

The Painswick Beacon

Volume 43 Number 11

February 2021

Lucky Severn Lottery

A new local lottery is launching to raise funds for local charities and good causes in the Stroud District.



It is a weekly online lottery with a chance to win £25,000 as well as support good causes and local voluntary groups with fund-raising. Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 per week. Each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance to win a prize each week. The lottery will be drawn every Saturday night at 8pm. Tickets are available at: www.luckysevernlottery.co.uk (<https://www.luckysevernlottery.co.uk>).

60p out of every £1 goes to the good causes and anyone buying a ticket can select the cause they wish to support from those registered on the website and 50p of their ticket cost will go to their choice and the other 10p will go to other registered causes. The rest of the money goes towards prizes and administration costs. There is no cost to charities, projects and groups who sign up. Players must be at least 16 years of age.

Is your group a charity or a good cause trying to raise money? Then why not pop to the website www.luckysevernlottery.co.uk and register for free to help your cause.

Tickets will be on sale from 16th February and if you wish to set up a syndicate of members of your club or society there are details on the website of how you can do this. The first draw will take place on 20th March 2021.



Second snowfall of the season

Sunday 24th January saw our second snowfall of the season giving some wonderful winter scenes.



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

The full minutes of Council and committee meetings are available for scrutiny at the Council's office and on-line at the Parish Council's web site.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members attending remotely by Zoom:

Cllrs Rob Lewis (Chairman), Andy Cash, James Cross, Ann Daniels, Rosie Nash, Abigail Smith.

Apologies for absence. Cllrs Ian James and Roey Parker.

Public questions: Concerns were raised about the Street Traders application for a converted horse box to be placed at the Ramblers Car Park alongside The Plantation where it was proposed to sell coffee and cake. The concerns expressed related to: a loss of parking provision, the adverse effect on a Site of Special Scientific Interest, damage to rare plants, litter, anti-social behaviour and probable adverse effect on existing businesses.

Matters requiring a decision

a. Street Trading consent – for coffee and cake to be sold from a converted horse box at the Ramblers Car Park, Golf Course Road. The members endorsed the concerns expressed by the public (see above) and agreed to recommend to the District Council that the application be refused.

b. S.20/2709/HHOLD. Orchard View, Cockshoot, Sheepscombe. Single storey rear extension. Support.

c. S.20/2772/LBC. Woodbank, Jack's Green, Sheepscombe. Addition of half flight stair and new access to master bedroom, partition wall added to create additional bedroom. Support.

d. S.20/2747/FUL. Longridge Court, Bulls Cross, Sheepscombe. Installation of new window. Support.

e. S.20/2721/HHOLD. Holly House, Slad. Erection of garage, replacement roof to conservatory and garage, and garage conversion. Internal alterations to main house.

The committee agreed to support this application if the Conservation Officer was in agreement. The Parish Council wished to draw attention to the final paragraph of the Heritage Statement as they were concerned that this statement is not accurate.

f. S.21/0006/HHOLD. Bunch of Grapes, Cheltenham Road. Proposed ground floor side extension, first floor glazed sunroom, floor plan redesign and all associated works. Support.

g. S.20/2800/FUL. Westmorland House, Kingsmead. Demolition of existing house and garage and construction of replacement dwelling. Support.

h. S.21/0018/HHOLD. 1 Tocknells Cottages, Cheltenham Road. Construction of a wooden shed. Support.

i. S.21/0049/HHOLD Gravel hill, Slad Road. Installation of a flue forming part of a biomass heating system (retrospective). Support provided it meets with the approval of the Environmental Officer.

j. S.20/2605/CPE. The Little Bridge House, Stepping Stone Lane. Change of use of land to residential following planning consent to erect a private garage on 9/7/1981 (planning ref. S.5016/C). Support

k. S.20/2604/TPO. Overdale, Slad Road, Slad., TPO 543 – Beech tree, prune back over boundary line. Already refused by Stroud District Council (SDC).

l. S.20/2682/TPO. Hillfoot Cottage, 22 Gloucester Road. Fell 2 x Beech trees in close proximity to overhead lines. Already approved by SDC.

m. S.20/2726/TPO. Lullingworth, Stroud Road. Dismantle tree nos. 0152, 0153, 0154, 1772, 1773, 1776, 1779 as identified in the Arborist's report. Support.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting followed the Planning Committee, again by Zoom.

Present remotely were: Cllrs Martin Slinger (Chairman), Ann Daniels, Andy Cash, James Cross, Rob Lewis, Rosie Nash and Abigail Smith.

Apologies for absence: Cllrs Ian James and Roey Parker.

Presentation

The meeting was preceded by a presentation from Mr James Webb of the Cotswold National Landscape (CNL) on the subject of the Kingfisher Trail 2021. The Parish Council has been advised that the Trail will run from 31st May to the end of September across the Cotswolds. There will be two trails, each hosting 10 sculptures. The trails are inspired by our biggest rivers: the Severn trail in the west and the Thames trail in the east. The 21st sculpture, the flying Kingfisher, will move to a new location each fortnight to create interest and intrigue. The Kingfisher sculptures will be painted by well-known and up and coming artists over the winter and then placed in their host locations for the duration of the summer. The Kingfisher has been chosen because it is an iconic bird that represents adaptability and resilience. Visiting the 21 sculptures will be family orientated, inclusive and free. It will convey a positive message about engagement with nature, post Covid-19. The official website and the social media channels are live:
<https://www.kingfishertrail.org/>

Reports

District Councillor Nigel Cooper reported that a new lottery called Lucky Severn is being set up by Stroud District Council. Further details are in the report on page 1

Council Chairman. Cllr Slinger, reported that the Council's apprentice, Lucas Edney, had completed the various stages of the NVQ and had now taken up his position as the Junior Groundsman. He also spoke of the concerns regarding the flooding along the Painswick Stream and the problem of debris being washed into the watercourse.

Parish Council Clerk. The Clerk reported on the measures that had been implemented during Lockdown 3. He also reported on the work he was undertaking relating to the Community Support Group. He concluded his report by extending his considerable thanks to the Deputy Parish Council Clerk for the exceptional support

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she had given in the preparation of a very difficult budget, the work for which had been exacerbated by the pandemic.

Councillors' reports. Cllr Andy Cash, the Slad Member, said that the HGV sign had still not been fixed to the post. He referred to flooding in the Slad Valley. Cllr Slinger reported on the ivy that needed to be removed from the Stamages Lane wall. Cllr Abigail Smith updated the Council on the work of the Community Support Group. She referred to the requirement for members to have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and also to the assistance being given with the vaccination programme.

Cllr Smith also spoke of the inappropriate parking in Friday Street which was causing an access problem to a residential property. Cllr Rosie Nash raised concerns about a property being advertised with a dedicated parking space. She was not aware of the existence of the indicated

space. Cllr Rob Lewis expressed concern about speeding traffic entering and leaving Painswick along the Gloucester Road by the Rococo Garden entrance.

To consider partaking in the Kingfisher Project organised by the Cotswold National Landscape.

The Council discussed the request at length and agreed to support the project in principle. However, whilst they agreed to the siting of a Kingfisher sculpture on the Gyde Memorial Land opposite the Falcon Hotel, they were unable to meet the cost as funds for the project had not been budgeted.

To approve the recommendations of the Finance Committee at its meeting on 13th January 2021.

a. Town Hall/Community Pavilion hire fees. The Council agreed not to increase the fees for the Financial Year 2021/22.

b. Cemetery fees. The Council agreed not to increase the fees for the Financial Year 2021/22.

c. Grants. Grants were approved in the sum of £1615.00.

d. Adoption of budget for 2021/22. The Council agreed to adopt the budget.

e. To approve the precept for 2021/22. The Council unanimously agreed that the precept be increased by 2% after taking into account the changes to the electoral numbers. The precept was set at £109,709.00 which equates to a £1.19 per annum increase on a Band D property.

To consider a request from the Woodland Trust.

The Council agreed not to enter into a lease agreement with the Woodland Trust

The meeting closed at 8.53pm.

Advertising – priority booking period closing

If you are looking to advertise in the Beacon, please get in touch now.

The priority booking period for box adverts next year (April 2021 – March 2022) closes on 12th February, after which adverts will be accepted only if there is space remaining. In three of the last four years, all the advertising space was taken in the priority booking period.

Current advertisers were sent an email in mid-January. If you are a current advertiser and have not received an email, please contact me urgently.

New advertisers must complete and sign a Booking Form which is available from me or from our website www.painswickbeacon.org.uk (then click on “how to advertise” and follow the links). Costs are set out on the Booking Form and are the same as last year.

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.

*Peter Rowe 01452 813228
advertising.beacon@painswick.net*

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Walking in Gloucestershire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/glos is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Gloucestershire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!
www.walkinginengland.co.uk/glos

John Harris email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Friday Club

It has been so disappointing for all of us that we have not been able to meet up for such a long time because of the restrictions that we have had to adhere to of course, because of the Coronavirus.

**Friday
Club**

We hope to restart our meetings as soon as possible – hopefully soon after Easter, so fingers crossed! We will just have to wait and see how things progress won't we? We could possibly begin with a tea party, but whatever we do we will let you know and welcome all of our members and any new members who would like to join us. We would be so pleased to see you all when we start again..

We all look forward to meeting up again as soon as we can safely do so, but meanwhile have a good New Year and look forward to everyone meeting up again.

Barbara Tait (Chair)

There is tribute from the Friday Club to Pat Daly on page 13

The perfect place for local exercise

The Rococo Garden continues to be open for your delight. In the current circumstances, please do check our website or ring for the most up-to-date opening hours as they may change according to government guidance – but as I write this, we are open Friday-Sunday for locals to exercise. The Cafe is serving takeaway drinks and snacks and we are currently operating on an “outdoors only” basis so you do not need to come indoors to pay admission or order your coffee. At this time of year, it's all about the snowdrops, whose hope-inspiring blooms may be more welcome than ever in these difficult times. The early-flowering ones are all looking good already and the majority are likely to be their best at the start of February, according to Roger, our Head Gardener.

**Painswick
Rococo
Garden**

Like many charities, the Rococo Garden has suffered a dramatic downturn in its income over the past year. We need to raise vital funds to keep this wonderful place open and looking fantastic. So we are running a Winter Raffle with some rather juicy monetary prizes and would be very grateful of your support. At £1 each or a book for £5, they are very affordable. You can buy tickets when you visit or request some by post by ringing us on 01452 813204. The closing date is 1 March. You can find out more by visiting the “news” page on our website rococogarden.org.uk.

For many gardeners, this is the time of year to finalise growing plans for the year. To provide some inspiration, we have some fantastic plants for you to check out in our plant sales area. Our plants are known to be of top quality and you don't need to visit the Garden to make a purchase. Plant sales are available during public opening hours – again, check our website for the latest updates.

I thank you for your continued support and hope you will be able to visit to lose yourself in the Garden's special embrace.

Tim Toghill, volunteer & trustee

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Library opening times

At time of writing (24th January) in line with Covid-19 rules, Painswick Community Library is only open for a Click and Collect service at restricted times. It is possible to specify Painswick as a collection point for any book reserved online on the Gloucestershire County Council website.



Opening hours to collect pre-ordered items are Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10.30 to 12.00. Access is only via the front door of the Town Hall with further instructions clearly displayed. Our own new books are only available by request at Painswick by contacting the library on 01452 814744 during the above opening times. A comprehensive list of recent additions will be posted on the library's website (www.painswickcommunitylibrary.org.uk) together with further contact information.

Any updates to these opening hours will be made on the library's website, on social media and via the Town Hall Noticeboard.

Withdrawn Stock

Library books for all ages which have been withdrawn from Painswick stock are available in the Main Hall of the Town Hall during Post Office opening hours. Books can also be left in the specified box for return to library stock after a 72 hour quarantine period.

Happy Reading

Pat Pinnegar

Library Book Club

Our read over Christmas was *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Leftereri. The central characters are Nuri, a beekeeper and his wife Afra, a talented artist. The tale begins with a heartwarming glimpse into their happy family life in Aleppo before the outbreak of war in Syria. The ensuing conflict would tear a hole in their lives as it would the city of Aleppo itself. The couple must flee to find sanctuary in England. The journey will test both their personal endurance: emotionally, physically and psychologically, and also their relationship and love for each other. Their journey from Syria across Europe would take them from squalid refugee camps to encounters with drug and people traffickers and gave a harrowing insight into the suffering of the individual and families, compelled to risk everything to find safety in what is not always a welcoming environment.



Fortunately for the reader the structure of the novel revealed early on that they do indeed reach England safely, to be housed in a B&B awaiting scrutiny for asylum status. The disturbing events they experience or witness are often implicit rather than explicit leaving room for the readers imagination to fill the void. Too much graphic detail may have made this too difficult a read, which we felt it was not.

We were fortunate to have a group member who has worked with Syrian refugees in Stroud and she shared with us her knowledge and experiences which was invaluable to our discussion. Thank you Judith for that. The author herself worked as a volunteer at a Unicef supported refugee centre in Athens and is the daughter of Cypriot refugees. Her knowledge and empathy makes this a powerful novel. She achieves an excellent balance between evoking the hardships endured by and the hope, determination and bravery of the refugees. By drilling down into the experiences of Nuri and Afri, we agreed that the novel added to our knowledge of Syria and her unhappy and suffering people in a way that the media could not touch. A novel that we highly recommend.

Our next read is *Old Baggage* by Lissa Evans.

The next meeting is Monday 15th February at 2pm via Zoom.
For further information please email Carole Smith at: painswick.library.bookclub@gmail.com

Pat Andrew

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News from St Mary's

As I write we are still in Lockdown with no indication of when present restrictions will be eased. In the interests of public safety for our local communities all our churches in the benefice regrettably are closed for public worship and prayer. This move is supported by our local bishops and is common to the diocese. However, we have moved to having a regular Sunday morning service for the benefice via zoom at 10.30am which is being well supported. If you have not joined this service yet and would like to, please contact Andrew Leach via email – ajpleach@gmail.com. for the zoom code



In spite of the Lockdown there are some encouraging signs of hope on the horizon. It appears that Covid infections in the South West are levelling off and by the time you read this article they should be declining. Vaccinations are proceeding rapidly, efficiently and smoothly which is gradually moving the more vulnerable in society to a safer place. In our gardens snowdrops are flowering, a sure sign of Spring and better weather to come.

Lent is early this year with Ash Wednesday signalling the beginning of Lent being on 17th February. Usually Churches Together Around Painswick (CTAP) organise Lent study groups to meet during this season as a Lenten exercise. Unfortunately this will not be possible this year. Some existing groups will be meeting via zoom and several new Lenten study books have been published which can be used for private devotion. If you would like further details about these please contact me by phone – 01452/812083.

Our National Health Service staff are serving us well and rising magnificently to the present demands. The pressure they are under must be immense and they include members from among our local communities. They need our continued support and our prayers.

Wishing you a good Lent and hoping for an improving situation as the year progresses

David Newell

Foodbank drop off

Well, you did it again!

Despite Covid and horrible weather you came with your wonderful and very generous gifts of food and cleaning products totalling a staggering 548.75kg of donations.

In fact, since we started you have given nearly 1700kg of tangible love to the areas of Gloucestershire served by Stroud District Foodbank. In December alone 462 adults and children were supported by bags of food, an increase month on month, year on year. Every one of your items went with your kindness to someone who needed it. So, what can we say except the most enormous thank you. That's 462 people who did NOT have to go hungry.

Can we keep asking?

The next drop off will be on: Tuesday 16th February 10am-12noon in Stamages Lane car park and outside the church. Suggested items are: small bags of sugar, jam, peanut butter, chocolate spread, biscuits, tinned fruit, tinned potatoes, UHT milk, washing detergent, any household cleaning products

But, as always, any non-perishable items will be gladly received.

LAPTOP/iPAD DROP OFF

And, whilst we were there, we collected an astonishing 19 computers which were safely delivered to Archway School in Cashes Green. They were absolutely bowled over. That's 19 more children who can learn from home from now on. How wonderful to think of that.

And the plea for Laptops/iPads continues... please bring them along on the 16th if you have a spare.

*Joan Warner
Philippa Miller
Margaret Radway
Jude Lindley
Pippa Dickinson
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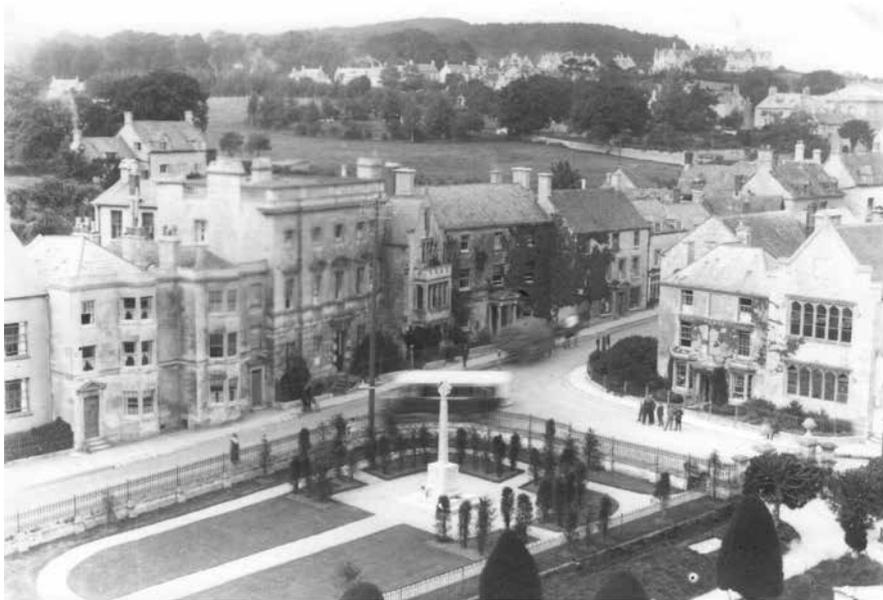
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A proud centenary

1921, a hundred years ago, and Painswick was still reeling from both the effects of the Great War and from the last worldwide pandemic, Spanish flu, which took the lives of several local residents. More than 275 Painswick men had gone to war of whom approximately 20% died. Many of those who did return found themselves unemployed and somewhat shunned socially – so much for ‘a home fit for heroes’. Disillusioned, aggrieved and angry it was they, the comrades, who called a public meeting to discuss the need for a memorial to commemorate Painswick’s war dead. There was unanimous agreement.



The strip of land between the church and New Street, owned by the town and known as Jumbo’s Den, was chosen and a design was presented by a famous architect, Frederick Landseer Maur Griggs. The site had to be cleared of several large trees (much welcomed by nearby residents!) and, as the whole project incurred very heavy costs, money had to be raised quickly.

There was a house-to-house collection on Armistice Day 1920.

Constructed of Minchinhampton limestone by Cottles of Brimscombe, the memorial is 19½ feet high, a tapering rectangular shaft on a solid concrete base, the head carved with a crucifixion. There is a very poignant inscription on the base, added to after WW2 when more Painswick men lost their lives. No ranks are given so in Painswick all the dead are equal.

On 23 January 1921 a large crowd gathered for the dedication. Ex-servicemen marched from the Institute, headed by the Painswick Brass Band, and formed a cordon round the cross. The Last Post was sounded by buglers, the congregation stood in silent prayer and the tenor bell at the church was tolled 49 times. For its size, Painswick had certainly lost a large percentage of men.



For many years our war memorial, like so many in towns and villages across the country, was very visible, a symbol of dignified community pride. The photograph above shows the site as it was in the 1920s. Nowadays it is almost hidden behind a very high yew hedge and the eroded lettering on the memorial makes the names quite difficult to read. Perhaps it is timely therefore for us to focus on the care and restoration of this very fine monument standing in our midst.

What are the possible options? A re-assessment of the height of the hedge, cleaning and renovation of the memorial stonework, re-working of the lettering, an information board close at hand giving the names and inscriptions are just some suggestions. Marking the centenary of its unveiling, this year is indeed a befitting time to consider paying some attention to its appearance. This is an important feature of our community, one which we should regard with pride. The Beacon raised this matter a few months ago but we received only a couple of responses. Please do give it some thought and if you agree with any of these suggestions or have any of your own let us know and we will pass them on to the Parish Council. Your positive ideas would be welcome.

Carol Maxwell

A full history of the War Memorial can be found in Painswick Chronicle No 11 and in the book Painswick and the Great War, both available from the local history society or Painswick Pharmacy



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Painswick Surgery Patient Group (PPG)

Whilst this news comes from the patient group we are trying to support the Practice as much as possible during the current combination of pressures so here we report direct from the senior partner, Dr Rhys Evans:

Two important messages as we start the New Year:
You will be contacted by the NHS when it is time for your Covid vaccine.
The surgery is open.

Alongside the requirements of responding to the pandemic the usual needs remain and it is important we don't miss anything vital whilst under pressure. We are particularly concerned about outstanding cervical smears and poorly controlled diabetics. If you know your smear is overdue please book one, if we contact you please don't put it off.

We are actively prioritising which diabetics we contact first. We do however remain in a pandemic and are committing a great deal of time to vaccinations. Doing that at the same time as our day job has been described as 'redesigning a cockpit mid-flight'! Inevitably it impacts on how we must do things. We know you know that, we know that you are trying hard not to contact us unless you need to, but sometimes it is difficult to be sure if symptoms are trivial or perhaps early warning signs. For this reason we triage all contacts to determine the most appropriate action, be that an examination, call, text or suggesting a different health professional. The eConsult system we ask you to use allows us to provide advice and reassurance efficiently. We know the system can be frustrating, we know you might prefer a chat. Do remember that this time last year you would have waited 5 weeks for that.

Staff news

Meanwhile we welcome Jenny Vallely to the surgery on a short term contract. She is a highly experienced Practice Manager helping Mike prepare for when normality returns and is a godsend. We sadly wave goodbye to Dr Odufuwa who moves to complete the final stage of her GP training.

Vaccinations

Overall, the more I realise how complicated local vaccine rollout is, the more impressed I am with the national effort. It seems to me that there is actually a good reason for almost every seemingly illogical decision, every frustrating delay. I do wish these were communicated better, earlier. At present my best source of national strategy is the BBC, the same as you. Locally however communication is excellent, with an ongoing dialogue involving the most senior CCG members and representatives from every GP surgery in Gloucestershire. Tips, advice and instructions are constantly shared and it seems the CCG members are available 7 days a week, 18 hours a day. At the end of a January surgery there were 70 Whatsapp messages between us awaiting attention. This helped us reach the enviable position of being at the front of the pack nationally and of course internationally in the race to vaccinate. Painswick completed vaccinating all Elderly Care Homes mid-January and expect to have completed all the housebound by the end of the month. With clinics booked at Rowcroft over the end of January and first week of February we should by the time you read this have completed the over 80's.

You will have heard that larger centres are being rolled out, including Boots in Gloucester. The appointments for these centres are handled nationally. Neither we nor you can book directly unless you are invited. If you are invited before being vaccinated locally I urge you to accept if at all possible. If you cannot get to the centre don't worry, we in the local Surgery will be in touch.

But it's still not fast enough. We know you are itching to get the jab, and everyone will have particular circumstances that should give them priority. The instructions we have been issued remain clear: we must vaccinate according to the cohorts determined by NHSE. We must not currently administer second jabs. If you are over 80 and haven't been vaccinated by the time you read this, please contact us. Alternatively, please feel free to write to Matt Hancock.

Dr Rhys Evans

The Patient Group are issuing much more frequent bulletins by email to those who request them from ppgpainswick@gmail.com, keeping people abreast of vaccination developments as they unfold.

David Perry



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The Beacon is Under Pressure.



In our archive material we have a number of reports written about the Beacon. The earliest is from 1951 and is hand written with drawn illustrations. No mention is made of visitors. We have three other subsequent reports all of which mention the increase of visitor numbers.

Having been born in the village, I can remember playing on the Beacon and hardly seeing a soul.

Early black and white postcards and RAF aerial photos also show how open the slopes of the Beacon were. How things have changed.

When I moved back to Painswick just over twenty years ago, I was surprised how the paths were more worn and how much scrub had developed. Since then the increase in visitors seems to have been exponential. Erosion damage to the Hill Fort became so bad that in 2005 a major restoration project was undertaken; worn out paths were repaired, new stone steps added, drystone retaining walls built and landscaping was seeded. This worked for a while, but now it is in a worse state than ever and other parts of the site are being degraded.

There are a number of factors contributing to the problem. The population is, rightly, being encouraged to take more exercise but the increased housing developments around Gloucester and Cheltenham (more are planned on the A417) have produced a large number of people using the Beacon. Dog ownership has gone up, hence more walkers, dog walking businesses and the associated dog poo problems. Mountain biking has exploded in popularity resulting in more trails and erosion. The Cotswold Way has become very popular and the route it takes has become wider and wider and at the moment so muddy. Social media promotes (Google maps describe the Quarry Road area as the Beacon Car Park) and the Beacon is one of the top ten things to "do" in the Cotswolds. Horses use the Beacon and sometimes, to the annoyance of the golf club, canter on the fairways.

Car parking has become a major problem. During the recent snow every available place was taken and grass verges were badly damaged by people creating new ones. At the busiest times there must have been a thousand people on the site.

Associated with this visitor pressure are a host of other problems; fly tipping, littering, fires & BBQs, dog mess, 4x4 damage, metal detecting, drone flying, vandalism, planting, and memorials, none of which are allowable on a Site of Special Interest.

The Beacon is not alone with this problem, most other similar sites around the Stroud Valleys are suffering the same fate. One thing I am sure of is that SSSI and wildlife do not go well with excessive visitor numbers. I'm not sure what the solution is, but it will have to come from a much higher authority than our little PBCG. Meanwhile all we can do is carry on trying to look after the rare grassland as best we can.

Paul Baxter

...a reflection on the above



Dexter Cattle on the Beacon (photo Jackie Herbert)

Agreed. Visitor numbers have been increasing since the end of the 1950s and this in line with expansion of car ownership. As a child in the 1970s I remember the Beacon being popular, it has become more so since.

Damage though probably peaked in the early 1990s, this was the time when bunds were placed about the access to old quarries, the fly tipping, though still an issue, far greater then, burnt out vehicles were also a regular feature and from time to time we saw illegal encampments, illegal fires were set and the fire brigade had to be called out frequently...

The lockdown has for various reasons seen an increase in visitor numbers, the Beacon has become an obvious place to exercise with areas further afield no longer accessible; travel to holiday destinations, both abroad and within the U.K. have largely ceased for the time being, again due to the pandemic, and so once again the

Beacon becomes more attractive. Doubtless numbers will fall back once the travel restrictions have been removed. In the meantime, it is a wonderful thing that the Beacon should be available and I know that the many that enjoy the hill are grateful.

I do dispute that the damage to the fort is now greater then it was. Those who remember the Beacon from the 1980s and 90s will remember the substantial erosion about the then trig point, to the slopes of the inner walls, gullies near two foot wide and near a foot deep. Remedial work carried out in 2005, did much to reverse the damage and I am glad to say, the Fort has remained relatively unscathed since.

Parking has of late become an issue, there have been earlier times when it has been too, particularly about the cemetery, for which reason posts were erected, again in the 1990s. A large part of the problem today is the increased number of visitors taking their "pandemic exercise" and the consequent increase in visitor parking.

It would be entirely wrong to close the Beacon to the public, to prevent the present general right of access, and even if done, a prohibition would be impossible to police. The public, I imagine, would agree

I, of course, commend Selina (my sister), who as you know owns the common, for actively supporting the management of the SSSI, Natural England for setting down the plans and guidelines for management and of course the PBCG for all the work they have done and continue to do.

Amaury Blow

Racing ahead with Alex

Alex Warnaby is a very focussed young man. A Painswick resident all his life and aged just 15, he is poised on the verge of making his name nationally in the world of kart racing.

It all started when he was 11 and went with his dad for a fun day out to the circuit at Castle Combe, Wiltshire. That was the beginning of what was to become a seriously earnest hobby. A fairly late starter – many children are on the circuit at a very young age indeed – Alex immediately took a real interest in the sport and quickly became exceptionally adept at driving and racing. For those under 16 there are three kart classes and Alex is now in the Juniors (11-16).

When it became clear that Alex's participation in the sport was truly serious his parents decided to buy him a kart of his own and, despite his current junior status, it is an adult kart. That was in 2019 and was the year he entered his first race. He is naturally very proud of his machine and rightly so. Capable of reaching a speed of 70mph and highly complex, it requires real understanding both of its component parts and of its handling technique. Karting is fast, low to the ground and undertaken in close proximity to other competitors so the skills involved are multiple. Apart from thorough knowledge of the machine and its capabilities, a driver must be continuously observant, well coordinated and develop the ability to anticipate the potential manoeuvres of the other competitors so close by.

The attraction of the sport is clear. It is great fun, competitive, skilful, exciting and full of potential success. It can be dangerous with the possibility of whiplash, bruising and broken bones so driving skills need to be matched with physical fitness. Alex is in top form in this respect, exercising daily, choosing PE as one of his GCSE subjects and currently undertaking his bronze level Duke of Edinburgh award. He explains the importance of maintaining a specified personal weight in relation to the weight of the kart and points out the strictness of the rules of the sport in this regard.



Practising is of course vital. Unfortunately, there are no circuits in Gloucestershire so Alex has to travel to either Daventry in Northants or Bridgend in Wales. This he does with his family once or sometimes twice a month, each time for a whole weekend. The family has become a team in what is essentially an individual sport. For all of them initially there was a lot to learn, and quickly. Now Dad is the mechanic, Mum the caterer and younger brother the backup. Competitions are held in various centres countrywide and as a result Alex has made friends from far and wide.

Last year he participated in the Junior Rotax class of the National Kart Cup and finished as runner-up overall for his class in the championship – a real achievement. In December he passed the ARKS test which means he is now fully qualified and licensed as a karting driver and therefore eligible to enter Motor-Sport UK competitions at a higher level.

This year he has entered the competition again. Renamed the Junior Kart Cup, there are eight rounds planned at tracks situated from Cumbria to Kent and the hope is for a March start. The races will be live-streamed on YouTube. Alex is determined to do well and there are high hopes for this intrepid young Painswickian at what is veritably a national level. Some sponsorship would be truly appreciated; the cost of tyres (frequently changed of course), fuel, engine parts etc and travel to and from the various national and practice circuits quickly add up. Alex is a delightful, well-balanced and rather modest young man. It would be so good to see him succeed at national level. If you would like to contribute by way of sponsorship or perhaps know of a business which might be interested, you can contact Alex's mum by email lwarnaby@yahoo.com Your support would mean so much.

Carol Maxwell

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Jottings

Babycham is a form of cider, made from fermented pear juice. It was invented by the Showering family as a low-alcohol sparkling drink and was popular in the 1950's and 60's. The two Showering brothers who ran the business then would come up to the Cotswold Vale and the Forest of Dean to get pears for their Cider mill at Shepton Mallet. They considered the product from this area gave the best taste to the drink when brewed. It was considered a ladies drink whilst the men drank beer. Two and a half million bottles were produced in 1969.

As the pears ripened farm workers would go out and shake them from the trees and bag them up into hessian sacks. Lorries regularly collected bags from the local farms during September and October, taking them to the Showerings mill.

Most of the old cider and perry orchards are now gone through old age. In the 1940's and 50's there was a huge number of orchards, but seventy five percent have been lost in the last fifty years.

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) offered grants for orchard restoration. There is a six hectare orchard of Gloucestershire varieties of apple and perry pears being maintained at the (NT) Ebworth Centre. The National Perry Pear Collection is at the Orchard Centre, Hartpury.

We had apple pressing at the Painswick Feast in 2019 by the Painswick Orchard Group "encouraging people in Painswick to appreciate our orchard heritage, plant and nurture orchard trees, apple pressing and cider making".

There are moves to plant new orchards and try to keep some of the old orchards for future generations. Day's Cottage at Brookthorpe uses local varieties for their home-pressed apple juice and cider.

Martin Slinger

Virtual Meetings with the Cotswold Naturalists

It will be some time before we can resume our meetings in the Painswick Centre. Instead, the Cotswold Naturalists' Field Club is embarking on virtual meetings via Zoom at our normal meeting time of 2.30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month. It has become apparent in our contacts with members that many are already using the Zoom App to stay in touch with family and friends, and, to listen to talks. For people new to Zoom, I can supply notes on 'How to Join CNFC Virtual Meetings with Zoom'. And, if you are without a device or email address, but are in a support bubble with someone else, we can provide the Link, Meeting ID and Passcode for use on their device.



The next meeting takes place on Wednesday 3rd March when Dr Alan Wadsworth will talk about the Worcestershire Farmsteads Project. Throughout the UK, historic farmsteads and their buildings contribute to local distinctiveness and the varied character of our countryside by reflecting local geology, building traditions and farming practices. However, the future of many historic farm buildings is increasingly dependent on a new role outside mainstream agricultural use. Alan will describe how, with the help of volunteers, the history of farmsteads is researched and recorded, so that they can be conserved and, if applicable, sensitively adapted to new uses.

Future topics include: the Stroudwater Canal restoration project; Chedworth Roman Villa; and Gardening for wildlife. Please contact me if you would like more details.

Jane Rowe 813228

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Not only but alsogood cause and permanent display for that picture

Anthony Lewis-Churchill's delightful painting which adorned the front page of the December Beacon gave pleasure to many readers. It raised £104 plus Gift Aid which has been given to Stroud Food Bank and the framed picture has been gifted to the parish. It will in due course take pride of place on display for all to see in the Town Hall.



Missing Painswick



Greg Thatcher sitting under the churchyard yews has been a regular sight for 28 summers – until last year that is. During each of his visits he has produced an amazingly evocative and detailed picture of the inside of whichever tree he has selected for that summer. A Canadian artist who lives in the States and whose work is widely acclaimed (he has won prestigious international competitions for his Painswick yew drawings), Greg and his wife, Jan, have grown to love their annual stays here.

Last August was the first for 29 years that they were unable, because of Covid, to make the trip. In a recent message he says, 'It's been hard for us not to be able to be in our beloved Painswick.' Like many people he and Jan have spent time during lockdown paying attention to their home but, he adds, 'We still miss Painswick and all our friends there. We're planning on coming this summer and will have to see how the coronavirus pans out over the next few months.'

Let's hope his wish is fulfilled – it would be really good to see him back for those balmy summer weeks we're all looking forward to!

Carol Maxwell



Bread and Fish and Takeaway

Steve with the bread and Pete with the fish are now both very definitely permanent once-a-week features in the Town Hall car park. After overcoming unexpected difficulties during and just after the Christmas period, their presences every week are settled and established. Steve, selling bread and pastries

for Salt Bakehouse, is in the Town Hall car park every Thursday from about 9.00am and Pete with his refrigerated van is there on Fridays also from about 9.00am.



So far, in January both have seen long queues and have almost sold out within an hour or so. Both are selling top quality foods and we are indeed fortunate that they are offering such service to Painswick residents. It is also worth remembering that the Bistro at St Michaels is providing an excellent takeaway service and, because the queues on Thursdays for the bread have been so long, the Bistro is also offering takeaway coffees, teas and mini pastries from 9.00am for those en route to the Bakehouse van.

Carol Maxwell

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Pat Daly (1927 - 2021)

Pat Daly, who has died, aged 93, made a huge impression on Painswick in the thirty-odd years he lived here. Before that though he had led a totally different life, much of it spent in Africa. He was born in Dorset in 1927, later moving to Essex and winning a scholarship to attend Opera School in London. The life of an opera singer was not in the end for him, but his beautiful baritone voice was still put to good use throughout his life, as many Painswickians will know.

Instead after military service he went to Agricultural College, which led to him going out to what was then Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) to help develop their agricultural sector. There he met and married Yvonne Dallamore and their three children were all born in Africa.

Pat's wife Yvonne died at a very young age in 1963 and Pat eventually re-married Mair Parry, a Schools Inspector for African schools, who would later become very well known in Painswick herself. The family came back to the UK in 1965, where Pat worked for the Council for the Preservation of Rural England and later for the Printers Pension Corporation. They moved around to various different places before retiring and settling in Painswick in the late 1980s.

Their effect on the village was almost immediate. Pat quickly became involved with the Music Society, he and Mair joined the Beacon Singers, and organised for a long time a series of Monday walks. He took part in PADS amateur dramatic productions and became a Cotswold Warden. He was a keen amateur watercolourist, often seen painting around the village.

But the activity for which Pat Daly will be most remembered in Painswick is probably his long involvement with what was originally the Senior Circle and later became the Friday Club. For many years he organised talks for the society, was its chairman under both names, and was eventually elected as its Life President. In January 1998 he was chosen by the Beacon as its Painswickian of the Year.



Pat on the Luapula River at a time of flooding



Pat in 1998 with his beloved dogs

Mair Daly died in 2007, but Pat continued to play an active part in village life, and his children, Gilly (Hill) and Mike are also well-known locally.

A tribute from the Friday Club

All Members of the Friday Club were saddened by the news of the passing of their popular Life President, Patrick (Pat) Daly. Pat was a long serving Member of the "Senior Circle" and its successor The Friday Club. Always a keen supporter of both Clubs, he was elected Chairman of each and both flourished under his direction and leadership. His Membership of both Clubs exceeded 30 years and in 2008, in recognition of his contribution to the well being of the Clubs, he was made Life President.



One of the highlights of the Club is the President's Tea Party which in good weather was always held in Pat's garden. Among his many skills was his ability to bake bread. At the party Members would tuck into Pat's homemade sandwiches followed by homemade scones with cream and jam. All washed down with wine again provided by the President. An afternoon we all looked forward to.

The next "Tea Party" will be held in memory of Pat and Members will raise a glass in memory of this remarkable man, Patrick Daly, whose aim in life was to "help the Community." Rest in peace.

The Committee and Members of the Friday Club



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February

Mon 1	Snowdrop family trail runs until Feb 28	Rococo Garden	10.00 - 3.00pm
Tues 2	Rococo Sprites restart	Rococo Garden	10.00am
Tues 23	Yew Trees WI. The Hotel with the famous guest list: John Butterworth	Talk by Zoom	7.00 for 7.30pm

March

Wed 3	Cotteswold naturalists: Farmsteads and Buildings - researching the past for the future. Dr Alan Wadsworth Enq 813228	Talk by Zoom	2.15 for 2.30pm
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April

Wed 7	Cotteswold naturalists: AGM + Environmental and ecological benefits of Stroud water canal restoration project . Anna Tarbet. Enq 813228	Talk by Zoom	2.15 for 2.30pm
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Property Report

The list of properties being sold in Painswick continues to lengthen, with the window to benefit from the Stamp Duty holiday rapidly coming to an end, but local estate agents report continuing strong demand and are all now keen to find more properties for sale.

Recently sold subject to contract are Columbus Cottage in Cheltenham Road, and 1 Cheltenham Road, Cotswold Villa in Gloucester Street, Dry Knapps House in Edge Road, the New House in Friday Street, Stables Cottage in Hale Lane, Longridge View in Vicarage Street, Little Gables at the Highlands, Cockshoot House on the far side of the Painswick Valley and several others a little further out of the village.

Properties where contracts have been exchanged / completed include Ashleigh and Ludloes/ The Glebe, both in Gloucester Street, Dormy House and Storm Rise, both in Kingsmill Lane, Thistledown in Randalls Field, Corner Cottage in Victoria Street, Glendale Cottage in Vicarage Street, Park House at The Park and Windrush at Beacon Close.

Amongst the few new properties coming onto the market are two older detached cottages, both a little hidden away off the main road. The Cottage in Vicarage Street (Murrays, £495,000) has three bedrooms and has been recently renovated, with a small attached home office. 4 Hambutts Cottages in Edge Road (Hamptons, £425,000) has private off road parking, two bedrooms and a level and manageable garden.

Another newly renovated property is Wayside in Victoria Street (Murrays, £375,000) with three bedrooms, right in the heart of the village. Also renovated, but in a completely different price range, is the 6 bed, 6 bath, Jenkins Farmhouse (Murrays, £2,750,000) between Pitchcombe, Edge and Painswick.

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Historic February crimes

1801

Samuel Selwin, weaver of Painswick, charged with buying and receiving from Mary Butt, widow of Painswick, about 4lbs of woollen yarn. Fined £40 or six months hard labour in Horsley House of Correction.

1831 - turnips

Benjamin Pearce and Richard Nicholls guilty of stealing about four bushels of turnips from ground occupied by William Capel the younger of Painswick. Sentence: hard labour for one calendar month in Horsley House of Correction.

1851 – firewood

Frederick Estcourt, labourer, age 30, 5ft 10inches, hair brown, eyes hazel, visage oval, complexion fresh, mole on right arm, large scar on left arm and back of left hand, mole back of neck. “Church”, worked for Mr Savory for more than five years. Charged with stealing at Painswick three pieces of firewood, the property of Mary Marklove. Fourteen days hard labour in the Penitentiary [Gloucester Gaol].

... and candles

Georgiana Parker, single woman, charged with stealing 14 candles. Committed for trial at next quarter sessions.

1871

Charlotte Clutterbuck, servant, age 15, 5ft 11inches, brown hair, visage long, complexion dark, scar left side of forehead, charged with stealing a gold ring. Remanded.

... drunk and disorderly

Joseph Foxwell, labourer, drunk and disorderly in Bisley St after leaving the Star public house, quarrelling with a man named Hopkins. Advised to go home by P.C. Grivell but continued to challenge him to a fight calling him a “sod” and other abusive expressions. Fined 2/6 and 8/- costs.

1881 – bread

Charles Mills, labourer, age 18, 5ft 6inches, hair light brown, dissenter, education imperfect, guilty of stealing bread. Seven days hard labour.

1891 – drunk again

Joseph Foxwell was fined £1 for being drunk while in charge of three horses and a timber carriage. He drove into and knocked down a cottage porch and collided with a baker’s trap breaking the shaft and damaging the harness.

... school attendance

Richard Sansom was summoned for not sending Wm. (age 8, attendances 29 out of 56) and Thos. (age 12, 21 out of 56) regularly to school. He had been summoned 12 times. Fined 5/- and costs in each case.

1901 – drunk

Robert Willaby Price, farmer, drunk. P.C. Hughes found him lying in snow in Bell St. Fined 2/6.

.. milk money

Alfred Birt, age 11, schoolboy, charged with stealing 10d, which had been left out for the milkman by Frederick Monk who said he had done so for the last 11 years. The Bench did not convict saying ‘it was improper on the part of the prosecution to expose money in the way he had done.’

Carol Maxwell

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The end of an era

As demolition workers began the task a few days ago of razing St Mary's Home, villagers had news of the end of another 'institution' John and Barbara Hulme had finally decided on the sale of Central Stores.

Of course, the fact that John and Barbara were planning to retire was well-known many months ago, but after more than 40 years of serving the Painswick community, both were loath to sell the stores, unless the buyer intended to keep the shop as a grocer's and general store.

"That has proved impossible," John told the Beacon last weekend. "It seems that no-one wants to take on a general store any more.

"It's very sad for us, naturally, because we are fully aware of the effect this will have on the village, but, believe me, we tried very hard and waited a long time to try to get a buyer like that. But it's very important that we retire now. This is a job for younger people."

Barbara and John might stay in the village for a few months while they look for the right house. "I know Barbara would like a garden and I would like a bit of space around me," said John.

Since the sale contracts are not yet signed and exchanged, the Beacon is unable to report on the buyers and their intentions.

And as the view opposite the car park changes, with it goes a century or so of Painswick history. St Mary's Home is coming down. It is the end of an era in



Demolition workers make a start on the chimney of the old laundry

many people's eyes, and probably the last piece of visible evidence of the many good deeds of the Wemyss sisters – Harriet Wemyss organised food and accommodation for the first resident, and thus began what ended as St Mary's Home for Elderly People with Learning Disabilities.

The original St Mary's Home for Working Girls (Feeble in Mind and Body) was established in 1890 at Falkland House in Gloucester Street. It subsequently moved to St Mary's Square and by 1906 was at Whitehall (changed to St Mary's) in Stamages Lane where it stayed. The premises in the main had been three old cottages joined together, a fact obscured by the painted rendering we have become so used to. The front of the building was a separate house and will, as we know, remain.

For many years the residents, usually women, were referred to affectionately as 'the girls'. They were always people in need of physical, social and clinical support. Many Painswickians will recall that for some years until the early 1950s 'the girls' provided a laundry service for the village, thereby contributing towards the upkeep of the home. When they finally moved out in autumn 2000 they were a group of 14 elderly women who had lived together at St Mary's for up to 45 years. In the latter years, theirs was a happy, active and well-cared-for community within the community, a significant feature of Painswick life

[Central Stores was in New Street where Painswick Fabrics is now situated. St Mary's Home was situated at the top of Stamages Lane facing the car park.]

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PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

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

S.20/2772/LBC Woodbank, Jacks Green, Sheepscombe
Internal alterations - Addition of half flight stair and new access to master bedroom, partition wall added to create additional bedroom.

S.20/2747/FUL Longridge Court, Bulls Cross, Sheepscombe
Installation of new window.

S.20/2721/HHOLD Holly House, Slad
Erection of garage, replacement roof to conservatory and garage, and garage conversion. Internal alterations to main house.

S.21/0006/HHOLD Bunch Of Grapes, Cheltenham Road
Proposed ground floor side extension, first floor glazed sunroom, floor plan redesign and all associated works.

S.20/2800/FUL Westmorland House, Kingsmead
Demolition of existing house and garage and construction of replacement dwelling.

S.21/0018/HHOLD 1 Tocknells Cottages, Cheltenham Road
Construction of wooden shed.

S.21/0049/HHOLD Gravel Hill, Slad Road
Installation of a flue forming part of a biomass heating system (retrospective).

S.21/0082/HHOLD C y p r u s Cottage Sheepscombe
Relocation of parking area and reinstatement of original boundary wall.

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

CONSENT

S.20/2457/HHOLD T a m a r i n Longridge Sheepscombe
Proposed annexe.

S.20/2408/HHOLD Worgans Barn, Folly Lane
Construction of detached outbuilding to house, bio-mass boiler & its associated plant.

S.20/2518/LBC The Painswick Hotel, Kemps Lane
Provide screening roof cover over bin store area in rear kitchen courtyard to mitigate views of bins seen by hotel guests

S.20/2543/HHOLD Alderley, The Highlands
Single storey rear extension, garage conversion, replacement dormer, replacement porch, facade treatments & alterations.

S.20/2200/TCA Wordings Orchard, Sheepscombe
T1 - Holm Oak, Complete removal. G1 - 4x Beech Trees, crown lift above the powerline. T2 - Lime, Remove the left hand bow as it leans up over the house. Lift the crown on to balance the tree. Thin Crown removing no more than 30%.

S.20/2682/TPO Hillfoot Cottage, 22 Gloucester Road
Fell 2 x Beech trees in close proximity to overhead lines.

REFUSED

S.20/2423/FUL Land At Yokehouse Lane
Erection of agricultural building for honey extraction, equipment storage, machinery and general agricultural use.

MINI - ADS

For sale: 2 matching fireside **armchairs**, good condition, little used since re-upholstering, mid-green, buyer collects, £10 or donation to Citizens Advice. 813228

Happy Valentines **Kim and Matty**. Painswick's prime purveyors of perfect pickles (IDST).

For sale: Ikea Billy **bookshelves** : large - 180H 80W 28D cm - £30, small - 115H x 80W x 28D cm - £15 - or both £40. 01452 812290/07946 915317

For sale: Ikea Hemnes black **bedside table** 66H 54W 38D cm - £35; Ikea Hemnes white long **chest of x8 drawers** 95H 160L 60D cm - £90. 01452 812290/07946 915317

For sale: Ikea wood natural finish **fil-ing cabinet**: 2x small drawers, 1x deep for files - £25 (on castors); Ikea **rush mat** - 300L 200W cm - £20. 01452 812290/07946 915317

For sale: Old pine (top)/painted legs **kitchen table** 69H 120W 70D cm - £30. Lots of back issues of **Gardens Illustrated Magazine** - any offers? 01452 812290/07946 915317

For sale: 2 10 gallon vintage milk churns made into **water butts** with wooden tops and chrome taps - in good working order - £100 each 01452 812290/07946 915317

For sale: Karma ultra-light folding **wheel-chair** - little used - £140. Oak refectory **table** (extends to 10' 6" long) £600. 6 Oak Dining **Chairs** (ladderback) £280. 01452 676855

Wanted :- two separate units **freezer** and **fridge** - free standing - preferably free. Please phone 01452812649

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Primarily for Painswick residents
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WI Zooming on!



January 2021 sees 20 members of Yew Trees WI confidently come together for their first meeting of the year via zoom. Roll back 12 months and quiz those self-same ladies on their knowledge of zoom and you would mostly have been met with blank stares – what a difference a year makes!

We were delighted to welcome back Alison Hesketh who had visited us in person in 2018 when she had entertained us with tales of her life as the wife of a vicar. This time her subject: Kith, Kin and Kenya covered the amazing life stories of one of Alison’s daughters’ and her two children, one of whom set off to do charity work in Kenya at the age of 18 and is still there today, married to a Kenyan with a family of her own. It is a story of three very remarkable people whose determination and courage to overcome physical and mental traumas is breath taking. Nothing seems to defeat any of them; their desire to help others and belief in their chosen way of life appears unswerving. After Alison’s last visit I wrote “her deceptively petite stature hid a very strong character, full of kindness and good humour”; these qualities and many more are still there and have been inherited in abundance by her family. Having retired as a psychiatric doctor working in Broadmoor prison, Alison’s daughter’s plans to purchase a vineyard in Southern Italy have been put on hold by the pandemic but I can see all the ingredients of a future talk waiting for us.

Over recent years our festive drinks at Christmas gatherings have been accompanied by delicious almonds kindly sent to us by Christopher Piper-Short, a former resident of Painswick now living in Spain. Early last year one of our Committee Members, Penny Eastwood, and husband Ian, were able to visit Christopher and his wife at their home in the foothills of the mountains where they admired the wonderful sight of the almond trees in full bloom. Kind as ever the box of extra special almonds, already blanched, roasted and salted in a secret recipe was delivered to Painswick this December. Unable to gather as usual the names of 10 lucky members were drawn from a hat and each will receive a bag of these very special almonds full of Spanish sunshine. Our grateful thanks go to Christopher, and our best wishes to him and his wife who are not having an easy time during lockdown in Spain, and who we know, read The Beacon each month.

On 23rd February members will once again gather for a zoom meeting when John Butterworth will give a talk entitled Hotel with a Famous Guest List.

Celia Lougher 812624

A history teaser

Do you know what this picture celebrates, when it was taken and can you identify any of the people?



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Personal Column

Condolences

GEORGE LYNDON HAWORTH MBE of Hyett Orchard passed away on the 6th December 2020. He leaves his wife Grace and his son and daughter.

To the family and friends of PERCY FRANKLIN who died peacefully aged 95 on January 14th



Percy has featured regularly in the pages of the Beacon which highlighted his gardening skills and his winning, many times, the Best Kept Garden award. A few years ago he was awarded the Legion D'Honneur for his part in the Normandy landings.

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



To the family and friends of PAT DALY who died on January 22nd (see article page 13)

For anyone wishing to pay their respects the funeral cortege will be leaving St Mary's at around 1.40pm on Tuesday 16th February.

To the family and friends of MIKE BREEZE of Randalls Field who died on January 22nd following a fall aged 80.

Congratulations

Paul and Claire Moir are delighted to announce the engagement of their son WILLIAM, to Miss CONNIE PICKLES.

Best Wishes

Best wishes to PAM BAILEY who has recently moved from Randalls Fields to Stoney Stratford to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren.

PAM BAILEY writes that her move to Northamptonshire early in the New Year was quicker than she was expecting and it gave her no chance to say goodbye to friends. She does plan, however, to come back for a few days once things are back to normal. Then she will have a chance of a proper 'Goodbye'.

NEXT ISSUE

Publication date

SATURDAY
March 6th 2021

Deadline for all copy
Sunday, February 21st

www.painswickbeacon.org.uk
for current issue and archive, the annual directory and village maps.

for editorial attention only use
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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

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Martyn's Atlantic challenge - progress to date

Martyn Thornton set off on his trans Atlantic row from La Gomera on 12 December 2020 and below are some excerpts from his progress reports on Whatsapp



Dolphins around the boat

18th Dec - "I have dolphins round the boat, look at these babies isn't this incredible...fantastic, you can hear them breathing every time they come up... loads of them..."

20th Dec - "A small accident this morning, a wave came in and the oar got stuck under the boat and snapped the rowlock... I have a spare but have managed to effect a repair for the time being..."

A visit from the race support yacht Skye who took some pictures...

29th Dec - "Very much flat and calm today- have been over the side and cleaned the bottom of the boat which is a pretty massive result

3rd Jan - "Back in touch after much hard work getting south! Now on anchor again getting blown nw - very frustrating. Also had a very too close encounter with a trawler yesterday at 6:00 am. He had no ais on so I could not see him or his heading on chart plotter. Did not answer VHF either - ended up using signal flares and he missed me by 200 yds far too close and defo do not want a repeat!"



Two pictures taken by the race support yacht



5-7th Jan - Power anchor in use... swell and wind in wrong direction so not rowing

12th Jan - 1000 miles completed

20th Jan - "Bit of a disaster overnight, hit sideways on by a wave and snapped an oar... had all my tools out today to see if I could fix this oar and think I've succeeded..." - The oar now serves as a support as he walks up and down the deck - the role previously taken by one of the spares oars

21st Jan - Half-way point reached

24th Jan - "Got under the boat today because was so fed up with the slow progress and hard work rowing and cleaned off the bottom of the boat... ever seen such big crabs... has now doubled my speed and halved the effort so please with that... and should relieve the pressure on my sore bum!"

27th Jan - "Fantastic conditions today wind and waves all begining to line up and speed when I'm rowing is on the up and up. Drifting speed when resting good too - what a blast - everyone should have a go at this!!"

31st Jan - Under 1000nm to go



Setting off from La Gomera



The repaired oar

COVID-19 Rates in Painswick

As at 29th January the area covering Painswick, Bisley & Eastcombe had 4 cases reported in the previous seven days a rate of 60.6 per 100k of population. This compares with an overall rate of 132.5 per 100k for the whole of Stroud District.



Directory 2021

A copy of the 2021 Beacon Directory of local businesses, clubs & societies and many other useful contact details should have been delivered to you along with this edition of the Beacon.