

The Painswick Beacon

Sine praeiudicio

Volume 36 Number 12

March 2014

Telephone Box demolished

On Sunday night around 11pm on the 9th February a 4x4 coming down Gloucester Road into Painswick managed to take out the railings, wall and telephone box at the top of Gloucester Street. The police have informed the "Beacon" that the car in question was privately owned and the driver and vehicle were road legal in all respects. It appears to be an accident caused by the driver's unfamiliarity with the road layout.



Blow family memorial wrecked by vandals

Thieves have wrecked the Blow family memorial after snatching £10,000 of Cotswold roofing tiles. The mausoleum has weathered 60 years of the worst of weather atop of Cud Hill between Painswick and Upton St Leonards.

About four fifths of the roof have been stolen said Detmar Blow who appealed for any witnesses to the event which happened in early February.

Winter weather hits Painswick outdoor sports

Golf - The Painswick Golf Course has largely remained open throughout last month's poor weather. As the course sits on a limestone hilltop, any rain generally drains away quite quickly. One hole – the "par 3" fifteenth – dropping into a little closed valley has been closed, but an old hole has been reopened temporarily so that 18 holes can be played. The Painswick golf course has been open when many other local courses – particularly those in the Severn valley – have been waterlogged and closed.

Tennis - The three main winter Inter-club Tennis tournaments have all been hit with a series of postponements and one competition "The Painswick Cup" has been abandoned altogether. Many of the regular Club nights have not taken place due to the weather. The Clubhouse at Broadham had its ridge tiles blown off and also some damage incurred to the surround netting.

Rugby - Many of the Gloucestershire Premier league matches have been postponed due to waterlogged pitches and training interrupted for both adults and juniors. Roll on Spring

Subscriptions now due

March is the month when The Beacon Team asks for your support by subscribing to the cost of the newspaper's production which is produced and delivered at no charge to every household in Painswick. We are grateful for your contributions, which have in the past ranged from £7 to £25. You will find in this issue an envelope with a "day glow" slip, which can be used to subscribe. (Additional information see inside)

On other pages this month:

Police report page 4

Fire Service report page 5

Painswick Centre News Page 6

Croft School News page 10

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS 19th February by Terry Parker

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

The full minutes of Council and committee meetings are available for scrutiny at the Council's office.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The committee discussed the draft letter to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt.Hon. Eric Pickles MP in which they proposed amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework. Having agreed the text of the letter the committee went on to discuss a proposal to write to Stroud District Council for an update on the status of the Local Plan. The Committee Chairman, Cllr Rob Lewis, said that he had spoken with Mr Phil Skill, the Principal Planning Officer at the District Council who had informed him that the Local Plan had been submitted to the Secretary of State for his approval. Mr Skill said that the 2005 Plan was still in place and that he would shortly be in touch with parish councils to explain the implications of the new Plan. In the past Policy HN10 had been successfully used to prevent development outside of settlement boundaries. However the new Plan gave developers some scope for successful applications. The expectation was that the Secretary of State's decision regarding his approval or otherwise of the Local Plan would be announced by the end of March.

Mention was made of the '5 strikes and you're out' policy. This referred to the situation where, should a council lose four appeals against their decision to refuse an application, a fifth appeal would automatically be determined by the Planning Inspectorate. On the Chairman's recommendation the committee resolved to hold the letter to the Secretary of State until they had received a reply from Mr Skill.

PARISH COUNCIL

Public questions

Mr David Allott asked what progress had been made towards the use of hand-held speed cameras by volunteers to monitor traffic speeds. Traffic Committee, Cllr Rob Lewis, said that a number of volunteers had come forward, however adverse weather conditions had been the main reason for the delay in implementing the proposal. It remained a Traffic Committee action.

Mr David Allott then asked if the Parish

Council knew the reasons why a number of District Council decisions had been overturned on appeal. As Mr Allott had not been present during the Planning Committee meeting, Cllr Lewis explained the committee's proposed course of action on this subject.

Painswick Youth Club project

Cllr Caroline White reported that the project remained within budget and that the work would be completed by the end of February. There was to be a grand opening in June.

Village post boxes

The Parish Council understood that, were the post office to be located at the Painswick Centre, a post box would be located there. The Council's aim was to have a post box positioned in the centre of the village and they would continue to work to achieve this. Cllr Lewis said that Post Office Ltd had determined that the Tibbwell post box would not be replaced. Cllr Bullingham who was not present at the meeting had written a report of a meeting he had had with the Member of Parliament, Neil Carmichael. Cllr Ann Daniels asked that Cllr Bullingham be asked to make the letter available to the Parish Council members.

The Post Office

The Council had been informed that considerable progress was being made by the Painswick Centre Trustees to have the post office located within the Centre. A number of volunteers had come forward.

Manorial Land

The Clerk to the Parish Council, Mr Balgobin, responding to a member's question said that he had telephoned the Planning Inspectorate at Bristol and been told that they had not received any advice from the new owners relating to works carried out on Manorial Land at Slad or at Painswick Beacon Common. Cllr Slinger said that he had been informed by one of the purchasers of a parcel of land adjacent to the Highlands at Golf Course Road that he had sent a letter seeking advice from the Planning Inspectorate in regard to the fencing

that had taken place. Cllr Slinger said that recorded delivery letters had been sent to the other purchasers of land at that location advising them of the need to inform the Planning Inspectorate of their actions. Concern was expressed at the loss of the two passing places in Golf Course Road arising from the newly erected fencing. Vehicles were creating a new passing place on the raised land between the road and the Plantation. Cllr Caroline White said that the Parish Council should be prepared to take action to protect Common Land. Mr David Allott of the Painswick Beacon Conservation Group who was present at the meeting commented that the posts that had been recently erected at the Beacon Hill Fort were only allowed to be in place for six months.

County Councillor's report

Cllr Bullingham had forwarded a written copy of his report to the Parish Council.

District Councillor's report

Cllr Nigel Cooper told the members that at the District Council's meeting on 23rd January it had been agreed that there should be no increase in Council Tax. The County Council would meet on the 26th February to determine its Council Tax requirement. Cllr Cooper said that a consultation had been being carried out to seek residents' views on how many councillors the District Council should have and whether all members of the Council should be elected in the same year. At present a third of the District Councillors are elected in any one year. Cllr Daniels asked about the proposed dog bin in Pulleys Road. Cllr Cooper said that he would pursue this.

A417 Missing Link Scheme

The Council resolved to support the plans put forward by the Highways Agency to ease the traffic flow problems in particular at Crickley Hill and the Air Balloon Roundabout.

Youth Club Pavilion

The Council had received an email from a resident expressing concern at the recommendation of the Land & Buildings



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Parish Council News Continued

Committee to name the refurbished former Rugby Club Pavilion, the 'Painswick Pavilion'. The resident's concern was that the name could result in confusion with other pavilions in the village. The Members did not believe this to be a serious concern and unanimously agreed to the proposed name.

Plantation Walls

The members agreed to support the recommendation of the Rural Environment Committee that the bid of £2,800 for repairs to walls in the Plantation should be accepted. The cost would be funded from the Rural Environment Committee's budget.

Golf Club signs on Painswick Beacon

The Croft School Council had written to the Parish Council asking the Council to consider the consequences of the recently erected signs. Cllr Martin Slinger explained that the children had questioned the appropriateness of the signs as they believed that it was the golfers and not the public who should be warned that they were in an area open to the public and should take care to avoid causing possible injury. The Council agreed to write to the Golf Club relaying the children's concern.

Business Focus Working Group

The Members were unanimous in supporting the creation of a Business Focus Working Group. Cllr Abigail Smith said that there was to be a meeting to discuss the proposal. She said that there was still £4,000 available to the four Stroud district towns viz., Dursley, Nailsworth, Painswick and Stroud for initiatives to promote local businesses. The original grant of £10,000 had come from the national retail shopping expert, Mary Portas' initiative to promote local communities.

Slad Valley News

The Council agreed to the request to allocate £250 towards the Slad Valley News and £200 towards the Laurie Lee anniversary celebrations.

Councillor local issues

Traffic Lights

Replying to a question about the recent malfunctioning of the A46 traffic lights, Mr Balgobin, said that the problem had been caused by one of the lights being struck by a vehicle. The necessary repair had been effected.

Greenhouse Lane

Members were told that the broken pipe in Greenhouse Lane leading to flooding was an ongoing problem. The matter would continue to be discussed with the Highways Department.

The Lamp House

Mr Balgobin reported that action had been taken to clear the overgrowth in the front and back gardens.

Meeting conclusion

The meeting ended at 9.20pm following a delayed start at 7.55pm.

Adlestrop, and others, remembered



At the February meeting of the Society Tony Conder gave a riveting presentation on the subject of Gloucestershire's railways. At the height of the railway age the county boasted 150 stations reflecting the vast extent of the network. This number was reduced to just 10 by 1970.

In fact it is the very early lines built from 1840 to 1849 which are extant and these were always the most necessary. Initially the main aim was to connect Birmingham to Gloucester because of the importance of the docks. The second line was from Bristol to Gloucester in 1844, then from London in 1845 and South Wales in 1851. Although the original purpose was to carry freight the railway companies quickly recognised the profit to be made from transporting passengers too. Building the lines continued throughout the 19th century, hence the 150 stations, though many were short-lived.

The Edwardian period was perhaps the most elegant for the passenger service. Edward Thomas' evocative poem, Do You Remember Adlestrop?, sums up beautifully the last days of this apparently idyllic railway era because within a few weeks the scenes at stations had changed dramatically with hundreds of young men going off to war. Hospital trains were built at Swindon and many tracks were taken up, the materials to be put to use for the war effort.

Using some superb photographs for illustration Mr Conder explained that the navvies who built the railways had to endure very grim living conditions similar to those of the 18th century canal navvies. He also showed the destruction in 1960 by two colliding tankers of the extraordinarily clever Severn railway bridge at Sharpness. This had been a vital social connection between communities divided by the river. As he pointed out, the railway had brought prosperity to many small towns such as Tetbury and Nailsworth but as the lines closed, (and not just because of the Beeching cuts), buses and lorries took over. Fortunately at least, some of the former trackways now provide very attractive country walks.

At the next meeting, Tuesday, 18th March, Cathy Stoertz will give a presentation entitled 'One Saturday afternoon on the Home Front'. Croft School, 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Carol Maxwell

Subscriptions - We need your support

March is the month when The Beacon Team asks for your support by subscribing to the cost of the newspaper's production which is produced and delivered at no charge to every household in Painswick. In recent years there has been a drop in the number of subscribers. This could well be because The Beacon's website now makes the newspaper available to residents with access to the Internet. The approximate printer's cost to us is 60p per copy. Our print run is 1500 copies. Just under 600 households subscribe and we are grateful for your contributions which range from £7 to £25. Subscriptions account for a third of our income with the remainder coming from

advertising. You will find in this issue an envelope with a "day glow" slip which can be used to subscribe. To save postage, envelopes may be placed in The Beacon box which is alongside the telephone kiosk in New Street. We are happy to mail anywhere in the UK and overseas but need to charge the full cost of postage together with a contribution towards production. For those living in Edge and Pitchcombe the Beacon is delivered where requested to individual households at an annual cost of £7.00.



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Police Report for January



Under the Painswick Parish including Sheepscombe, Edge and Slad districts for the period January 1st to January 31st 2014 there were 7 substantiated crimes recorded.

The breakdown of these offences as according to Home Office banding rules was as follows;

Violence

There was one substantiated offence recorded. This was an alcohol related assault where the offender was dealt with by way of Police Caution.

Criminal Damage

There were 2 substantiated offences recorded; the first damage to insecure property which was suggestive of minor anti social behaviour the second to livestock. This is the second month running when a local farmer has suffered a livestock attack in the parish resulting in a ewe being killed. Dog owners are reminded that dogs should be kept on leads when crossing farmland unless the landowner has given permission and the dog owner is sure that there are no livestock present.

Burglary

There was 1 recorded burglary reported to a non dwelling (commercial premises) where a number of garden and hand tools were stolen.

Theft

There were 2 substantiated offences of theft during the month. One was an item of insecure property from an open yard area the second was from an insecure location and occurred over a several week time frame and was not discovered until January 2014.

Sexual Offence

A serious historic sexual offence was reported. This had occurred over an extended period some years ago.

January has been an exceptionally wet month which has often made driving conditions difficult and made flooded roads a common occurrence. All drivers are reminded that unless you are familiar with a flooded road the water may be considerably deeper than expected. It is never worth the risk to attempt to negotiate the hazard and much safer if in any doubt to postpone a journey or find a safer alternative route.

PC David Wood



Vandals hit the Rococo Garden

An 18th century urn was vandalised at about 11.30 to 12.00 on Saturday 18th Jan. Three teenagers, two boys and a girl, ran into the Garden without paying. By the time a member of staff got into the Garden they had disappeared, obviously into the bushes. They dropped a baseball bat. At about this time two garden visitors on the other side of the Garden heard a large bang from near one of our follies, the Eagle House, and saw three youths running away. When they got up to the Eagle House, they discovered that the urn had been pushed off its stand and damaged. The cost to repair it will be in the order of £800.

These youths also stole money from our donation point and damaged another modern urn.

They were also seen in the village, I believe they pushed over a grit bin in Gyde Road and stole money from a car. They were also seen by other residents and as they were not recognised we must assume they were not from the village.

Paul Moir

Stroud FM radio closes

Stroudfm, the Stroud local Community Radio Station has closed down through lack of funds. It is hoped that a new station will open up in some six months time.

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ZERO SIX PAPA TWO (Painswick Fire Engine's call sign)

George Hodder and Paul Luker recently received certificates from Gloucestershire County Council as recognition of twenty-five years service as firefighters at Painswick Fire Station. George joined in January 1998 and Paul a couple of months later, in April, 1998.

Over this time they have attended countless calls, well into four figures! Early in their careers they attended lots of chimney fires, some large fires in other areas of the county and road traffic collisions unfortunately occurred quite frequently. It is perhaps a reflection of society that nowadays we attend very few open fire chimney fires, it is more likely to be a wood burning stove; there are less major fires in the county due to better fire prevention and vehicle technology has improved so much that features (such as ABS) are built in to help avoid accidents in the first place and if you are unlucky enough to be involved in an accident you are much more likely to survive it. How many airbags do you have in your car?

One of our recent calls was to an electrical fire in a commercial kitchen. Members of our station, Andrew Robinson and George Hodder, were led by Chris Garbett as Crew Commander in Development with Allan Bullingham as driver and pump operator. They successfully and safely extinguished the fire despite extremely poor visibility and the close proximity of hot industrial deep fat fryers before the arrival of supporting fire crews.

Despite January being the wettest since 1948 and February being quite wet as well, thankfully, at the time of writing, we have not been called to any local flooding incidents. The council's highways department has been particularly vigilant in keeping gullies and drains clear. Strong winds have however caused us to be called out after a tree was brought down along with nearby suspended cables and we have attended several 'Automatic Fire Alarm' calls.

There were several power cuts in Painswick during the recent stormy weather. If you have a power cut and rely on candles for lighting, remember: Never leave burning candles unattended and always put them in the correct holders; even tea lights need to be in a proper holder. The metal part gets very hot and can melt plastics. Nationally, candle fires cause 350 casualties every year. For further advice please visit: http://www.glosfire.gov.uk/ysafety_o_candles.html

On the training front: Mike Powis recently passed his BA (breathing apparatus) requalifier and successfully completed a RTC (road traffic collision) Technician Course, while Paul Luker attended a Fire Technician Course. The five day Technician courses, held at the regional training centre in Avonmouth are designed to enhance existing knowledge, understanding and practical abilities and are a 50/50 mix of lectures and practical work.

Last month, Mark Hancock, Chris Garbett and Andy Robison received certificates for successfully completing a weeks training on trauma care. The qualification /BTEC Level 2 in First Person On Scene (Intermediate)' covers a range of topics, including: Recognition and initial care of injuries to bones, muscles and joints; Recognition and initial care of burns and scalds: skeletal stabilization; provide immediate emergency care (trauma).

We are looking for more people to join our team. If you would like to help protect your local community and learn new skills in the process please visit: http://www.glosfire.gov.uk/recruit_ff_retff.html
Or contact me at mark.hancock@glosfire.gov.uk or by phone 079674316038

Mark Hancock



FPOS certificates: (Left to Right) Mark Hancock, Chris Garbett and Andy Robinson



25 year certificates: (Left to Right) Paul Luker and George Hodder

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Floods and a pork pie

Many small boys decide that they want to be an engine driver when they grow up. However, Tim Brain decided at a young age that he wanted to be a policeman.

Dr. Tim Brain gave the WI a lively absorbing and humorous talk on January 27th outlining his career in policing. Educated at Radway Technical High School he then progressed to The University of Wales in Aberystwyth where he obtained a 1st class degree in History followed by a PhD.

At this point he decided that a life in academic research was not for him and he needed to do something which involved excitement, interest and variety. In 1970 he revisited his childhood dream of policing and started training on the fast track graduate entry. From here Tim progressed quickly through the ranks starting at the grass roots as a constable in Bristol. He arrested a tramp for stealing a pork pie from Debenhams. The man was charged but the police were not sure what to do with the pork pie! Onwards and upwards as a sergeant and inspector he then went to Police HQ Policy Support and gained experience in data mining and environmental scanning. This proved invaluable in shaping future police policy. His training in history had given him the ability to find evidence to support a case in detective work. From the position of Superintendent in Hampshire he became Assistant Chief Constable in the West Midlands; the second largest police force in the country. Different experiences here included crowd control with the six league football teams and dealing with IRA bomb scares.

Eventually Tim was able to attain the post he really wanted as Chief Constable of Gloucestershire which he held for over eight years. The task carried with it immense powers but also sole personal responsibility for everything on his patch. His brief was to organize, lead and inspire the force and the Gloucester floods of 2007 gave him the opportunity to do this in extreme circumstances. The implications of failure were not only the loss of fresh water but if the electricity sub-station had been swamped by the River Severn, heat, light and communications would have been lost with dire consequences. Tim Brain stressed the importance of the interconnections between the emergency services and the general public being essential in dealing with such difficulties.

Dr. Brain, by his own admission, is not a "shrinking violet" and the audience was left in no doubt that he was well able to take difficult decisions and lead from the front in his chosen career. The evening had also led us through a wide period of social history with recognizable change.

Janet Jenkins

Post Office

We are continuing our discussions with the Post Office about establishing a Post Office Local at the Painswick Centre. As mentioned in last month's article, the number of suitable volunteers will determine how often it could be open for business. The people who have already put their hands up give us a provisional ability to open for several half days per week as well as all day on alternate Fridays.

We are now waiting to see if the Post Office considers our volunteer numbers to be sufficient, and what sort of opening times might be achieved.

Obviously more volunteers would allow for a greater frequency of opening, and better cover for absence and sickness.

Dates for the Diary

Village Quiz on Saturday 8th March

Attic Sale on Sunday 23rd March

Painswick Centre AGM on Tuesday 8th April.

Plans are well under way for the 1940's themed party on the 70th anniversary of D-Day on Friday 6th June. The main band has already been booked and the evening looks like it will be a lot of fun!

Recently, a birthday party guest at The Centre commented that "we have booked all the available B&B rooms in the village". It's certainly good to know that the Centre is bringing in customers to local businesses.

Sue Lendon, having been a trustee for many years and who kindly acted as our minutes secretary this last year, is stepping down at the AGM. Our grateful thanks go to Sue for all that she has done for the Centre. We need a replacement! Any volunteers?

Finally, we are reviewing the rent that we charge for the hire of the Centre, there having been no rise now for a number of years (unlike our costs!). A modest increase can therefore be anticipated.

Mike Hill Trustee

**Electricity distribution
Telephone number error.**

We apologise for the error in the Painswick Beacon Directory where on page 20 the power loss helpline telephone number was printed as 0800.328111. The number should have read: 0800.3281111.

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Church Heritage With the Field Club

At the Field Club's February lecture meeting, Dr Steve Blake told us about the revival in 1997 of a medieval pilgrim route from Oslo to Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim, Norway, where Saint Olav is buried. Originally called the King's Way along which the Kings of Norway travelled to claim their throne, it was re-named after King Olav II Haraldsson who was credited with spearheading the conversion of his country to Christianity, for which he was canonised a year after his death, in 1030. St. Olav's Way quickly became the fourth most important pilgrimage route in Europe, behind the more famous routes of Via Francigena to Rome and Santiago de Compostela, and remained popular from the tenth century to the Reformation. Dr Blake's fascinating talk of his own walk along the route was illustrated with richly painted images of St. Olav and many surviving medieval buildings.

Angels & Demons

Dr Steve Blake will be our guide again on the first of this year's excursions: to Wiltshire on Wednesday 30th April. The precious medieval Doom Board at the church of St. James the Great in Dauntsey, one of only five painted tympana in the country, will be the first treasure on display. We will then head to Malmesbury Abbey, a rare example of an English religious house in continuous use from the 7th century through to the Dissolution of the Monasteries. It still remains a spectacular sight, almost completely surrounded by the River Avon and a tributary, which together form a perfect natural defence system. After a light lunch at England's oldest hotel, founded in 1206 as the adjoining Abbey's guesthouse, we travel to our final destination, Oaksey's 13th century church to admire its fine murals. Morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea and coach travel are included in the price of £29, with departure from Stamages lane Car Park.

Two Natural History Lectures

The Field Club returns to natural history subjects for its next two lectures. On Wednesday 5th March, John Heathcott will talk about the Ancient Woodlands of Gloucestershire. (In May, John will lead a walk around Lineover Woods, when spring flowers and birdsong should be abundant). Then on Wednesday 2nd April, Philip Mugridge returns to tell us about his travels in Iceland. We can expect to be dazzled by his fantastic photography of the Land of Fire and Beautiful Birds. Both lectures take place at 2.30 pm in the Painswick Centre. Drop into one of our monthly meetings for details of membership or contact me (details below).

Jane Rowe (tel 813228)



The Gyde Charity

The Trustees are keen to seek applications for grants from the Gyde Charity.

The charity was set up by Edwin Gyde, who was born in Painswick in 1812 and died a bachelor in 1894 at Ebley House, Stroud.

He left a large part of his estate to set up an orphanage in Gyde House, Painswick, under the title Gyde House Charity and a further sum to set up a separate fund to help blind deaf and dumb children under the title the Gyde Charity for Blind Deaf and Dumb Children.

When the orphanage closed in 2000, Gyde House was sold, the proceeds invested, and a new charity, The Gyde Charity, was set up to amalgamate the resources of both charities.

It is a grant-making charity which considers applications for financial help for young people aged under 25 who are in need, hardship or distress, or blind, deaf or dumb or partially blind, deaf or dumb.

Edwin Gyde attached certain conditions to the award of grants, such as the religion and location of the applicant, but in practise the Trustees are permitted to exercise discretion in these matters.

In recent years, grants have been made for specialist equipment including hardware, software, wheelchairs, sensory equipment and so on.

The application process is simple, so if you know of any child or children who might benefit from help, or any school that is struggling to provide equipment for a pupil with such disabilities, or any organisation with children needing help, write to Deirdre Baker, Clerk to the Trustees, Gyde Charity, 37 Hill Paul, Cheapside, Stroud GL5 3BL

Telephone 01453 757186

She can also be contacted by email at: deirdre.baker001@btinternet.com

Mike Hill Trustee

The Cranham Players Present

The Mayor of Casterbridge

20th, 21st and 22nd March 2014 At Cranham Village Hall 7.30pm curtain up.

In a drunken fit Michael Henchard sells his wife and baby daughter to a sailor at a local fair. Twenty one years later, he has taken a vow not to drink and rebuilt his life and is now Mayor of the Wessex town of Casterbridge and the biggest corn and hay merchant in the area. But the past comes back to haunt him when his wife and daughter arrive and a tragedy soon unfolds that touches everyone in the town.

Tickets: £10 Concessions: £8 (Paid up members of Cranham Players, seniors and Juniors/Students)

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New Direction for Painswick Playgroup's Easter Egg Hunt 2014



This year's Painswick Playgroup's charity Easter Egg Hunt is going to be something new and exciting! Our annual event has become a firm favourite and fixture in the diary of Painswick and its surrounding areas. We would really love to see you and your friends & family on Easter Saturday 19th April 2014, in our wonderful village to join us in an Easter Egg Hunt with a difference!

Individually designed Nursery Rhyme eggs will be hidden around the streets, gardens and Church Yard, for you and your little ones to find! All of the eggs have been sponsored and created by our local Painswick businesses, as well as The Croft and the Playgroup.

Whilst you wander around our beautiful Cotswold village, you will be able to enjoy homemade cakes and teas, have your little darlings' faces painted, even bounce them on the bouncy castle! We are particularly excited to have the wonderful and award winning Pedal Car Parties, who have kindly donated their vintage style pedal cars, complete with petrol pumps, for your children to drive around in! The Painswick Church will also lead their famous Teddy Bear parachute jumps from the Church Steeple, an event steeped in history! Easter Hat Parade, Chocolate Tombola, raffles, Arts & Crafts and so much more....!

The event will take place between 1-4pm and maps will be available to buy on the day, £3 per child.

All money raised goes directly back to Painswick Playgroup to help maintain our building and facilities. We are a charitable organisation run by our Community and have Ofsted Outstanding status.

We would also like to thank Paul Moir at Rococo Gardens for allowing us to hold our event at his beautiful gardens over the last few years.

Information will be updated on our website: please look at www.painswickplaygroup.co.uk

Lizzie Gordon

Beaty Bell retires

Beaty Bell, known and loved by hundreds of children and their parents, will retire as playgroup leader in April. She will have completed 20 years service at Painswick Playgroup in a job she has loved. "I've met some truly wonderful parents," she says, "I love going to work and I'm going to miss it." However, Beaty's daughter is about to return to work after maternity leave and Beaty will have a new role as full-time carer for the baby. "Family must come first," she explains.

Before taking up the post in Painswick Beaty had worked at Upton St Leonards playgroup. She is now one of three leaders with a staff of seven. Highly regarded herself she nevertheless is full of praise for the teamwork of the staff and the dedicated committee. She is rightly proud of the last Ofsted grading of Outstanding – the playgroup was deemed to be exceptional in all areas – and is confident that this will continue to be the case.

The playgroup is a charity, (hence the need for a committee), and staff and committee meet six times per annum to make decisions about policy, fund-raising, activities etc. Much thorough planning by the staff goes into the daily programmes and Beaty strongly believes that the purpose is education through carefully structured play. Each individual child's progress is paper-tracked but play is free-flowing either inside or out depending on the weather of course. Beaty maintains very high standards in what is also a very happy environment. Courses are continuously held for people working in this field and Beaty has done them all!

Over the years she has seen radical changes in the administrative side of the work, particularly the increase in paperwork. However, true to her positive character, Beaty points out that they are really fortunate to have such wonderful resources, a consistent and committed staff and a very dedicated committee albeit changing on a yearly basis. During her time at the playgroup many hundreds of children have benefitted from her caring and devoted attention and indeed she has left a lasting impression on them, their parents and the staff. In return she sees them as "family" and is always pleased to see them, some now over six feet tall, long after they have moved on.

In March the playgroup staff are planning to take Beaty to Devon for a weekend about which she is thrilled. Furthermore, on Friday, 28th March a retirement evening in her honour will be held at the Painswick Centre starting at 7.30pm. This is to be an open evening with a welcome drink, nibbles and a paid bar. Everyone is welcome. This lovely and well-loved lady will certainly be greatly missed at the playgroup.

Carol Maxwell




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Up and running again for its 6th year in 2014

We are delighted to let you all know that the Painswick Arts Festival will be up and running again for its 6th year in 2014! The PAF runs for 6 weeks from the middle of July until the August Bank Holiday weekend, i.e. throughout the school summer holidays, bringing arts events to the village and filling the public rooms that would otherwise be lying empty.

We have been delighted to include the hugely successful 'Art Couture Painswick' in our brochure for the past 4 years but perhaps need to clarify for some that the Painswick Arts Festival is not one and the same thing and is organised and funded totally separately. The Painswick Arts Festival presents a wide variety of arts exhibitions and events spread over 6 weeks but which change weekly, this year there will again be around 20 separate exhibitions in the village offering free entry to all!

Each year we produce 5000 copies of a high quality, full colour brochure which we distribute around Painswick and across Gloucestershire, attracting visitors from far and wide to view the exhibitions as well as visiting our local shops and businesses and enjoying our beautiful scenery.

There is so much artistic talent in this area and this year we are delighted to welcome back for their second year the 'Gloucestershire Society of Artists' for their major Summer Exhibition. There will also be a new Photographic Exhibition in response to the success of last year's Competition. We have gained a new exhibition from some superb professional Stroud artists, who showed in the Stroud Subscription Rooms last year, specialising in the Cotswold landscape. There will be another fascinating range of art work in the 'Art Fair' at the Painswick Centre, as well as exhibitions and Open Studios throughout the village showing paintings, sculpture, botanical art, calligraphy, bookbinding, photography and much more. Definitely something for everyone!

Although the Rococo Gardens cannot stage a full 'Sculpture in the Garden' event this year, Paul Moir has kindly offered space in the gardens for any local artist who produces outdoor pieces that they would like to exhibit. If you are interested please contact him on 01452 813204 and we will put you in the brochure.

To celebrate the centenary of the birth of Laurie Lee the Flower Guild have generously promised us a special display in St Mary's Church, taking his poetry and prose as a theme, over the August Bank Holiday weekend. They would love some more volunteers to help with this so if you would like to support please contact Freda Steed on 01452 812376.

There are still a few opportunities for more entries and we would be particularly pleased to include more events for children and any including Music, Dance and/or Drama. Perhaps you are a member of a group who would like to participate? Please phone me, Jackie, on 01452 813229 with your ideas and we will try to find you a space at one of the venues.

As you can imagine, organising such an event takes considerable time and money. We would be delighted to be offered any practical assistance or sponsorship to help support this event which is specifically for the benefit the Painswick community, please contact us at the above number or at painswickartsfestival@mail.com.

Don't say nothing happens in Painswick!
Jackie Herbert.

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Meet our new Governors

Dr Ian Cridland - Community Governor

I've lived in Painswick since January 2009 with my wife Sue, who was herself born and raised in Gloucestershire. We moved here from Berkshire. I have two grown-up stepsons, and have recently become a grandparent for the first time. I work part-time as a consultant in the energy sector, having taken early retirement from full-time work in 2009. I am a Chartered Chemical Engineer, and worked for 30 years in the oil industry in various technical and managerial roles, including a four-year secondment to Moscow. I have been a school governor before, at a primary school in Kingston, Surrey. I was chairman from 1989-92, a time which included gaining budget control of the school finances and appointing a new head teacher. In the early 2000s I was involved (through my employer) with a reading scheme to assist children at a school in Whitechapel, London. I went the whole way through the education system here in the UK - my BSc was from Exeter University and my PhD from Cambridge. In Painswick I am a trustee at the Community Library and a member of the Painswick Community Choir.

Mrs Barbara O'Dwyer - LA Governor

My name is Barbara O'Dwyer and I am very pleased to be a governor at The Croft School. My husband and I have recently moved to Painswick from Aldworth in West Berkshire. We have one daughter who works and lives in London. I have been head teacher in four primary schools over the last 20 years, in Essex, West Berkshire and until July this year in Oxfordshire.

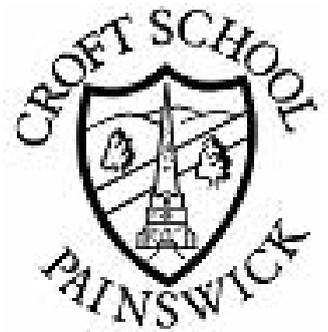
I have been especially interested in the development of food technology and 'real food' kitchens in schools. I enjoy teaching and have always chosen to be a 'teaching head teacher' taking drama, storytelling and PSHCE lessons weekly as well as covering as a supply teacher in all classes.

I believe in the strength of partnerships with both other schools and local businesses, having been Chair of the Wallingford Partnership of Schools. As special needs co-ordinator I have supported inclusion and especially enjoy seeing the results of good teaching affecting the lives of vulnerable pupils.

I am looking forward to getting to know the pupils, staff, parents and governors of The Croft School where I hope I can be of some use in assisting in its development after the recent successful Ofsted inspection.

Netball

In their latest match the Croft girls continued their unbroken winning streak beating Abbeymead School 20-4. Well done for a great team effort and in particular Holly Luke and Lily Calvert who both scored five goals each in the first and fourth quarters.



Football

The footballers have already been in action this term, playing in a 5-a-side indoor tournament. They made it through the first round on 20 Jan and went to face some tough opposition in finals on 24 Jan. The boys did really well. They lost 2-1 against St Mary's but beat Highnam 2-1 to go through to the semi-final. They then played Huntley; Croft fought hard but were beaten 3-2.

The Year 4s played brilliantly and Harry saved some amazing goals! The team consisted of Thomas T, Harry, Alfie, Hugo, Walter and Edward.

Many thanks to Anne Haworth for organising the events and to all the parents who transported and supported.

Chris Towler

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The Great Painswick Pancake Race

Children at The Croft School are practising their 'flipping' to raise vital funds for the school by organising pancake races. The races will take place after school on Shrove Tuesday, 4th March 2014 at 3pm, on the school playing fields and children will be raising money by asking their friends and families to sponsor them.

The school wants to raise a whopping £14,600 to buy 60 tablet touchscreen computers that will replace the current out of date equipment, aid the children's learning and give them confidence in using new technology. The Friends of the Croft have worked tirelessly to raise £7,300 so far this academic year, through events such as bonfire night, a wreath-making course and the Christmas Fayre, but they still need to raise a further £7,300.



"The money raised means we can enrich the children's time at the school" says organiser Ella Skelston. "In the past few years the Friends have raised money to fund play equipment, experience days, outdoor education, a projector and a new stage. To be able to keep up with the latest technology and buy touchscreen tablet pcs for each child to use will take our school to another level as well as providing teachers with an innovative tool to inspire the children and prepare them for the modern world we now live in."

The 140 pupils at The Croft range from four to eleven years of age and will all be taking part by bringing in their frying pans from home! The challenge is trying not to drop the pancakes whilst flipping them at the same time!

How you can help... We now really need to get the community on board with this essential fundraising to help the children of this village fulfill their educational potential. Please come along and enjoy a cup of tea and a cake whilst cheering the 'flippers' on the day as they race with their pancakes. If you are able to, please either sponsor a child taking part or if you would like to make a donation towards this worthy cause then please make a cheque payable to 'The Friends of the Croft School', with your address on the back so we can send you a form to claim gift aid, and drop it into The Pharmacy or The Patchwork Mouse in the village or at the school office in Churchill Way. Ella would love to hear from you if you are a local business that can donate a prize for the children, on 07912756473.

Ella Skelston

Farming and the weather.

This bad weather is causing problems with the cattle and sheep especially bacterial dermatitis with the damp conditions. If they show signs of lameness, we have to bring the cows into the cattle crush, one by one, to treat them. We are very likely to get kicked as we lift their feet to pare their hooves. It is a lot easier with the sheep because we can turn them onto their backs, sit them on their bottoms and hold them down.

Sheep are in lamb at the moment and if there is sheep worrying, they could abort or get injured, such as breaking a leg, and need a vet to come out to treat them or put them down. This costs time and money as well as loss of stock. If a dog is caught worrying sheep, the farmer may have to shoot it.

There is an old saying: Damage grass fields before Christmas and they will usually recover for use in the following summer, but damage after Christmas they will not.

The ground is saturated. In Somerset, even if the rains stopped tomorrow and the ground dried out enough for the farmers to replant, they will not get any crops until September or October. They can make up for the loss of nutrients that have been washed out, by adding fertilizers; but it can take years for the soil structure to recover.

Looking across the valley and seeing all the hazel in the hedgerows, I realised the catkins of some bushes were more advanced and quite yellow. So I went to look this up on the computer and find there are numerous different varieties. I can see the buzzard circling above the fields and hear small birds like the robin and blackbird establishing their territories. Maybe spring is coming.

Martin Slinger

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"The Romantic Piano"...

was the title of Harold Wood's presentation on 23rd January which all of us lovers of piano

music enjoyed very much. Pianists and orchestras gave us music in the first half by famous composers like Liszt, Beethoven, Schumann, Saint-Saens, Tchaikovsky and Brahms to name a few.

After the interval it got exciting: excerpts from 1st and 2nd concertos by Shostakovic and then super pieces by Rachmaninov: Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini, part of the 4th and then – blissful – the entire famous 2nd piano concerto. Well done, Harold.

"Up, down and around" : Robert Crockford from the Stroud Valleys Music Club led the way on 6th February on a walk along the musical by-ways around Stroud and Gloucester listening to lovely music and words with local associations. We heard a wide range of pieces whose composers or performers evoked memories or connections with each locality. Starting from Leonard Stanley the route climbed up to Selsley, across to Amberley and then to Bisley via Stroud. The path then went via Sheepscombe and Painswick to Cranham. We had heard music from Vaughan Williams, Handel, Johnny Coppin, Delius, Frank Mansell, Gerald Finzi and Gustav Holst. Thereafter it was all downhill to Gloucester, Twigworth, Highnam and Frampton on Severn before returning to Leonard Stanley. The sounds of Brewer, Howells Gurney and Parry rang in our ears,

We seem to live in something of a musical hot-spot. The Cotswold countryside around Painswick has been a huge inspiration for a wide range of musicians and poets, and Gloucester Cathedral an inspiring beacon of excellence with a great influence on world class music.

Ralph Kenber



Canal & Cathedral

In January, Mike Guest of Cotswold Canals Trust brought us up-to-date with an excellent presentation, illustrating the work of the Trust. He gave us a short history of the Stroudwater and Thames & Severn canals and went on to examine the progress in restoring them to their former glory.

The benefits that Mike listed were:
Heritage,
Formation of an environmental corridor
Towpath for recreation
Better place to live
Economic benefits to the area
Opportunities for volunteering.

We learned of the daunting challenges that face the Trust and that projects to be tackled over the next five years include; Waitrose to Brimscombe and 'The Ocean' (near Stonehouse) to Saul Junction as well as others from Brimscombe to Sapperton tunnel and projects to connect to the Thames.

On 5th February, we were treated to an excellent presentation from Peter Petrie about the history of Gloucester Cathedral. We were fascinated by the Cathedral's long history and its links to the city of Gloucester. We learned that the site was originally a Saxon Abbey built in 678 AD and that after the Norman conquest from 1089 the abbey was rebuilt as the massive norman building which still survives in the nave to this day. Later additions including the impressive cloisters and the spectacular Great East Window were added later in the perpendicular style.

We learned that the building owes its existence to the fact that the unfortunate King Edward II was buried in the Abbey in 1327. When King Henry VIII ordered the dissolution of the monasteries, Gloucester Abbey surrendered in 1540 but unlike other monasteries in the realm, the building was spared as the burial place of Edward II. Since then, the building survived further turbulent times in its new role as the Cathedral we know today.

Glynn Nixon

Would you like to become a host family?

We are looking for families in Stroud and surrounding area who may be interested in welcoming Japanese students during the summer holiday next year (2014).

Are you available during any of these projects below???

1. 17 July – 5 Aug (2 girls per family) 19 nights (at Marling School) £969
 2. 21 July – 1 Aug (1 boy or 1 girl per family) 11 nights (at Stroud College) £363
 3. 22 July – 31 July (1 girl per family) 9 nights (at Marling School) £297
 4. 1 Aug – 14 Aug (1 girl per family) 13 nights (at Stroud College) £429
 5. 11 Aug – 21 Aug (1 boy or 1 girl per family) 10 nights (at Marling School) £330
- Age of students: between 14 – 16.

Typically; Mon – Fri : The students will be attending school from 9 am – 5:30 pm And will spend free time with their host families on weekends.

£33 per night for single student and £51 per night for two students will be paid as expenses. It will be an educational, fun and rewarding experience for the whole family!

For more information, please get in touch:

Mrs Masano Hedges (Educational coordinator for Cotswolds Wind Academy). 23 Bath Road, Stonehouse, GLOS, GL10 2JD

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Masano Hedges

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Women's World Day of Prayer

Every year on the first Friday of March – this year March 7th, Christian women all over the world meet to pray – following a service devised by a chosen country. This year, the country is Egypt – the home of Coptic Christians, and now in turbulent times. Their theme is “Streams in the Desert”. Here in Painswick, we invite you to join us at 11am in the church of Our Lady & St. Thérèse on Friday Street on 7th March for a short service followed by coffee and Egyptian delicacies. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Rita Bishop, Secretary of Churches Together.

Have your Say

‘Have your say’ is a group banded together by a community, consisting of varying ages and beliefs with respect for one another. The group provides a lively philosophical discussion on the questions that surround spirituality and life, in hope that each individual participating can have a deeper understanding of who Christ is. Meetings are held at the Cotswold 88 Hotel in Painswick every Monday evening at 7.30pm lasting two hours. Contact Rev Roger Leigh tel: 536325

Andrea Linsell

Churches Together around Painswick



Lent courses this year, 2014

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th
Ecumenical courses have been organised in the area.
(3 more added since last information!)

	Day and time	Leader	Venue	Contact name & telephone
1	Monday eve 7.30 – 9 pm starting Mar 10th	Geoff Gibbens	Overdell Longridge Sheepscombe	Liz & Peter Davies 01452 812211
2	Tuesday morn 10.30 - 12.00 starting Mar 11th	Rev. Mike Holloway	Whitehall Cottages Stamages Lane, Painswick	Rita Bishop 01452 814205
3	Tuesday aft 2.15 – 3.45 pm starting Mar 11th	Rev. Mike Holloway	4 Berry Close Painswick	Jane Robinson 01452 812590
4	Tuesday eve 7.30-9.00pm starting Mar 11th	Barbara Gay	Little Orchard, Cotswold Mead, Painswick	Barbara Gay 01452 814110
5.	Wednesday aft 2.30-4.00pm starting Mar 11th	Terry Parker	Croome House, Bisley St., Painswick	Denise Magauran 01452 814570
6.	Wednesday eve 7.30 – 9.00pm starting March 12th	Jean Shaw	Mill Orchard, Pitchcombe	Jean Shaw 01452 812486
7.	Thursday morn 10.30 - 12.00 starting March 6th	Lindsay Gardiner	Sheephouse, off Stepping Stone Lane, Painswick	Lindsay Gardiner 01452 814282)
8	Thursday eve 7.30 – 9 pm starting Mar 6th	Rev. Mike Holloway	The Old Rectory Cranham (next to church)	Nicole Wotherspoon 01452 812387

Please telephone the number given to express your interest in joining a group

June's fantastic efforts

On Saturday, 8th February a small but important event was held in Nailsworth. This was the annual occasion when fund raisers for the Cobalt Unit present their cheques and explain how the money has been raised. From Painswick, Woodchester and Nailsworth a stupendous total of £13,284.00 was announced – a tremendous achievement by a small group of utterly dedicated volunteers.

From Painswick events alone £2173 was raised and this is all down to June Gardiner who continues to work tirelessly in her efforts to support the Cobalt Unit. The Kemble steam and vintage rally brought in £4986 and the Spring stroll £3488, both of which involved Painswick participants. For Painswick's contribution June had throughout the year organised coffee mornings and bingo sessions and sales of her many hand- and home-made products such as marmalade, jams, calendars and so much more.

June is always keen to emphasise that there is a team of Painswick people, not least of whom is John, her 'gofer', working hard to raise this much-needed funding for such a worthwhile cause. However, it is June who must be congratulated and indeed thanked for her tireless endeavours over several years. Her efforts are exemplary, her energy boundless and her commitment and dedication amazing.

The next major fund-raising event is the Spring stroll on Sunday, 27th April walking from Egypt Mill in Nailsworth almost to Sainsbury's, refreshments, then back along the cycle track for a pint and a sandwich at the end. This event is a vital fund-raiser and also a very enjoyable (and healthy!) occasion. If you are interested in taking part or being a sponsor you should contact June on 812505.

Carol Maxwell

... and Anna's cause

In last month's Beacon June explained that her granddaughter, Anna, was due to spend time in Nepal helping to rebuild much needed schools. June held a bingo session and sale of marmalade etc to help fund the trip and is pleased to announce that to-date £724 has been raised. She thanks everyone for their invaluable support.



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Sports reports

assembled by John Barrus

RUGBY

The severe weather since Christmas has led to the majority of the matches being cancelled or postponed.

The minis (under 6's to under 11's) did manage to host Cheltenham on one of the few sunny days and were able to secure some notable victories against their big town opponents. Only two other training days have been possible since Christmas.

We welcome all new players but would especially love to see more in the under 7's boys and girls age group to join the 150 or so other players registered at the club.

Off the Pitch the club hosted a very successful and entertaining Burns evening. Aply overseen by Sir Alastair Macduff, nearly 50 people celebrated the evening of the Bard, assisted no end by the whisky kindly donated by Steve White, The Falcon and Paul Sellick. It also raised hundreds of pounds towards the Pipers Charity 'The Erskine Hospital founded in 1916 in Glasgow to care for war veterans'. Plans are also in place for an informal social evening Saturday 22 March. Sarah Sellick for more details on (email sjsellick@aol.com).

Hopefully with better weather now forecast, teams will be able to fulfill a busy fixture list in March with County Cup and various Festival events planned . Please visit our web site <http://www.painswickrfc.org> for the most up to date details on forthcoming fixtures and social events.



TENNIS

The Gloucestershire Winter League is now almost completed and with one or two matches to play the A team is in 3rd place in Div1, unfortunately the B team is 7th. In Div2 the C team is also 7th and the D team in Div4 lies 5th.

Better news in the Stroud Winter League – Div1, the A & B are 1st and 2nd respectively, Div2, the C team is 1st, the D team 3rd and in Div3 the E team is 4th. There are still quite a few matches to play.

In the Ladies Daytime league the A team is 1st and the B team lies currently in 2nd place. Finally the Painswick Cup mixed teams based at Painswick has been cancelled due to the poor weather but is continuing as friendlies as and when. The poor weather this winter has led to a lot of postponed matches, which need to be fitted in and with two courts being resurfaced in March this is proving more difficult than normal.

The Club is planning to hold a quiz night for members and friends on Saturday 12th April.

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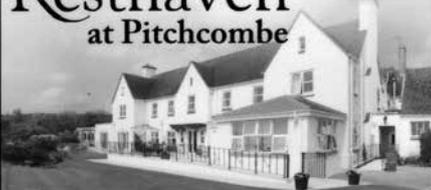
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Mixed fortunes

What weather! Painswick Beacon Conservation Group work parties have been affected by our turbulent climate. On 1st February a record breaking team of 14 volunteers managed a lot of clearance in the Victoria Quarry (Golf Club 14th hole) area with a good fire to clear away the branches, stems and strimmed grass. By contrast on February 15th sleet, lashing rain and the end of a gale obliged us to abandon our plans for that day. But there was a silver lining. Some of us gathered for coffee in The Falcon and laid plans for our party on Tuesday, 25th March. This will be in Painswick Centre's Beacon Hall and the adjoining skittle alley. It will include food, drink, music, displays and lots of not-at-all-serious games. We intend to enjoy ourselves, celebrate being 21, and applaud the huge changes to the Beacon in the last two years resulting from the volunteers' sustained efforts. The evening will be from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and entry will be by ticket only. All members and our volunteer helpers will be given tickets. As will new recruits, - could that be you? There will be no charge for tickets, but all attending will be given the opportunity to make a donation to the costs. If you are interested in applying for a ticket or can offer help with an indoor game, please make contact.

David Allott, retiring Chairman, 812624,
Email david@lloydstone.plus.com



Bulgarian Wildlife.

On 13th February, the Club joined Philip Mugridge on his Bulgarian tour through the varied terrain and history of the Communist era! Here was a wide fauna from marsh frog to purple mega-beetle, boar to butterfly - indeed a trip of extremes in rainfall and temperatures. So too, long periods of tedium, sweltering in tented mini-hides awaiting photographic prey! Small were the delicate bee-eaters, spectrally colour clad; vast the ferocious, golden eagles dining on half a cow! The oriole could not have been more golden, its hanging nest more ingenious.

The meeting closed with shots of vast flocks of Black Sea red-breasted geese rather exceeding the numbers and skill of the Red Arrows in close-formation flying and so reminiscent of Slimbridge's startling murmurations.

On Tuesday 11th March at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, Peter Llewellyn will show his photographs from the Aberdovey field trip while Jane Rowe provides commentary. A traditionally brief AGM to follow.

Wendy Addy

Ride of Rides for Jonas and Matthias

Jonas Pollard and Matthias Christian are young men on a mission – a breathtakingly stunning mission. They intend to cycle a distance of 4000 miles across 14 European countries in 90 days. And the purpose of this amazing feat? To raise £10,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



In 2011 Jonas cycled from the Norfolk coast to Caernarvon in

North Wales, a distance of 320 miles, in 3 days and raised £2500 for the charity. Twelve months earlier his mother had been diagnosed with breast cancer and, impressed by the care given by Macmillan nurses, he was determined to raise money for the organisation which, as he points out, is heavily dependent on sponsorship funding and donations. Aged 16, his achievement was recognised when he received the Diana Award in London a few months later.

Jonas and Matthias are very serious about and utterly focused on their upcoming project. They have both recently completed their college and school education and next year will proceed on to higher education and career development, Jonas into graphics and video production and Matthias into mechanical engineering. However, their sole aim at present is to achieve the cycle ride and raise the money for a cause dear to their hearts and one which, as they emphasise, affects many families.

They have planned the trip in meticulous detail. The route uses four parts of the EuroVelo cycling network across Europe and takes them from Painswick to the Black Sea and back to finish at Marseilles. Their bikes and equipment have been very carefully researched and selected and clothing kept to a bare minimum. All the kit will be carried in five panniers, also scrupulously researched to ensure they are the most durable and lightweight possible, on each bike. A small tent will enable them to camp each night thus keeping expenses down, though they will take a day off each week for rest and a little sight-seeing. The planning has been very hard work, "almost like a full-time job" they add.

The training has perhaps presented the greatest challenge so far. Their aim has been to cover about 200 miles per week but the weather recently has been a major problem. Undaunted, they have persevered in the face of appalling conditions. As they explain, their route will be mainly through scenic countryside but even when the going is tough and exhausting their focus on their ultimate goal of raising funds for this very worthwhile cause will spur them on. They also intend to experience as many new cultures and countries as possible in the process.

Both aged 19, Jonas and Matthias have known each other all their lives and have always enjoyed cycling. They leave Painswick on 29th March for their 90-day venture. Their progress during the ride can be followed on Twitter and Instagram. They also have a website www.crossingcountriesforcancer.com. If you would like to sponsor this incredible and very worthwhile cause go to www.justgiving.co/crossingcountriesforcancer or contact Jonas on 814149.

Carol Maxwell

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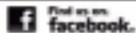
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Let's hope Spring is in the air by the time you are reading this article and with it renewed energy and enthusiasm for trying to become a little healthier. I am lucky enough to have a black Labrador called Nuala and so need to walk every day to keep her fit and in doing so I get the benefit too (much cheaper and more fun than joining a gym). Those who know me will tell you that I do like a good chat too, so I combine the two pleasures by walking with talking to my friend and her very enthusiastic Springer. How lucky am I? So why am I telling you all this, especially if some of you are unwell and don't think you can do much in the way of exercise. Well we have a fantastic scheme run through Stroud District Council under their "Healthy Lifestyle Scheme" and believe it or not, you can get it on prescription!



Cardiac Rehabilitation Phase IV –
low intensity workout for people who have had a cardiac episode or other heart related conditions. You must have a GP referral

Respiratory Rehabilitation –
low intensity workout for people who have Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or other associated respiratory conditions; this also requires a GP referral.

Breast Cancer Rehab sessions –
For those in Stroud district who have been diagnosed with breast cancer (in treatment, post treatment, or in remission). Thursdays 6-7.30pm, at the Maypole Village Hall, Stratford Road, Stroud. 1 hour of gentle physical activity followed by a cuppa. £3 per session.

On Target –
four twelve-session weight management courses, requiring GP referral, for people with a BMI of 28 to 40 and co-morbidities. The next block of twelve sessions will start in April 23rd, so book on now with Jane Bullows (see details below) £1.50 per session. If you would like more information on any of these, you can look at the Stroud District Council website under "Leisure" and then look at "Health and Wellbeing" or contact Jane Bullows on 01453 754322 or jane.bullows@stroud.gov.uk.

As always, thank you for your calls and the lovely feedback I get about these articles. If you would like to arrange a home visit to talk about any concerns you have, or information you need, please call the number below and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Lou Kemp 07776 245767

GP Exercise on Referral –

GPs can refer patients onto a 12 week physical activity programme consisting of a range of different activities. There are 4 venues, our nearest are at Stratford Park and The Fifth Dimension Health Club in Stroud. GPs have referral forms for this. One off consultation fee of £10.50 to £15, followed by reduced pay as you go gym and swim during the 12 week period. Fifth Dimension differs on its payment scheme.

Health Walks -

Two new ones will be starting in Painswick, and a new training session for volunteer leaders will take place in April. No GP referral needed for this, but they do ask that people fill in a confidential health questionnaire to make sure they are able to take part. As soon as I know more about these, I'll let you know.

PROPERTY REPORT for February from Murrays International

Murrays have had a very successful start to the year with both the number of properties sold, under offer and the number of viewings well up on same time (Jan/Feb) in the last 5 years. This is despite the awful weather that we have been experiencing although there have clearly been some cancellations due to this with roads being impassable and sometimes damage to property from fallen trees etc! The market continues to be growing in confidence with Nationwide saying that house prices increased by 0.7% in January and were 8.8% higher than January 2013, which is the thirteenth successive monthly increase. There was also an increase in the first time buyers market which shows that share lending activity has also increased. There has however not been the supply coming to the market that we need to satisfy the buyers out there and it seems that the buyers are outweighing the demand at the moment. In our Painswick office alone we have nearly three quarters of our current properties either just sold or under offer!! If you are thinking of selling this year it may be a good idea to do so sooner rather than later. At this time of year there are fewer properties coming to the market to compete with meaning a better chance of a quicker sale and possibly better price, whereas if you decide to market at a more "popular/traditional" time of year i.e. April or September you may find that you are competing with many more properties all at the same time and around the same price level, therefore taking more time to sell. Something worth thinking about.... Please do give us a ring on 01452814655 or pop in the office to book in your free valuation.

We have taken on some lovely new properties including Juniper House an immaculate 4/5 bedroom modern detached family house in St Mary's Mead, Beech Cottage a spacious extended 3 bedroom with pretty garden on Kingsmill Lane, 6A Canton acre, a newly built 2 bed end of terrace and 7 Canton Acre, a newly refurbished 3 bed mid terrace, Upper Steanbridge Mill, a Grade 11 listed Mill House adapted into two properties on Steanbridge Lane in Slad with lovely views and approximately 2 acres, and Wellersley Cottage, a charming 2 bed cottage in need of complete modernisation in the centre of Bisley.

Properties that we currently have under offer are 2 Hambutts Cottages off Edge Road, 18 Upper Washwell, Dormy House on Kingsmill Lane, Firlie on Blakewell Mead – all in Painswick, 44 acres of land at Holcombe, Lynton in Paradise, Shetlands on Far End in Sheepscombe and Highcroft in Brimpsfield. Properties that have now sold are both 8 and 14 Canton Acre, Highfield on Edge Road, 17 Hyett Orchard and 10 Randalls Field all in Painswick. Chandos on Cranham Corner, Uplands on Painswick Beacon, Hazelings in The Vatch, Slad, Leverets Barn in Brimpsfield and No.1 Maitlands in Brookthorpe.

James C Murray (Partner)

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MARCH

Sat	1	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group Scrub Clearance Working Party: location check - 813734	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Sun	2	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Sung Eucharist Evensong	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St Mary's Church St Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am 4.00pm
Mon	3	Short Mat Bowls - Mondays (contact 813627) Community Lunch: Hosts - Painswick Bird Club Yoga (Mondays) contact Kim 812623	Town Hall Ashwell Centre Sheepscombe Vill. Hall	10.30am 12 noon to 1.15pm 6.30 to 8.00pm & 8.15 to 9.45pm
		Painswick Community Choir - Mondays (Enquiries: Sophie 01453 298138)	Painswick Centre	7.00 to 8.30pm
Tue	4	Zumba Gold dance fitness class for Seniors: £5 pp Tuesdays	Painswick Centre	10.00am
		Bingo: Tuesdays – Tel. Ann, 813911 / Liz, 814890	Ashwell House	6.30 to 9.00pm
Wed	5	Yoga (Wednesdays) contact Kim 812623 Probus: 'Just a Can of Beans' - Ken Bigg Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club Lecture: Ancient Woodlands in Gloucestershire - John Heathcott. 813228 Table Tennis sessions - Wednesdays. Enq. 812464	Sheepscombe Vill. Hall Painswick Centre Painswick Centre	9.30 to 11.00am 10.00am 2.30pm
		Holy Communion (BCP)	Painswick Centre	7.00 to 9.00pm
Thu	6	Yoga - All Abilities (Thursdays) Cotswold Room 812623 T'ai Chi: Thursdays - Contact 812344 Dog Training Club (Thursdays) Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners - Thursdays Experienced beginners - Thursdays	St Mary's Church Painswick Centre Town Hall Church Rooms Town Hall Town Hall	7.30pm 9.30 to 11.00am 9.30am 9.30 to 12.00noon 12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm
		Music Appreciation Group: Long Playing Records	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	7	Country Market: Coffee available - Fridays Women's World Day of Prayer Friday Club: Wimbledon Linesman - Brian Partridge Chinese / Indian 'help yourself buffet' - all you can eat for £12.95	Town Hall Catholic Church Town Hall JK's at St Michael's	10.00am 11.00am 2.30pm
Sat	8	Saturday Walking Group: for info Tel: 812965 Village Quiz: (Bar open 7.00pm) Motown Party: Matt Phillips Live Set, Soul Food - Ticket £10 - contact 812180 / 07866782470	Stamages Car Park Painswick Centre Painswick Golf Club	10.00am 7.30pm prompt
Sun	9	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Family Communion	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am
Mon	10	Community Lunch: Hosts - Painswick Beacon Conservation Group	Ashwell Centre	12 noon to 1.15pm
Tue	11	Cupcakes for Carers & dependents: for info tel: 813326 Bird Club: Reflections - Peter Llewellyn	P. Centre Green Room Town Hall	1.30 to 4.30pm 7.30pm
Wed	12	Horticultural Society: A Perennial Year - Julie Ritchie (Hoo House)	Church Rooms	7.30pm
Sat	15	Saturday Market; various stalls Painswick Beacon Conservation Group Scrub Clearance Working Party: location check - 813734	Town Hall. Lower Room Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 4.00pm 10.00am to 1.00pm
Sun	16	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Sung Eucharist	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am
Mon	17	Community Lunch: Hosts - Park Residents	Ashwell Centre	12 noon to 1.15pm
Tue	18	Local History Society: US7GR LOC 349 3041 - one Saturday afternoon on the Home Front - Cathy Stoertz	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	19	Horticultural Society: Bookings close for Trip 1 - Elgar Museum and Spetchley Park Probus: Lost the Plot - Fiona Warin - Allotment Officer, Cheltenham B.C. Parish Council Meeting	Painswick Centre Town Hall	10.00am 7.30pm
Thu	20	Music Appreciation Group: Film Music	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	21	Friday Club early Spring outing to Weston's Cider Works, Much Marcle Italian Buffet - 3 Courses £15.50	JK's at St Michael's	

Sat	22	Copy Date for April Beacon		
Sun	23	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Painswick Praise Attic Sale: details - jennie@thepainswickcentre.com	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St Mary's Church Painswick Centre	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am 10.00am to 2.00pm
Tue	25	Yew Trees WI: Pre-Raphaelites / Arts & Crafts - Dr. Frances Wilson-Copp	Church Rooms	7.30pm
Fri	28	Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club Guided Walk: Mortimer Forest Geology Trail: pre-book on 813228 French Night: 3 Course buffet £15.50 Painswick Conservatives AGM: (Neil Carmichael MP to attend)	JK's at St Michael's Church Rooms	7.00 for 7.30pm start
Sat	29	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group Scrub Clearance Working Party: location check - 813734 Painswick Music Society Concert: Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra of Europe	Painswick Beacon St Mary's Church	10.00am to 1.00pm 3.00pm
Sun	30	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Mothering Sunday Service Mother's Day: £17.50 for 3 Course Carvery & glass of wine or soft drink - 2 sittings	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St Mary's Church JK's at St Michael's	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am 12noon & 3.00pm
APRIL				
Wed	2	Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club Lecture: Iceland - Land of Fire & Brilliant Birds - Philip Mugridge. Enq. 813228	Painswick Centre	2.30pm
Thu	3	Music Appreciation Group: Korngold	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	4	Friday Club: Shelter Box - Liz Odell	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	5	April Issue of The Painswick Beacon published		
Tue	8	Cupcakes for Carers & dependents: for info tel: 813326 Painswick Centre AGM Bird Club / P. Beacon Conservation Group: History & Wildlife of the Forest of Dean - Andy Bluett	P. Centre Green Room P. Centre Cots. Room Town Hall	1.30 to 4.30pm 7.30pm 7.30pm
Wed	9	Theatre Club Outing to Cheltenham Horticultural Society: Garden Design - preparing for Chelsea: P. Hervey-Brookes	Stamages Car Park Church Rooms	6.45pm 7.30pm
Sat	12	Painswick Music Society Concert: Angela Hewitt - Piano	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Tue	15	Local History Society: Research Evening	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	16	Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club Annual Lunch: Enq. 01242 890374 Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	12noon for 1.00pm 7.30pm
Thu	17	Country Market: Coffee available Music Appreciation Group: The Proms	Town Hall Town Hall	10.00am 7.30pm
Fri	18	No Country Market - see Thursday 17th Painswick Singers concert: Main work - Faure's Requiem	St Mary's Church	7.30pm
Sat	19	Bird Club Field Trip: Woogreens Nature Reserve, Forest of Dean: meet at Kensley Lodge car park; SO628125 Easter Egg Hunt	Kensley Lodge car park Village	11.00am to 1.00pm 1.00 to 4.00pm
Tue	22	Yew Trees W.I.: Spring Surprise Evening	Church Rooms	7.30pm

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

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NEW APPLICATIONS

WELLINGTON HOUSE, Stroud Road
Increase height of front wall by 1000mm and repair and re-point walls; install additional velux window and replace existing leaking velux windows; and remove 2 small windows on north (side) elevation and replace with one larger window.

HILL HOUSE, Gloucester Street
Fell a Yew to near ground level.

DELL FARM, Longridge, Sheepscombe
Formation of outdoor horse exercise area in surrounding post and rail fence (includes change of use).

LITTLE FLEECE, Bisley Street
Proposals to bring the "Little Fleece" – mixed use of residential and retail – back into use as a National Trust holiday cottage and therefore wholly residential.

TOWER COTTAGE, Kemps Lane
American Black Walnut – fell due to excessive height for its position.

3 GLOUCESTER ROAD
Fell Horse Chestnut (TPO 105)
14 GLOUCESTER ROAD

Erection of single storey extension and replacement garage. Application of render finish to existing reconstituted stone house and installation of replacement windows.

3 VATCH COTTAGES, Catswood Lane
Erection of single storey and first floor extensions on rear elevation.

21 CHURCHILL WAY
Extension and partial garage conversion to form new utility room and ground floor study.

CASTLE LODGE, Cheltenham Road
Construction of new stone garage
LAND ADJACENT TO DEAN RISE (GRAVE DIGGERS HUT)

Change of Use from storage hut to Painswick Tourist Information Office, to include non-illuminated sign.

SALUTATION, Far End, Sheepscombe
Tree 1 Ash Tree. This tree is approx 30 feet tall. Reduce the height of the main trunk by pollarding. Tree 2 Cupressus. This tree is approx 50 feet tall. Reduce its height by approx 50%.

GYDE HOUSE, Gyde Road
Horse Chestnut (T1) reduce height by 3-4m, Ash (T2) reduce height by 3-4m and sides proportionately, Ash (T3) cut the Ivy, remove the 1m from the lowest 1m. 4 Maples (G1) remove deadwood of diameter 25mm and remove low branches over the highway to 4.5m high ("crown lift"), Norway Maples (G2), Copper beech (G3), Ash (T4) monitor condition of trees. Walnut (T5) crown reduction.

THE SKIPPETS, Damsell Mill Lane, Sheepscombe
T1 Yew – Crown reduce by 2.5m, T2 Yew – Crown reduce by 2.5m, T3 Yew Crown reduce by 2.5m.

PAINSWICK LODGE
Structural intervention to repair beam, internal alterations and new window.

CHURCH END, Paul Mead, Edge
Demolition of utility room and erection of a kitchen extension.

SUNNY COTTAGE, Butt Green Fell and remove Silver Birch.

CONSENT

LAND ADJOINING CORVARA, Cotswold Mead
Proposed new dwelling.
SITE FORMERLY KNOWN AS OVERDALE, Slad Road, Slad Revisions to approved scheme S.13/0779/FUL for erection of a dwelling, including omission of a drop in ridgeline over lounge/bedroom; raise main ridge and eaves line by 150mm, addition of one dormer window in front elevation and two dormers in rear elevation; and amend materials to natural stone on front and rear elevations.

8 WHITEHORSE LAND
Rear dormer extension.

THE GRANGE, Sheepscombe
Conversion of coach house to create ancillary accommodation.

KNAPP FARM, The Vatch
Proposed new access gates/walls.

THE MALT HOUSE, The Green, Sheepscombe
Revised proposals for windows, dormer windows and skylight.

CROFT HOUSE, Gloucester Street
New pedestrian garden entrance gate and steps from Churchill Way.

HILL HOUSE, Gloucester Street
Fell a Yew to near ground level.

REFUSED

LAND AT SUMMER STREET
Outline permission for erection of approx 112 dwellings. (revised application following refusal of S.13/0166/OUT)

EDGE HOUSE, The Green, Edge Lane,
EdgeNew wall to replace derelict wall at the front of the property.



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The Personal Column

You could help Jenny Gaugain, if you would relay information about those you know and for whom a mention in the Personal Column would be appreciated.

Thank You

“Greg Dorey and his family would like to thank all those neighbours and friends who befriended Avril Dorey during her many years in Painswick and supported her so well in her illness over much of the past year - it was wonderful to see many of you at her funeral, which was beautifully arranged by Andrew Leach and David Archard. We should also like to thank the Doctors and District Nurses at Hoyland House and relevant staff at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital; and the carers from Somerset Care and Live in 24 Care who gave her the best possible professional assistance in the circumstances in her last months. In the end she left us peacefully and without pain.
Greg Dorey

I would like to thank everybody for all the support and help they have given following my recent operation, especially Christine, Gemma and Ann. *Jayne Knowles Smith*

Births

To Andi Hodgson and Catherine Crouch a daughter Madeleine Chloe.

Welcome

To Tim and Jackie Burt who have moved recently into Randalls Field from Solihull.

Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of Mr IVOR DICKS who died on 20 February. For funeral details please contact his daughter Caroline Stone on 0787 5954439



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NEXT ISSUE
Publication date
SATURDAY
5th April

Dateline for all copy
SATURDAY
22nd March

for editorial attention only use
beacon@painswick.net

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

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

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for current issue and archive, our history and aims, the annual directory, village maps and the current weather forecast

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