

The Painswick Beacon

Sine praeiudicio

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Post Office Consultation

Parish Council urges residents to support proposal or lose a Post Office

The proposed Post Office Outreach in the Town Hall will not now commence in late February/early March as was reported at the January Parish Council Meeting (see last Month's Beacon). On 3rd February the Parish Council received a copy of a letter from Leighton Barratt, Field Change Advisor for the Post Office. This letter, addressed generally, stated that the Post Office had now commenced "public consultation" regarding the proposal and an email from the Post Office said that the Parish Council might wish to circulate/display the letter and an accompanying poster in the town. The Beacon was sent a copy of the letter and poster by the Parish Council who have also circulated the letter to various individuals and displayed it on the Notice Board. The letter is reproduced on pages 4 and 5 of the Beacon. It invites the public to give their views on the proposal identifying in particular a number of areas where comments are sought (eg venue, hours of opening etc).

This topic was discussed at length at the recent Parish Council Meeting (see pages 2 and 3). The Parish Council Chairman, Martin Slinger summarised the way we had arrived at the present position. The report he gave is reproduced in page 3. He then opened the meeting to comments from the members of the public present and responded to points raised. He concluded that there was no viable alternative and emphasised that if this proposal was not supported by the consultation process that a Post Office for Painswick could be lost for the immediate future. To secure the Post Office Outreach proposal he said it is essential that residents respond positively in response to the Post Office letter asking for comments (see page 4) and to meet the 17th March deadline for receipt of comments

The Parish Council meeting was also filmed by the BBC and included in the "Politics Show" on 1st March. Our review of the BBC programme is on page 16..

Replacement Post Box for Painswick

The Royal Mail Group has decided to start the process to install an additional postbox in Painswick. However, Lynsey Stoner from the Chairman and Chief Executive Office of the Royal Mail Group, in a letter replying to a number of residents who have written on the topic, says that "...there are several stages we need to go through before the box can be set up. However, we'll do all we can to ensure the process is completed as quickly as possible." No indication of the type or where the box will be located appeared in the letter so keep fingers crossed!

Painswick's historic church gets a new Nave ceiling

Visitors entering the church during the last week in February would have been surprised to see a Cherry Picker in the church! Not picking cherries but being used to assist in the replacement of the dull brown wooden panels previously on the roof. This is something many at St Mary's have longed for and the replacement by large white ceiling tiles has made the church dramatically lighter and brighter as shown in the photo below.

David Bishop who was churchwarden when the church obtained approval for this writes "As long ago as the 1960's, from Canon Heals time as vicar, the congregation have been wondering what to do with the nave ceiling but the cost of scaffolding for access to the ceiling was prohibitive. More thought was given to the nave ceiling a few years ago during the planning stage of the new lighting system. Diocesan permission had been obtained to install white panels between the beams in the nave ceiling at the same time as the lighting scheme. A generous anonymous donation to church funds, that was offered at the end of 2014, has now enabled the work to go ahead.

The new ceiling tiles are made of 3mm hardboard with a white plastic coating and are fixed to the existing wood ceiling using small galvanised nails. The nave ceiling now matches the north and south aisle ceilings which also consist of white panels between wooden beams. The old wooden ceiling was very badly stained and needed redecoration. It also had holes in it from the old lighting system and cracks between the ceiling boards. The new tiles will reduce heat losses by stopping draughts through these holes. And of course the lighter ceiling means that the new lighting system is more effective. Painswick Church is well known as an excellent building for concerts. The choice of tiles with a hard surface nailed tightly to the existing ceiling will minimise any changes to the acoustic properties of the building."

David notes that "the professional cherry picker operators did most of the work at height but a gang of five volunteers were needed to remove and reinstate some of the pews, to cut the ceiling panels to size and to cut holes for the ceiling lights. Team work meant that the whole job went remarkably smoothly and was completed in 3 working days as against the estimate of 5 to 7 working days. Many thanks are due to all involved."



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS 18th February by Mike Kerton

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

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

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chairman Rob Lewis opened what was to be a lively meeting. There were 14 members of the public present¹, the majority of whom wished to raise questions on the Court House Application for a General Liquor Licence². Most were very concerned about the probable increase in noise and nuisance which the local residents would have to endure if the licence were granted. Several local residents properties were less than 150 yards from the Court House and there had been a history of problems over noise and nuisance caused by firework displays, weddings, the use of amplified music and increase in traffic flow. There had been many previous instances of excessive noise from parties held at the Court House, many complaints have been made to the Parish Council, District Council and at least one to the Police. An outdoor hot tub had been installed which had caused problems for local residents due to the party noise from people using the hot tub late in the evenings. Windows and doors were left open increasing the noise level even if there was an indoor event. The Meeting then moved on to:

Matters requiring a decision

There were five matters requiring a decision.

- **An application from the Court House for a General Liquor Licence.** Cllr Rob Lewis advised the meeting that a General Liquor Licence meant that the premises would be open to all members of the public during "Opening Hours". The Application included a request for the opening hours to be extended until 2.00am during the Cheltenham Race Week and 4.00am on New Years Eve. The Council unanimously agreed not to support the application as there was already a history of complaints of noise and nuisance and it was thought that supporting such a request would only make the situation worse for the local residents. Chairman Rob Lewis urged the members of the public to write letters to the licensing authorities strongly objecting to the application³.

- **Chessed, Slad Road, Slad.** Change of use of garage/workshop to a holiday cottage. As a design statement was not included with the application the Council agreed to defer a decision until the statement was received.

- **Tall Trees, Cotswold Mead.** Remove east side dormer and replace with a larger dormer. Erect front porch and convert garage to habitable room. As a design statement was not attached the Council agreed to defer a decision until the

statement was received.

- **Castle Lodge, Cheltenham Rd.** Conversion of an outbuilding into a sewing room for residential use ancillary to main building. The Council agreed to support the application.

- **Terrono, Longridge, Sheepscombe.** Demolition of existing conservatory. Construction of new two storey extension to provide bedroom and en suite accommodation. As a design statement was not attached the Council agreed to defer a decision until the statement was received.

PARISH COUNCIL

Prior to opening the Meeting, Chairman Martin Slinger, welcomed the 18 members of the public who were present. He also explained that BBC Points West had sent a political correspondent and a camera man to record the meeting – a follow up to the BBC airing of the first episode of "A Casual Vacancy" - part of which had been filmed in Painswick - the previous Sunday. He also pointed out that a "loop system" had been installed which would assist members of the public, who wore hearing aids, to listen to the discussions. Name cards for Councillors were being produced and would assist members of the public to identify which Councillor was speaking. He then went on to say that he did not propose to take questions on "The Post Office" until the item was formally discussed by the Council.

A member of the public raised a question of when the postponed liaison meeting with the Police was to be held. The meeting was told that the Constable who was due to attend was in hospital. The meeting would be re arranged when he returned to full time duties.

Chairman Martin Slinger then opened the Meeting. He announced the death of David Harcup who had served as a Parish Councillor. There was a one minute silence in his honour.

The Clerk, Roy Balgobin reported that apologies had been received from 6 Councillors due to illness, holidays and work commitments. Those present were Cllrs Martin Slinger, Rob Lewis, Abigail Smith, Ann Daniels, Mike Fletcher and Ben Nicholls.

Post Office Outreach Service

Chairman Martin Slinger read out a prepared report – reproduced on page 3. The matter is now subject to a 6 week consultation period. The anticipated opening date of the new Post Office is April 2015. A secure area will be built in the ground floor hall of the Town Hall and the Country Market are considering bringing forward the opening time of the Market to 9.30am to accommodate the Post Office opening hours. The Outreach Post Office is a proven national model but if it is well used by the local population then consideration will be given to extending not only the opening hours but increasing the services offered. It is vitally important that the local population respond positively to the Consultation documents and send written letters of support to Post Office Ltd.

Cllr Abigail Smith thanked Chairman Martin Slinger and the Clerk Roy Balgobin for their hard work and negotiation skills which ensured that Post Office facilities had been reinstated in Painswick. This was supported Cllr Ann Daniels. The negotiations had been long and difficult, lasting 2 years, with Post Office Ltd insisting that the discussions remained confidential. This led to a sense of frustration amongst both members of the community and Councillors.

Concern was expressed by members of the public that a "wide mouthed" post box was still not being provided. The nearest "wide mouthed" post box involved travelling to either Stroud or Upton St Leonards.

County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Jason Bullingham had submitted a written report that was read to the Meeting by Chairman Cllr Martin Slinger. A new facility at Javelin Park to treat 150,000 tonnes of the County's waste had been given the go ahead on the 7th January. This will significantly reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. Construction will start as soon as possible.

Taxi companies and private hire operators in Gloucestershire and bordering counties are being urged to find out more about work opportunities with Gloucestershire CC. The work would include home to school runs and adult

Stop Press item

Rachel Andrew, Principal Licensing Officer, Stroud District Council advised the Parish Council in the evening of 26th February that application 15/00135/LAPRNW for a Premises Licence for Court House, Painswick is invalid.

This is due to the fact the applicant has been unable to place a public notice in a local newspaper within the timescales required in the legislation and has been advised of this. If Court House Manor Ltd wish to pursue the application they will need to resubmit the relevant documents and the process will start afresh. This will include a new blue notice at the premises and a newspaper advert.

If a new application is made, please be aware that you will need to resubmit your concerns to us during the new representation period.

¹ Also present were 2 BBC film crew who were making a recording for BBC's Sunday Politics Show. See report on page 16.

² Which would be for residents and the public.

³ See Stop Press item

social care transport. Workshops for interested operators were held in late January.

District Councillors' Report

As neither of the two District Councillors were present at the meeting there was no report.

To consider recommendations of the Land and Buildings Committee

The Councillors unanimously agreed to:

- A) Apply for a "change of use" to Office or Retail use for the old Gents and Ladies Toilets at St Mary's Street.
- B) Re-name the premises to "At Your Convenience units 1 & 2"
- C) Approve a quote from IPS to carry out the refurbishment of the Disabled Toilet in St Mary's Street.

Receive a Traffic Update report

Cllr Abigail Smith advised the meeting of the current position on:

Permanent Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)

– approval had been received for 2 VAS to be installed on the A46 in Painswick. Funding will be part Parish Council with matched funding from the County Council. Three quotes have now been received. By the end of February the final siting and sign face will be determined, after consultation with the County Council. A formal application for the matched funding will then be made and the signs ordered.

Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign – the old sign was tried and found to be defective. The sign had originally been jointly purchased with another Parish Council. Agreement has been reached with that Council to share the cost of returning the sign to the manufacturer for diagnosis and hopefully repair.

Community Speed Watch – a further successful week was carried out from the 9-13th February. The details of the registration numbers collected have been passed to the Police who will either write to or visit significant offenders. Thanks was extended to the volunteers without whom it would not be possible to carry out the "Speed Watch". Their presence made a significant difference to driver behaviour during the week.

Slad Community Speed Watch – a group has now been formed for Slad and training by the Police has been arranged.

Other ongoing issues include – Edge Lane, single track with passing places signs; traffic survey on New Street; correcting erroneous yellow lines on Bisley Street; sending a letter to the police regarding enforcement activity; white line renewal/improvements; signing improvements and an extension to the Bisley Street one way system.

To consider the format of the Annual Parish Meeting

Chairman Martin Slinger outlined his view that there was a need to reconsider the current format of the Annual Parish Meeting. There was a decline in the numbers attending. Currently Chairs of the various Council sub Committees, District

Councillors and County Councillor read out prepared reports. He felt that the meeting should reflect the work of all Organisations and Societies within the Parish. It was suggested that the Organisations and Societies should be invited to make a short presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting so that the public were aware of all that was happening in the Parish. The Clerk, Roy Balgobin would produce a discussion paper for the Council

Responsible Financial Officers report

The Clerk, Roy Balgobin, stated that a letter had been received from the Local Management Group of Psalms requesting an unspecified grant towards the Youth Work provision in Painswick. It was agreed to refer this request to the Finance Committee for investigation and for them to make a recommendation to the Council.

Ward Reports

Cllr Mike Fletcher reported that there was a light out on White Horse Lane. The Clerk would take action.

Martin Slinger's report

Firstly, I think would like to thank Leslie Brotherton and all the members of the public who wrote in regards of the post office service in the village. The Council has always wanted a full time post office and has, since the closure of the post office in 2013, worked very closely with Post Office Limited to try and achieve this. However, without a postmaster or business or community group willing to run one it has not been possible to achieve this goal. I will cover the points raised by Mr Brotherton in his letter and will open this subject up for debate:

The Parish Council does have a Parish Plan which went through a comprehensive review in 2013 and it is regularly monitored and updated.

The negotiations with the Post Office were deemed as CONFIDENTIAL, this caveat was imposed by the Post Office.

In order to understand the current position I wish to detail the sequence of event:

The Village Post Office was closed in 2013 as the funding for the postmaster was withdrawn by the Post Office and offered Post Office Local status. Given the business potential less than 10k profit it was not deemed as a viable business - the current project profit for a post office local in village would be only 5K.

The Post Office sought to find a business to run a full time Post Office Local, this included the Post Office meeting with many businesses and talking with the Council.

No business came forward to run a Post Office Local.

Discussion were held with Senior Members of the Post Office to try and secure permission to pursue the running of a Community Post Office Local.

The Post Office agreed, and the Painswick Centre agreed to pursue a Community Post Office.

The Painswick Centre Trustees withdrew from negotiations with the Post Office.

The Council considered its options and felt that the only way forward was to secure an Outreach Service. It offered the Town Hall as a possible venue.

The Painswick Centre also offered to host an Outreach Service.

A Postmaster was selected to provide an Outreach Service and Senior Officers inspected both the Town Hall (Upper and Lower Hall) and also the Painswick Centre. It was deemed by the Post Office that the Lower Hall was the most suitable location. They were aware of the joint use on a Friday with the Country Market.

In regards to security and privacy the Post Office Outreach Service is a proven national model and I have been assured by the Post Office that it operates under the same joint conditions in many locations.

In regards to using the St Mary's Toilet facilities for the Post Office, they are being converted into Office/Retail outlets which will allow full time occupation by new businesses, which will of course be beneficial to Painswick. It was not considered viable to restricted the use of the outlets to 4 hours per week.

In regards to moving forward the Council initiated Love Painswick who are actively dealing with current and future economic matters.

Advance Notice - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting is to take place in the Town Hall at 7pm on Wednesday 6th May 2015. If any group or society would like to present a short report to the meeting, could they please contact the Clerk on 01452 812722 or email clerkpainswickpc@hotmail.com by the 22nd April.

Sunday 8th March Fair Trade Tea Tasting Afternoon



Following our successful coffee tasting event last year we would like to invite you to come and have tea and cakes with us on Sunday, 8th March between 3pm and 4.30pm at the Town Hall.



We will be offering a choice of six different Fairly Traded teas, all locally available and all worth sampling, and we hope you will try at least two of them. There will be a choice of cakes made with Fairtrade ingredients, and also Fairtrade biscuits. Your £3 entry fee covers unlimited cups of tea and two slices of cake/biscuits!

Do come and try these excellent products, which, as well as giving us a really good cup of tea, also ensure that the people who pick the leaves get a living wage.

*Frances Watson, on behalf of
Painswick Fairtrade Group*

Painswick Post Office: Public Consultation – Branch Re-opening

The Parish Council received the following letter from Leighton Barratt, Field Change Advisor, Post Office Ltd. It calls for comments from its customers:

I am writing to let you know that, in order to restore Post Office services to our customers in Painswick, we are proposing to introduce a Hosted Outreach service which will operate from the Ground Floor, Town Hall, Victoria Square, Painswick, Stroud, GL6 6QA.

Painswick branch closed temporarily in March 2013. We are now in a position to restore a service to our customers in the local community and the establishment of a Hosted service presents the best possible solution in the Painswick area.

I am therefore pleased to inform you that a nearby Postmaster (from Upton St Leonards Post Office) has been identified, who will offer the service from the Town Hall, in Painswick. Full details of the proposed new service are provided at the end of this letter.

Consulting on the proposed changes

We're now starting a 6 week local public consultation and would like you to tell us what you think about the suitability of the proposed new location and new service. Before we finalise our plans, we would really like to hear your views on this proposal particularly on the following areas:

- How suitable you think the new location and premises are?
- Do you have any comments on the proposed days and opening hours?
- How easy is it to get there?
- Are the new premises easy for you to get into and is the inside easily accessible?
- Do you have any concerns about the new location?
- If so, do you have any suggestions that could help us make it better for you?
- Are there any local community issues which you think could be affected by the proposed move?
- Is there anything you particularly like about the proposed change?

If you have any comments or questions, please email or write to me via our Communication and Consultation team, whose contact details are below. Any information we receive will be considered as we finalise our plans for the new service. Other people in your organisation may be interested in this proposal, so please let them know about it. Please note that your comments will not be kept confidential unless you expressly ask us to do so by clearly marking them "In Confidence".

You can share your views on the proposed move through our easy and convenient new online questionnaire via the link postofficeviews.co.uk. When entering the site you will be asked to enter the code for this branch: 32052399

Dates for the local public consultation:

Local Public Consultation starts 3 February 2015
Local Public Consultation ends 17 March 2015
Proposed month of change April 2015

We're carrying out this consultation in line with our Code of Practice. You can find more information about the Code at the end of this letter.

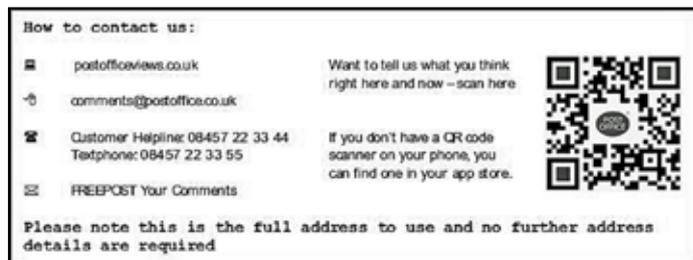
At the end of the consultation I'll be in touch again to let you know our final plans.

We will inform our customers of the final decision by displaying a poster locally.

Thank you for considering our proposal

Leighton Barratt, Field Change Advisor

How to contact us:



Painswick Beacon's editor's note: The above box is a photo copy of the Post Office's original letter that included red in the scanning symbol and hence may not work. Copies of the original are, however, in the Town Hall and on display around Painswick.

Please note this is the full address to use and no further address details are required

Items sent by Freepost take 2 working days to arrive. Therefore, responses by Freepost should be sent in sufficient time to arrive before the end of the consultation period. Working days do not include Saturdays or Sundays. Responses received after the deadline will not be considered.

Post Office Ltd can provide information and receive comments (where appropriate) in alternative formats, for example, to assist the visually impaired. To obtain further specific information, please contact the Customer Helpline on 08457 22 33 44 or textphone 08457 22 33 55.

Details of the proposed service:

Painswick Post Office: Town Hall Ground Floor, Victoria Square, Painswick, Stroud GL6 6QA

Opening times: Wednesday 09:30 - 11:30
Friday 09:30 - 11:30

Services: A wide range of services will be available. Customers can still collect benefits in cash using our everyday banking services or Post Office card account.

Access and facilities: There are steps at the entrance to this branch and level access at the rear of the building. Internally, there will be a low-level writing desk and space for a wheelchair.

Transport/parking: Short term parking is available at the front of the building with additional parking at the rear of the building.

Route: These premises are located approximately 100 metres away from the previous service, along level terrain.

Code of Practice for changes to the Post Office® network

What's a Code of Practice?

The Code of Practice contains guidelines we follow. They tell us how, and when to tell you about changes to your local Post Office services. We've worked with the independent statutory consumer watchdog on these guidelines, which in Great Britain is Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland, and in Northern Ireland, the Consumer Council.

What kind of changes does it include?

Information about when we're planning to move or close one of our branches or outreach services. This also covers information about when a branch has suddenly closed unexpectedly because of something like a flood or fire.

Who do we tell about changes?

You and your representatives (who are often local MPs or local authorities and councils).

How will we tell you what's happening?

If there's a minor change – like changing opening times, then we'll let you know by putting up posters in the Post Office. If the plan is to move a Post Office then we'll put up posters and hand

Continued from page 4 -

out letters in the branch as well as writing to your representatives. We'll have a press release and, the relevant information will be easy to find on our website.

How long will it take?

We'll let you know about any changes as soon as we possibly can. Sometimes, change is out of our control but we'll try to keep you as up-to-date about what's happening as much as we can. We try to make sure you have 4 weeks' notice before anything happens. If we're going to make big changes, there'll be a 'consultation period' which lasts about 6 weeks. This means that you've got time to let us know how you feel.

It's easy to let us know what you think...

We want to hear what you and your representatives think about change and to make sure it's easy for you to let us know, all of our contact details can be found on all our posters and letters. You can contact us by email, letter or 'phone.

How will you find out about the final plans?

We'll be letting you know in as many ways as possible. There'll be posters put up in or around your local area, letting you know what's going on. We'll also write to local representatives and, the information will be on our website.

If you let us know what you think, we'll make sure you know about our final plans either by writing to you, or having the information easily available in the Post Office or on our website.

What can you do if you think we haven't followed the Code of Practice?

If you don't think we've followed the Code, then please write to us or email us via the contact details included in this letter and let us know why.

To have a look at the full Code of Practice, it's on our website at

www.postoffice.co.uk/transforming-post-office

Letter ends



The Painswick Arts Festival committee are delighted to announce that there is to be another Arts Festival in Painswick in the summer of 2015. We have renamed it the festival 'ARTBURST' as we are presenting the event in a shorter but more intense format. Still including all the Arts it will be held throughout the first week in August from Saturday 1st to Sunday 9th inclusive. Spreading across many more venues in Painswick it will again present a broad selection of work by professionals and local amateurs including Paintings, Prints, Photography, Ceramics, Sculpture, Woodcraft, Music and Dance and will offer events and activities for all ages. There will be special events and workshops for children, a Pig Roast to launch ARTBURST and a Concert at the close.

If you are a local artist who would like to take part in this lively event, now in its 7th year, please email us at painswickartsfestival@mail.com or Phone Barbara on 01452813379 or Jackie on 01452813229 for more details and a booking form. Don't delay as places are filling fast. Go to our website at www.painswickartsfestival to find out more.

The 'ArtBurst' Committee



Our wonderful village of Painswick will this summer host an enchanting Midsummer Ball on Friday, 26th June 2015 in a marquee at Broadham Fields.

The ball will be bigger and better than ever and be a really fun evening. We will have music from a live band, a set from a DJ, a magician and plenty of other entertainment for our guests. The marquee will be adorned to support our midsummer theme."

One of the highlights of the evening will be the charity auction and this year the beneficiary is local charity The Door Youth Project based in Stroud. The organisers are looking for high profile items to help with the fund raising efforts to build on generous support already received from Hamptons, The Falcon and BPL Global and Painswick RFC amongst others.

Tickets are on sale now £50/person before the 31st March, £55 from the 1st April. (Tables of 10) Please visit www.painswicksummerball.co.uk for more information or email painswickball@yahoo.co.uk

David Nottingham



Join us in Painswick Church Rooms Thursday 12th March 3.30 to 5.30 pm. The theme is "Mothering". Come and make a present for you Mum, play some games and enjoy a homemade tea. The following Messy Church is on Saturday 7th May at the Youth Club on the Recreation Field and will include a barbecue.

Also, look out for details of

- Mothering Sunday – Sunday March 15th ; 9.30 am at Painswick Church
- Easter Egg Hunt and Teddy Bear parachuting , Saturday 4 April from 2 pm in Painswick churchyard (organised by Painswick Playgroup).

Messy Church is a family event so all children should be accompanied by an adult. Any queries; please contact Fiona Gill 0777 151 3382 Fiona.gill@psalms.uk.net

David Bishop



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The Journey to Easter

As many of you will know, the Church is now in the season of Lent which started back on the 18th of last month. It's a season of reflection for Christians as we prepare for the events of Holy Week and Easter. The exception is on Mothering Sunday (15th March) when the mood is much more celebratory. At St Mary's the service at 9.30am will be one for all ages to come together and give thanks for mothers and all those who care for children. It would be wonderful if you could come and join our celebration! Please note that the following week's service (22nd March) will be at 11.00am as it is a day when all of the six Churches of our benefice come together to worship. There will be no 8.00am service that day either.

On the 29th March we remember the day Jesus entered Jerusalem – Palm Sunday. Our modern-style Painswick Praise service at 9.30am will be an all-age retelling of the events of that day with songs, processions and palms. Why not come and be part of the crowd who welcomed Jesus into the city that day? In the evening at 6.30pm we will be repeating the Experience Easter service we ran last year. It's a chance to hear the whole Easter story in hymns and readings – a bit like a carol service but for Easter.

The following week is Holy Week when Christians recall that last week of Jesus' life before he was killed. There are services every day spread across the Churches of the benefice. On Wednesday 1st April at 6.30pm in St Mary's, Rev Mike will lead Stations of the Cross; a chance to reflect on the last hours of Jesus' life. Good Friday, the day Jesus was killed, is on 3rd April this year. Our regular Churches Together walk of witness will start from the Roman Catholic Church at 10.30 am. At 2.00pm there will be a service of devotion in St Mary's to mark the last hour of Jesus' life.

Easter Day, the most important day of the year for Christians because that's when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, is on the 5th April. For the hardy, the day will start at 6.15am at Pitchcombe Church for a Dawn service of Communion, followed by breakfast. In Painswick after our usual 8.00am service, there will be a Family Communion at 9.30am. While this is a Communion service, it will include plenty for the children too and we would love you to come and join us.

Full details of all the services in the benefice Churches can be found on the Church noticeboards or from the Lychgate Office (814795). I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful and blessed Easter.

Rev Mike Holloway,
Vicar of Painswick

Churches Together around Painswick GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION OF WITNESS



On Good Friday, **April 3rd**, we will be processing at **10.30am** from the Roman Catholic Church in Friday Street to the road-side cross by the Lychgate, for a short service before processing up New Street, down Bisley St., and back to the Church Rooms, where there will be Hot Cross Buns & hot tea/coffee!

We do hope YOU will join us.

Rita Bishop. Secretary CTAP

Painswick Singers on Good Friday

The Painswick Singers will this year be singing two pieces for their Good Friday concert. Both were composed in the last 60 years and both pieces have the sombre mood of the message of Good Friday. It promises to be an evening of beautiful, evocative music from the Painswick Singers, conducted by Andrew Hopwood, in the peaceful setting of St Mary's Church. Come along and hear for yourself this relatively modern, distinctly choral music.

Ariel Ramirez's Misa Criolla was composed in 1964 and was apparently inspired by a visit some years earlier that Ramirez made to Germany. He had an encounter with a group of nuns in the post-war country, and this inspired him to write a "spiritual piece" which developed into Misa Criolla. It combined Spanish text with indigenous instruments, and received international acclaim.

The other piece is Karl Jenkins's Stabat Mater. It is one of Jenkins's lesser known works but is a stunning work of choral music incorporating traditional Western music with ethnic instruments and vocals inspired by Middle Eastern music. It is based on the 13th century Roman Catholic prayer and shows the suffering of Mary, the mother of Jesus, at the Crucifixion. The piece features other texts including Ave Verum and is sung in Latin, English, Greek, Aramaic and Hebrew.

There will be 3 soloists performing at the concert: Lucinda Harrison, Jess Pywell and Adrian Bressington.

The concert will take place on Good Friday, 3rd April 2015, at St Mary's Church, Painswick at 7:30pm. There will be a retiring collection for the Painswick Singers and St Mary's Church

Alexandra McConnell

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Consultation on Stroud District Local Plan: Post-submission Proposed Changes (including potential Main Modifications)

Stroud District Council prepared a Draft Local Plan and Policies Map which it submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for examination in December 2013. The Local Plan relates to the whole District and provides a strategy for delivering growth for Stroud District up to 2031. The document provides the vision, objectives and strategic policies for delivering new homes, jobs, services, facilities and infrastructure.

The Secretary of State appointed an Inspector to examine the "Submission Draft" of the Local Plan, and Stage 1 of the Examination took place in April 2014. Following additional work as a result of the Inspector's initial conclusions on Stage 1 (June 2014), the Council has produced a schedule of proposed changes to the Submission Draft. The Council is now consulting on these proposed changes.

The period for submission of representations will run for six weeks from Wednesday 11 February 2015 until Wednesday 25 March 2015. Representations should be made on the consultation response form and received by the Planning Strategy Team no later than 5.00pm on 25 March 2015. Anonymous comments or comments received outside these dates will not be accepted.

Only comments relating to the Post-submission Proposed

Changes document will be considered at this stage.

The documentation available includes:

- Stroud District Local Plan: Consultation on Post-submission Proposed Changes

- Sustainability Appraisal Report

- A Statement of Representations Procedure

- A Statement of Availability for Inspection; and

- Consultation response form.

Copies of the Stroud District Local Plan: Post-submission Proposed Changes document and its related documents are available to view and download www.stroud.gov.uk/consult (The consultation will not be live until 9am on Wednesday 11 February). Completed electronic response forms should be emailed to local.plan@stroud.gov.uk or paper copies sent to: Local Plan consultation, The Planning Strategy Team, Stroud District Council, Ebley Mill, Westward Road, Stroud, GL5 4UB. Alternatively you can look at hard copies of the documentation and pick up a response form at the Painswick Parish Council office

If you have any further questions please contact the Planning Strategy Team on tel. no. 01453 754143.

Planning Strategy Team, Stroud District Council

Winston's Wish

Winston's Wish is the leading childhood bereavement charity in the UK, helping children and young people rebuild their lives after the death of their mum, dad, brother or sister, and enabling them to face the future with confidence and hope.

Throughout Gloucestershire, Winston's Wish run a unique bereavement support program called SWITCH. The program is aimed at children aged 8-14 who have suffered a close family bereavement which is having a negative effect on their behaviour. The bereavement may not be recent but may still be having an impact on the child.

The aim of SWITCH is to provide children and families with the opportunity to work through their experience with qualified professionals and to help them make sense of their emotions and feelings, meet other people in similar situations and provide them with coping strategy to help them reach their full potential.

We would like to reach as many of these children and families as possible in Gloucestershire. If you or you know a child or family who would benefit from the SWITCH program or would like any further information, please contact Sheila Elliott, Family Program Lead for SWITCH: selliott@winstonswish.org.uk / switch@winstonswish.org.uk / Phone the office on 01242 515157 and ask to speak to myself or a member of the SWITCH team.

For further information about other services Winston's Wish can provide for children who have suffered bereavement, please go to our website www.winstonswish.org.uk

Sheila Elliott

'Fake Thackray' at Cranham village hall

Come along to Cranham Village Hall on Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm for 8pm for an evening's entertainment of the witty, satirical, sentimental, hilarious songs of Jake Thackray. He was a uniquely gifted songwriter who brought comparisons with Flanders and Swann. This will be a fun, memorable evening with much laughter and is in aid of Village Hall Funds..

John Watterson's tribute to Jake is full of the warmth, humour and sincerity that you would expect from a lifelong fan and his performance is a true celebration of the man and his genius.

John had a successful UK tour with Fairport Convention, 20 performances at Edinburgh Fringe, on national radio and most specially, to members of Jakes family. www.fakethackray.com

The cost - £12.50 to include Light Supper Bar from 7.30, Contact Lesley 812943 to book. Sponsored by Arts in Rural Gloucestershire.

Jane shepherd

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Historic Coventry 'City of Peace & Reconciliation' - With the Field Club

Our 2015 excursions by coach start on Wednesday May 6th with historic Coventry, the city of peace and reconciliation. The day includes guided tours of the Priory, the finest medieval Guildhall in England and Holy Trinity Church, famed for its rare medieval painting of the Last Judgment. There will also be time to visit the Cathedral or City Museum. Full details from Sue Brown, tel 01453 836618 or me.



One of the UK's wildest places: Loch Avon

The Club's excursion programme concludes in September with what is regarded as the Club's jewel in the crown when we have a 5-day residential trip visiting some of London's finest properties and gardens: Kenwood and Chiswick Houses, Eltham Palace, Strawberry Hill, Kew and much more. A full itinerary is obtainable from either Peter Wilson tel 01453 834486 or me.

There will also be other summer trips: Kenilworth Castle and its Elizabethan Gardens; and a guided tour of Gloucester Docks and cruise on the Sharpness & Gloucester Canal with lunch on board. I shall be happy to supply full details on request. If you would like to give one of our excursions a try, you pay the same as our members for your first trip.

The Club's next lecture takes place on Wednesday 1st April when Prof. John Finney will talk about the work of the John Muir Trust to protect and conserve the UK's wildest places. The lecture begins at about 2.30 pm in the Painswick Centre after the Club's AGM (2 pm). Visitors are welcome (£3).

Jane Rowe, tel. 813228

Progress on several fronts

More members, more output! I'm delighted to tell you that we have recruited 5 new members so far this month, an increase of 12% to our total membership. More significantly, since they are young, fit and keen we have doubled the attendance at our Saturday work parties from 8 to 16. This markedly increases the impact on each occasion; we needed three fires on February 21st to keep pace with the scrub clearance. The 45 hours worked equates to employing a full-time worker for a week. Only, of course, we don't pay. They all tell me it is very satisfying, and sociable too. Four of the new recruits are local horse riders, and we expect more soon! They are particularly keen on one current area where we are creating a safer route for horses, away from cars on the B4027 to Gloucester, and well away from the golfers (and cyclists).

Four locals recently completed a chainsawing course, in late February and four more will be trained early in March. With 8 newly trained operators including the Golf Club's Harry

and Martin, we plan to make noticeable improvements to a small fraction of the 60 acres of trees around and within the Beacon. The landowner only receives a derisory £100 a hectare (about £40 an acre) from the Stewardship Scheme each year. With chainsaw men costing upwards of £160 for a day, one man-day would make little impact in 4 acres! So the availability of local volunteers is crucial.



PAINSWICK BEACON CONSERVATION GROUP

On a sour note, fly tipping continues, too often. Conservation Group members have recently filled ten large black bags from the lay-by near Madam's Wood.

We have 3 more working Saturday mornings this season, March 7th and 21st and April 11th. One will include clearing obstructions to Badger Lane Bridle Path..

Why not come and visit us, enjoy our coffee break and joshing at 10.30 am, and see if you would like to join in. You would have to become a member to be covered by our insurance; but only £5 for the year. See Beacon diary for dates and location information.

David Allott Vice-Chairman 812624

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Our 70th Season

For our 70th season we are again offering a most attractive and interesting programme, beginning on March 28th with a recital by one of the greatest mezzo sopranos of our age, Sarah Connolly, see photo, accompanied by the distinguished

pianist Eugene Asti. Sarah has chosen a wonderful programme including Schumann's great song cycle, *Frauenliebe und leben*, Mahler's *Ruckert Lieder*, songs by Gurney, Howells and Britten, and finishing with Richard Rodney Bennett's highly entertaining *History of the Thé Dansant*.

It is hard to think of a more varied and attractive programme than that given by Sarah Connolly (pictured opposite) but this is equally true of the next concert, to be given by the Carducci Quartet on 11th April. The Carducci are widely regarded as one of the best quartets of our times and they are opening their programme with Haydn's delightful Op 33 quartet the 'Joke', followed by Shostakovich's 9th, and finishing with one of the most attractive of Beethoven's relatively early quartets, Op 18 No 1.

The 3rd concert on 25th April is to be given by the Antara Flute and Harp Duo, and is sure to prove enormously popular. Thomas Hancox and Rachel Wick are outstanding young performers who met at Oxford, and then went on the Academy as postgraduates: they are enjoying hugely successful individual careers, whilst as a Duo, they have performed at the Cheltenham and Spitalfields Festivals among others, and in venues ranging from the Wigmore and Colston Halls to Kensington Palace. Their programme is a very varied and appealing one, including music by Fauré, Debussy, Bax, and Piazzolla, and a new work by Robert Saxton, the latest in a line of distinguished music fellows at Worcester College, Oxford.

The final concert on May 9th will be a recital by the violinist Jennifer Pike, accompanied by her father Jeremy Pike. Jennifer shot to fame in 2002, when at the age of 12, she became the youngest-ever winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year, and also the youngest major prize-winner in the Menuhin International Violin Competition. At the unprecedented age of 16, she was then awarded a postgraduate scholarship to study at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, subsequently graduating with First Class Honours from Oxford University, where she is currently Artist-in-Residence. Her programme is a most attractive one including sonatas by Bach and Mozart, Vaughan Williams' ever popular *The Lark Ascending* and concluding with Kreisler's hugely entertaining *Praeludium and Allegro*.

Membership giving access to all four concerts and individual concert tickets can be purchased at the Painswick Pharmacy in New Street or by contacting Dennis Morgan on 01285 821854 or pmsglen@btinternet.com. Membership costs £40, tickets for 28th March and 9th May are £18 each and those for 11th and 25th April are £15 each, whilst tickets for children and students are £3 each.

All the concerts are held in St. Mary's Church and begin at 3pm with afternoon tea available at the end.

Chris Swain



Photo by Peter Warren

Richmond Painswick

Open Day

On Wednesday 11th March, 10am – 4pm there is a chance for the public to view our facilities and available apartments. Find out more about the Assisted Living suites and talk to staff about the new Homecare service providing care in your own home. Refreshments will be available all day.

Cheyl Milne from Age UK Gloucestershire will also be present to give advice on claiming Attendance Allowance and explaining other services provided by Age UK Gloucestershire. (If you can't make the open day and are interested in finding out more about allowances available to you,

Cheyl will return to Richmond to speak to the residents on 18th March 3pm -4pm in the Auditorium and members of the public are more than welcome to attend.)

Enjoy an Irish Supper

Following the successful Burns Night Supper, we will be holding an Irish Themed Supper Club with entertainment by 'Andante' on 14th March in honour of St Patricks Day. The doors will be open to members of the public who are interested in coming. For prices and details of the menu visit our website or contact Reception on 01452 813902.

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Cheryl Milne from Age UK Gloucestershire will be available to give advice on claiming Attendance Allowance and explaining other services provided by Age UK Gloucestershire.



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Revd Mike calling ... A fun evening for all

Ceilidhs are great fun, sociable and uplifting occasions. Get ready then for just such an occasion in the Painswick Centre scheduled for **Saturday, 18th April**. An added joy is that the caller is a man with great experience, none other than the vicar of St Mary's Church, the Reverend Mike Holloway.

Revd Mike has a long history as a folk dancer and caller at ceilidhs or barn dances. He was a founder member of King John's Morris in Southampton and used to dance with his wife, Margaret, in the display dance team Woodfidley which was based in Hampshire. The splendid photograph shows him in action albeit a few years ago.



When Mike decided to embark on training for ordination some years ago he realised that the hours necessary for study in addition to being a full-time teacher left no time for other pursuits. This included ceilidh calling and folk dancing. He is therefore delighted to have the opportunity to resume his love of calling at the forthcoming event in Painswick. "I'm really looking forward to it," he says.

Anyone of any age can enjoy a ceilidh. Experience is not necessary, it is fun and a joyful way to expend a little energy. The Painswick ceilidh is being held to raise money for the youth group PSALMS. Tickets, which cost £10 and include supper, can be obtained from Joan Warner, tel. 812649, the Benefice Office (open mornings) and The Falcon Hotel.

Carol Maxwell



What's On

7th March – Beacon Village Quiz – Beacon Hall
22nd March – Attic Sale – Beacon Hall - Tables £10
14th April – AGM – Cotswold Room 6.30 for 7pm Start - All welcome
18th April - The Painswick ceilidh - Tickets £10 including supper.

Regular Activities

Mondays	Pilates, Kids Karate, Choir, Badminton
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Wednesdays	PROBUS, Bridge, Table Tennis
Thursdays	Yoga, Muddy Feet Fitness, Badminton

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All of our rooms, such as the Cotswold Room Pictured, are available for a wide range of uses, which include – Wedding receptions, Funerals, Wakes, Christening Parties, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Sports and Fitness, Skittles, General Social Gatherings, Business Meetings, Lectures, Crafts, Choir groups, Plays and Theatre activities, Music Events, Workshops, Art Exhibitions and much more!



So if you have a club, Business or just a group of friends who like to get together or you are interested in any of the activities that currently run at the Centre, then just contact us and see what we can do to help you.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

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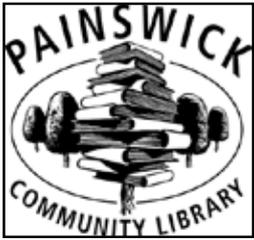
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News

AGM – 12th February

Chairman David Glass took the meeting and reported all the activities that the Community Library is now involved with – much more than simply running the book lending, and including

- Story time for pre-school children
- Book Signing
- Summer reading challenge for older children
- Book club meeting

Financial matters were covered by Mike Wilson – currently we are in good shape, but for our annual running costs of around £8,000, we are reliant on the grants given to us by the County Council, which are not guaranteed. We await further news from GCC (after May, no doubt) on what support will be given to the Community Libraries, of which we are one of eight in the county.

Village Diary

Village Diary --- The Village Diary is now displayed on the back wall of the Library and already has entries up to the end of 2015. If you want to see what's on for the year or avoid a clash of dates between your event and others why not check it out?

If you would like anything to be included (once your venue is confirmed), please give the details to the library volunteers so it can go into Joyce's book for adding to the Diary or email Joyce Barrus on joycebarrus@yahoo.co.uk

Gloucestershire County Council Local Transport Plan

The library has a copy of the Plan on display for consultation and there are paper questionnaires available as well as a web address for your views. If you are interested in viewing and responding please call in during library opening hours. The closing dates for comments is March 27th.

Ian Cridland

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Covent Garden voices “An Evening of Love and Betrayal at the Opera” Saturday 2nd May, St Mary’s Church, 6.30pm

On Saturday 2nd May Andrew Macnair is delighted to present a trio of singers from The Royal Opera to perform an evening of well-known opera arias. Joining him are Katy Batho (Soprano), Elizabeth Key (Mezzo) and pianist Michael Robinson. The concert starts at 6.30pm. It is in aid of Parkinsons UK and is in memory of Dr Duncan Macnair (Andrew’s father) who was a GP in Gloucester and fought courageously with Parkinsons for over 30 years.



Andrew began his musical life as a Chorister at Gloucester Cathedral under John Sanders. It was the start of a dream of becoming a professional singer. Finally, after successfully completing a doctorate in nuclear physics at the University of Kent at Canterbury, Andrew embarked upon a career in music. He is currently a member of the Royal Opera Chorus at The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. For the Royal Opera he has performed many roles including Don Curzio (Le Nozze di Figaro), Drunken Guest (Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk) and Notary (Il barbiere di Siviglia).

Several years ago he formed his own vocal ensemble, Covent Garden Voices, who specialise in providing world-class musical entertainment and have performed at numerous venues in London and across the country. Katy graduated from the GSMD in 2003. She has worked with a number of opera companies becoming a full time member of the Royal Opera Chorus in 2012. Elizabeth was a finalist in the Kathleen Ferrier Young Singers competition whilst studying at the RSAMD in Glasgow. Her professional career began with the Glyndebourne Festival Opera Chorus in 2006 and later that year joined the Royal Opera Chorus. Both Katy and Elizabeth have also sung many roles for the Royal Opera. Michael Robinson is one of the UK's most versatile musicians and singers. As a solo pianist, accompanist and singer, he has performed in many world renowned venues.

Tickets will be £20 to include a glass of wine and canapés. Tickets will be available through Mandy Garstang 01452 812146 or 07967942623.

Alison Macnair

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Drama with a Pulse

PSALMS began a new drama group called 'Drama with a Pulse' in January. Although starting with low numbers it has steadily grown throughout the weeks with all the children now regularly making each session. The group have looked at an introduction to different creative processes. As well as games & a small talk we have been looking at creating pieces with different stimuli such as storytelling, using objects for inspiration, adverts as well as the body & music. We are very pleased with the creativity, openness & respectful nature of the group. We are currently planning a trip for next term & we look forward to working on short plays over the next few weeks.

Why not join us? We meet 5.30-6.30 Thursdays term-time in the Church Rooms, Painswick. For more information contact Stephanie Poole 07872 588078 or me, Fiona Gill.



Games and fun at Drama with a Pulse



Tubing at the Gloucester Ski Slope

In February, Club Pulse had a fabulous evening Tubing at the Gloucester Ski Slope (see photo alongside) If you're Y7+, why don't you join us at the PYCP in Painswick 6-7.30 on Mondays. For more information, contact me.

PSALMS Prayer and Praise

Come and join us at PSALMS Prayer and Praise at 11.00 Sunday 8th March at St James Church, Cranham where this month Paul Tyler will be our special guest. He will be talking about his life as an MP and now in the House of Lords. PSALMS Praise is a shorter service where families and children are included and welcomed and the cakes are particularly appreciated by the children!. For further details, contact Victoria Soutar 07900451248 or myself.

Fiona Gill 0777 151 3382

Sir John Tavener

Sir John's fascinating life story – he was known until his death a couple of years ago as “The Greatest Living Classical Composer” - interspersed with recordings of some of his famous music was well presented by Ann Williams on 5th February.

A child prodigy, born to middle class parents in N. London he loved music from the age of 3 – able to reproduce any piece perfectly once heard - he was taught classical music techniques and modernist techniques by Lennox Berkeley and David Lumsdaine at the Royal Academy of Music.

His first well known piece “The Whale” was played at the proms in 1968 to great applause

– it included drums, bells, gongs, a football rattle and an amplified sheet of glass! Loved by the Beatles who produced it on their Apple label.

But he first became known to many when “Song for Athene” was played at Princess Diana’s funeral. Many years later he composed “Ex Maria Virgine” (Christmas Music) dedicated to Prince Charles and Camilla.

In his 30s he joined the Russian Orthodox Church. Much of his work was translated from Russian and Latin by a Mother Thekla from the Greek Orthodox Monastery of the Assumption in N. Yorkshire. His work from then on had a mixed religious background, loved by world choirs.

We heard an inspired performance of “The Protecting Veil”, one of the pieces he was commissioned by Steven Isserliss to write for the Cello. He was due to be Composer in Residence at the 2014 Festival, so the planned performances served as tributes to his short but full life.

Ralph Kenber



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More than ever, with an ageing population, healthy lifestyle choices matter. Many of the diseases and health challenges we face today could be prevented by making lifestyle changes like quitting smoking, eating more healthily and being more active.

We want to do more for our customers than just treat disease and ill health. We want to encourage and support our customers to make healthier choices to improve their long term health and well being.

We have four qualified Healthy Living Champions (see photo) who, in addition to being Medicine Counter Assistants, are trained to offer advice on a range of health and lifestyle issues such as: weight management; healthy eating; physical activity; stopping smoking (we provide an in house NHS Stop Smoking Service); reducing alcohol intake; sexual health; mental health and well being; cancer awareness; and long term condition support. Additionally, we can signpost and refer our customers to other local sources of support and information such as: Slimming World; Community Health Trainers; Village Agents; Turning Point; support groups; exercise classes; and charities.

Even the smallest changes such as eating more vegetables, having less salt and quitting smoking, doing some exercise and drinking less alcohol can vastly reduce your chances of ill health in the future.

So why don't you call in and have a chat with our friendly Healthy Living Champions about how you could possibly improve your health and well being.



Mandy Western; Kathryn Hodgson; Olwen Tringham; Mandy Lee

Mike Powis

Painswick surgery news

The need to avoid antibiotic resistance

Many of you will have seen the media items that draw all our attention to the worrying concern of effective antibiotics being available to treat multi drug resistant organisms and how we need to do all we can to only use antibiotics when absolutely necessary. Antibiotics are important medicines used to treat infections caused by bacteria. Bacteria can adapt and find ways to survive the effects of an antibiotic. The more often we use an antibiotic, the more likely it is that bacteria will become resistant to it. Some bacteria that cause infections in hospitals such as MRSA are resistant to several antibiotics. GPs and patients are being encouraged to ensure that the right treatment for common illnesses such as colds and coughs is given without encouraging antibiotic resistance.

Thanks to Rebecca Watkins of ICNet, local infection control software company for this helpful information"

Prescription Exemption Certificates

If you are diagnosed with certain medical conditions, you may be entitled to free prescriptions. This could be diabetes, epilepsy, hypoparathyroidism etc. If you think you may be entitled to free prescriptions because of a medical condition, please ask for a form at reception. Exemption certificates need to be renewed and you should get a reminder if yours is coming to its expiry. If you don't qualify for an exemption on medical grounds, you can purchase a pre-payment certificate which, can work out significantly cheaper. The charge for a single prescribed medicine is £8.05, whereas a three-month PPC will cost you £29.10 and a 12-month PPC £104.00. You may telephone for advice or for help completing a form: 0300 330 1341 or to apply online: <https://apps.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/ppcwebsales/patient.do>

It's also worth speaking to the Pharmacist for advice regarding both these certificates.

Nicola Hayward, Practice Manager



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School Report

It has been a terrific first half of the academic year and particularly lovely to get the school out into the community with activities in and around the village such as the Carol Service, carol singing, Christingle, as well as the whole school watching the Tour of Britain. One of the highlights for many children was visiting Highclere Castle (Downton Abbey), but the whole school has also been off site to visit Waitrose and the Everyman Theatre. We have been having Viking visits and animal workshops recently as well as our Drama Club performing in the Stroud Drama Festival.

There is a feeling in school that we really want to be part of the heart of the community and so the Christmas Fayre and Fireworks were altered slightly this year so that the wider community was actively encouraged to come along for a village event. The Friends of The Croft School, who organised these events, really do have that sense of community in their plans for future events, such as the Summer Fete, and I am sure that members of the committee will be out encouraging many of you to come along to future activities. We are also very happy to support and advertise local community events through our fortnightly school newsletters.

Recently our School Council were invited to a Parish Council meeting where they were given the opportunity to not only put forward their thoughts about the community, but also have an opportunity to listen to and consider other people's views as well. Two of the key issues that the children wanted to raise were about dog mess- especially along the alley-way by the school and also cars speeding. These might appear to be small issues but they are important things that this generation would like to see improved locally for everyone's benefit.

We are currently looking to re-launch our school sports teams so if any local organisations would like to support us by sponsoring kit please can they get in touch?

Please have a look at our website www.croft.gloucs.sch.uk and follow us on twitter - @croftprimary

Kevin Howie, Croft School head teacher

Just not big enough!

At the February meeting of the Local History Society Ian Mackintosh explained why Painswick's wealthy cloth industry could not survive.

Basically a cottage industry from which a handful of local families became very rich it was distinguished locally by set processes which resulted in the housing architecture still present today – many small cottages and some beautiful, mainly Georgian, houses. Technological developments wrought many changes in working practices and buildings in the industry generally by 1810. More water was needed for the huge new steam powered mills, grand industrial buildings unlike those existing in Painswick which incorporated the clothiers' genteel houses.

Painswick's wool was always of the best quality, much being sold to The East India Company. However, it was on a very small scale compared to the vast output of the newly built mills in Stroud and other Stroud valleys and Yorkshire and ultimately could not compete. Furthermore, there was no rail system along the valley to transport the coal vital to power the new technology. More space was needed for the necessary new buildings and Painswick did not have that space. And last but not least it would seem that Painswick's clothiers were unwilling and/or unable to invest in the necessary new structures, water supply and machinery. By the 1850s Painswick's cloth industry had disappeared.

At next month's meeting Jenny Edwards will give a presentation on the history of Gloucester's street art. Croft School, 17th March, 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Carol Maxwell



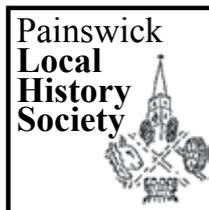
Scoop that poop!

The Croft School Council has been urging people to "scoop that poop" in an attempt to reduce the amount of dog mess on Painswick's pavements. Due to the amount of dog mess found in places such as the recreational grounds, the paths near the school, the church yard and many other streets around Painswick, our school council have decided to express our views via this article.

One of the main issues with the amount of dog mess on Painswick pavements is that it is unhygienic and embarrassing. Many a Croft School parent has struggled to get to school without their selves or their children stepping in the dog mess. Additionally, while playing in the recreational ground, to our disgust, many of us have found our shoes plastered in dog mess. This could simply be avoided by all dog owners having the decency and fore thought to pick it up. (How would they like it if they found that they had dog mess on the sole of their shoe?)

All it takes is a thoughtful dog owner to pick their dog's mess up and put it in one of Painswick's many dog bins. If you are a dog owner, please, please could you make sure that you take responsibility for your own dog and it's mess.

Florence Cross and William Loftus






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JK's is back

Many people were disappointed when JK's @ St Michaels restaurant ceased trading – it had provided such excellent service. It is good therefore to announce that JK's is back, up and running on a weekly basis.

From 12.15 to 3.00pm every Sunday Jean Kendrick and Coral Davis are serving lunches in St Mary's Church rooms. Using locally-sourced ingredients the menu, which comprises two courses, is based around a home-cooked carvery. It is traditional English Sunday lunch for which JK's @ St Michaels became deservedly renowned. Not only is the food really excellent it is also remarkably good value. Jean and Coral share a passion for cooking with good ingredients, most of which are sourced locally. The result is dishes which both taste good and are reassuringly of a high quality.

Another regular event at JK's @ St Michaels which became very popular was the French theme buffet. Plans are afoot to revive this on a monthly basis, either on Friday or Saturday evenings. Watch this space for further news! And with regard to continuity, Jean and Coral do cook lunch for Ashwell residents every Wednesday as they have done for some time.

JK's is still operating its outside catering business. This is largely business lunches and other events such as Church functions, dinners and parties. Meals, either for immediate consumption or to be frozen on delivery, are prepared using fresh produce for any occasion.

The Sunday lunch is open to everyone to enjoy. Pre-booking is preferred. Jean and Coral can be contacted for this or for outside catering by telephone on 616319 or 616185, mobiles 07719782780 or 07710679724, email jdkcotswolds@aol.com or jksatstms@hotmail.co.uk

Carol Maxwell



Churchyard garden

Observant visitors to St. Mary's Churchyard in recent months will have noticed that the rough patch of garden along the wall between the Church Rooms and the Court House Gate has been transformed. Currently only snowdrops are showing but when spring really gets under way there should be a really fine display. This work is very largely the work of one person. Cliff Davis, a retired gardener with 50 years of experience, has taken on this part of the churchyard as a voluntary retirement project. He has been steadily working through the winter months and the fruits of his labours are now beginning to show. Cliff is looking for more plants to finish off his project. If there any keen gardeners reading this who are willing to donate some bulbs or other similar small plants Cliff would be very grateful. If Cliff is not there pottering about, as he is most days, please leave contributions in a box or pot against the churchyard wall to the back of the plot.



When the new passageway from the car park and the improvements to the Gravediggers Hut to accommodate the Tourist Office have been completed, the improved churchyard garden should make visitors to Painswick that much more welcome in 2015.

David Bishop

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Baldricks and Bellpads

2014 was rounded off with a cheerful Christmas Supper Party. After a welcoming glass of mulled wine and hot, homemade food we enjoyed a quiz, raffle and an amusing entertainment by Gilly Padbury.

Mike Holloway is a man of many parts and he demonstrated his enthusiasm for and knowledge of English Country Dancing at our meeting on January 27th. He and Margaret took up this interest at University and they gained a lot of fun and practical experience with friends, leading to an interest in the history and regional development of this type of dancing. Dances date back to pre-Christian times but Cecil Sharp collected the notes and words of folk songs in Somerset in the early twentieth century and this brought about a folklore revival. Also William Kimber did the



same in Oxford and the Cotswolds and rejuvenated the art there. The Gloucestershire teams of Bleddington, Oddington and Longborough, the Lancashire dancers in clogs and the north eastern sword dancers were examples of the varied ritualised dancing throughout England.

Mike tapped out some rhythms with his feet, to our astonishment, and he brought along his rag coat and other accoutrements. A lively start to the Yew Trees WI programme for 2015!

On 17th March a Baton Event is being arranged to mark the Centenary of the National Federation of Women's Institutes. The local group will be carrying the Centenary Baton on to the next group in a variety of ways, such as horse and cart, helicopter and tractor. Yew Trees will pick up the baton and take it by torchlight round St Mary's churchyard with the bells ringing, followed by a glass of wine and canapes in the Church Rooms.

On 24th March at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms Professor Angela Newing will give a talk on "Two Girls...."

Janet Jenkins

Family Trees and Mortality

Genealogy has become an absorbing hobby for many people and our first speaker last month, Dennis Halliday, was probably more enthusiastic than many. His talk was entitled 'Discovering a Family Tree' and he introduced us to some of the sources of information that are available to trace families back through the generations. Sources range from the obvious such as elderly relatives to family Bibles as well as census and parish records, and also less obvious sources such as the Mormons.

Dennis then recounted the enthralling history of his own family which went back to Viking invaders who settled in a deep valley near the Scottish town of Moffat where they established themselves as reivers (robbers to you and me). There they raped, pillaged and plundered livestock from neighbouring clans, which they rounded up in their valley, known as the 'Devil's beef tub' to this day.



His research led him through some fascinating finds relating to his family's lives and times until a branch of the family ended up in Bisley.

Our second meeting set a more sombre note when Jim Laing enlightened us with a 'full and frank' talk about prostate cancer. He represents the charity 'Prostate Cancer UK' and lead us through the symptoms, tests and treatments associated with the disease. We learned the sobering facts that 1 in 8 men in the UK suffer at some time from prostate cancer and that the incidence and mortality rates are similar to breast cancer.

Jim tackled the serious subject with some gruesome facts and diagrams but also with humour and a deep understanding of the experiences faced by sufferers. We left the meeting very much wiser than when it started.

Glynn Nixon

Jottings

BBC Countryfile have been reminding farmers to take part in the 2015 Great Farmland Bird Count. Of course, when we are out all day, dawn to dusk, we see and hear a lot: Wrens are on the increase - we are seeing far more than we have seen for years. We are hearing the sound of thrushes smashing snails on stone, greater spotted woodpecker drumming and the meowing of buzzards circling above. Many other species are around, searching for grass seeds dropped from our hay and silage bales.

In last month's Village Voices there was an article on "The Red Poll Cattle". They are now classed as a rare breed so it is good to have a local herd in Ruscombe. We had a herd of them in the 1940's, including a bull which my father took to the trough two or three times a day for a drink. One day, my father forgot to shut the gate and our bull took off down the main road towards Pitchcombe. There he slowed down enough for father to tie him to a telephone pole. Father then went back for the tractor and the help of our farm worker at the time. The bull was tied to the tractor and pulled back to the farm whether he liked it or not.

I found some of my father's fuel receipts for 1942 the other day. Deliveries were made to the farm by Hobbs Bros who still deliver around here now:

50 gallons of Paraffin @ 1 shilling and 6 pence a gallon. = £3 15s 0d; 50 gallons of TVO @ 1 shilling and 5 pence a gallon = £3 10s 10d; 5 gallons of engine oil £1 15s

The paraffin was used for cooking and lighting as there was no electric at the farm then. TVO was tractor vaporizing oil used to drive tractors before diesel came along.

Martin Slinger

BBC's view of local democracy at Painswick

The screening on our TV sets of "The Casual Vacancy" with the theme of scandal, scheming and infighting associated with a Parish Council byelection led the BBC's Politics Show, screened on 1st March, to see whether such skulduggery was typical in the Cotswolds, where much of the programme was filmed. Hence they visited Painswick, to see whether such skulduggery and the scramble to be elected was typical of an actual Parish Council.

The BBC reporter introduced the item noting that the Parish Council was responsible for allotments, bus shelters, churchyards, clocks, footpaths, highways, litter, public loos, recreation grounds, signs, was memorials for which it received just £100,000 ie £45 per household - and how long can they keep books balanced.

The BBC said scandal also had occurred at Painswick when the Post Office was closed some 2 to 3 years ago and was a big issue Residents interviewed illustrated some of the problems resulting. Rob Lewis, chairman of the Planning Committee, was interviewed noting that the Parish Council had worked hard to have a new Post Office opened and had hopefully secured a Post Office Outreach, which he hoped could become a Post Office Local in the future.

The programme then showed shots of "a packed house" at the Parish Council Meeting and noted that politics was taken seriously at Painswick. The BBC reporter noted that, unlike at Westminster and County Hall, the majority of councillors are independent. The Beacon's reporter, Mike Kerton (given on TV the caption "Reporter, Painswick Beacon") was interviewed. He said it is refreshing to have local individuals on the council who give time and trouble to attend and bring their own views forward, and who can be persuaded only by arguments put forward by others - the beauty of local politics.

The BBC reporter then noted that, unlike in 'The Casual Vacancy', there was a lack of recruits to the council. Leslie Brotherton who was interviewed thought that many councillors at Painswick had not been elected but co-opted. In conclusion the BBC reporter said that until there is more enthusiasm for elections then demands for more public money can remain a work of fiction.

Afterwards Ken Browse, chairman of the National Association of Local Councils was interviewed and said that the value of independent councillors was poorly recognised, and ignored the time and effort they gave. But not enough people put themselves forward.

Letters

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

Speed bumps

Douglas & Alison Robinson write from New Street:

We agree with Jean Lewis – there could be a dreadful accident one day in New Street. The pavements at the Lychgate are a mere 28 and 30 ins wide and on a blind corner. Downhill drivers think they see an open road and accelerate well over 20mph. Uphill drivers think nothing of mounting the pavement, even with over-width trailers, so serious pedestrian injury is quite possible. We have been hit by wing mirrors even while flat against the wall. We understand that as New Street is an 'A' road, County Highways will not do anything avoidable that might impede traffic. If this is correct then all involved have the perfect excuse to do nothing.

Hedge cutting

Jonathan Choat writes from New Street:

It was most encouraging to see, in a recent edition of 'The Beacon', a landowner taking a pride in his stewardship of his hedges and having them properly laid for perpetuity, rather than the distressingly widespread practice around here of battering the hedge down to the lowest stumps, either from bad management or perhaps, as an attempt to obliterate the hedge?

When I farmed in East Anglia, we would either grow the hedge until it could be laid or trim it with at least 6-12 inches of the new growth every year, to allow for foliage, flowers, fruit on this second year's growth which provided cover and food for nesting birds and the animals and insects that lived among its roots.

I suppose that it is a matter of attitude – either stewardship in your lifetime or blast the hedge as a nuisance.

Little Egrets

Harold Wood writes from.....

I certainly did not require proof of Karen Hargreaves sighting of the Little Egret (Feb Issue Beacon). I have seen this bird this year and the previous two years in the vicinity of the Mill Pond. In the interests of bird records, not scoring points!: on one morning he (?) was there with the swan, white goose and a white duck who did not stay. I am hoping that on one morning I would see the return of the White Heron that used to fly up and down the valley to complete the "White-Out".

Emma and your pet's needs

Emma Hiatt loves animals. For some time she realised that there was a need in Painswick for a dog-walking service, on either a regular or occasional basis, and since January that is what Emma has been offering. She also provides a pet-sitting service.

Emma explains that a whole range of circumstances may give rise to the need for the dog-walking service. Her usual practice is to collect the dog, walk it for about an hour, often around the Beacon area, return it home, dry it, provide fresh water and leave it comfortably. This can be once a day, for example at lunchtime, or at regular intervals as required.

The pet-sitting service is similar. Emma looks after the pet in its own home as this is less stressful than it having to be placed in an environment to which it is unaccustomed.

She visits as many times as is appropriate for the needs of the pet to provide food, play or walks as necessary. This has the added bonus of extra security for the owners too. Any pet is eligible – she already has some regulars including cats and a bearded dragon!

Emma has lived in Painswick for 13 years and runs a beauty business from her home. She feels that the two businesses in tandem give an ideal balance to her life. Previously she was a paramedic based in Stroud for 14 years until the birth of her youngest daughter after which she became a beauty therapist. She is seen here with her own beautiful cat, Perry. She is fully insured and CRB checked.

Emma can be contacted by tel. 813032.



Carol Maxwell

Resthaven @ Pitchcombe Trustee vacancies

Resthaven is an independent 35-bed nursing home, founded 76 years ago on a stunning site overlooking the Painswick Valley. It has been a registered charity since 1964 and is proud to have been a home from home for many Painswick residents when they have needed one.

Following recent extension and refurbishment, Resthaven now offers full nursing care, respite care and day care for the elderly from Gloucestershire and beyond. Work has recently started on a further 7-bedroom extension due to open in June 2015. For an overview please visit: www.resthavenpitchcombe.co.uk

The current Trustees wish to strengthen the Trustee Board and secure their succession by appointing one or more younger Trustees, preferably from the local community, to share overall responsibility for the home and its future.

The Board usually meets on the third Wednesday afternoon of every month and Trustees may be involved between meetings in giving advice and assistance in their areas of expertise. No remuneration can be offered except reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.

Without wishing to exclude anyone with appropriate personal qualities, they would be particularly interested in candidates with experience or qualifications in fund raising, health care, human resources or legal services.

For further details and/or a visit to Resthaven please contact Michael Little, Chairman of Trustees, Resthaven Nursing Home Limited, Pitchcombe, Stroud. Glos. GL6 6LR, email: littlemj@btinternet.com, telephone: 01452-813604

Michael Little



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Gloucester Cathedral's stained glass windows admired

Painswick Probus Women will never gaze upon the beauty of stained glass windows in the same light again after our Speaker on 9th February, Richard Cann, illuminated our minds to highlight the sheer brilliance of this ancient craft.

Richard's association with **PROBUS WOMEN** Gloucester Cathedral dates back to 1943 when, as a young boy, he was a Chorister. Many years later he was tasked to photograph the 150 stained glass windows in the Cathedral and these photographs unveiled the minute detail previously oblivious to the naked eye and provided a wealth of new information which related to both local and historic events, all illustrated by craftsmen long ago within these windows and now Richard, in his capacity as a Volunteer Guide at the Cathedral, is only too pleased to share his extensive knowledge with all who visit, as he was indeed, during his talk to Probus Women.

One of the windows in the Cathedral is over 650 years old and soars upwards to 78ft. For reasons already explained, detail in this window is difficult to see standing from the ground, so to avoid missing anything at all, Richard kindly advises that if anyone was intending to organise a group party for a Cathedral tour, they would without question, do the whole group a favour by suggesting they take their binoculars along.

Probus donation for this most inspirational talk was split between two Army Charities at Richard's request. The Not Forgotten Association and Talking2Minds.

Our meetings are held in the Church Rooms on every second Monday of each month. 10 for 10.30am. Always delighted to have guests at £3. Next meeting is 9th March. Talk is on High Fashion in the 50's by Gillian Wimperis.

delia Mason

Rococo Reflections

I think there must be a curse on people who write for magazines! My piece for the February Beacon mentioned the mild winter we were having, but having put pen to paper it turned cold and stayed that way for some time. Fortunately it remained dry which ended up

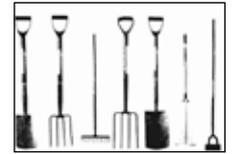
giving us an extended snowdrop season

There has been a lot of media coverage over recent weeks concerning Samantha's Boudoir and 'The Casual Vacancy'. However we decided to keep quiet concerning a slang use of the word for snowdroppers during the uproar for fear of stoking the fire. Look up in the Urban Dictionary and you will find a 'snowdropper' is someone who steals lady's underwear off a washing line. I am not sure some of our avid snowdrop experts (Galanthophiles) would have taken kindly to that association, but I am sure that the 18th Century Gentry of Painswick would have found the connection hilarious.

March is always a much quieter month for us at the Garden, but visually it is always exciting as the spring bulbs continue to flower and the longer and warmer days lift those winter blues. Talking of blues, work on the new Bluebell Walk is nearly completed and it should be ready for this year's display.

Paul Moir

"Painswick Gardening and Bird Clubs - A Treat Shared...."



With the days getting noticeably longer and warmer (I know we can still have horribly cold weather in February and March but my glass is always half full!), Spring is tantalisingly close and the garden is changing daily. I spent time yesterday basking in the sunshine (weeding!) listening to birdsong and watching the vast number of bees enjoying my winter aconites; wonderful.

On the subject of birds, the Gardening Club and the Bird Club joined up for the February Meeting and what a super afternoon was had by all. The Church Rooms were packed to bursting with about 60 Members and Visitors eager to hear Ed Drewitt talk about our Top Ten Garden Birds. Ed was a real professional, charming his audience with an absolute wealth of fascinating knowledge ranging from the position of a woodpecker's incredibly long tongue wrapped around the inside of its skull to the fact that chaffinches sing with a local dialect! A great success and the wonderfully relaxed atmosphere continued with much chat over tea and coffee with comments about doing another joint talk in the future - this is in hand but not until 2017 as we have speakers lined up until then.



Don't forget that the Gardening Club talk on 11th March (Church Rooms) reverts back to 7.30pm. Paul Green from the specialist nursery, Green Leaves, will be talking about plants of the season which should be very informative and just in time to get those gardening juices flowing for some Spring planting! If you fancy coming along but you aren't a Member, don't let that stop you as we love to welcome visitors (a minimal charge only).

Take a look at our website www.thepainswickgardeningclub.com for the great talks that we have lined up for the rest of this year and for all of 2016.

We still have places available for our trip to the Malvern Spring Show on the 9th May (£27.00pp including admission) so if you aren't a Member but are interested in joining us on that day please give Muriel Mann a call on 01452 813535 for more information. The closing date is 11th March so please remember to bring your cheque books to the next meeting.

And last, but by no means least, the Committee would just like to thank everyone for their continued support of the raffle (both in donations and purchase of tickets) as this goes some way to funding monthly refreshments and a little extra for the Christmas get together.

With armchair gardening all but a distant memory.... the warm propagators beckon!"

Caroline Bodington, Committee Member

DJ LANSDOWNE
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Sports reports

assembled by John Barrus

Painswick Junior Rugby

The cold but dry weather has meant a full fixture list so far in 2015 with teams playing against Matson, Lydney, Cheltenham and Dursley amongst others over recent weeks.

Special mention to both u/9 and u/10 teams who managed to secure hard fought victories over much bigger local rivals Old Patesians in January.

We're also really pleased to have Samoan international & Gloucester rugby star Terry Fanolua (pictured) select Painswick RFC to join with his two sons at u7's & u9's.

Terry's role as Community Rugby Development Manager for Gloucester RFC is already benefitting the Mini's section of the club with new kit and rumour of a visit from members



of the current Gloucester squad to support the upcoming u7's Fun Day, Sunday 22nd March.

After a very busy season the U7, U8's and U9's are planning on going on a well deserved tour for some fun at Weston Super Mare at the end of March. The numbers of boys and girls are steadily growing each season which is great for the club and the game in general but we always welcome new players from age 5 to 17, and a warm welcome is assured.

Tennis

Skittles

On 6th of February Painswick Tennis Club challenged the members to try their hand at hitting skittles instead of a tennis balls. The result was a fun and interesting evening, egged on by Roger Stewart who fined players for seemingly any reason at all!

It is quite amazing how easy it is to hit a tennis ball and yet miss all 9 skittles and then suffer the misery of being fined. Congratulations to Angela Higgins who had top score, beating the men as well.

It was a great night and very jolly fun and thanks to Jenny at the Painswick Centre for running the bar.

Should any other groups want to try their hand and book the alley, contact Jenny Barber at the Painswick Centre Tel No. 01452 814567 www.painswickcentre It's a great way to spend an evening with friends.

Gloucester winter leagues

There are still a few matches to be played by other teams, which may change the final positions.

However the A team will stay in division 1 probably in 3rd position but the B team in division 2 will go down. The C team is currently in 4th place in division 3 and the D team in division 4 may well go down.

Painswick Cricket Club

We are fund raising in 2015 in order to buy new roll on covers, a new mobile practice net, side screens and an electronic scoreboard. Our first event takes place on Friday, 20th March at 2000hrs at Broadham Fields Hall, when we will hold a 'Frog Racing Evening'.

This is an evening of 6 races, each with 6 frogs, culminating in the 'Grand Finale' 7th race when the winners of the previous races compete to be 'Top Frog'.

No real frogs will be harmed or used on the night, instead wooden frogs attached to strings are raced along a 20ft course.

It sounds very easy, but usually the most unexpected people are usually the best at it. Fun to participate in and very amusing to watch.

Every attendee on the night will have an opportunity to bid to own a frog and jockey for each of the 6 races and also to place bets on each race through a 'Tote' run on the evening.

We have an auctioneer ready to excite the crowd and we hope and expect to have a fun packed evening.

Tickets are £5 per person and a couple of tables of 8 are available if people plan to sit with their groups. The bar is open across the evening, with doors opening at 1930hrs and racing starting at 2000hrs. As well as the racing there will be some other games in the evening's proceedings.

Local companies are sponsoring the races, with two opportunities to advertise in the Race Card still open currently, so if you are interested in buying tickets, supporting the event or advertising in the Race Card, please get in touch as soon as possible.

The Cricket Club is also running its own '100 Club' and is actively selling numbers at the moment. Each number is £36 per year (only £3 a month), with each number sold eligible for the monthly Jackpot draw, which is planned to start on the last Saturday in April and continue for the next 12 months. You can buy as many numbers as you wish to, with the only stipulation being that you need to be over 16 years old to buy one. It is planned to offer 10 monthly Jackpots of £100 each and 2 months with a 'Mega Jackpot' of £400 across the year.

We hope that Painswickians will like to participate in the 100 Club, to help the Club in our fund raising efforts and perhaps pick a winning number with a decent Jackpot? There will be 12 winners!

For more information and to purchase a Frog Racing ticket and 100 Club Number, please contact me.

Grant Barnett (812182)
grantbarnett@yahoo.co.uk

Hatha Yoga

Sheepscombe Village Hall
Monday evenings 6.30pm and 8.15pm £7

The Painswick Center
Thursday mornings 9.30am and 11.15am £7.50

For private classes please contact Kim

All classes are 1 1/2 hrs and include meditation, relaxation techniques and yoga postures with a strong focus on back care.

All abilities welcome

Contact Kim Brockett on 812623 or yogikim@hotmail.co.uk
[@PainswickYoga](http://PainswickYoga)



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www.thejuicedetox.co.uk

info@thejuicedetox.co.uk

Tel: 01452 260555

I thought I'd focus this month's article on some of the wonderful volunteering opportunities available at the moment. I am very excited to begin with the great news that GRCC who manage the Village Agent scheme have secured funding for a county wide befriending service for older people, called "Friends for You". Social isolation can be the greatest difficulty experienced by many people and can have a detrimental effect on their mental health. If you think that you'd enjoy being able to offer regular visits offering friendship and a listening ear, you will be amazed on the positive impact on your own sense of wellbeing as well as the person you are befriending. Call Sue Black, Friends for You, on 07810 630167 / 01452 528491 or email sue.friendsforyou@ggrcc.org.uk

Sometimes when I visit people I talk about benefits such as Attendance Allowance which is there to help pay for support with personal care, or perhaps Pension Credit. Pension Credit is an income-related benefit made up of 2 parts - Guarantee Credit and Savings Credit. Guarantee Credit tops up your weekly income if it's below £148.35 (for single people) or £226.50 (for couples). Savings Credit is an extra payment for people who saved some money towards their retirement, eg a pension. If the person needed help with applying for a benefit I might refer them to Age UK or an organisation such as Carers Gloucestershire. Age UK are looking for volunteers to visit people in their homes in the Stroud area to help identify the welfare benefits they might be entitled to and to help complete the necessary forms. Call Chez Milne Outreach and Advice officer on 01452 422660

Are you someone who loves to sort things and bring order to chaos? Then, what about volunteering with P3 who provide housing related support in the Stroud area? Help is required to assist people pack prior to moving home, tidy and organise cluttered houses and gardens. There are also some admin roles available. Contact Gale Bowstead on 01453

VILLAGE Agents

750480 or email gail.bowstead@p3charity.org
Artshape which was established in 1993, aims at providing activities for adults and children facing disabling barriers, particularly learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health service users and survivors, victims of domestic abuse and older people. They are looking for people to help out on an inclusive course for 8-18 year olds, with dance, costume making, arts, crafts and film making. They are also looking for people to help on their art courses, preparing exhibitions, helping with concerts and they need help with office admin. Call 01452 863855 or email volunteer@artshape.org.uk.

Other organisations looking for help at the moment are Sue Ryder (befriending and creative therapies assistant) call 01242 230199. Third Sector Services (community drivers) Call Lisa Stearns - Transport Manager 01242 220685 or email lisa@thirdsectorservices.org.uk

Gloucestershire Disabled Afloat Riverboats Trust (canal boat skippers, help with catering, trip managers and support workers). Call Paul Treble on 01242 674 092.

If you have access to a computer, the following sites are very helpful to look at the range of opportunities available. If you don't have access, you can call me and I will help you to look at what you might like to do.

Lou Kemp 07776 245767

www.volunteerglos.org.uk Volunteering Gloucestershire
0300 365 6700

www.gavca.org.uk/ Gloucestershire Association for Voluntary and Community Action 01452 332 424

www.vcastroud.org Volunteer and Community Action in Stroud 01453 759 005

PROPERTY REPORT for March from Murrays

Murrays Estate Agents have yet again had a very successful few months with a record amount of properties accepting offers over the Christmas period alone. However despite some lovely new properties coming to the market since December we are still in need of new properties to sell! Hopefully with the added benefit of Painswick's beautiful village setting being featured every Sunday on prime time television in The Casual Vacancy this will only encourage people looking to sell and buy in the village with a possible added value! If you would like some free professional advice from your friendly and experienced family firm then please either pop in and see us or give us ring on 01452814655.

Our London Mayfair office is keen to promote our Painswick and Cotswold properties as there has been a large increase in people from London and abroad looking in our area, a lot of this is do with our extensive range of good schools throughout our region. Spring is always a popular time for families who are looking for property to secure places for their children before the new school year in September.

Nationwide have announced that UK property prices have again risen by 0.3% in January but that annual house price growth has slowed for the fifth month in a row from 7.2% in December to 6.8% in January. Rightmove's February house price index reported that a structural housing shortage has resulted in not enough sellers and rising prices with the majority of estate agents throughout Britain reporting the lowest stock levels ever. They have also seen an increase in demand for property with the busiest ever January site traffic on Rightmove since they began! Therefore I cannot

express enough that property going on the market now is likely to sell quicker with a better agreed sale price due to the lack of demand. The introduction of the new stamp duty increments has also proved a great incentive to buyers buying under the £925,000 mark as they are now saving thousands.

Properties that we have taken on since mid December are a plot of land with planning permission for 1 single dwelling in the garden of Corvara on Cotswold Mead in Painswick (already under offer), 6 Stamages Lane, a beautifully presented town house in the centre of Painswick, The Eagle, a handsome detached Grade 11 listed 5 bedroom Cotswold stone family house with 4 acres in Pitchcombe (already under offer), 116 Cheltenham Road, a substantial detached 5 bedroom family house with annexe on the Cheltenham Road in Gloucester, Epney Farm a spacious detached bungalow with lots of potential and ½ an acre in Epney and coming back to the market is Overdale House in Slad, a prestigious newly built family house (nearing completion) of over 5000 square feet with an acre of garden and stunning views of the Slad Valley.

Properties that we currently have under offer are Yew Tree Cottage on New Street, Painswick, the plot at Corvara on Cotswold Mead, Painswick, 6a Canton Acre, Painswick, 4 The Croft, Painswick, Millfield on Cranham Corner, The Frith in Slad and The Eagle on the Cheltenham Road, Pitchcombe and property that has now completed is Vermont in Cranham and 4 The High Street in Upton St Leonards.

James C Murray - Partner



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MARCH

Sat	7	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 813734 or 814205	Painswick Beacon	9.00am to 1.00pm
		Bereavement Coffee Morning	Church Rooms	10.30am
		Painswick Beacon Village Quiz: £18 per team of 4 (includes light refreshments)	Painswick Centre	7.00 for 7.30pm
Sun	8	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's Church	8.00am
		Mass	Catholic Church	8.30am
		Informal Holy Communion	St Mary's Church	9.30am
		Holy Baptism	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Mon	9	Painswick Valley Toddler Group - Mondays (school term time only)	Pitchcombe Vill. Hall	9.50 to 11.30am
		Probus Women: High fashion in the 50s - Gillian Wimperis	Church Rooms	10.00am
		Short Mat Bowls - Mondays (contact 813627)	Town Hall	10.30am
		Community Lunch: Hosts - Painswick Beacon Conservation Group (Off Churchill Way)	Ashwell Centre	12.00 to 1.15pm
		Yoga (Mondays) contact Kim 812623	Sheepscombe Vill. Hall	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	10	Zumba Gold dance fitness class for Seniors: £6 pp Tuesdays. Tel: 07766 101790	Painswick Centre	10.00am
		Health Walk (One Hour) - Tuesdays: Enq. 813228	Town Hall	1.45 for 2.00pm
		Cupcakes: Support group for helpers of homebound through illness: Tel 813326	P. Centre Green Room	2.00 to 4.30pm
		Bingo: Tuesdays - Tel. Ann, 813911 / Liz, 814890	Ashwell House	6.30 to 9.00pm
		Lampshade making Workshop	Painswick Centre	7.00pm
Wed	11	Yoga (Wednesdays) contact Kim 812623	Sheepscombe Vill. Hall	9.30 to 11.00am
		Painswick Toddler Group - held at Painswick Children's Centre: Wednesdays	Croft School	10.30am to 12noon
		Table Tennis - Wednesdays	Painswick Centre	7.00 to 9.00pm
		Gardening Club: Plants of the Season - Paul Green (Green Leaves Nursery)	Church Rooms	7.30pm
Thu	12	Yoga - All Abilities (Thursdays) Cotswold Room 812623	Painswick Centre	9.30 to 11.00am
		T'ai Chi: Thursdays - Contact 812344	Town Hall	9.30am
		Dog Training Club (Thursdays)	Church Rooms	9.30 to 12.00noon
		Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners - Thursdays- tel. Julie - 01453 752480	Town Hall	12.00 to 1.00pm
		Experienced beginners - Thursdays	Town Hall	12.30 to 1.30pm
		Messy Church	Church Rooms	3.30 to 5.30pm
Fri	13	Country Market: Coffee available - Fridays	Town Hall	10.00am
Sun	15	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's Church	8.00am
		Mass	Catholic Church	8.30am
		Mothering Sunday Service	St Mary's Church	9.30am
		Holy Baptism	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Mon	16	Community Lunch: Hosts - Park Residents (Off Churchill Way)	Ashwell Centre	12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	17	Experience Easter Exhibition (until Friday 20th)	St Mary's Church	3.30 to 5.00pm
		Local History Society: Gloucester Street-Art - Jenny Edwards	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	18	Probus: Rob Rees MBE The Cotswold Chef - joint meeting with the ladies	Painswick Centre	10.00am
		Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club guided walk: Cotswold Buildings in South Woodchester. Pre book on 813228		2.00pm
		Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	19	Music Appreciation Group: Richard Strauss	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	20	Friday Club: Treasures in the Attic - Barbara Blatchley	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	21	Copy Date for April Beacon		
		Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 813734 or 814205	Painswick Beacon	9.00am to 1.00pm
Sun	22	Attic Sale: £10 per table	Painswick Centre	
		Mass	Catholic Church	8.30am
		Benefice Communion Service	St Mary's Church	11.00am
Tue	24	Yew Trees W.I.: Two Girls - Prof. Angela Newing	Church Rooms	7.30pm



Wed	25	Lampshade Making Workshop.	Painswick Centre	7.00pm
Sat	28	Painswick Music Society Concert: Sarah Connolly (mezzo) & Eugene Asti (piano)	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Sun	29	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Painswick Praise Experience Easter Service	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St Mary's Church St Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am 6.30pm
APRIL				
Wed	1	Probus: Prohibition & Gangsters - Paul Booy Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club AGM & Lecture: Protecting the UK's Wild Places - Prof. John Finney. Enq 813228 (note earlier time) Stations of the Cross Last Table Tennis Session	Painswick Centre Painswick Centre St Mary's Church Painswick Centre	10.00am 2.00pm 6.30pm 7.00 to 9.00pm
Thu	2	Country Market: Coffee Available Music Appreciation Group: Hidden Gems	Town Hall Town Hall	10.00am 7.30pm
Fri	3	No Country Market Ecumenical Procession of Witness Painswick Singers Concert: Stabat Mater by Karl Jenkins & excerpts from Misa Criolla by Ariel Ramirez	Town Hall Catholic Church St Mary's Church	10.30am 7.30pm
Sat	4	April Issue of The Painswick Beacon published		
Sun	5	Easter Dawn Service	Pitchcombe Church	6.15am
Wed	8	Gardening Club: "Daisy Days" - Helen Picton (Old Court Nurseries, Colwall)	Church Rooms	7.30pm
Fri	10	Friday Club: One Man - 100 Homes - Michael Fitt Race Night: Tickets £5 including Hot Dogs & Chips. Tel: 812180	Town Hall Painswick Golf Club	2.30pm 7.00pm
Sat	11	Painswick Music Society Concert: The Carducci Quartet	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Mon	13	Probus Women: Keith Mitchell - Chairman of the Trustees of Paignton Zoo	Church Rooms	10.00am
Tue	14	Cupcakes: Support group for helpers of homebound through illness: Tel 813326	P. Centre Green Room	2.00 to 4.30pm
Wed	15	Probus AGM	Painswick Centre	10.00am
Thu	16	Music Appreciation Group: Military Music	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat	18	Theatre Club outing to Newbury - Far From the Madding Crowd Ceilidh (barn dance) in aid of Psalms. £10 which includes a Ploughman's Supper - Enq. 812649.	Stamages Car Park Painswick Centre	T.B.C. 7.00pm
Tue	21	Local History Society: Members' Research Evening	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	22	Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club Annual Lunch: Enq. 01242 890374	Minch. New Golf Club	12.00noon for 1.00pm
Fri	24	Friday Club: Early Spring Outing to SS Great Britain- Bristol Gloucester String Ukulele experience. Tickets £5 with ploughmans: Tel: 812180	Painswick Golf Club	7.00pm
Sat	25	Painswick Music Society Concert: Antara Flute and Harp Duo	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Tue	28	Bird Club: Cleeve Common field trip: guided walk by Keith White. Enq. 812951 - Grid ref. SP010236 Yew Trees W.I.: Hearing Dogs for Deaf People - Merleen Weston & H D Grace	Whitehall Car Park Church Rooms	10.30am 7.30pm
Wed	29	Probus: The Bloodhound SSC Engineering Adventure - Allan Reid Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club Guided Walk: Cleeve Hill for Landscape & Geology. Pre-book: 813228 Painswick Valleys Conservation Soc. AGM & Talk Bird Club: Camouflage & Mimicry: Dr Timothy Seller. Joint meeting with Stroud Valleys Project. Booking essential 01452 812951 At The Exchange, Brick Row, Stroud	Painswick Centre Church Rooms Stroud	10.00am 10 for 10.30am or 2pm 7.00 for 7.30pm 7.30pm
Thu	30	Music Appreciation Group: Ludwig van Beethoven	Town Hall	7.30pm
MAY				
Sat	2	Covent Garden Voices Concert	St Mary's Church	6.30pm

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



PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

S.15/0138/HHOLD & S.15/0189/LBC - MERRILS, Friday Street: Creation of 2 parking spaces. Re-building of stone wall / arch in the back garden and retaining wall in the front garden.

S.15/2710/TCA - MERRILS, Friday Street Prunus x 1: Remove dead branches from within the crown. Undertake branch reduction pruning by 2ft to contain the height and width of the tree.

S.15/0170/COU - CHESSED, Slad Road, Slad: Change of use of garage/workshop to holiday cottage.

S.15/0275/HHOLD - TALL TREES, Cotswold Mead: Remove east side dormer and replace with larger dormer catslide roof. Erect front porch. Garage conversion to habitable room. Render outer skin of property.

S.15/0262/HHOLD - CASTLE LODGE, Cheltenham Road: Conversion of an outbuilding into a sewing room for residential ancillary to main building. (Castle Lodge).

S.15/0241/HHOLD - TERRENO, Longridge, Sheepscombe: - Demolition of existing conservatory construction of new two storey extension to provide bedroom and en suite accommodation together with

associated works.

S.15/0406/COU - FIERY BEACON, New Street: Change of use from mixed retail / residential to fully residential.

S.15/0387/HHOLD & S.15/0388/LBC HOLCOMBE HOUSE: New single-storey enclosed walkway to the rear entrance.

S.15/0238/ADV - OLD EBWORTH FARMHOUSE, The Camp: Erection of two signs.

S.15/0336/HHOLD - SUNNYCROFT, Hollyhock Lane: Erection of two storey extension to rear and erection of a detached garage. Conversion of existing garage into study, utility room and wc.

LICENCE APPLICATION

15/00135/LAPRNW - COURT HOUSE, Hale Lane

CONSENT

S.14/2827/LBC - TOPHAMS, Friday Street: Demolition of single storey rear extension. Construction of new single storey rear extension. Alteration to existing stair.

S.14/2780/HHOLD - 9 THE CROFT:

Front extension to private dwelling house.

S.14/2842/ADV & S.14/2843/LBC - OLD BAKERY, New Street: Erection of one hanging sign for business.

S.14/2830/HHOLD - 1A UPPER WASHWELL: Insertion of rooflight

and formation of French doors to gable elevation.

S.14/2845/TPO - GREENHOUSE COURT, Yokehouse Lane: Tree 1 is substantial but diseased Horse Chestnut which is very dangerous and needs to be taken down (Ref10). Also 3x very tall Lime trees (over 80 feet) all have tight junctions where they have grown from previous pollarding. Proposal is to pollard to the same level as previously.

S.14/2573/LBC - S T M I C H A E L S RESTAURANT, Victoria Street: Removal of internal chimney structure as external structure does not exist. Proposed scheme to maximise internal space and viability of restaurant/ bed and breakfast business.

S.14/2715/TPO - PARADISE HOUSE, Paradise: Various works to dangerous and other trees subject to a TPO.

S.14/2851/TCA - FARUNDELL, Damsells Mill Lane, Sheepscombe: Fell Cypress - outgrown situation.

S.15/2710/TCA - MERRILS, Friday Street: Prunus x 1. Remove dead branches from within the crown. Undertake branch reduction pruning by 2ft to contain the height and width of the tree.

WITHDRAWN

S.14/2787/ADV - THE PAINSWICK CENTRE, Bisley Street: 3 advertisement signs.

MINI-ADS

Retired couple seek detaches 4/5 bedroom house c3500 sq.ft. with manageable garden. If you are considering selling please contact geoffrewall@aol.com or call 02920515554

Clean Hardcore wanted. Will also take road planeings broken slabs and bricks etc. Don't hire a skip when I will take it from you. Call for details. 07768068880.

Grazing available in Painswick. Approximately 5 acres to share with one pony. Secure fields with water and some natural shelter. Access from main road and quiet lane. For more information please phone 07977913630 or 01452 813341

BUSINESS

LEARN FRENCH with Native Speaker. All levels, 20+ years experience, free introductory lesson. Call Sylvain on 07779819602

PAINSWICK HOME & GARDEN - providing choice, service value & knowledge. Home & garden removal & maintenance including general decorating, lawns, hedges, stone & brick-work, fencing, gates & sheds, paving & drivea. Call 07532 11114 or email PainswickHG@hotmail.co.uk

If you need a trustworthy cleaner who can sort out your house or office, please call Melinda on 07575767625 or email: gloscleaner@gmail.com References are available on request.

TAXI SPECIAL FOR OAP'S Special Discount Stroud £8 or £15 return. Call 07886 534831. Discounts available for all Painswick Residents. Fully licensed and school transport approved.

Chorley's. Prinknash Abbey Park Your Local Fine Art Auctioneer Valuations for Insurance, Probate and Sale Purposes Undertaken. Free Auction Valuations Given. Call Thomas Jenner-Fust 01452344499

TREE WORK: LANDCARE SERVICES: Tree Work to Big Trees: Small Trees: All Trees: Clare, John & Zeb Painswick 01452 812709: 07969 918121: johnrhodes@phonecoop.coop

FIREWOOD: Ash & Beech Firewood: Call Zeb on 07850 647486. Painswick

Gardener with 30 years+ experience seeks regular or one off work. Own equipment, pruning speciality, well versed for all scenarios. Free quotes / hourly rates (minimum 4 hrs). Visit www.eco-landscapesstroud.co.uk or ring J-L Bos on 01453-299245.

Child Care / Housekeeper Cleaning/ Ironing. Honest, reliable lady seeks employment. Experienced. Excellent references available. Tel: Tracy 07971780854 / 01452 770433

MINI-ADS are free to subscribers.

For non-subscribers and all in the Vacancies or Business category there is a flat charge of £5.00. Text maximum of 30 words + payment by cheque in advance, to 'The Painswick Beacon', to Joyce Barrus, Millcroft, Steppingstone Lane, Painswick GL6 6RU

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The Personal Column

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

Condolences

Our condolences to the family and friends of MARY KRILL who died peacefully at home last month and to the family and friends of PAM LAWTON who lived at Woodcote in the Highlands, Painswick from 1973 and moved to Chorleywood in 2011. She died on November 30th 2014 after a short illness. She was a few weeks short of her 90th birthday. We also extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of DAVID HARCUP who has died. David's funeral took place at St John's Church, Sheepscombe on 26th February. He was a Painswick Parish Councillor for many years and also represented Painswick as a Stroud District Councillor.

Change of address

MS R MAZILLIUS and MR P. LLOYD have recently moved to 3 George Court, Painswick.

Thanks you

Meriel and Georgina would like to thank all those who attended their Mother's (MARY KRILL's) Funeral. Also for all the kind letters and cards of sympathy and for the many beautiful flowers and plants received. We would especially like to thank Dr Matthew Heywood for all his committed care and all at Painswick Surgery and Reverend Canon Michael Irving for his compassionate address.

Police Report

From 1st January to 20th February there were six recorded substantiated crimes in the Painswick Parish.



Theft

There were five recorded crimes of theft. These were made up of four offences of theft from motor vehicle, which occurred on January 3rd; January 5th; January 17th and February 16th 2015. At present all four of these crimes remain undetected.

There was one offence of theft other where lead flashing was stolen from a roof. Police arrested three suspects near to the scene who currently remain on Police Bail for this offence.

Burglary

There was one reported burglary non dwelling from a commercial premises in the Parish. Enquiries are ongoing into this offence which at present remains undetected.

Community Speed Watch

The Painswick Community Speed Watch Team were once out and about again during week commencing February 9th 2015. Braving cold weather they conducted many hours of high visibility checks across a number of different locations in and around Painswick. Police will be contacting the registered keepers of a random sample of the vehicles in the next few weeks, that had the highest recorded speeds captured.

PC 1008 David Wood

ZERO SIX PAPA TWO

(Painswick Fire Engine's Call Sign)

On 5th February a catastrophic blaze, seen for miles around, practically destroyed the Dowty Propeller Factory in Staverton near Gloucester. Painswick fire crew were amongst the 80 firefighters who were called to the scene on that bitterly cold night, when the run off water from the hoses froze as it hit the ground despite the raging fire. Twenty nine staff were led to safety and nobody was injured. Though the factory was gutted; the fire destroyed the roof in only twenty minutes, firefighters managed to save the offices attached to the building, the Painswick pump was running continuously for six hours supplying water to protect the Dowty office buildings. Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service's John Beard, who was the incident commander, said: "Our crews have been working really hard in very cold temperatures and have done a fantastic job in limiting the damage and saving the offices and the surrounding buildings".

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service are looking for local people who are willing to do something extraordinary. Retained firefighters are vital to the Service and currently provide fire and rescue cover to around 60% of the UK. If you are over 18 and physically fit and live or work within close proximity to Painswick Fire Station we would love to hear from you if you would like to embark on an extraordinary new challenge. Please go to: http://www.glosfire.gov.uk/recruit_ff_retf.html for more information. Alternatively, contact me at mark.hancock@glosfire.gov.uk or 07967 3160

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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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