

The Painswick Beacon

Volume 48 Number 12

March 2026

As one door opens, another one closes A new era for The Falcon

Four days closed for essential alterations – and then, what a reopening! The Falcon is now in new hands and most definitely on a very promising course as far as Painswickians are concerned.

Balfour Wines relinquished their lease in February and the new owners, Jake and Mike, were determined to bring about some very welcome changes with a particular emphasis on restoring a strong local atmosphere. A start was made in mid-February when the Falcon was closed for four days in order for intensive decorating and refurbishment work to be undertaken. The doors re-opened on Friday evening, 13th February and local residents, too many to count, turned up to see the changes. Everyone agreed that it was first-rate.

Jake points out that this is just the start. There is still much to do but essentially his aim is to achieve a balance between excellent hotel provision for tourists but with an even greater emphasis on an irresistible service for local residents. (Article continues on page 7.)



It takes a lot of staff to run a hotel as big as the Falcon

... but the end for the Longfield Shop

Unfortunately the news from the Longfield Shop is less good. The lease of the old Lloyds Bank building has come to an end and has not been renewed. The Beacon understands that Longfield would have liked to remain, but it was not possible to agree terms to renew the lease and in the end the shop had to close at very short notice. Longfield expressed their gratitude to all the staff and volunteers over the years and to those who have donated or bought items.

There are still though about 20 Longfield Shops around Gloucestershire, including shops in Stroud, Gloucester and Cheltenham, and the Hospice itself is still very much open, providing end-of-life and bereavement care to the local community.



Who's this visiting The Croft School?

Pupils at The Croft School were very excited to welcome Zack George, known as "Steel" from the BBC show *Gladiators*, for a special visit organised by the Friends of The Croft School, and kindly sponsored by Murrays Estate Agents.

Steel led a lively workshop with the whole school, speaking about becoming a Gladiator, staying positive, eating healthily and keeping active. He also amazed the children by walking on his hands. He then visited each class to sign pupils' drawings and answer their questions. The children proudly showed off their best "Steel poses," and one brave pupil attempted (unsuccessfully!) to challenge him to an arm wrestle.

Steel's visit reinforces the messages of the school's annual Wellbeing Week in May, which focuses on healthy eating, movement and mental wellbeing.

Susie Andrews



LOCAL COUNCIL NEWS - from the Parish Council meetings held on Wed. 18th February

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Present: Cllr. Andy Cash (Chairman), Cllr. Ian Massey, Cllr. Sandra Hunkin, Cllr. Roey Parker, Cllr. Rosie Nash, Cllr. Robin Roberts.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Fiona Mackenzie-Jenkin, Cllr. Ann Daniels, Cllr. James Cross.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st January were approved.

Applications:

S.26/0047/FUL Cattle Isolation Unit at Beech Farm, Beech Lane.

S.26/0022/HHOLD Horsepools Place, Paul Mead, Edge. Erection of a single storey side extension with terrace above.

S. 26/0141/HHOLD Honeysuckle Cottage, Far End, Sheepscombe. Erection of a single storey extension and garage conversion.

S.26/0103/TCA Tower Cottage, Kemps Lane. Reduce crown of 2 Beech trees by 3 metres and remove deadwood.

The committee supported all these applications, subject in the case of Beech Farm to the planning authority being satisfied on Biodiversity Net Gain.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee was set for 4th March.

PARISH COUNCIL

Present: Cllr. Andy Cash, Cllr. Ian Massey, Cllr. Sandra Hunkin, Cllr. Roey Parker, Cllr. Rosie Nash, Cllr. Robin Roberts

The Council noted the resignation of Cllr. Adrian Gyde, as a result of work commitments and personal issues and agreed unanimously to appoint Cllr. Andy Cash as Chairman of the Council. The post will be subject to re-election as usual in May. There were no volunteers to take on the role of Vice-Chairman in his place and the Council agreed to leave the position vacant for the time being.

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Apologies were received from Cllr. Fiona Mackenzie-Jenkin, Cllr. Ann Daniels, Cllr. James Cross, Cllr. Gary Luff.

There were no Declarations of Interest in any items on the agenda.

The minutes of the meetings held on 21st January and on 28th January were approved.

The reports from the County Council and District Council had been circulated and in the absence of Cllr. Luff were taken as read. Both documents are available on the Parish Council's website in the Document section.

Chairman's Report: Cllr. Cash reported that the Gloucestershire Village of the Year competition (which Painswick won last year) would shortly be launched in Painswick with the participation of Radio Gloucestershire (see photo below).

He noted that the refurbishment of the Town Hall floor had now been completed and that a socket for a freezer had been installed in the Kitchen.

The final report had been submitted for a Climate Recovery Grant, together with the Painswick Beacon Conservation Group.

A Community Space Grant for the Slad Village Hall had been approved in principle.

Traffic signs and 'gates' on entering Slad were awaiting design approval.

The Chairman would be approaching Cllr. Luff to put in a bid for financing of electronic bus arrival signs at the bus stops in Painswick. These are now in place at many other bus stops in the area and in some ways were even more important in areas with relatively few buses.

The defibrillator to be installed in the old telephone kiosk in Slad had been received and would be installed soon.

Cemetery Lodge: The Clerk reported that work on the Cemetery Lodge was broadly on time, perhaps a little behind, but the extent of the project had been expanding as a result of issues that had been encountered. The Council approved the estimate for works. It had been suggested that it might be helpful for Cllr. Robin Roberts to take on the project management because of his experience in similar work, but he declined to take it on. It was agreed that the Clerk would continue to manage it and that councillors would visit to review the work from time to time.

Footpaths at Dillay Farm: Mrs. Robert from Dillay Farm attended the meeting to explain to Councillors her proposals for some re-routing of public rights of way around the farm. Several footpaths



At the launch of the GRCC Gloucestershire Village of the Year 2026. Roy Balgobin, Barbara Piranty, Steve Moore, Duncan McGaw, David Little and Delyth Allen

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converge on the farm (between Slad and The Camp) and the number of people using them had increased significantly since the pandemic, leading to potential issues of interaction with farm animals and machinery. As well as diverting walkers away from the farm buildings, the proposals would in one area recognise the path that many walkers were in practice choosing to follow, which did not align with the official right of way. Councillors agreed to visit the site themselves to

make a judgement on the advantage or disadvantages of the proposed changes.

Accounts: The Council approved the circulated list of accounts of payment and agreed to appoint Mr. Ian Crowe as the Council's Internal Auditor for the year ending on 31st March 2026.

Ward reports: Cllr. Hunkin said that the roadworks in Sheepscombe, due to be completed in half-term week had by

Wednesday evening still not started. If they could not be done in the remaining two days and had to be done once the school was back, the contractors would have to limit their working hours. Cllr. Cash said that there had been another serious accident on the main road near Slad, when a car had failed to negotiate the bend and gone into a parked car.

The next meeting of the Council was set for Wednesday 18th March.

Probus Club



On 5th February members enjoyed a talk on "The Treasures of Hereford Cathedral" by Gil Gibbons, a former Cathedral guide. After being badly damaged by Welsh invaders in 1055 the Cathedral was rebuilt between 1107 and 1148 and under Robert Grosseteste became an English intellectual hub before the establishment of the universities. Its famous Chain Library contains books and manuscripts from as early as the ninth century but is best known for possessing one of only four copies of the Magna Carta of 1215 and the celebrated Mappa Mundi (c.1300) showing the inhabited part of the world as then known (Europe, Asia and North Africa) from a Christian perspective, with Jerusalem at the centre. Other treasures discussed included King Stephen's Chair, used by the monarch on his visit in 1138. Queen Elizabeth II on a somewhat later visit remarked that it was very uncomfortable.

On 19th February the club was entertained by Diana Humphreys and Fred Ward with an enchanting presentation on The Stars and Songs of the Old Time Music Hall, covering such luminaries as Vesta Tilley, George Robey, Harry Lauder, Albert Chevalier, Florrie Forde, Harry Champion and Marie Lloyd - and the theatres which hosted them, many designed by Frank Matcham including Cheltenham's Everyman.

Our next meeting will be on 19th March when John Gillham will talk about the top secret Malvern radar establishment. On 2nd April our fellow member Sir Alistair McDuff addresses the intriguing subject "Murder cases to die for."

Robin Vick

Wassailing, snowdrops and opals

Had you been in Painswick on a Tuesday evening in late January you might have heard a rather feeble rendering of "Wassail! Wassail all over the town" coming from the Church Rooms. The members of Yew Trees WI were doing their best but their enthusiastic speaker Stephen Rowley had omitted to pass round the wassail bowl before the singing commenced which would surely have made a difference!



Stephen explained that when England was an agricultural society wassails were common. Early in the new year, in a manner similar to carol singing, groups of farm labourers would go from house to house with a decorated bowl and wish people "waes hael" meaning good health. They would sing a relevant toast be it about a cow, wheat or apple tree e.g. "And here is to Fillpail and her soft ear, Pray God send our master a happy New Year". Different parts of the country had similar but varying traditions which all died out. However, the tradition has been revived in Gloucestershire in no small part due to the enthusiasm and energy of Stephen Rowley.

Thanks are due to Jane Rowe for organising a joint trip with The Friday Club to visit Colesbourne Park. Despite it being very damp members hugely enjoyed their visit which included a short presentation on the history of the park and family, a fascinating and most informative walk guided by Sir Henry Elwes and Head Gardener Katie Reynolds and ended with tea and cake. As well as learning much, members were delighted by the spectacular show of snowdrops which mixed with colourful cyclamen, hellebores and aconites brightened up the grey day.

On Tuesday 24th March Helen Plumb, an internationally recognised gemmologist, from Just Gems in Winchcombe will talk on "Opals - Truth, Lies and Mystery". This meeting is an Open Meeting so do come along, whatever your gender, and learn about opals, those intriguingly changeable stones. 7.30 pm in The Church Rooms: Visitors £4.

Celia Lougher 812624

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Painswick Oncology Support Year 26

POSY26 is a small group of friends in Painswick who are organising four fundraising events throughout the year for The Big Space Cancer Appeal. This charity is raising funds for a new cancer centre in Cheltenham, that will offer local patients the very best environment for treatment, healing and recovery.

First phase of the project is to build a new space at Cheltenham General Hospital to improve the environment inside and out for patients and staff. There will be modern consulting rooms complete with new digital technology, space for innovation and research trials as well as a new therapeutic garden. Existing facilities in the current Oncology Centre will also be upgraded as part of the second phase of the project.

So far, Painswick events have contributed over £3,000 towards the £17.5m appeal target. Over £10m has been raised in total.

POSY26 are keen to make these fundraising events lots of fun, and with that in mind the first event on March 21st will be Line Dancing at the Painswick Rugby Club. There will be excellent live music to get us in the country mood, and the bar will be open. Cowboy hats optional.

For tickets and further information please contact Linda Hobbs 07712 291794 lindadavies3@yahoo.co.uk Tickets £20. For further information about the appeal, go to <https://www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/charity/big-space/>
Linda Hobbs

Elgar's Life and Music and The Arts and Crafts

On 17th March at 2.30pm, Members will be meeting in Box Village Hall to enjoy an afternoon of musical excerpts and hear about 'The life and work of Sir Edward Elgar' (1857-1934). Among the greatest of British composers, Elgar was self-taught, going on to write symphonies, concertos, choral works and chamber music of enduring beauty. Our speaker Dr Tim Brain is a prominent lecturer, broadcaster and author with a long-held interest in the history of policing, the military and music. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (FRHistS) in 2024.

Then on 1st April at the Painswick Centre at 2.30pm (after a brief AGM at 2pm), we will explore 'Exquisite Embroideries to Glittering Glass: the work of women artists in Cotswold churches'. Women's work has always been in our churches, including beautiful banners, vestments, and altar frontals. But it's not just flowers and kneelers! The growing emancipation of women in the latter part of the 19th century allowed them to go into new creative areas such as stained glass, wood carving and metalwork. After the First and Second World Wars, women produced intricate calligraphy for rolls of honour, carved memorials and created memorial windows. Our speaker, Kirsty Hartsiotis is a writer and storyteller (with a regular column in Cotswold Life and published collections of stories). She was the curator at The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum for 15 years and is currently a curator at Swindon Museums.

Our bi-monthly gatherings are free to Members but all are welcome (visitors £5 at the door). No need to book, just drop in. Further information about the Club and its activities (including the full list of lectures and Membership details) can be found on the CNFC website www.cotswoldclubs.club.

Sylvia May cnfsecretary1@gmail.com



Painswick Rugby Club
March 21st 7pm till 9.30pm

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This fundraising event is being held by Painswick Oncology Support Year 26 All proceeds to the Cheltenham Big Space Appeal



Detail of stained glass by Veronica Whall, 1927, Holy Trinity, Wickwar

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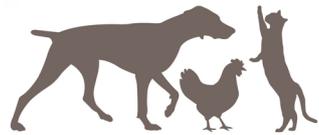


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Painswick group oddly loses florin and gains cent to form cubic yard (6,4)



Our recent outing, shared with members of Yew Trees WI, to Colesbourne Park was a success despite the rain. All the snowdrops, cyclamen, iris, aconites, crocus and even daffodils were beautiful below the dripping trees! Henry Elwes is an inspiration and the whole estate so beautiful. We came away full of facts about snowdrops and encouraged to dig them up in summer and spread them out in fresh soil to avoid overcrowding as the bulbs multiply each year.

We also had an excellent afternoon on 20th February when Vicky Aspinall told us about her career, from training as a Veterinary Surgeon through to building a large practice in Gloucester with husband Richard whom she met on her first day at Bristol University. After the arrival of her children, Vicky joined Hartpury College as a lecturer in Veterinary Nursing and Animal Care. Ten years later, she set up her own training business, only to be asked by a publisher to produce, alongside, a range of textbooks, which, like 'Aspinall's Complete Textbook of Veterinary Nursing', continue to carry her name through many editions.

The Friday Club's next few weeks are busy: Angela Newing, a retired Professor of Medical Physics, will be helping us to 'Solve Cryptic Crosswords' on 20th March at 2.30 pm in the Town Hall. On Tuesday 24th March, a group of 29 members and friends will be watching an evening performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's The Gondoliers at the Everyman Theatre Cheltenham. Please contact me for last-minute tickets. Just before the Easter break, members of the Friday Club will be joining Painswick Music Appreciation Group on Thursday 2nd April at 2.30 pm to celebrate the life of Ann Williams in music. She was Friday Club's President for several years.

Jane Rowe 813228

A potted history of Cranham pots

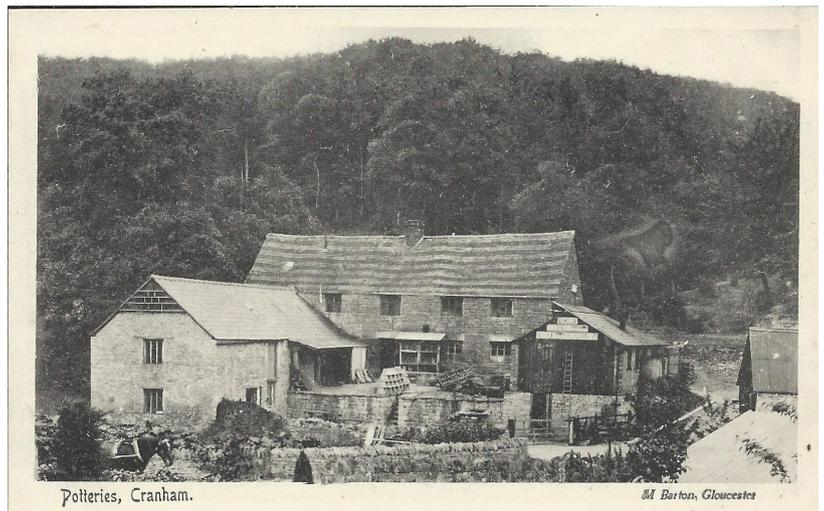


Walking through Cranham nowadays it is hard to realise that once, in fact for many many years, it was the centre of a thriving pottery industry. At the February meeting of the Local History Society Jan Whitton gave a detailed account of the industry and the families involved.

The potteries in Cranham owed their existence to the local blue clay. The earliest reference is 1694 though it is likely they were there much earlier. Producing

mostly basic earthenware these potteries were quite small but nevertheless very commercial with their products being delivered to places some distance away as shown in a newspaper article of 1802. Examples are displayed in Gloucester Folk Museum and in Stroud's museum.

A series of families were involved over the years, usually competitively, and Jan described the infighting and feuds within and between some of these especially during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The Verrinders, Lovegroves, Moultons, Gardners, Stirlings, Sadlers and Richings were responsible over the years for the building of bigger factories and the necessary ponds and waterworks. They made money but several also became bankrupt.



A view of Cranham Potteries around 1905

In the 20th century pottery became less important and the industry gradually faded. Of the bigger buildings one is now the Scout Centre (a youth centre serving the county) and another is the village hall. After WW2 one man continued as a potter and at Prinknash Abbey Heath Robinson's son, Father Basil, started the pottery which closed in 2004.

At the March meeting Tina Pentney, who has traced her own ancestry back to Pain Fitz John in the 12th century, after whom Painswick is named, will give a presentation on one of his associates, Milo of Gloucester. On the 18th March at The Croft School. Everyone welcome.

Carol Maxwell

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Forget February, there's more Love in March

'Lent' is underway, which is a time of feeling sorrow and regret as we think about all the places in our lives where we fall short or 'sin' – not loving God well, and failing to love our families, friends and neighbours as ourselves. As a response, many of us focus on trying to be more generous with our love, time and resources by sharing what we have.



You will notice (and hopefully be invited to) simple Lent lunches in peoples' homes here in Painswick and across our benefice communities.

Of course, Sunday 15th March is Mothering Sunday – when everyone can come and mark the gift of motherly love at a special 11am service at St Mary's, in which posies of flowers are given and received as a token of this love.

Finally, the end of Lent arrives with a big celebration on Sunday 29th March in Painswick. This year the churches of Edge, Pitchcombe, Harescombe, Sheepscombe, Cranham and Painswick have decided to mark what is called 'Palm Sunday' by coming together at St Mary's for an extra special celebration led by the Bishop of Tewkesbury.

The service starts at 11am with a procession in the churchyard and will then continue inside as we share in a dramatized reading, holy communion, and refreshments afterwards.

Please come along as we recall how the crowds in Jerusalem some 2000 years ago first honoured and celebrated Jesus Christ as God's Son, the Saviour who would later that week take away our sins through his self-sacrifice and death on a cross - in the ultimate act of love for the whole world.

Sarah Haslam, Rector

Please Support the Beacon

With this copy of the Beacon you will have received an envelope asking for subscriptions to The Painswick Beacon. If you want to see the Beacon continuing, please don't just leave it to others.

Over the last two years the average subscription has been over £20 and I ask that this generosity continues, but we would also like to see a greater number of subscribers. We prefer payment by bank transfer and all the necessary details are on the slip enclosed in the return envelope, which should be with this copy of the Beacon. We do also though accept payment by cash or cheque. Just complete the slip and drop the envelope into the The Beacon Box (beside the phone box outside Murrays) or post it via Royal Mail (with a stamp on please!).

Details for postal, Edge and Pitchcombe subscriptions will be provided separately.

Jacek Wolowicz

St. Mary's Church Spring Clean Could YOU come and help?

Thanks to our regular and very faithful Church Cleaner our Church looks clean and tidy week by week, but it's such a large building that there are areas that can't be covered every week. The high window sills, the dark corners, nooks and crannies, the stone arches and numerous windows could all do with a brush up and wipe down.



So if you're free for an hour on the morning of **Saturday 21st March** between 9.30 and noon please do come and join us for however long you can to help do an area or corner you think could do with brightening up! It would be great if you can bring your own cleaning equipment, eg. cloth/duster, bucket, brush, pan, polish, spray etc which you'd normally use as we don't have enough for all! Coffee and tea supplied. Thank you in anticipation of many hands making light work!

Lindsay Gardiner, Dylan Davies, Church Wardens



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Le Papillon

From 7th March, Le Papillon will be serving breakfasts. The Menu will include a range of rolls and fillings - veggie option included, a menu of sauces, and granola. Served from 9am to 11am.

And on 15th March, there will be a Woolmaking talk by Katy Crane to fit in with the current wool and cheese exhibition with Jonathan Crump, local cheese maker from Stroud.

Solomon Gilbert

Sisters Cox Trust Grants available

The Sisters Cox Trust is now accepting applications for grants from its Hardship Fund for "the benefit of the sick or needy of all classes in the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Painswick". You do not have to be a churchgoer to apply for this. Please make applications in writing marked "Confidential" to Reverend Sarah Haslam at The Benefice Office, The Lychgate, Stroud Road, Painswick, GL6 6UT. Or email Rev Sarah at beaconrector@gmail.com Please apply by 1st April 2026.

Lindsay Gardiner, Trustee

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A new era at The Falcon (continued from front page)

Jake Haddon, now leading the new team at the Falcon, says he intends 'to put locals first', but at the same time understands that with current outgoings being exceptionally high, the Falcon is very dependent on the tourist trade. He rightly adds of course that other aspects and businesses in Painswick also benefit from visitors staying here.

The bar area is now very inviting, with a cosy, comfortable and very attractive seating area at the rear and a good selection of local beers and wines. A lovely space in which to relax. The dining area is informal and welcoming. Jake points out that the food is all homemade and local – an AA rosette awarded for this is proudly on display. Jake himself is highly qualified in catering and has 15 valuable years experience as a chef in a range of top hotels.



The Shires bar is certainly an asset for the Falcon, already a popular venue for wedding receptions, parties etc at weekends. Jake is keen to develop its use for the local community, especially mid-week. To this end he asks us all to suggest ideas for events and activities which would appeal to many local residents. 'What do you want?' he asks. Quiz nights, movie nights, karaoke, discos etc, whatever proves to be popular. There would be

an added benefit of discounts for Painswickians but a good number would be needed to make such events viable. The Shires is a really good event venue, a good space with its own bar and facilities. Do get in touch with your suggestions.

With more developments planned, for example the creation of a beautiful outside area in time for the warmer weather, Jake is very pleased that the staff team, all local, is very supportive, hardworking and as keen as he is to make the Falcon an emphatically local social venue. He is a family man with two young children and his wife Heni will also be involved, in charge of events. His attitude is definitely positive and enthusiastic and he is determined to ensure the Falcon, our wonderful historic inn, is a key feature of the Painswick community now and in the future.

Warm and welcoming, the Falcon is definitely there for us all. To contact Jake Haddon or the team, email info@thefalconpainswick.com or just go in.

Carol Maxwell

The Baroque and the Classical



With the Town Hall closed for repairs Dr Tim Brain returned to PMAG, held at Richmond Village, to relate his detective story surrounding the origins and late emergence of the 36 year old JS Bach's six Brandenburg Concerti: later in the month former Chairman Howard Allen described the links between Mozart and Haydn illustrated by the former's six String Quartets dedicated to the latter who was himself responsible for no less than 68 quartets.

The approaches were quite different with Dr Brain describing in an erudite lecture the origins of these sectarian Baroque works which today may be performed by chamber groups and up to full symphony orchestras. They were buried and probably unplayed in the library of the Margrave of Brandenburg for over 100 years and did not receive their first recording until 1936. The group heard brief extracts from CD recordings.

Howard on the other hand, after brief but apposite introductions, played CD and DVD performances in their entirety of two of the classical quartets which were composed only 60 years after the Bach and within six years of the composer's premature death. The Margrave probably never heard the concerti but Haydn after performances of the quartets wrote "Mozart is the greatest composer known to me either in person or by name".

Next meetings 2:30 PM in the Town Hall:-

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Thurs April 2nd A musical celebration of the life of Ann Williams
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News from The Painswick Centre



The Painswick Centre **Takeaway!**

Coming up

March	April
12 th Taste of Punjab	2 nd Bros & Doughs
19 th Miniyakies	9 th BBQ Society
26 th Burgerlish	16 th Wild Slice
	23 rd Taste of Punjab
	30 th Burgerlish

Thursdays 5pm - 8pm

Spotlight on 'Taste Of Punjab'

Our food is inspired by food vendors from the streets of Punjab, where millions of street food vendors nourish workers with healthy, delicious food.

Soft Naan Bread Wrap or Basmati Rice Box filled with lamb Keema, Chicken Tikka or Chickpea Curry (VG). This all comes with fresh salad and sauce. Starters are a choice of delicious vegetarian samosa, pakora, fresh salad and a homemade chutney.



The Painswick Centre
at the heart of Painswick

Morning Market



Thursdays 8am-10am

A weekly market of local produce and local suppliers. Every Thursday 8am-10am, at The Painswick Centre. Please do come and support vendors including The Padstow Fish Company, Salt Bakehouse, Skinners Mill Preserves and Frocester Fayre. We are always looking for more producers, so if you or someone you know is interested in coming and supporting the local community, please let us know here at the Painswick Centre. manager@painswickcentre.com

Spotlight on 'Frocester Fayre'

Family-owned farm shop and butchers, offering expertly butchered high-quality meats, locally sourced produce, and delicious homemade delights. Located in the heart of the Cotswolds, we have been proudly serving our community for over 25 years.



Friday 13th March - The Roses
Doors 7.00pm, Film 7.45pm



There are two types of Friday night. One involves scrolling, slippers and a mild debate with the kettle. The other involves friends, a glass in hand, the gentle hum of conversation ... and a big screen lighting up in the hall. We recommend the second.

On Friday 13th March, Wick-Flix returns with *The Roses* - and no, the date isn't unlucky. It is prime territory for a sociable night out in the heart of Painswick.

Wick-Flix was never meant to be "just a film screening". It is bistro-style cinema. Tables set. Candles glowing. Drinks available. A chance to arrive at 7.00pm, settle in, and actually talk to people before the lights dim at 7.45pm. Think less multiplex, more village soirée with a cinematic twist. Come for the story on screen, certainly. But stay for the atmosphere.

There is something quietly magical about watching a film with neighbours and friends. Shared laughter lands differently. Silence feels companionable rather than solitary. Even the credits seem warmer when experienced together.

So here is your gentle nudge: Bring someone. Bring two people. Make it a Friday ritual. Let Wick-Flix be your ready-made social plan. Doors open 7.00pm, Film starts 7.45pm The Painswick Centre. No trailers about popcorn deals. No sticky floors. Just a welcoming hall, a well-chosen film, and a room full of friendly faces.

Friday 13th might be known for superstition. We prefer to think of it as lucky for anyone who fancies a night out without leaving the village. See you at the movies.

Ceri Chaplin

A date for your diary Jazz at the Painswick Centre



Saturday 11th April. Bar and food from 6.30pm.
Live music from 7.30pm. £12.50 Entry

A great read by local author, Anne Smith

A good read is such a joy – inspiring, thought provoking, satisfying. A recently published book with strong Painswick links fits this description perfectly. A Girl from West Littleton is the exceptionally well written and fascinating life story of someone known to many in Painswick, Anne Smith.

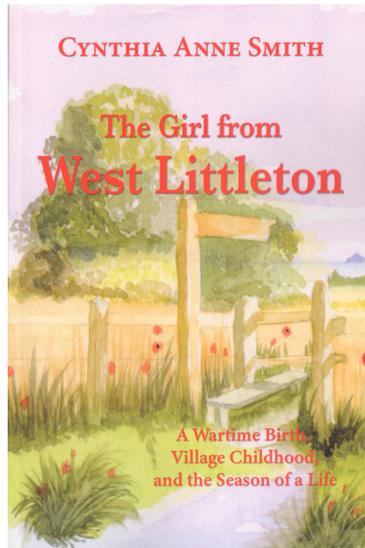
With many interesting and sometimes unexpected experiences throughout her life Anne decided to put pen to paper for the record. The result is a surprisingly interesting story of a Gloucestershire girl. It starts with a description of her very early childhood during the war – she was born in 1941 – in the tiny hamlet of West Littleton. From there the story develops into one of wonderful, often surprising, poignant, intriguing episodes.

It covers many aspects of Anne's life including the personal, the changes in our area (Anne lived in Slad then Painswick), education, travels and work. She was, for example, and significantly, head of house for two royal households - for the Kent family at Lypiatt and for Prince Charles at Highgrove during the 1980s. Over the years she has met some truly interesting people, has visited some fascinating places both near and far and has led an unexpectedly eventful personal life.

This autobiographical novel is one which is a wonderful read from the start. It is beautifully evocative, recounting a truly interesting life and with much local interest. Anne's is a very full story of some amazing memories of experiences and of people. It is clearly and oh so well written, never dull and consistently engrossing. Well worth reading.

The Girl from West Littleton by Cynthia Anne Smith is available at the Fireside Bookshop in Stroud, on both Amazon and Kindle and locally at Handmade in Painswick in Bisley Street.

Carol Maxwell



March Concerts

Painswick Music Society Concert Series begins this month, featuring special performances by rising stars to open the season - the Adam Heron Piano Trio on the 14th of March and Meliora Collective, a multi-instrumental ensemble, on the 28th March; all concerts are held at St. Mary's Church, Painswick and start at 3pm.



Adam Heron began his musical education at The King's School, Gloucester where his superb musical skills were already abundantly evident, both as a chorister in the Cathedral Choir and as a pianist. He rose to prominence following his 2018 television debut as a BBC Young Musician piano finalist and the winner of the 2020 Harriet Cohen Bach Prize. Adam commands a demanding schedule of international recital engagements, having already performed at distinguished venues including Wigmore Hall, St Martin-in-the-Fields, and Southbank Centre. He will be joined by two very talented musicians: violinist, Cristina Dimitrova and cellist, Dequan Smith. They will be playing music by Haydn, Mozart and Schumann as well as two pieces composed by Adam.

The ensemble of dynamic, creative young musicians that make up the Meliora Collective, returns to Painswick this year, following the huge success of their performance at St. Mary's in 2024. As recent graduates of leading UK conservatoires, each of the musicians brings a strong musical identity to the group. Their ethos of shared responsibility and collaborative music making is integral to the ensemble and their performance includes Martinu, Clementi, Cheetham and Beethoven's Septet. Tickets: www.painswickmusicsoc.co.uk

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An evening of Adventure with Ben Saunders, Polar Explorer

Join us at The Croft School for a fundraiser like no other - an unforgettable evening with polar explorer Ben Saunders. Hear incredible stories from his epic adventures across the Arctic and Antarctic, and be inspired by his journeys of endurance and exploration.

Ben is not only a record-breaking polar explorer, but he lives just down the road from Painswick. In 2004 he became the third in history to ski solo to the North Pole (no one has repeated the journey since). In 2014, he finished the 1,800-mile, 108-day Antarctic expedition that defeated Sir Ernest Shackleton and killed Captain Scott. For one night only, Ben has agreed to share his extraordinary stories to support The Croft Primary School and Painswick Playgroup.

**Thursday 12th March at The Croft School
7.30 - 9.00pm**

All money raised will go towards new outdoor resources for The Croft School and Painswick Playgroup. Tickets for £15, including a glass of Prosecco or a soft drink, from <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/an-evening-of-adventure-with-ben-saunders-2> (or scan the QR code)



John Constable Chocolate Box Painter or Maverick

On 12th February a full Painswick Centre explored the standing of John Constable guided by Alan Read, eminent expert from Tate London. Whilst reviewing Constable's background and providing comparisons with contemporary and much travelled rival Turner, it was noted that recognition came years after the precocious Turner; Constable remaining most comfortable within the English countryside he loved.



Alan demonstrated how multiple sketches built to the great finished paintings. The detail, brush technique and painting 'plein air' set Constable decades ahead of his time and confirmed him as an agent of change. In 1824 his unsold 'The Haywain' from the Royal Academy Exhibition (of 1821) was shown in Paris. A Sensation.

Awarded a gold medal, his mastery was recognised by Delacroix, Troyan, Corot and others who followed his lead in changing style, subject and technique. The loose brushwork of his later works presaged Impressionism.

Alan summarised his erudite, witty and beautifully illustrated talk by listing reasons why Constable can be considered an even greater genius than Turner. By focusing on landscape not portraiture he created masterpieces from everyday subjects and in 'plein air' and with the application of freer techniques he prepared the way for the Impressionists. Not a chocolate box in sight.

Next : Thursday 12th March: 'The Borgias 'The Most Infamous Family in History?'' and an exciting Special Day of Interest 28th March 'Turkey : From Troy to Constantinople, Istanbul to Gallipoli'. Prebook at website or Email painswick@theartsociety.org.

David Cutler

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Information Board for the Churchyard

In 2023 the Painswick Valleys Conservation Society approached St. Mary's church with an offer to provide an information board for the churchyard. The very generous offer met with enthusiasm from the PCC and the design and planning process began, ably coordinated by Carolyn Luke.

The project took rather longer than anticipated, but the end result was well worth the wait. The board is located adjacent to the footpath close to the tourist information office and will be of great interest to visitors and Painswickians alike.

Many people had input to the text, design and layout of the board at various stages of iteration. Thanks are due to them and to Peter Rowe for photographs of the tombstones, Jonathan Jarvis for the aerial view of the churchyard and Jane Kilpatrick and Jennifer Harmer for the tomb trail, which is accessible through the QR code on the board.

The photograph shows the board shortly after installation with Carolyn Luke, John Luke and Fraser Leggate of the Conservation Society, Rev. Sarah Haslam and Dylan Davies from St. Mary's and two generations of the Luke family.

Dylan Davies



Taking on the UK's toughest long distance hike for MND

Local resident and adventurer Martyn Thornton is to undertake his latest endurance challenge in early May hiking the Cape Wrath Trail in Scotland - a challenging, unmarked 370km backpacking route running from Fort William to the remote Cape Wrath lighthouse in the northwest. It is widely considered the toughest long distance hike in the UK taking 2-3 weeks as it passes through remote mountainous terrain requiring advanced navigation skills and wild camping.



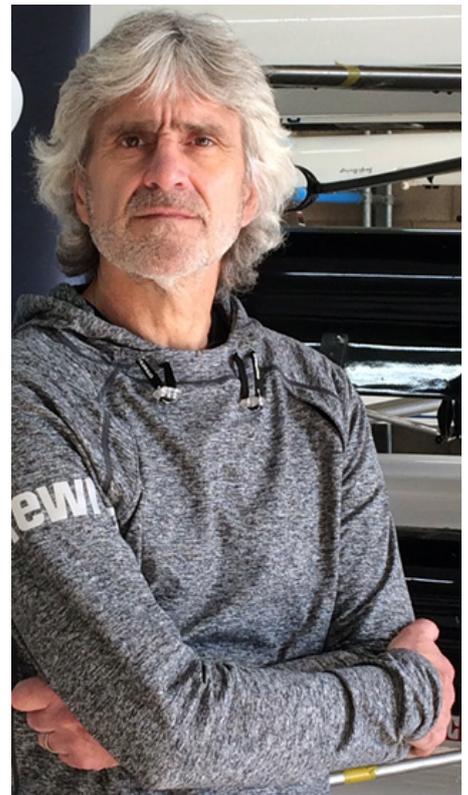
This time Martyn is hiking to raise money for the local Motor Neurone Disease (MND) charity 4Ed who were so supportive throughout his wife Lyn's 3 year battle with the disease until her sad passing in October last year. Lyn as many will know was an extremely fit and active woman until MND robbed her of much of her physicality. It's a devastating illness for all involved and any amount of money donated will help fund research and support initiatives.

Martyn is no stranger to extreme endurance challenges having wilderness hiked 2700 miles from the Mexican border to the Canadian boarder in 2017 and rowed the Atlantic Ocean solo in 2020 – this time however it's for a very personal cause and any support we can provide will go a long way to help others suffering from MND.



If you would like to donate to the charity please scan the QR code below or visit his donation page at https://www.justgiving.com/page/martyn-thornton-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=020

Alternatively contact him by email martyn@wildoceandesigns.com or call on 07785 350840.



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Memories of the Pin Mill (1974-1978)

Episode 4: What else was going on?

The main roles within the factory were operating the machines and packing the products into boxes, but there was a range of ancillary activities that helped to make it all happen.

Changing over between products/sizes would require a complete reset of the machines with new tooling. Also, if a machine had a serious breakdown, it might need a significant repair. This was way beyond my level of expertise, and was mostly the remit of Les Wayne and Reg Beavis. The Mill had an Engineering workshop complete with drills, lathes and other equipment, which allowed replacement parts to be created. Les took great pride in his work. Having made feeble attempts at "Precision Engineering" at school, I was impressed by what he could achieve. Kevin Clark was a young lad who Les was training. He was the son of Beryl, who worked in the Packing area.

Jim Stockbridge was the driver, preparing loads before going out on the road to deliver them to local customers or into the parcel distribution system. You can still see the opening on the first floor from which the individual parcels were sent down a wooden slide to the van which was parked in the yard. Jim was always very approachable and friendly.

Downstairs were the ovens. These heated lacquer into which the hair pins and kirby grips were dipped to give them a smooth, hygienic coating. It was hot and humid down there, the lighting was poor, and you could smell the lacquer in the air. This was the realm of Francis Bridgeman. He was a powerful man, although perhaps a bit scary until you spent time with him. I confess that I tried to avoid working down there – I found it quite oppressive.

Martin Keddie was slightly younger than me, and working down the Mill was a permanent job for him. He would go wherever he was needed and could fulfil a variety of roles. In addition to working on the machines, he used to help Francis to operate the ovens and Jim to prepare his deliveries. If there was a lot to deliver, he would accompany Jim on the van. If I remember correctly, he could also drive a fork lift truck, which is not an easy skill to master (I never managed it!).

On occasions, Joe Campbell worked on the machines. He was an interesting guy. For much of the time he worked for a very rich lady who had a house in Holcombe (I always thought of her as "the Coca Cola heiress", although I'm not sure if that was strictly accurate). He was the butler and his wife was the housekeeper. When the lady was not in residence, he used to come down to the Mill to earn some extra money.

In charge of the shop floor was the Foreman - Ken Bentley. He was a big guy, who seemed to have had a wide range of work/life experiences. It wasn't easy for him, working on the interface between the management and the shop floor, but he used his authority pretty well, and I learned from watching him. I didn't know it then, but in the future I would come across several "Kens" who would work for me. For now, it was important to stay in this Ken's good books, as he was the one who dished out the overtime (at time and a quarter, no less) – and I was always ready for some of that!

Eric Harris



Photo courtesy of Painswick Local History Society

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A very productive New Year so far



We have had a few half decent days of weather this year, but the majority have been awful. I do not think I can remember so many unbroken dreary wet days. The ground is so saturated.

However, the track repairs we have organised appear to have diverted water away and have been well received. During the first week of February, we used Nick Hallard and his JCB again to reprofile some of the paths and tracks around the Hill Fort. Cullimore kindly supplied eighteen tonnes of discounted aggregate and a group of volunteers from the golf club helped put it down. I hope everyone will agree it is a vast improvement which will benefit all. We are grateful to Natural England for the funding which has made this possible.

We have now finished clearing the dangerous trees on the roadside opposite the golf club workshop. This was a far bigger task than I first imagined as we had to fell trees to enable the roadside trees to be winched safely away from the road. So far this has taken nearly two hundred volunteer hours and there are still trunks which must be logged. Felling the trees is relatively quick, cutting and removing the brush is what takes most of the time.



Already the cows are grazing in the newly cleared glade, enjoying the large piles of freshly cut ivy. In time, with the right management this area will become a good grassland/woodland edge habitat.

Paul Baxter



Community Library News

Dr Neena Buntwal will be running a drop-in session for all those who want assistance with setting up or using the NHS App. Friday 27th March in the Library, between 2.30 and 4.30.

Easter Opening and New Lego Club

We will be closed on the two bank holidays, but we will be open on Easter Saturday – 4th April, when we will be holding a Lego taster session from 11.00 – 12.00, and 2.30 – 3.30. All will be welcome to come along and have fun. Chocolate treats for the children visiting the Library on Easter Saturday, Lego sessions or not. The new Lego club will be on Monday afternoons from 3.30 – 4.30 starting on 12th April. More details in the next Beacon.

Keep a look out for more new books – the list was not available as this went to print
Ian Cridland

Library Book Club

The next meeting of the Painswick Library Book Club is on Monday 9th March, from 1.30-2.30pm, to discuss



The Names by Florence Knapp. Following that we will meet on Monday 13th April to discuss Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine, by Gail Honeyman. New members, or returning members are always welcome. For further information email painswick.library.bookclub@gmail.com

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Painswick Surgery Patient Group

The Patient Group has seen some changes recently including the death of Chris West, a loyal member, in January. So we invite applications to painswickppg@gmail.com. We would be particularly interested in people with special interests in ex-military patients and/or carers. The minutes of our meetings are on the Practice's website under 'About the Surgery' should you want more insight.



The Group has recently been devoting some concentrated attention to digital developments as it's one of the government's three priorities. According to our small survey it was apparent that eConsult has become widely accepted (if a little begrudged!) provoking little comment now. Follow-up online responses to face-to-face consultations were given approval and the efficiency of email and text communications with the Practice received praise. There are always traditional, non-digital alternatives for those who find these challenging.

The NHS App is central to the government's vision and is becoming more and more useful over time. Patient Group member Neena Buntwal has been leading on help with the App starting with Friday Club members. We are also offering an open invitation for others who need help in the Painswick Library 2.30 - 4.00pm on Friday 27th March. Just drop in.

Worrying news from our recent meeting at the Practice, as there has been a surge of demands on them resulting from recent government publicity. This resulted in a big increase in patients approaching them with minor ailments or worries. We would like to put out a plea therefore, that everyone can show support for our precious NHS by not expecting every minor ailment, or ongoing discomfort, to receive attention from hard pressed doctors. So hold back on eConsult unless really necessary. Otherwise, if decisions are having to be taken without adequate time to ensure thoroughness, it would mean that the very future of the Practice could be at stake.

By contrast, of 146 recent responses to the Friends and Family test 76% marked their interactions with the Surgery as Very Good, with 1% Very Poor. And the number one word in the feedback was 'efficient'. But we cannot have this being achieved at the expense of our doctors' and nurses' health. There's much more detail if you sign up for email bulletins at painswickppg@gmail.com.

David Perry, Patient Group Chair

Easter Egg Hunt

The Painswick Easter Egg Hunt is back with 35 eggs to find to celebrate 35 years of the Painswick Playgroup. Running from Easter Saturday, 4th April, to Sunday 12th April, the event, supported by Hamptons, raises vital funds for the village Playgroup.

The eggs, each sponsored by local businesses, will be on display in windows around Painswick with maps available to buy to follow the trail. Each map bought gets an entry into a draw to win a £100 John Lewis voucher. Buy your map by visiting tinyurl.com/34cvnajt

Easter Saturday also sees the Playgroup Family Fun Day in St Mary's Churchyard from 12-4pm. Everyone is welcome, for the whole family, with activities including face painting, Teddy Bear Tombola, a raffle and barbecue. Cake bakers are also urged to donate their finest creations to the cake stall - and enter the Great Painswick Bake Off. All donations need to be delivered to St Mary's Churchyard by 11am on Easter Saturday. Three categories: Under 16, Best Decorated and Best Tasting - all offer fabulous prizes.

The event is not possible without generous sponsorship from local businesses, including gold sponsor Hamptons. Anyone who would like to sponsor an egg would be gratefully received, email easteregg huntpainswick@gmail.com for more information. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (search for "Painswick Easter Egg Hunt") for more updates.

Jacqueline Lim

Painswick Gardening Club

On Wednesday, 25th February, Kate Good of Fox Lane Flowers came to talk about 'Cut Flower Farming'. Kate trained in organic horticulture at River Cottage and set up her own business in 2022. Now at Oakbrook Community Farm in Stroud she grows flowers for cutting and offers courses and workshops. Kate gave an overview of the ethos at the Community Farm on Painswick Old Road (Wick Street) gardening with biodynamic and organic accreditation.



On March 11th we have Nicola Hope giving a talk 'Every Garden matters' boosting bio diversity. Nicola is a consultant organic horticulturalist, planting focussed garden designer and writer, from Malmesbury. Guests are welcome @£5. We meet in the Town Hall at 7 pm for tea/coffee and perhaps a glass of wine, ready to start the talk at 7.30pm. Come and join us – Wednesday evening 11th March.

Joyce Barrus

Casual Vacancy

As a result of the resignation of Cllr. Adrian Gyde, there is a vacancy on the Parish Council. Applications invited in writing by noon on 16th March. Details on Council website.

Cranham Local History Society

Thursday 19th March - 'Medieval Medicine' Superstition & Science, an illustrated talk by Gareth Hall. Cranham Village Hall 7.45pm, visitors £4 includes refreshments.

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Jottings

I am regularly asked about the life of Badgers. They are a relative of the stoat and weasel family, the Mustelidae, with short, wide bodies, long heads and small ears. They have thick hair which is good for making shaving brushes because it has high water retention.

They live in setts with many entrances, in family groups male boars, female sows and young cubs. There can be as many as 15 or so in some cases. They are very sociable animals and can reach a galloping speed nearly 19 mph. They eat mostly a good range of worms, mice, voles, frogs, love wasp's nests and at the right time of year fruit, eggs and the young of ground-nesting birds. They can get drunk eating rotting fruit.

They keep their nests clean and at certain times of the year bring their nest outside to dry in the sun, and at times you can see where they are dragging new bedding back down their burrows with their front feet. Sometimes they will have a couple of burrows away from their main home where a mother may have her babies or one of the family just wants to away from the rest for a time. They have many paths away from the set and on to their latrines at the boundaries of their territory. They favour woodland and grassland. A boar badger, out at night, can travel many miles. When the babies are older they leave the family nest to look elsewhere to make a home.

They love carrots and in the summer they love strawberries. They will take the ones you left to pick tomorrow! They love maize (sweet corn) and will knock over plants to get to the cobs: In the garden, just as you think your produce is ready to pick, they come in overnight and decimate the whole lot. In winter when the weather is bad they will try and get into any building where they may find food.

Badger hunting has been a popular sport, with dachshunds bred for this. The Cruelty to Animals Act of 1835 and the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 made it an offence to kill, injure, or take a badger or to interfere with a sett unless under license from a statutory authority. The Hunting Act 2004 further banned fox hunters from blocking setts during their chases. Badger baiting has also been a problem.

Martin Slinger

Snowdrops give way to daffodils

March brings a quiet shift in the season at Rococo Garden, as the last of the snowdrops give way to the first sweep of spring colour. The garden is now open Wednesday to Sunday, 10am-4pm, offering a peaceful midweek escape as well as relaxed weekend visits.

**Painswick
Rococo
Garden**

This month, tens of thousands of daffodils are coming into bloom across the slopes and lawns, creating one of the garden's most uplifting displays. The historic landscape, with its winding paths and hidden views, is particularly lovely at this time of year when the light begins to soften and the air carries that first hint of warmth.

For those who enjoy learning more about horticulture and heritage planting, there will be a free, informal talk every Friday at 2pm. No booking is required; simply join on the day.

Looking ahead, Mother's Day provides a thoughtful opportunity for a shared outing. A gentle walk among the daffodils, followed by time to sit and enjoy the surroundings, makes for an unhurried and memorable way to mark the occasion.

On 21st March Rococo's Head Gardener will lead a Snowdrop Masterclass. Participants will learn expert techniques for dividing, planting and caring for snowdrops, with practical guidance drawn from the garden's renowned collection. Attendees will also take home a snowdrop to establish in their own gardens. This promises to be an engaging session.

Whether visiting for quiet reflection, seasonal inspiration, or simply a change of scenery, March is a rewarding time to experience the garden as it moves confidently into spring. Thank you .

Marta Gardner



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Property Report

Packers on Edge Road (Murrays, £1.5 million) is a historic house right in the heart of Painswick, home in the eighteenth century to the Packer family of Clothiers, who owned Capp Mill and King's Mill - 5/6 bedrooms, half an acre of gardens and lots of parking. On a smaller scale, but in another historic building, Flat 15 at Gyde House, Painswick's former Children's Home (Hamptons, £295,000) has 2 bedrooms and communal maintained gardens. Also historic, Amesbury at the top of Vicarage Street (Blue Book Agency, £1.25 million) combines what was once a row of four cottages – beautifully restored with five bedrooms and south-facing walled garden.

Bell Cottage in Friday Street (Murrays, £295,000) has already gone under offer. Still available though in Sheepscombe is The Cider House, a converted cider barn and two unconverted stone barns, all standing in over 8 acres of land (Hamptons, offers in excess of £775,000). And Barbers on Friday Street with four bedrooms, once a barber's shop, would now benefit from some modernisation (Hamptons, £400,000).

For a more modern property, how about 5 The Croft (Hamptons, £575,000), a detached 4 bedroom family home in a quiet cul-de-sac, or 6 Painswick Heights on Yokehouse Lane (Murrays, 375,000), with 2/3 bedrooms and courtyard garden. Pippins in Gloucester Street (Murrays, £775,000) is one of the very few chalet bungalows in the centre of Painswick. It is link detached with four bedrooms and a large garden.

At Richmond Village, Independent Living Apartment 4 is still available at £450,000 and Assisted Living Apartment 3/1 at £350,000.

Park House at The Park and St. Mary's Cottage on Victoria Street have gone under offer through Murrays, as have Hambutts Orchard on Edge Road and 8 Brookhouse Mill through Hamptons. Lantern Cottage on Tibbiwell, 12 Randalls Field, Little Jasmine on Edge Road, 20 Gloucester Road and Spindlewood in Sheepscombe have all exchanged and/or completed.

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Take-aways available

Tennis

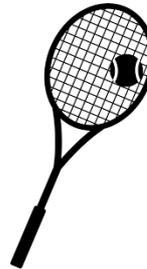
Painswick Tennis Club have continued to play league tennis despite the ongoing wet weather.

In the Gloucestershire Winter league the positions are as follows ...

- A team currently 3rd, Premier 2 to play
- B team - 1st, Div. 1A 1 to play
- C team - 1st, Div. 2A 1 to play
- D team - 4th Div. 3B 1 to play

The Stroud Winter Leagues played on Sundays have a quite a few matches left to play.

Team practices will be commencing shortly with men and ladies teams competing this summer in the usual full range of Gloucester Summer Leagues.



Hugo the alpaca

Many of you may have taken a walk down to Paradise and been surprised to see a lone alpaca grazing happily in a field along the lane. If he was feeling friendly, he would come up to the gate to 'talk' to you and if you were lucky, he would accept an apple or a carrot. This was Hugo, who has sadly died aged 23.

Since 2003 Richard and Vicky Aspinall have had a small herd of four alpacas living with them in Paradise. They have been used to keep the grass down and once a year after shearing, their fleece (or more correctly their fibre) has been given away. However, as anno domini has struck one by one they have gone leaving poor lonely Hugo. He has been very happy living with his friends the four hens, until he too quietly left us. He will be missed by all his friends.

Vicky Aspinall



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Regular Village Activities. Please contact Vicky Aspinall on cvasp.26@gmail.com

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. 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. kate-beatty.co.uk/07793126234	Painswick Centre	12.30 - 1.00pm
	Painswick Singers. Contact Jean Jones 01452 813545.	Richmond	5.00 - 6.00pm
	Paradise Art Studio evening classes. takepart@paradise-house.org.uk	Paradise House	6.30 - 8.30pm
	Tuesdays	Zumba with Martina 07891 194396	Painswick Centre
Painswick Art Club £35/term. Contact Joyce Barrus on 01452 812942		Church Rooms	9.30 - 1.00pm
Wednesdays	Rococo Sprites. See www.rococogarden.org.uk	Rococo Garden	9.45 am
	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.	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 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
	After school art classes. Term time only. classes@painswickcentre.com .	Painswick Centre	3.45 - 5.15pm
	Weds Pop-In. A friendly place to meet for a cuppa, chat and other activities. Sandra Glass 01452 814186	Town Hall	10.00 - 12.00pm
	Croc N' Roll Children's entertainment with Steph and her books, guitar, puppets story books and bubbles. 1.00/child.	Library	2.30pm
Thursdays	Morning Market	Painswick Centre	8.15 - 9.45am
	St Mary's Mums, 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
	Taichi and Qigong - Perry Loveday 07970 698741	Painswick Centre	2.00 - 3.00pm
	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 - 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
	Badminton Club. Contact John Barrus - barrusjp@yahoo.co.uk	Painswick Centre	8.00 - 9.30pm
	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. All welcome	Town Hall	10.00 - 11.30am
	Church Choir Practice. cgsvain@btinternet.com / 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
	Painswick Baby and Toddler Group - Term time only	Painswick Centre	9.30 - 11.30am
Sundays	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

March

Sat	7	Painswick Beacon published		
Sun	8	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's Church	9.30am
	8	Family Worship	St Mary's Church	11.00am
Mon	9	Library Book Club	Library	
	9	ALPHA	Church Rooms	7.00pm
Tues	10	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Church	9.00am
	10	The Well	Church Rooms	7.00pm
Weds	11	Gardening Club: Nicola Hope - Every garden matters - biodiversity	Town Hall	7.00 for 7.30pm
	11	PBCG Work Party. Contact 07971 633242	TBC	9.00am
	11	Christian Aid Lunch. Host Helen Sammon. Contact 01452 341688	Windycot, Cranham	12.00 - 2.00pm
Thurs	12	The Arts Society: The Borgias - Sarah Dunant	Painswick Centre	10.00 for 11.00am
	12	First Thursday - Keggie Carew discussing her book Dadland.	Painswick Centre	7.00 for 7.30pm
	12	Christian Aid Lunch. Host Barbara and Martin Freeman. 01452 814805	Gate Ho. Back Edge Lane	12.00 - 2.00pm
Fri	13	Wickflox - The Roses	Painswick Centre	7.00 for 7.45pm
Sat	14	Painswick Music Society: Adam Heron Piano Trio	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Sun	15	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church	11.00am
Mon	16	ALPHA	Church Rooms	7.00pm
	16	Christian Aid Lunch. Host Katherine Davies. Contact 01452 812966	Rudge Ho. Edge Road	12.00 - 2.00pm
Tues	17	Cotteswold Naturalists: Edward Elgar - Dr. Tim Brain. Enq 07798 817193	Box Village Hall	2.30pm
	17	Local History Society: Milo of Gloucester - Tina Pentney	Croft School	7.30pm
	17	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Church	9.00am
		The Well	Church Rooms	7.00pm
Thurs	19	Painswick Probus: Boffins come to Malvern - John Gillham	Painswick Centre	11.00 for 11.30am
	19	Painswick Music Appreciation Group: John Ireland - Dr David Lucas	Town Hall	2.30pm
	19	Cranham Local History Society: Gareth Hall - Medieval Medicine	Village Hall, Cranham	7.45pm
Fri	20	Friday Club: Solving Cryptic Crosswords - Angela Newing. Enq 813228	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	21	PBCG Work Party. Contact 07971 633242	TBC	9.00am
Sun	22	Deadline for all Beacon copy		
	22	Beacon Praise	St Mary's Church	11.00am
Mon	23	ALPHA	Church Rooms	7.00pm
	23	Christian Aid Lunch. Host Frances Watson. Contact 01452 812071	Cranwood, Lwr Washwell	12.00 - 2.00pm
Tues	24	Yew Trees WI:Opals - Helen Plumb. OPEN MEETING. Visitors 4.00	Church Rooms	7.00 for 7.30pm
	24	Friday Club: Outing to Gilbert & Sullivan's Gondoliers. Pre-book 813228	Everyman, Chelt.	7.30pm
	24	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Church	9.00am
Wed	25	PBCG Work Party. Contact 07971 633242	TBC	9.00am
	25	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church	11.00am
Thurs	26	Discovery Day at Richmond Villages. To book ring 01452 813902	Richmond Village	10.30am - 2.00pm
Fri	27	NHS App support session. More information painswickppg@gmail.com	Library	2.30 - 4.30pm
Sat	28	Painswick Music Society: Meliora Collective	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Sun	29	Palm Sunday . Benefice Procession of the Psalms and Family Communion	St Mary's Church	11.00am
Mon	30	ALPHA	Church Rooms	7.00pm
Tues	31	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Church	9.00am
	31	Sherlock Supper	Church Rooms	4.30pm
April				
Wed	1	Cotteswold Naturalists: AGM followed by Kirsty Hartsiotis	Painswick Centre	2.00pm
	1	Easter Gardens Workshop		10.30am - 12.30pm
	1	Holy Communion	Richmond Village	11.30am
Thurs	2	Painswick Probus: Murder cases to die for - Sir Alistair McDuff	Painswick Centre	11.00 for 11.30am
	2	Joint meeting Friday Club / PMAG to celebrate the life of Ann Williams	Town Hall	2.30pm
	2	Maundy Thursday. Eucharist and footwashing	St Mary's Church	7.30pm
Fri	3	Good Friday. Procession of Witness		
	3	Final Hour devotional	St Mary's Church	2.00pm
Sat	4	Painswick Beacon published		
	4	Painswick Easter Egg Trail - community fundraiser for playgroup	St Mary's Churchyard	12.00 - 4.00pm
Sun	5	Easter Sunday. Easter Communion	St Mary's Church	9.30am

Personal Column

Condolences

To the family and friends of VALERIE (VAL) SHARPE who died peacefully on 23rd January 2026, aged 84. Val came to live in Painswick (in the then Police house in Pullens Road) in 1964. In 1967 she, her husband Peter and young family moved away. After coming back to live in Slad in 1985, Val became involved in several Painswick groups: the Tennis Club as a playing and committee member until very recently, the Painswick Women's Group, and the Painswick Beacon Conservation Group. Her funeral was held at Gloucester Crematorium on 17th February 2026.

To the family and friends of IAN EASTWOOD who died peacefully at Gloucester Royal Hospital on February 17th after a short illness. His funeral will take place at St Marys' Church, Painswick on Wednesday March 4th at 12.00 noon.

PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

S.26/0022/HHOLD Horsepools Piece, Paul Mead, Edge

Erection of a single storey side extension with a terrace above.

S.26/0141/HHOLD Honeysuckle Cottage, Far End, Sheepscombe

Erection of a single storey extension and garage conversion.

S.26/0103/TCA Tower Cottage, Kemps Lane

T1 - Beech. Crown reduction by 3 metres, Remove deadwood. T2 - Beech. Crown reduction by 3 metres, Remove deadwood.

S.26/0221/TCA The Malt House, The Green, Sheepscombe

T1 - Hazel to be coppiced by 5m. T2 - Hazel to be coppiced by 5m. T3 - Hazel to be coppiced by 6m. T4 - Hazel to be coppiced by 6m. T5 - Hazel to be coppiced by 6m.

CONSENT

S.26/0041/TCA Dolphin House, Vicarage Street

Yew tree - Take crown down by 2 metres. Trim branches to shape.

S.25/2427/HHOLD Painswick Mill Cottage, Ticklestone Lane

Erection of replacement fencing.

S.25/2058/LBC Painswick Lodge, Painswick

Internal and external alterations to existing stable and annexe building, including alterations to internal layout and fenestration, and works to pergola.

S.25/2057/HHOLD Painswick Lodge, Painswick

Erection of two high level windows to former annexe and landscaping works to curtilage of Painswick Lodge.

To the family and friends of TERRY ROBERTS, aged 87, of Beacon Close, Painswick, who died suddenly but peacefully on Sunday 22nd February. Funeral details to follow.

It is with great sadness that the family of MICHAEL JAMES announce his passing at home on 15th February 2026, at the age of 84. He was a keen bridge and croquet player who helped others to learn the skills. He sang with Stroud Choral Society and was a past treasurer of many local organisations. Michael delivered the Painswick Beacon with his wife Philippa for 40 years or more. A service will be held at St John's Church, Pitchcombe. Date to be confirmed.

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

S.25/2262/LBC Wee Cottage, New Street
Internal alterations to add an ensuite and replacement windows. Wee Cottage, New Street

S.25/2237/HHOLD Worgans Barn, Folly Lane

Construction of a porch and re-building of boundary wall.

S.25/2229/FUL Land At Briarfield House
Erection of a new access (part retrospective), gazebo and replacement garage.

S.25/2374/CPE High Mead, The Green, Edge Lane, Edge

Certificate of lawfulness for building works not carried out in accordance with the approved drawings under S.18/1940/HHOLD for a period in excess of four years.

S.25/2378/FUL Painswick House, Gloucester Road

Installation of 5 no. access gates (part retrospective)

S.25/2285/FUL Building At Lullingworth, Stroud Road

Conversion of garage to residential unit and erection of fencing.

REFUSED

S.25/1429/FUL Land At Haines Green, Edge Road

Erection of stable block and barn and installation of shingle track.

Mini-Ads

Primarily for Painswick residents. Text maximum 30 words. Flat charge £6. Free to subscribers for private sales. £6 for business use, holiday rentals, etc.

Provide text, your name, address and contact details with payment in advance. More info call Peter Rowe, or mail: advertising.beacon@painswick.net

Goodbye and thank you

I landed in Painswick 13 years ago, having been made redundant on medical grounds from a varied career as a commercial pilot and flying instructor. I fell back on my experience in property maintenance from a younger life and soon had much more work than I was able to manage.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the people of Painswick and have built some lovely friendships with my customers over the years. But having reached pensionable age and having long been keen narrowboat owners, Susie and I have made the decision to move to Frampton on Severn where we can be closer to a mooring and hopefully enjoy a lot more time 'on the cut'.

I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all of my customers past and present for making my last years of work so fulfilling and pleasant. Cheerio and best wishes for the future.

Neil Coles, Painswick Home & Garden



Hurt Toe

The Beacon is concerned to hear that 7 year old Theo Yerbury has hurt his toe!

MINI-ADS

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Two sides of nature



Above: Flytipping on Painswick Beacon - photo by Gifford Morris
Below: Wildlife photos taken by Grant Barnett within walking distance of Painswick



NEXT ISSUE

Publication date

SATURDAY

4th April 2026

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