subscriptions

It's Beacon subscription time! A big 'Thank You' to all our current subscribers. The new subscription year starts in April and I am asking for new (any household that receives the Beacon but has not recently subscribed) and the renewal of existing subscriptions. As always, printing costs have increased, but we are still asking for a minimum contribution of £7 per household for all households within the Painswick civil boundary. Costs for Pitchcombe, Edge and postal deliveries vary and they are notified separately.

We are happy to accept payment by a variety of means, including cash, cheque and this year we will be trialling bank transfer as well. However to keep track of subscribers, we require all electronic payments to be given a reference code that will identify the subscriber. If you would like to pay by electronic means, please e-mail subscriptions.beacon@painswick.net with your name and address and ask for a reference code. The same code can then be used as your reference in future years without any further request, or can be used to set up a standing order.

Jacek Wolowiec - Subscriptions

PROPERTY REPORT from Murrays

Murrays have had a really busy start to the year with a surge in sales that have all been agreed on properties around the Christmas and New Year period and this trend has continued into the year. Nationwide have said that the annual rate of house price growth picked up to 3.2% at the start of 2018, compared with 2.6% at the end of 2017. House prices increased by 0.6% over the month, after taking account of seasonal factors, the same increase as December. This is all positive news for the market in 2018 where here in the Cotswolds we remain extremely busy and buoyant. Although we have taken on some lovely new properties already this year we still need more to sell, there is nation wide shortage of property on the market but still people out there looking to buy. If you would like a free valuation then please give us a call on 01452814655 or pop in to see us and find out all the different ways that we can help you sell your property.

To see all the new properties available visit www.murraysestateagents.co.uk and to see all our properties before they even get to Rightmove join and like our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages and look out for our "coming soon"! An

opportunity to get in to see the new properties before anyone else!

Murrays are also delighted to announce that we collected £500 for charity at our Wickflix charity night! This will be divided equally between our two chosen charities – Allsorts and The Painswick Recreation Ground, thank you to all who came and supported and also to those who donated such amazing prizes. It was a great fun evening and bursting at the seams; the next evening will be Dunkirk showing on Friday the 2nd March and if you haven't been to Painswick's own cinema then it's a fantastic night out and not to be missed!

We are also really looking forward to working alongside and sponsoring the Painswick Arts Project which is giving children and budding artists in the village the opportunity to learn to be creative with a paint brush! If you are interested in learning more and think your children could be the next Picasso or Van Gogh then pop in and see us and we can point you in the right direction.

James C Murray - Director

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MARCH

Fri	2	Wick-Flix Screening: Dunkirk. £7 at door, to include 1 drink	Painswick Centre	7.00 for 7.45pm
Sun	4	Mass Parish Communion Meeting for Worship	Catholic Church St Mary's Church Quaker Meeting House	8.30am 9.30am 10.30am
Mon	5	Knit & Natter Group Short Mat Bowls - Mondays (contact 812464) Community Lunch: Hosts - Beacon Conservation Group. (off Churchill Way) Yoga (Mondays) contact Kim 812623	Library Town Hall Ashwell Centre Sheepscombe Vill. Hall	10.00am 10.30am and 2.00pm 12noon to 1.15pm 6.30 to 8.00pm & 8.15 to 9.45pm
		Painswick Community Choir - Mondays. Enq. Sophie 01453 298138 Have Your Say' Church Group: every Monday - contact Rev. Roger Leigh 01452 536325. Painswick Singers Choir - Every Monday: contact Jean Jones - 01452 813545	Painswick Centre Church Rooms Richmond Village	7.00 to 8.30pm 7.30 to 9.30pm 7.30 to 9.30pm
Tue	6	Painswick Art Club: Every Tuesday Gentle Pilates for all - Tuesdays: contact Vicky at abcPilates@btinternet.com or 07934977171 Zumba Gold dance fitness class for Seniors: £6.50 pp Tuesdays. Tel: 07766 101790 Bingo: Tuesdays Nia Holistic Fitness - Tuesdays Bird Club: AGM followed by Members Evening	Church Rooms Painswick Centre Painswick Centre Ashwell House Town Hall Town Hall	9.30am 9.30 to 10.30am 10.00am 6.30 to 9.00pm 6.00 to 7.00pm 7.30pm
Wed	7	Botanical Illustration classes - Wednesdays - mornings or afternoons. Pre-book:07810 725772 or via website: www.botanic-illustration.co.uk Yoga (Wednesdays) contact Kim 812623 Cotteswold Naturalists Lecture: Search for the N. W. Passage - Ken Ingamells. Enq. 01453 873262 Art Class (Oils) - Wednesdays: contact Jane - 812176 Table Tennis - Wednesdays	Painswick Golf Club GL6 6TL Sheepscombe Vill. Hall Painswick Centre	9.30am to- 12noon & 1.00 to- 3.30pm 9.30 to 11.00am 2.30pm
Thu	8	Yoga - All Abilities (Thursdays) Cotswold Room 812623 T'ai Chi: Thursdays - Contact 812344 Dog Training Club (Thursdays) Art Class (Oils) - Thursdays: contact Jane - 812176 Art Class (Watercolours) - Thursdays: contact Jane - 812176	Painswick Centre Painswick Centre Town Hall Church Rooms	Afternoons 7.00 to 9.00pm 9.30 to 11.00am 9.30am 9.30 to 12.00noon
		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 Messy Church	Town Hall Town Hall Painswick Centre Church Rooms Town Hall Youth Pavilion (Rec.) Town Hall	12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm Painswick Centre 3.30 to 5.15pm 9.30 to 11.00am 10.00am to 11.30am 2.30pm
Fri	9	Country Market: Coffee Available - Fridays Baby & Toddler Group - Every Friday (term-time only) Friday Club: Being a Magistrate - Celia Hargrave	Painswick Beacon	9.00am to 12noon
Sat	10	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group working party: Tel. 07971 633242 for location details Artspace: Art Class for children 5 - 10 yrs: term time only. Saturdays Painswick Beacon Quiz	Town Hall	2.00 to 3.30pm
Sun	11	Mass Holy Communion Meeting for Worship Mothers Day Lunch: Tel: 01452 812180	Painswick Centre Catholic Church St. Mary's Church Quaker Meeting House Painswick Golf Club	7.00 for 7.30pm 8.30am 9.30am 10.30am
Mon	12	Probus Women: Bahrain to UK by Volvo - Angela Newman Community Lunch: Hosts: Park Residents (off Churchill Way)	Church Rooms Ashwell Centre	10.00am 12noon to 1.15pm



Thu	15	Cotteswold Naturalists Visit & Tour of National Star College: Enq. 823228	Star college	
		Music Appreciation Group: Music Moving Pictures	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	16	Medieval Banquet: Tickets £25 per head. - Tel. 01452 812180	Painswick Golf Club	7.00pm
Sun	18	Mass	Catholic Church	8.30am
		Parish Communion	St. Mary's Church	9.30am
		Meeting for Worship	Quaker Meeting House	10.30am
Mon	19	Copy Date for April Beacon		
Tue	20	Cotteswold Naturalists' Talk & Tea: Trials & Tribulations of Rural Churchwarden - Jan Long. Enq. 01453 834486		2.30pm
Wed	21	Evening Prayer	St. Mary's Church	5.00pm
		Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	22	Cotteswold Naturalists Guided Bird Walk - Coate Water, Swindon. Pre-book - 823228	Coate Water Car Park	10.00am
Fri	23	Friday Club Outing to Bristol Aerospace & Concorde		
Sat	24	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group working party: Tel. 07971 633242 for location details	Painswick Beacon	9.00am to 12noon
		Painswick Music Society Concert: Schubert Ensemble	St. Mary's Church	3.00pm
Sun	25	Mass	Catholic Church	8.30am
		Painswick Praise	St. Mary's Church	9.30am
		Meeting for Worship	Quaker Meeting House	10.30am
Mon	26	Morning Prayer: every morning this week - Holy Week	St. Mary's Church	9.00am
Tue	27	Yew Trees W.I.:Galapagos - Darwin & Evolution - Ged Cassell	Church Rooms	7.30pm
Wed	28	Parkinsons' Get-together, with refreshments	Richmond Village	2.00 to 4.00pm
Thu	29	Music Appreciation Group: Piano Concertos	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	30	Good Friday Procession of Witness	Catholic Church	10.30am
Sat	31	April Beacon Published Painswick Playgroup Annual Easter Egg Hunt	St Mary's Churchyard	12 noon to 4.00pm

APRIL

Sun	1	Mass	Catholic Church	8.30am
		Holy Communion	St. Mary's Church	9.30am
		Meeting for Worship	Quaker Meeting House	10.30am
Wed	4	Cotteswold Naturalists' lecture:Cotswold Woollen Weavers - Richard Martin. Enq. 01453 873262	Painswick Centre	2.30pm
Fri	6	Friday Club: Fake or Fortunes - Chris O'Grady	Town Hall	2.30pm
		Wick Flix Screening: Murder on the Orient Express. £7 to include 1 drink	Painswick Centre	7.00 for 7.45pm
Sat	7	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group working party: Tel. 07971 633242 for location details	Painswick Beacon	9.00am to 12noon

Entries for the Village Diary should be sent direct to **Vicky Aspinall** at: rgrasp@tiscali.co.uk

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PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

S.18/0197/FUL EDGECOMBE, Edge Lane
Single dwelling.

S.18/0217/FUL 4 COURT ORCHARD
Demolition of existing dwelling and the erection of three bungalows.

S.18/0188/TCA PACKERS, New Street

T1 Beech tree; crown raise to a height of 5 metres by removing secondary branches, reduce lateral limbs by 3 metres.

S.18/0216/TCA WESTHAVEN HOUSE, New Street

Trees in a Conservation Area

Description: Eucalyptus (T1) Fell Box Tree (T2) to remove 1 x lower branch that is currently pressing down on the wall.

S.18/0320/HHOLD CYPRUS COTTAGE, Sheepscombe
Rear Extension.

S.18/0327/LBC WOODSIDE HOUSE, Slad Road
Internal Works.

S.18/0290/HHOLD & S.18/0291/LBC THE BARN, (Hill Farm)

Conversion of existing building to provide ancillary habitable accommodation & new car port.

S.18/0245/HHOLD 4 NEW STREET
To install a flu and replace a bedroom window and balcony door with a three panel bi-fold door within flat.

CONSENT

S.17/2776/HHOLD

2 WORDINGS MOUNT, Sheepscombe
Two storey extension to the side of the property.

S.17/2765/TCA YEW TREE HOUSE, Vicarage Street.

Reduce the height of Holly by approximately 4-6m.

S.17/2847/HHOLD YEW TREE COTTAGE, Stepping Stone Lane
Erect new conservatory in place of existing conservatory.

S.18/0055/TPO PARADISE HOUSE, Paradise

Cedar – Canopy lift to 8m all round.

S.18/0053/T5DAY JUBILATE, Blakewell Mead

Cedar snow damage, clean up torn limbs.

REFUSED

S.17/2607/LBC COTSWOLD VILLA, Gloucester Street

Replacement of 4 windows to the front of the house.

MINI-ADS

Garage / secure storage wanted for our immaculate family classic car purchased many years ago from a Painswick doctor! Rent will be paid. Phone please 01453 549996 or email foresters@freeuk.com

For sale: **Water softener salt tablets:** 1 x 25 kg £ 9.50 Tel: 812706

Offered - Kitchen Furniture. Numerous light wood coloured door / drawer fronts, end panels etc - 9 yrs old vgc being stripped out March/April. Anyone interested ring 01452 814186. Charitable donation requested.

Loving home needed for 2 very affectionate, personable adult CATS. Short-haired, golden sand coloured, male and female siblings, in perfect health. Please call Marie 07837 917431 to arrange visit!

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Planning process A democratic deficit?

All Planning applications within the Painswick Parish Council area are reviewed by the Planning Committee of the Parish Council and we report each month on some of their discussions. However the Parish Council has no decision-making power on applications and can only ask for its views to be taken into account by Stroud District Council, which is the decision-making body. In practice the District Council delegates most decisions to the professional planning officers employed by the Council. Relatively few applications go to its own Development Control Committee for review by Councillors.

Happily most planning applications are relatively uncontroversial and are allowed by the Council. Where applications are more controversial and the Parish Council is concerned that the Planning Officer may not support its views, it can ask for applications to be considered in the Development Control Committee by elected Councillors rather than being decided by Officers. Individual Councillors can also ask for applications to go to the Committee, and many see this as an important democratic safeguard. However neither Parish Councils nor individual Councillors can insist on applications going to the Committee. The Chairman, currently Cllr. Tom Williams, in discussion with Council Officers, can decide that the reasons being put forward are not 'valid planning reasons' and refuse to take them to the Development Control Committee.

In two recent cases highlighted in the Beacon, both as it happens in the Stamages Lane area, the Parish Council has requested that applications should be considered by the Development Control Committee, but has been overruled. The cases have been decided by Council Officers – one being given permission against the views of the Parish Council, the other (where the PC was split) refused. In at least one case, Painswick Councillors on Stroud Council, also asked for the application to go to the Committee, but they too were overruled. In fact it is now over two years since the Development Control Committee has considered any planning application in the Painswick Parish Council area. The last case was the major application for housing at The Park, reviewed in December 2015.

Stroud Council has now also dropped the practice of sending letters to near neighbours, when a planning application is received. Public notices are still posted on nearby lampposts or telephone poles, and of course are reported in the Beacon, but neighbours are no longer individually informed.

Julian Telling Garden Services

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The Personal Column

Congratulations

To **HYWEL JAMES** and **LIZ BUTLER** who were married in St Mary's Church, Painswick on Saturday February 17th.

To **KERRY STANLEY** who is the granddaughter of Sue Stanley of Butt Green, on gaining her PhD. Well done Dr Kerry Stanley!

Best Wishes

To **JENNIFER SKINNER**, who retired at Christmas after 20 years of teaching generations of children at the Croft School, many of them now grown up and making their own way in the world.

Condolences

To the family and friends of **FRANK BIGGS**, who died on 20th February, aged 74. The funeral service will be held at Gloucester Crematorium on Friday 16th March at 2.30pm.

Below: Hywel James and Liz Butler at their wedding.



Jennifer Skinner at her retirement presentation at the Croft School.

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.



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