

The Painswick Beacon

Volume 47 Number 5

August 2024

The Croft School carpark

It is well known that funding in the education sector leaves a lot to be desired. The Croft is no exception and struggles with finding money for extra projects and accordingly what funds are available have to be prioritised. The Friends of The Croft School and the Painswick Playgroup run various events throughout the year that raise funds to help with the funding: Easter Trails, Elf Hunts, Ice-cream sales, second-hand uniform sales, various sponsored events the children take on. All of the funding raised helps to keep the school grounds running but despite their hard efforts there are still lots of defects that need desperate attention.



Clearance works underway

Gifford Morris, who feels lucky to have lived in our beautiful village all his life and attend the school as a child. Says “I have very fond memories from when I was there as a boy and now, I get to share these

memories with my three children who also attended the same playgroup and school.” He points out that the dilapidated carpark is one particular area needing serious remedial work; little if anything has been done to it since he was a child there 37 years ago.

The Croft School is now fortunate in that Gifford in this position as Contracts Manager for a national surfacing company, Eurovia, has managed to secure the funding for a new carpark which they installed on the 26th July. The Eurovia team will be supplying labour, machinery and materials. Before the surfacing commenced they had a team in to clear vegetation, rectify damaged kerbs and install wooden bollards. Thanks to the assistance of their supply chain partners Ringway for supplying the civils work and Tarmac for the materials, this will all be free of charge for the school.



Gifford (2nd from left) and team

I am sure all the Beacon readers would like to offer their thanks to Gifford and Eurovia Surfacing for their generosity.



Painswick Community BBQ

Painswick Community Support is pleased to be hosting a complimentary Community BBQ at the Painswick Recreation Ground on Saturday 10th August, 12-3pm. In order to ensure we can meet the catering needs of the villagers hoping to attend, it would be great to have an indication of how many people will be coming and their food preferences.



Please help us by scanning the QR code which will take you to a form where you will be able to select your food preferences.

A thank you and a plea

In February, ahead of our usual Subscriptions Appeal, we highlighted the increased costs and deteriorating financial position of the Beacon. The response from our readers was heart-warming and we owe you a huge Thank You. Both the numbers and the amounts of subscriptions increased this year and we are now far more confident about our finances for the future.

We do though have one other concern. The Beacon has been lucky to have a very stable team of volunteers who both produce and deliver it every month, but we do need to recruit some additional help. The most urgent requirement at present is for someone, ideally two people working together, who can take on the management of distribution – getting copies out to the wonderful band of people who bring the Beacon to your door. The main input comes on the Thursday evening and Friday morning before publication each month, and we need someone who can commit to that on a regular basis, although not necessarily every month, as some support is available. Please get in touch if you think you could help, even with part of the role (or indeed with other aspects of the Beacon). Contact Celia on 01452 812624 or email distribution@painswick.net

A46 Update

By the time you have received your Beacon the A46 will already have been completely closed for a few days. At the time of going to press we have not been able to ascertain whether the current works are just more investigations or final repairs to the carriageway. We suspect it may well be the former however it is not clear from Gloucestershire Highways website.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - from the meetings held on Wednesday 17th July 2024

Planning Committee

Present: Cllr Andy Cash (Chairman)
Cllr James Cross
Cllr Ann Daniels
Cllr Ian Massey
Cllr Rosie Nash
Cllr Roey Parker

In attendance: 3 members of the public

Apologies: Cllrs Sandra Hunkin, Selina Gibb and Adrian Gyde

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2024 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Matters requiring a decision:

S.24/1093/HHOLD Castle Lodge, Cheltenham Road
Erection of a detached garage

S.24/1076/HHOLD Providence Cottage, Lower Washwell Lane
Demolition of existing conservatory and boot room. Erection of a single-storey side extension

S.24/1107/HHOLD Greenacres Cottage, Cheltenham Road
Erection of dormer window and balustrade to replace two existing dormers.

The committee agreed to support the above applications

S.24/1118/LBC Rosemary Cottage, St Marys Street
Replace windows and doors. Replacement roof finish to earlier lean-to rear addition, internal alterations and erection of timber garden office.

The Committee agreed to Support this application subject to the Conservation Officer ensuring that the replacement windows are on of acceptable conservation level.

Parish Council

Present: Cllr Andy Cash (Chairman)
Cllrs James Cross, Cllr Ann Daniels, Cllr Ian Massey, Cllr Rosie Nash, Cllr Roey Parker, Cllr Abigail Smith
Also Present: County Cllr Sue Williams
5 Member of the Public

Apologies Cllrs: Sandra Hunkin, Selina Gibb, Adrian Gyde and Gary Luff.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2024 were accepted and signed.

Reports:

County and District Councillor's reports are available on the Council's website.

County Councillor Susan Williams reported that the milestone at Bulls Cross had been reinstated.

That she had met with residents of Wick Street regarding speeding traffic - the county council are now looking at speed reduction measures.

The Chairman reported upon the need to report Highways issues to Fixmystreet.com, the Biodiversity Working Groups progress and the Market Towns Vitality Fund

Accounts

Various Accounts for Payment, quotations, request for funding for the Painswick Feast were approved/agreed.

The Council agreed to support the funding bid being proposed by the Painswick Centre for funds from the Stroud District Council's Market Towns Vitality Grant to support its Thursday Market.

Councillor Abigail Smith reported that signage in relation to the Autospeed Watch cameras had been ordered.

There is no meeting in August the next meeting is on Wednesday 18th September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Edge Village Hall.

General Election

Conservative, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown was elected as our MP on 4th July 2024.

The full results are given below:

Conservative, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown
votes 17,426 share 34.7% change -24.6

Liberal Democrat, Paul Hodgkinson
votes 14,069 share 28.0% change +10.0

Labour, Anna Mainwaring
votes 8,593 share 17.1% change +0.6

Reform UK, Jason Preece
votes 6,502s hare 12.9% change +12.6

Green, Chloe Turner
votes 3,191 share 6.4% change +0.6

Independent, Jean Blackbeard
votes 448 share 0.9% change +0.9

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Another successful year

This year we have managed to fit in an extraordinary number of different events and experiences for the children during this academic year. We are once again very proud of the our recent SATS results which reflect the quality of teaching and learning across the school.



Year Six SATS (including comparison to national data):

Subject	Percentage of pupils achieving the expected standard		Average Scaled Score	
	School	Nationally	School	Nationally
Reading	96%	74%	109	105
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling	96%	72%	109	105
Maths	96%	73%	107	104
Writing	67%	72%	n/a	n/a
Science	100%	81%	n/a	n/a

Sport

The children have experienced a whole range of different sporting experiences, tournaments, competitions and events. These have ranged from multiple football, rugby and cricket tournaments to gymnastics, dodgeball and cross-country. I think for the children some of the highlights were the fencing and nerf wars days where they were able to challenge both their friends and teachers to a duel! The children also experienced coaching from professionals in both gymnastics and rugby, including the opportunity for some of the children to play a tournament at Kingsholm.

Creative Arts

The children have been provided with an amazing amount of experiences and opportunities for music and performance. Year two really enjoyed their term of whole class instrumental lessons on the samba drums and year four mastered the guitar; both of these concluded with performances to parents. Peripatetic music lessons in guitar, woodwind, piano, violin and singing have been on offer all year and some of the children who have instrumental lessons were invited to Kings School, Gloucester where they participated in 'an orchestra in an afternoon'.

Children have been to London to the Theatre Royal to watch Frozen, the musical and to Birmingham to participate in Young Voices where they experienced singing in a choir of up to 4000 children. Within school children have been involved in performances for The Nativity, Croft's got Talent, the carol service, Y6 summer performance and most recently the fantastic summer concert. More recently The Croft competition choir attended a festival at Denmark Road High School in Gloucester. Both the choir as a whole and some of the soloists were awarded prizes or special commendations from the judges.

Key Stage One children entered an Art competition at Richmond Village and a number of them were lucky enough to be awarded prizes or special commendations. Children from across the school entered the 'Look who's talking' Oracy competition organised by GAPH (Gloucestershire Association of Primary Headteachers). One of our pupils was chosen to represent the whole Stroud area at the Gloucestershire finals at The Guildhall in Gloucester.

Additional trips and visits

We have been able to offer a range of trips, visitors and events across the year including celebrating World Book Day, NSPCC Number day and Wear it green day in support of mental health. Owls and Seals held a community tea party as part of their enquiry and Year Six supported the community with their contributions of soup and bread for the community lunch. We were visited by some students and teachers from Rakunan Junior High School which is based in Kyoto City, Japan. The Japanese students presented to the whole school in assembly; everyone has learned some new facts about Japanese sweets, games and their sports day. Our Y4 and Y5 children then participated in some activities organised by the Japanese students including origami, calligraphy and a variety of different games. KS2 children visited the mosque in Gloucester and children from Mole and Buzzard classes had a busy but enjoyable day at Cotswold Wildlife Park. Y6 spent a week at Culmington Manor for their residential where they participated in lots of different activities including axe throwing, kayaking and rock climbing to name a few.

Rebecca Gore

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The Croft children, The Croft garden ... and you?



The Croft School is fortunate to be set in beautiful grounds, an important factor in helping children to develop an appreciation of their surroundings. Moreover, as a real extra bonus within the grounds is a good sized greenhouse and a working garden – the children’s garden in fact.

Not overly large it is nonetheless a well thought out plot which the children can manage with guidance. During the past couple of years or so in particular they have been cultivating some impressive crops. There is a small patch for flowers. The main focus though is on the edible section which this year consists of vegetables, salads and herbs, including tomatoes, aubergines, chillis, chard, basil, Japanese pumpkins, cucumbers, artichokes, fennel and thyme, and there are also soft fruits such as blackcurrants and raspberries.

Apart from the work of preparing the soil, sowing the seeds, caring for the growing crops and flowers and weeding, there are compost bins and separate rubbish containers so that the children understand the need for valuable composting and correct waste disposal – important lessons. In fact, the whole enterprise is without doubt a project packed with valuable experiences for the children and opportunities to learn about so much. It is about developing useful practical skills, working cooperatively, understanding a range of science topics, appreciating the environment, considering health and nutrition and so much more.

It is currently very much a joint venture with parents helping with the practical elements and teachers aware of the many ways it fits with curriculum requirements. So many benefits and advantages all round and especially for the children whose love of this work is very obvious.

The school and the parents involved are keen to widen it into a more community based activity and would be really pleased if anyone would like to help. Currently, small groups of children work on the garden during school hours with help from a parent. If you would like to help by working with the children in the garden at any time in school hours your time would be much appreciated. Further to this, an after school gardening club would be a very welcome development. Do you feel you could take such a club on? You don’t have to be a parent, just have a love of gardening. For the children there are so many potential benefits both now and for the future. If you would like to be involved please contact the school by email admin@croft.gloucs.sch.uk or tel. 01452 812479. This is such a worthwhile exercise.

Carol Maxwell

Greg’s back

Greg and Jan Thatcher are back in Painswick – as they have been every summer since 1991. A Canadian currently living in America, Greg is to be found sitting at his easel in the churchyard every day drawing one of the yew trees.

His art work has a truly international reputation and it is all based on his beautiful and intriguing Painswick yew tree drawings. For the past five years Greg focussed on the interior of just one tree and the result of this concentration is a magnificent piece of art which represents more than one thousand hours work. This year he intends to draw more than one tree and consequently will be found in various locations in the churchyard.

Greg is very obviously passionate about our Painswick yews and he is certainly very knowledgeable about them. His drawings are amazing, unusual, stunning, the result of the very real inspiration borne of his time spent in the churchyard with the trees. He is more than happy to talk about his art work so do drop by and say hello to him. He and Jan are here until mid to late August.

Carol Maxwell



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News from St Marys

Introducing our new 'Beacon All Ages Minister'

Victoria Soutar, tell us a bit about yourself...

I grew up in Sevenoaks in Kent and moved to the Cotswolds to do my Teacher Training in Cheltenham in 1989. I started teaching in St. Mary's Prestbury and then moved to The Croft in Painswick in a part-time role when our three children were small. I'm still teaching part-time at The Croft today, and I love it!

How long have you lived in the benefice?

My husband Gordon and I moved to Painswick in 2000 where I became involved in St. Mary's Church joining the PCC (church council), Local Ministry Team, involvement in PSALMS and set up Talking Point. I have also helped support the work of Sportily in our area. We moved to Cranham in 2004, and have been involved in many aspects of church and village life there, so we've been in the Benefice for 24 years.

Tell us about the job... What sort of things will you do?

I will be working alongside Revd Sarah to develop our 'flock' here, particularly through building relationships with children and their adults (carers and families).

I hope to enable people of all ages to have fun, explore faith and discover what it means to feel part of one family under God across the Beacon Benefice.

This will involve running the St. Mary's Mums Toddler Group, developing a Family Hub operating out of the Lychgate in Painswick, liaising with Sportily, setting up / facilitating support networks such as parenting courses and support for parents, carers and grandparents as well as sharing in the leading of alpha and baptism/confirmation prep groups. I'm sure this role will involve many things not already thought of, but I will be working with Revd Sarah and the team as we discern what's on God's heart for this Benefice.

I'm really looking forward to being able to come alongside people, to care and support them into becoming the whole person God has created them to be. I'm hoping that through me God will make a difference to those lives, and that new relationships of faith will grow.



New season

Here we are already approaching the month of August and next month will see the start of another full PMAG programme on Thursday afternoons (2:30PM) in the Town Hall. The committee has finalised a diverse range of Speakers and topics taking account of relevant anniversaries with some scholarship but always with an eye to entertainment.



Many of our distinguished expert speakers will be returning. We shall also continue to enjoy concerts on DVD including Holst's The Planets, a Beethoven prom and we plan to pay special attention to the various performers of Elgar's last great work the Cello Concerto. We also intend to trace a tuneful musical path around the United Kingdom from Cornwall through Wales, Ireland, Scotland and down the East and South coasts of England back to Cornwall.

From next months Beacon the new titles and presenters will begin to be scheduled in The Village Diary and I can only encourage many to join us and spread the word amongst friends.

I am sure that many of you would enjoy these convivial and relaxing afternoons complete with refreshments. Please come along to the Town Hall and give it a try.

Michael Grey

Summer Exhibition

Vicky Hendzel-Walker and Millie Wood Swanepoel are holding an exhibition of ceramics and mix-media from Friday 23rd



August till Monday 26th August 2024 in the Church Rooms from 10am each day.

For more details view www.vjhc ceramics.com or www.milliewoodswanepoel.com

Vicky Hendzel-Walker

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Friday Club



Back in July, on the 5th, we had a talk by Kirstie Bingham, from the John Moore Museum (Tewkesbury) entitled: "Tudor swearing, sex & loos! As NOT seen on TV". Toileting was communal. Even the privileged did not have the privacy then that we enjoy today. We had to remind ourselves that when recalling social history we have to be aware of the thinking of the time and placing it in context. Henry VIII was obsessed in his need to produce an heir and restricted by the religious beliefs of the time. A lot to comprehend!

We ended the term with our Traditional President's Tea Party at Yew Tree House, by courtesy of Liz Burge. More than twenty Members enjoyed a glass of prosecco and a Team quiz, followed by tea, jelly and cake. We are not sure if the prosecco helped us answering some challenging questions from QuizMaster, Mike Kerton.



We start the autumn season with an Outing on Wednesday, 18th September. In fact, a boat trip on the Gloucester-Sharpness Canal. The Willow Trust provides opportunities for less mobile people to enjoy a boat trip without too much walking. If you haven't already signed up for this trip, please contact Sue Kerton on 810878 or Joyce Barrus on 812942.

Why not venture forth and enjoy an afternoon with Club Members, rounded off with tea and biscuits and most important of all stimulating conversation with likeminded Members. Meetings commence at 2.30pm in the ground floor room of the Town Hall. See you after the summer holidays.

Joyce Barrus



The iPhone

On Thursday 20th June 2024 Colonel Tony Singer OBE presented a talk about "The iPhone – its practicality for us oldies". The meeting was well attended and for the first time more female than male members and guests were present.

Tony was able to connect his iPhone to the Centre's digital projector and large screen. He assured everyone that he had no direct link to Apple Inc and stressed that the talk was but a quick canter through the iPhone, highlighting some of its many capabilities. (Other smartphones are available!)

The talk was followed by a video demonstrating how the internet works, by transmitting packets of data at the speed of light and enabling trillions of internet journeys to be made daily.

Tony is available for group or private tutorials, and may be contacted via: AppleTutorials@icloud.com

From Railways to Royal Photography

On Thursday 4th July 2024, Jack Boskett entertained us on the

subject "From Railways to Royalty". He presented a very impressive array of photographs featuring royalty and trains during his career, and confirmed that none of the photos had been doctored.

The first example of his work showed the Royal Family on the balcony at Buckingham Palace at the recent Trooping of the Colour. The stunning silhouette of a steam train in the sunset taken from a car roof created a unique picture, as did another of Prince Phillip leaning out of the window of a moving Royal Train.

For a Royal photo shoot in Hereford, Jack's mum made him dress in a formal suit. As this was unique amongst the general paparazzi, it gained him special access to the best Royal Family photo opportunities. Photography revealed how discreet messages such as "hurry up and finish your speech", could be signalled by Queen Elizabeth to a speaker, depending on which arm her handbag was carried,

The Club's next talk on Thurs 5th Sep 2024 will be about The Nuremberg Trials

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“Aren’t we lucky to have been born in the twentieth century”! These were the feelings expressed by members of Yew Trees WI following a talk by Kirstie Bingham, from the John Moore Museum in Tewkesbury, at their June Meeting. This fascinating talk entitled “Midwife, Herbalist, Surgeon, Witch” covered women’s health and status, conception, pregnancy and childbirth in Britain from medieval times to the 18th century. It was not always comfortable listening! A woman’s primary role being to marry young and produce children meant the midwife was a highly respected person in the community, especially those with years of experience. However, when pregnancies or births went wrong these poor midwives came under suspicion and could be accused of witchcraft. The religious authorities set out rules for procreation and

sexual behaviour but this did not prevent the circulation of numerous superstitions, such as carrying a dead chaffinch in a bag to prevent a miscarriage! I am sad that I can no longer check with my mother if my green eyes could be the result of her encountering a snake when pregnant!

The faint hearted did not linger long examining the display of intriguing but alarming looking instruments, including early forms of forceps, that Kirstie brought with her.

On a sunny June day a party of members enjoyed lunching at Egypt Mill before undertaking a short walk along the canal to visit Dunkirk Mill. Here, after an introductory talk, they admired the massive working water wheel and an early 19th century mechanical cloth shearing machine. Many thanks to Janet Jenkins for arranging this interesting visit.

There will be no formal meeting in August although the committee has organised a social supper for members.

Celia Lougher 812624

Painswick’s Paradise

On Saturday, 29th June, Paradise House welcomed many visitors to its open day which was truly enjoyable. The weather was fine and of course the beautiful setting provided a perfect and inspiring environment in which to spend a delightful afternoon with the residents and staff.

After last year’s very successful open day, the first for a long time, it was interesting to see the progress which has been made subsequently to restore and regenerate the confidence which so many of the residents had lost due to Covid restrictions. For most of us social interaction has been back to normal for some time now, but for the residents, all of whom have learning disabilities, the road back has presented far more problems. Serious loss of self confidence resulting from three years of no normal social interaction and communication has been difficult to deal with.

Part of this problem had been related to the fact that pre-Covid many residents were to be seen often in Painswick, joining in with various activities and engaging in conversation with Painswick residents, but Covid put an end to that. The diminished confidence is gradually returning and one significant aspect is the need to involve the wider community for the residents to experience new opportunities. Good relationships for them help develop a greater sense of safety, independence and consequent self-confidence.

The various activities which the residents engage in were on display for the afternoon, and very impressive they were too. There was music and dance, wellbeing activities and so much wonderful art and craft work including pottery, painting, textiles – all of these giving opportunity for self-expression, development of skills and working cooperatively. With a happy atmosphere and obviously dedicated staff good progress is definitely ongoing and the residents are living life to the full.



There is a real understanding of the need to re-establish the precious links with the wider Painswick community and with that in mind the art studio is now open on Monday evenings, 6.30pm-8.30pm, to Painswick residents. A series of six-week courses involving a range of techniques and subjects, all tutored by highly qualified teachers, is open to all. This is an excellent opportunity to develop your skills, learn new techniques and, whilst doing so, support this precious, caring and oh-so-beneficial home. For more information and to register for a class contact Eppie Short email takepart@paradise-house.org.uk

This year’s open day was certainly a lovely occasion. Paradise House deserves our ongoing support so that the residents can continue to lead full, active and happy lives.

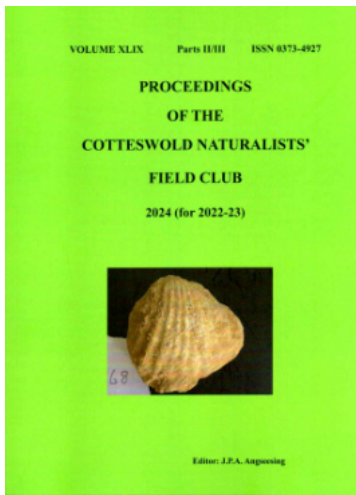
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Cranham Commons, Dew Ponds and Dialect



cover of current Proceedings

The Club publishes an annual record of our activities in the 'Proceedings', together with articles and papers on subjects related to the Club's interests, with contributions from members.

The latest edition has a strong local flavour with a trio of articles about Cranham. Jan Whitton, local historian and Cranham resident, has written an article about the origin, creation and function of Dew Ponds, and the discoveries made during the excavation and restoration of a dew pond located on Overtown Farm, near Cranham. Jan has also written an article about Cranham Common, examining its transition from an economic resource used by commoners to one which is now protected for its conservation and recreational value to a wider audience. Finally, dialect and the use of local names for flora and fauna are celebrated in a short note by the late Claire Smith (née Wexham), a 'true countrywoman' who was born in 1926 in the parish of Cranham. Complementing the Cranham 'trio', Jen Gilbert writes a short review at the conclusion of a four-year project, Limestone's Living Legacies.

If you would like to buy a copy of the latest Proceedings, for the discounted price of £12.00, please contact Jane Rowe on 813228 or email: cotsnats@gmail.com

Alternatively, for £13 more, join the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club and gain access to our twice-monthly talks from October to May, guided walks and excursions, plus a copy of the Proceedings. Individual members pay £25 per year, and two people at the same address £40. For

more information about membership and a copy of the Proceedings, please contact Clare Woodman by email to CNFCMembershipSec@outlook.com Further information about the Club and its activities can be found on the CNFC website www.cotsnatsfieldclub

The website also contains details of other publications for sale.

Jane Rowe, 813228

Help for Gaza

On Saturday 22nd June there was a screening of the film Where Olive Trees Weep at The Painswick Centre Beacon Hall, with an almost full house audience of around 100 people.

Organised by a group of local friends and spearheaded by Rachel Hudson on Vicarage St the aim was to raise awareness and funds for vital medical and emergency aid in Gaza.

The film provided a background to the current crisis in Israel / Palestine, with the message "no one is free until we are all free" and brought to light the lives of people in the occupied West Bank. It was an in depth look at the complexities of conflict and the event was not about taking sides, it was about coming together to help those in need.

After the film some of the audience stayed on to discuss their thoughts on the film and how, as a community we can continue to help.

The hire of the hall was generously sponsored by an anonymous local resident and the drinks served during the screening were sponsored by a Dad of one of the organisers, so all of the money raised (almost £2000 so far) will be going direct to the charity Medical Aid For Palestinians www.map-uk.org

If you weren't able to make the screening there will be others around the country - see <https://whereolivetreesweep.com/screenings/> And if you would like to add to the donation total please email info@rhnt.co.uk or visit <https://www.justgiving.com/page/rachel-hudson-1718017528552?newPage=true>

Any donations would be gratefully received and very much appreciated. Thank you.

Sally Caruthers



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Jottings - Perry pear trees and the drink

Most farms if you look at old maps had a large number of fields which were Orchards. We had six of these orchards when I was young and in 2015 we still had 6 perry pear trees left of different varieties.

Never climb an old Perry Pear tree, because most branches on trees bend before breaking, but Perry Pear trees just snap. To shake the pears down we would either use a lug (a long pole with a hook on the one end) or a long ladder.

Most of these trees are now gone through old age though you can still see some in the fields going to Gloucester. They are quite distinctive, 20 m to 40 m high, often with a tall, narrow crown. The drink, Perry, is only made from perry pears which are in between the wild pear and the sweet dessert pear. They are small, hard and packed with tannins making them astringent and virtually inedible. Some are sweeter than others. And some ripen earlier than others. The Orchards in Blackwell's End, Hartpury, contain the National Perry Pear Collection. In fact, the village name 'Hartpury' is derived from the Saxon word for the pear: Hardepirige. Perry is made in the counties surrounding May Hill.

There are over 100 types of Perry Pear, some varieties from the 1700's. Some have more than one local name. Most come from the west of England, so let's list a few from Gloucestershire:

Their names and where they came from:

Arlingham Squash (Arlingham), Beetroot Wick Court (Arlingham), Betty Prosser (Corse), Blackeney Red (Blackeney), Blood Pear (Hasfield), Boy Pear (Forest of Dean), Butt pear (Norton), Ciprous (Westbury on Severn) Flakey Bark (Toynton), Merry Legs (Forest of Dean) Nailer (Gorsley), Knapper (Oxenhall), Cowslip (Dymock), Turners Barn (Newent), Lumber (Huntley), Cluster (Hardwick), Sack (Gorslet), Barnet (Gloucester), Greece Olive (Ashelworth), Deced Boy (Ross on Wye), Ducks Barn (Gloucester), Gin (Newent), Staunton Squash (Staunton), Pint (Longhope), Red Longdon (Huntley), Hay Pear (Westbury on Severn), Strawberry Pear (Gloucester).

Martin Slinger

Painswick Gardening Club



10th July's speaker was Andy Jeanes who is a clematis specialist, but actually enthused us with an "A - Z climbing plants". Andy was interesting in that he started on the business side of Garden Centres, at Webbs. So he understands gardening on both sides of the fence, so to speak. Gradually specialising in clematis, he worked for the Worcestershire based "New Leaf plants" and more recently, The Guernsey Clematis Nursery. Having travelled worldwide, he has a great knowledge and experience of plants, suggesting which varieties we should look for. Climbing plants are great for giving height in our mixed borders and walls.

We are hoping to invite Andy next year to give us advice on growing Clematis. A subject in itself for us to look forward to.

We have a break in August, but have an afternoon visit to Ann Corbin's garden at "Greenbank", in Edge on Friday, 21st August, starting at 2.30 pm.

September sees Andy Pedrick joining us for a session of "Hands on Propagation and Cuttings". His career was in propagating conifers and he hopes to inspire us to take cuttings (not just of conifers). Success may be to do with using sharp secateurs and the right mix of compost.

Last year, the Committee set us the challenge of growing a potato in a bucket. We met in the summer and weighed our produce. This year we were given two sunflower seeds "Russian Giant" to grow. There are mixed results because of the dire weather this spring but we have some seven foot giants around Pitchcombe, Edge and Painswick. Have you seen any?

For £25 a year, Painswick Gardening Club offers monthly talks on all things gardening, as well as an outing or two. The season starts in September and this first meeting will start at 6:45 pm to give us time to complete our Membership renewals before the Talk at 7:30 pm. It would help us if Members could pay BACS before the night: Painswick Gardening Club Acc: 00280185 Sort code: 30-98-29. New Members are very welcome: We meet in the Painswick Town Hall, starting with tea/coffee or you can purchase a glass of wine to enjoy as we assemble.

Joyce Barrus

Painswick Art Club restarts in September

Painswick Art Club restarts on Tuesday, 3rd September and runs every week until Christmas. We pay by the term, £40 for fifteen sessions 9:30 am - 12:30 pm in the Painswick Church Rooms. We have easy adjacent parking, toilets and tea/coffee making facilities and excellent lighting to work by. We are also able to hang our work in the Church Rooms, which is a great way of seeing how we are progressing. So this is for less than £3 a session in a group which is fully inclusive, welcoming Members of all standards and media, including, of course, mixed media which is very popular now!

This group started as "Country Studio" in 1980 with the aim of enabling all Members to develop their artistic abilities by working together, helping each other, giving support and inspiration. So we follow our own projects perhaps initiated by a course or workshop we have attended. We can try out ideas and practise, often discussing ways of achieving what we are envisaging.

If you might be interested in joining, come and see us on a Tuesday morning or contact Joyce Barrus (Secretary) on 01452 812942 (m)07743377260.

Painswick Centre Car Park

The Painswick Centre has proved to be very popular this year with many more people using its facilities including the café than in recent times. The Trustees have plans for this growth to continue over the coming years by adding additional activities and functions. However, this has come at a cost and the car park is coming under increasing pressure with a growing number of people unable to park in the car park whilst attending activities at the Centre.

Parking has always proved a problem in Painswick and with an increase in visitor numbers to Painswick the situation appears to be getting worse. The trustees would therefore like to consult with those who use the Centre and its car park on how it can be better managed to suit the needs of the community in the years to come.



The possible solutions are numerous and range from erecting an automatic barrier at the entrance to numberplate recognition systems, all have a common objective of limiting the use of the car park to genuine users of the Centre's car park who have either contracted to do so or are visiting the Centre's facilities.

The current situation cannot continue, the situation will further deteriorate as the usage increases with a consequential increase in the frustration and annoyance levels of users.

You will find a questionnaire online at <https://forms.office.com/r/Y3vMDG3X7Q> which we hope the community will complete to assist in the decision-making process. In addition, paper copies will be held at the Centre, and it will be circulated to all users to ensure we capture as many views/ideas as possible.

John Williamson
Chairman Trustees



Wick-Flix is taking its usual summer break in August. We will be back on Friday 13th September with The Fall Guy. More details in next month's Beacon.

The Painswick Centre AGM

Please note that the Annual General Meeting of the Painswick Centre will be taking place on Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 7pm in the Beacon Hall.



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

Yesterday [26th June] myself and the driver of a white car struggled to squeeze past each other on the windy road past the Ramblers Car Park. You'll know the one : it has a high bank on one side and was suddenly narrowed by the fence put up with the somewhat dubious claim it "improves access".

I didn't feel any contact but found a white mark on my door when I got home. I recognised the other driver but cannot recall her name. If you were her and also had a mark, but it didn't easily polish off like mine, please contact me via the surgery painswick.surgery@nhs.net

Thanks
Rhys Evans

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Painswick based

Beware those special rules if you live in Painswick!

Intriguing and fascinating – the reaction of many who came to the Local History Society exhibition in the Town Hall on Saturday and Sunday, 6th and 7th of July. In particular there were some exceptionally different items on display that were the cause of so much interest.



The Society holds an exhibition biennially and the aim is always to present well researched local history covering a range of subjects and eras and in different formats. This year's event did that plentifully. Apart from the information and pictures presented on the boards there were also several tables displaying items and artefacts which aroused much interest and curiosity.



One surprising and amazing exhibit was an original authentic 1613 document and James 1 wax seal which the lord of the manor generously lent for the weekend. Outlining the Customs of the Manor of Painswick it was ratified by an Act of Parliament in 1624 and was essentially a list of rules, obligations, responsibilities, forfeits and punishments applying to both the Lord of the Manor and his local tenants. This was indeed extraordinarily rare and signifies the serious state of trouble and problems which had existed in Painswick during the previous years. Incidentally, some of the rules still apply!

Of great interest too were two large framed drawings depicting the original plans for Prinknash Abbey, kindly lent by the Abbey for the weekend. The reaction of many visitors was one of stunned amazement. After all, the eventual building, still standing there but now empty, is oh so different, indeed likened some years ago to a giant police station.

A great attraction on Sunday was the stunning selection of artefacts unearthed locally by metal detectorist, Carol Butler. Carol was on hand throughout to explain the finds, to describe the methods used and to emphasise the importance of follow-

ing legal and correct procedures. Also on display and of real local significance were the original plan drawings by Sidney Barnsley of the Gyde almshouses, signed by Sidney Barnsley himself no less.

Of great importance was the contribution from the Croft School reflecting some interesting investigations undertaken this year by various classes. It featured a large Egyptian tapestry and also several thought-provoking projects of a historical nature.

The exhibition was well attended and there were quite a few visitors from further afield including America and China. Overall it was very well received resulting in some very complimentary comments (including from the head of the county archives!) and many saying it had caused them to look afresh at the Painswick of today.

Carol Maxwell

Library Book Club



The next meeting of the Library Book Club is on Monday 12th August and we will be discussing Homecoming by Kate Morton. In September we will meet on Monday 9th to discuss The Tenderness of Wolves by Stef Penney. Both meetings are from 1.30 - 2.30 and we welcome new members. Please do come along if you enjoy a good read and discussion and would like to meet new people.

For further details email:
painswick.librarybookclub@gmail.com

Pat Andrew

Foodbank

Just a reminder that we will be taking a break in August and will be back to collecting in Painswick in September. We will publish a shopping list in the next edition. Thank you and wishing everyone a good summer!

As always, if you prefer to make a bank donation, you can do so using the following details:
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Thank you!

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Painswick Sports

assembled by John Barrus

Roller coaster grass court season for Lissey

Lissey Barnett and Freya Christie played Nottingham and Birmingham WTAs. Unfortunately, they played the number 1 and number 3 world seeds, losing heavily.

The famous Whiteman Cup was 100 years old and to celebrate GB played the USA in an exhibition match at Eastbourne. Lissey was proud to represent GB with Jo Durie and Judy Murray as her captains. The USA were captained by Rosie Casals and Martina Navratilova. It was a brilliant exhibition match.

Wimbledon

Following this, Lissey went on to Wimbledon hoping for a favourable draw in the ladies doubles; however, they drew the world number 1 pair again and lost.

Lissey teamed up with Marcus Willis, in mixed doubles (see picture), and they played the number 8 seeds. To their surprise, they played on the number 1 Court and motivated the crowd creating a great atmosphere. The match went to a third set tie break which they won 10-5.

Their next match was scheduled on a full Court 2 playing Ram/Volynets. The atmospheric match reached a tense tie break and they won 11-9.

The quarter final, on Court 1, was against Gonzalez and Olmos. They lost the first set 3-6. In the second set, they had a 4-1 lead. Sadly, they lost the second set 5-7.

The mixed doubles success and being privileged to play on three show courts has left Lissey with wonderful memories.



Painswick ladies charity tennis tournament

The ladies tennis tournament was played on Friday 28th June with a smaller, but very enthusiastic, competitive, strong group of players. The eventual winner was Megan Williams from Chalford narrowly beating Louise Lewis from Oxstalls.

Ask Sal was also there with a wonderful array of tennis clothing and shoes.

I have been running this charity tournament for the past 20 years, pre Covid with lunch and wine, since then just coffee and home made cakes but have decided that this is the last one. We have had players from all over Gloucestershire attending and has been very successful. I haven't kept a record of how much has been raised but it is probably in the region of £10,000 which over the years has gone to Sue Ryder, Maggie's, Cancer Research, British Heart Foundation and latterly to The Longfield.

I would like to thank all those who have helped/played and supported me in the last 20 years, without them it wouldn't have been possible also for the beautiful roses I was presented with.



Joan Griffiths

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To book your place email: PGCcaptain123@gmail.com indicating which session.

Book early to avoid disappointment

Chris Tatner PGC Captain

Away day at Green Meadow golf club

The seniors held their annual away day at the Green Meadow golf Club near Cymbran. They all enjoyed a competitive round of golf on the hottest day of the year so far, followed by a meal and prize giving. The winner of the individual Stapleford was Robin Hare (pictured) and the team event was won by Mahboob Hussain, Rick Carman, Robin Hare and Andrew Varden.



Visiting golfers are welcome

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Don't forget the "Beacon Bar and Kitchen"

....is now open at the golf club offering a full range of snacks and full meals. Enquiries and bookings phone 01452 812180 or email beacon-bar-kitchen@outlook.com

A very busy time at the club with the season in full swing!

Painswick Cricket Club Results in late June and July

WEPL Premier Div 2

The first team results as follows;

beat Dumbleton by 16 runs (Luke Wollway 117 and Keegan Van Rensburg 56)

Lost to Thornbury by 6 wkts (Woolway 63 runs)

beat Avebury by 35 runs (Rogan Wolhuter 51 and Jack Hobbs taking 5 wickets were the highlights)



The firsts currently lie in fourth position in the league.

National Village Cup

Sadly the club lost in a very close encounter to Grampond Road CC in Cornwall on 21st July. The club had done extremely well to make it to the quarter finals and at several times during the match it looked as though the Lords dream was very achievable. Unfortunately it was not to be and they lost by 4 runs. No doubt buoyed by this experience, and once the dust has settled, they will go again in 2025.

Gloucestershire County League Div 7

2nd team results, currently also lie fourth in their division.

Beat Ruardean Hill by 32 runs (Jacob Moore 109, Nick Marment 3 wkts)

Lost to Eastcombe by 6 wkts (George Macduff 65 and Matt Curtis 61)

Beat Oakridge by 5 wickets (Dan Wilson 3 wkts)

Beat Hatherley and Reddings 3rds by 3 wkts.

Steve Pegram

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A big thank you from Handmade and Homegrown



Handmade In – Painswick, Rococo Garden and Exedra Nursery teamed up this summer to create Handmade and Homegrown, a pop-up shop in the Old Fleece on Bisley Street. They have had a thoroughly good time at their temporary home and have enjoyed the patronage of locals and visitors alike. Handmade In – Painswick have had the opportunity to introduce the work of over 40 local artists and makers and many visitors have returned home with locally made souvenirs of their time in the area. We have been able to recommend visitors to the local gem that is Rococo Garden and we have had many repeat customers coming to stock up on Rococo’s beautiful jams, chutneys, and cordials. Homes locally and further afield have enjoyed the addition of some stunning foliage produced by Exedra Nursery. It has all been a joy. It was though always planned as a pop-up shop and so like all good things, it must come to an end.... well, a pause perhaps.

Rococo Garden and Exedra of course will continue their fabulous offering at their established bases off Gloucester Road. Handmade In - are moving just a little further down the road to The Malthouse Collective. The team at Handmade In - are very excited by this opportunity to grow the reach of their work in representing artists and makers from across the Cotswolds. They will travel with their existing artists and makers and will also be adding new artists with new products to their inventory. Their objective to support and develop the work of local artists and makers continues as they engage with a growing number of creatives across the Cotswolds, a region that has always been synonymous with the arts.

We would like to thank the village for your support and encouragement at Handmade and Homegrown. You have visited us, encouraged us, and bought from us. You have made us feel very welcomed and valued and for that we are extremely grateful. Au-revoir!

Sandie Randle

First Thursday Painswick

Popular book events look ahead to a new season

First Thursday Painswick has enjoyed a second season (2023-4) of hugely successful talks with a wonderfully diverse range of authors. The famous ornithologist Stephen Moss delighted a packed house with a fascinating account of a career dedicated to birds as a film maker (he was for a long time producer for BBC’s Springwatch as well as being a best selling author). Equally popular was Sue Stuart Smith’s compelling talk about the relationship between gardening and mental health. Stuart Smith’s *The Well Gardened Mind* is both erudite and inspiring. Sarah Langford came to Painswick straight after her superb contribution to BBC Radio Four’s programme on Lady Eve Balfour, the founder of the Soil Association, to talk about her book on regenerative farming, *Rooted*.

All the authors chosen to speak were either local or have written on subjects of local interest and we welcomed three immensely talented novelists all of whom are based in the Five Valleys: Alice Jolly, Sarah Steele and Rachel Joyce. Jolly took us deep into the riots of nineteenth century Stroud to talk about her remarkable *Mary Ann Sate Imbecile*. Sarah Steele, a musician as well as a writer, interspersed her riveting talk on wartime Naples with a piano recital. Finally, Rachel Joyce talked with great insight about the art of writing as she discussed her hugely successful trilogy, the first of which, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, has been made into a film with Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton. All our invited authors commented on the warmth, interest and enthusiasm of the Painswick audience – many of whom they meet afterwards while signing books. Next year’s 2024-5 season will be as varied and compelling and kicks off on the October 3rd with Sarah Dunant, a bestselling writer based locally who will talk about women and the Renaissance in her award winning historical fiction.

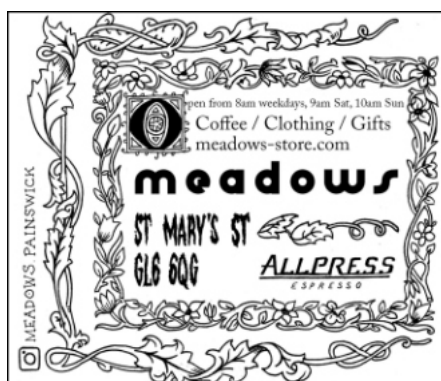
First Thursday Painswick is held on the first Thursday of the month from October to April (with a break in January) in the Painswick Centre. After the event, there is a chance to meet the author and get your book signed as well as have a glass of wine with other guests.

Profits are donated to local charities supporting writing and we are delighted that this year they will be split between Stroud Book Festival and a new charity, Voices Gloucester, which is dedicated to community history in the city, working with young creatives on projects to tell their story; Voices are contributing to an exhibition, *Threads*, in Gloucester Cathedral opening on September 6th based around a ‘slave song’ from Barbados, which was recently discovered in the Gloucester Archives, and has now been awarded UNESCO World Heritage status. For more details visit <https://voicesgloucester.org.uk/events/threads-2024/>

The First Thursday Team are delighted at the feedback from those attending the talks and would love to hear from anyone who would like to help out occasionally at the events and join our team as a volunteer; please email Firstthursdayspainswick@gmail.com

All details of our events will go up on our website www.firstthursdayspainswick.com Please sign up to our newsletter to keep in touch.

Madeleine Bunting, Sandie Randle and Anne Marie Randall



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Mondays	Gentle pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538	Painswick Centre 8.45 - 9.45am
	Improvers pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538	Painswick Centre 9.50 - 10.50am
	Beginners/improvers pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538	Painswick Centre 10.55 - 11.55am
	Ballyhoo modern dance classes (primary grade modern). Info from Julie ballyhoochalford@gmail.com	Painswick Centre from 3.45pm
	Community Choir. Contact sophie@sophiesterckx.co.uk	Painswick Centre 7.00 - 8.30pm
	Short Mat Bowls. All equipment provided. 2.00/session	Town Hall 2.00 - 4.00pm
	Mindful Meditation with Kate. www.kate-beatty.co.uk/07793126234	Painswick Centre 12.30 - 1.00pm
	Painswick Singers. Contact Jean Jones 01452 813545.	Richmond 7.30pm
	Paradise Art Studio evening classes. Contact takepart@paradise-house.org.uk	Paradise House 6.30 - 8.30pm
	Painswick Bootcamp. Details contact Becca Meadows 01452 451505 or info@beccameadowsnutrition.co.uk	Broadham Field Rugby Pitch 7.30 - 8.30pm
Tuesdays	Drawing Classes in a block of six lessons. Info from Hannah Dyson at www.hannahjdyson.co.uk or dyson_hannah@hotmail.com	Church Rooms 10.00 - 12.00pm
	Zumba with Martina 07891 194396	Painswick Centre 9.45 - 10.45am
	Painswick Art Club	Church Rooms 9.30 - 1.00pm
	Rococo Sprites. See www.rococogarden.org.uk	Rococo Garden 9.45 am
Wednesdays	Strength and Balance class for the over 60s. Contact Trish Tenn on 07956 4666617 or tennpatricia@gmail.com	Painswick Centre 10.00 - 11.00am
	Painswick Bridge Club. Contact Peter Sibley on 812126 or Margaret Wilson on 812305	Church Rooms 6.45pm
	Table tennis. Contact David Harris on 07453 027766. £5.00/person/session	Painswick Centre 7.30 - 9.00pm
	Yoga with Kate. www.kate-beatty.co.uk/07793126234	Painswick Centre 7.30 - 8.45pm
	Classical Pilates Mat Classes with free taster. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or info@daleypilates.co.uk	Painswick Centre 10.30 - 11.30am
	Strength and Conditioning Circuits. www.lovelifeladies.co.uk	Painswick Centre 12.30 - 1.30pm
Thursdays	After school art classes. Email classes@painswickcentre.com . Term time only	Painswick Centre 3.45 - 5.15pm
	Morning Market	Painswick Centre 8.15 - 9.45am
	St Mary's Mums - for mums, bumps, babies and toddlers. Contact 07833 727701. Term time only	Church Rooms 9.15 - 10.45am
	Nurturing yoga. Contact Kim on yoginikim@icloud.com	Painswick Centre 9.30 - 11.00am
	Vinyasa Yoga. Contact Kim on yoginikim@cloud.com	Painswick Centre 11.15 - 12.45am
	Tai chi. Contact Joe on 07960 753782	Painswick Centre 1.30 - 2.30pm
	Dog Training Club. Contact Fiona Chapman on 01452 812462 or fiona.chapman123@btinternet.com	Painswick Rugby Club 9.30 - 12.30pm
	Qi Gong Classic Exercise - contact Jeff Docherty on jeffdocherty@yahoo.com	Town Hall 9.30 - 10.30am
	Classical Pilates Mat Classes. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or info@daleypilates.co.uk	Town Hall 5.45 - 6.45pm
	Takeaway Food Night	Painswick Centre 5.00 - 8.00pm
Fridays	Yoga for Backs. Contact Kim on yoginikim@icloud.com	Painswick Centre 9.30 - 11.00am
	Ballet with Claire Tracey. Contact BalletClaire@outlook.com	Church Rooms 9.30 - 10.30 am
	Painswick Community Hub Café: serving tea, coffee and homemade cakes. All welcome	Town Hall 10.00 - 11.30am
	Church Choir Practice. Contact Chris Swain cgsivain@btinternet.com or 01453 822998	St Mary's Church 5.30 - 6.30pm
	Classical Pilates Mat Classes. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or info@daleypilates.co.uk	Church Rooms 11.00 - 12.00pm
Sundays	Painswick Baby and Toddler Group - Term time only	Youth Pavillion 9.30 - 11.30am
	Mass	Catholic Church 8.30am
	Quaker Meeting for Worship	Meeting House 10.30am
	Aikido www.gloucestershireaikido.club .	Painswick Centre 8.30 - 11.00am

Village Diary

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

August

Thurs	1	The Enchanted Garden runs until September 1st. Details on rococogarden.org.uk	Rococo Garden	10.00am - 5.00pm
Sat	3	Painswick Beacon published		
Tues	6	Morning prayer	St Mary's Church	9.00am
Wed	7	Holy Communion	Richmond	11.00am
Sat	10	Painswick Community Support BBQ	Recreation Ground	12.00 - 3.00pm
Sun	11	Family Worship	St Mary's Church	11.00am
Mon	12	Library Book Club	Library	1.30 - 2.30pm
Tues	13	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Church	9.00am
Wed	14	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church	12.00pm
	14	Painswick Probus: Summer drinks party for Club members - partners and invited guests	Croft Orchard	12.00pm
Sun	18	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church	11.00am
Tues	20	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Church	9.00am
Sun	25	Deadline for Beacon copy Beacon Praise	St Mary's Church	11.00am
Mon	26	Bank Holiday		
	26	Yard Trail car boot	Painswick Centre	10.00 - 3.00pm
	26	IK productions: The Little Mermaid. Two performances. Book in advance via rococogarden.org.uk	Rococo Garden	11.00am and 2.30pm
Tues	27	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Church	9.00am
	27	Yew Trees WI: Summer Supper. Food to be cooked by Matt Black. Members only. Book place in advance.	Church Rooms	7.00 for 7.30pm

September

Sat 7 **Painswick Beacon published**

Painswick joins the Stroud Yard Trail

We're delighted that this year Painswick will be taking part in the mega car boot sale that is the Stroud Yard Trail. The Yard Trail encourages people to sell their unwanted things, with the joint aims of bringing communities together in their search for hidden gems, and keeping stuff out of landfill.

On Bank Holiday Monday 26th August 10am – 3pm, Painswick will be proudly hosting stalls at The Painswick Centre's car park and Beacon Hall, as well as on the memorial ground. There will be food and drink as well as a bit of music and face painting, to keep everyone going as they hunt for treasures. There will be plenty of other stalls across Stroud to rummage, with individuals setting up their own pitches and 'Multi Yards' at Hawkwood College, Stroud Brewery, and Stroud RFC. (You can see the whole map when it's ready at: www.yardtrailstroud.co.uk)

If you are ready for a clear out and to make some extra cash, why not take a stall and help your old things find new homes? Painswick's Yard Trail will be raising funds for the wonderful Painswick Centre, so a stall will cost a £10 donation to be paid prior to the event. If you would like a stall, please email susieandrews101@gmail.com

Susie Andrews & Louise Markey

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Six inches of soil

This was the title of a film I watched in Stroud two months ago. It was brilliant and should be compulsory viewing for everyone, or reading, if you get the book of the same title.



All of life on earth, including humans, rich or poor, are utterly dependant on a thin layer of soil and rain. We all need the food produced using this soil. However, we have not been good custodians of our soils; intensive industrial scale agriculture developed after the last world war has been dependant on heavy machines and the overuse of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Initially the increased yields helped feed a hungry world and brought the cost of food down. My parents would have spent 30% of their income on food, now it is about 10%. However, the consequences are compaction, flooding and soil erosion, pollution of rivers and a massive decline of wildlife in our arable fields and falling yields. Consumption of heavily processed food is leading to a health crisis. The current system is failing, and estimate suggest there may be only another fifty year's worth of harvests left.

The film highlights the endeavours of three projects trying to make a living using regenerative farming techniques, rather like Jeremy Clarkson has done in the Diddley Squat series. Soil health is at the heart it and can be improved in only a few years by using low-cost methods which used to be used years ago; cover crops to build organic content, crop rotation to break pest cycles, animal grazing and direct drilling of seed to stop deep ploughing. Healthy soil, with mycorrhizal fungi, enable plants to better access minerals and retain more water reducing the need for fertilisers and irrigation. They are also a surprisingly good carbon sink, sequestering more carbon than a sustainable number of cows would produce. All of this is also good for wildlife.

I think many farmers would like to go down this route but cannot finance the transition or easily forge new customer bases. Ninety-five percent of the UK food market is controlled by 9 supermarkets, and they do not want to give up their market share.

Some are making a go of it with farm shops, markets, and community hubs, connecting consumers with where and how their food is produced, instilling pride into locally sourced produce. Farmers will need help to achieve this transition and hopefully at the same time try to reduce the amount of food we have to import as a nation.

Paul Baxter.

Return of the fairies

You'll find the perfect summer holiday activities at The Rococo Garden this year. As well as our Hidden Valley playground, the garden buildings, the Maze and the fascinating water features, we have special plans for kids and adults this summer.



Despite the continued somewhat unpredictable weather, July had some absolutely glorious golden moments. For me the highlight is the Kitchen Garden which is in its prime and already yielding its first crops. The keen-eyed will also have noticed the new fencing the team have been working on, plus the first "harvest" of our high-quality home-produced charcoal. It's made from ash we've had to fell onsite due to dieback. You can buy Rococo charcoal in the shop.

We're delighted to welcome back our beautiful fairy characters and their friends this summer in The Enchanted Garden Trail. Let your imagination and feet run wild as you explore the twists and turns of the Garden, discovering charming follies, enchanting woodlands and our puzzling maze. Be on the lookout for our fairy-tale friends, beautifully sculptured in willow. They could be hiding anywhere. Enchanted Garden Trail is at Rococo from 20th July to 1st September and open daily 10-5pm. For more information see www.rococogarden.org.uk/news/enchanted-garden-2024/

For outdoor theatre escape under the sea with The Little Mermaid. It's an enchanting European adventure to find freedom, truth and love! This brand new family show is great for all ages from tiny tots to big kids. See www.rococogarden.org.uk/news/ikp-the-little-mermaid. It's on Monday 26th August at 11am and 2.30pm

Our Summer opening throughout August is daily 10am until 5pm. So you can visit Rococo any day. For quieter times come early morning or later in the afternoon to enjoy the garden at its best.

That's all for this month! Make the most of summer at Rococo.

Marta Gardner

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PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

S.24/1118/LBC

Rosemary Cottage, St Marys Street
Replace windows and doors. Replacement roof finish to earlier lean-to rear addition, internal alterations and erection of timber garden office

S.24/1076/HHOLD

Providence Cottage, Lower Washwell Lane
Demolition of existing conservatory and boot room. Erection of a single-storey side extension

S.24/1107/HHOLD

Greenacres Cottage, Cheltenham Road
Erection of dormer window and balustrade to replace two existing dormers.

S.24/1144/HHOLD

Mirfield Stroud Road
Erection of garage (Revised design and materials - previously S.23/0631/HHOLD).

CONSENT

S.22/2626/FUL

Painswick Rococo Garden, Gloucester Rd
Full planning approval for access road, car park, walkways, Gabion walls, level changes and alterations to the Bothy, and temporary approval for the proposed structures including Cafe, Kitchen, Storage, WCs and Reception

S.24/0639/HHOLD

Matlock House, Greenhouse Lane
Erection of a porch, single storey rear extension and alterations to fenestration. Erection of a detached car port and office.

S.24/0686/LBC

Court House, Hale Lane
Alterations to the internal layout and fenestration.

S.24/0900/LBC

Court House, Hale Lane
Internal alterations to form a new open plan kitchen/dining room, including the lowering of the ground floor level.

S.24/0814/HHOLD

1 Gloucester Road
Erection of a single storey rear infill extension

S.24/0801/LBC

Washwell House, Cheltenham Road
Installation of a kitchen.

S.24/0905/TPO

Castle Hale, Stamages Lane
Sycamore Tree (T1) - Remove all major deadwood & crown clean. Reduce selected low limbs. Beech Tree (T2) - Remove all major deadwood & crown clean. Reduce broken limbs. Lime Trees (T3) - Remove all major deadwood & crown clean, removing/reducing any broken, rubbing or declining limbs. Beech Tree (T4) - Remove all major deadwood, crown clean to improve appearance. Remove/prune back any broken, declining, rubbing limbs.

Property Report

A series of million pound plus properties have recently come to the market, including a stone-built listed property, two modern homes and a barn conversion. Madison House on New Street, between the former Post Office and the Pharmacy (Murrays, £1.2 million) will be remembered by some as having been the Country Elephant restaurant, but now it's a spacious family house with 5/6 bedrooms and a large garden. More modern options are Meadow Bank on Kings Mill Lane (Murrays, £1.45 million) with 5 bedrooms, and Meads in Pitchcombe (Murrays, £1.495 million), a 4 bed family house with separate 3 bed annexe. Both of these have large gardens. Completely different, but spanning old and new, Yokehouse Barn on the far side of the valley, near the old Squash courts (Murrays, £1.3 million) is based on an old barn, but transformed into modern accommodation with 3 bedrooms, and comes with 3 acres of land and outbuildings.

For more modest budgets, Greenbanks in Blakewell Mead (Murrays, £795,000) is a detached chalet-style property at the end of a private road and Abbots Leigh in Stamages Lane (Murrays, £775,000) is semi-detached with 3 bedrooms, parking and landscaped gardens. The most architecturally impressive property though must be Croome House in Bisley Street (Hamptons, £600,000), a 3 bedroom property with off-road parking that really draws the eye as you pass it. And if it's a 2 bedroom cottage you're looking for, Hale Bank in Kemps Lane (Murrays, £400,000) is well worth a viewing.

Since last month the Old Fleece shop in Bisley Street, Bay Tree Lodge at 17 Gyde House, Flat 2 at Yew Tree House in New Street, Outside Edge in Blakewell Mead, Wayside in Pitchcombe and Vermont in Cranham (all Murrays), Bunnage Fields Farm at the Camp and the Barn in Bondend Lane, Upton (Hamptons) have all gone under offer. Greenacres Cottage in Cheltenham Road and Springbank Cottage in Pitchcombe (Hamptons) have completed.



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Personal column

Thank you

The family of JUDY RUSSELL from Vicarage Street wish to thank everyone who attended Judy's funeral in July. We also would like to thank all friends and neighbours for the support and kindness shown to Judy. She valued her friendships with you all.

You could help Vicky Aspinall, if you would send information about those you know for whom a mention in the Personal Column would be appreciated cvasp.26@gmail.com

MINI-ADS

Mini-Ads

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Publication date
SATURDAY
Sept 7th 2024

Deadline for all copy
Sunday 25th August

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Freedom of the Parish of Painswick certificates presented

The certificates awarding Martin Slinger and George Hodder were presented to George's widow and to Martin on separate occasions as depicted below.



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Printed in Gloucester
for
The Painswick Beacon
by
www.inkylittlefingers.co.uk
01452 751900



The Beacon Team

Co-ordinating Editor this month

Peter Jackson 07985 002325
beacon@painswick.net

Editing Associates

John Barrus 812942
beacon@painswick.net

Alastair Jollans 814263
beacon@painswick.net

Next Month's Editor

Alastair Jollans 814263
beacon@painswick.net

Diary and Personal Column

Vicky Aspinall 812379
cvasp.26@gmail.com

Feature writer and Directory

Carol Maxwell 813387
features.beacon@painswick.net
directory.beacon@painswick.net

Sport

John Barrus 812942
barrusjp@yahoo.co.uk

Distribution

Celia Lougher 812624
distribution.beacon@painswick.net

Treasurer

Richard Aspinall 812379
treasurer.beacon@painswick.net

Advertising

Peter Rowe 813228
advertising.beacon@painswick.net

Subscriptions

Jacek Wolowiec 813295
subscriptions.beacon@painswick.net

Wall collapse at Castle Hale

On Thursday 25th July a section of the wall at Castle Hale came a tumbling down!



Cotswold Way Challenge



Paradise open day a selection including printing and textile work



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