

The Painswick Beacon

Volume 45 Number 12

March 2023

First Anniversary of Broadham's 'Temporary' Lights But after no news for a year, the first glimmers of hope

It is now over a year since temporary traffic lights were installed at Broadham, restricting the traffic flow on the A46 to a single lane. Members of the Beacon team marked the anniversary in early February with a birthday cake, although as the presence of a hearse (unoccupied!) in the photo on the right might suggest, it was not so much a celebration, more of a wake.

Even more disappointing from the Beacon's point of view, has been that no meaningful information has been provided for over a year on what the plans were to deal with the site and when anything might happen. Every month since February last year, we have asked the County Council's Traffic Department and the local County Councillor for an update on what the plans are, and every month the answer has been a variation on - the site is difficult, we're working on it, we apologise for the disruption and we will let you know when we have any news. All our attempts to get any specific information on plans have failed to get anything meaningful, although this month's answer, quoted in full below, at least provides a glimmer of hope.

"We are working with our consultants Atkins who have been asked to produce an outline design to improve the traffic issues and concerns along the A46 where the Ash trees have been removed. This design will be ready in approximately 8 weeks for further review and discussions around next steps. We will update residents as soon as we can". Our understanding is that the eight weeks referred to end on 24th March and we will be asking for a further update at that time.



Members of the Beacon Team mark the first anniversary of the temporary traffic lights at Broadham

The problems date back to work around the end of 2021 to cut down trees suffering from Ash dieback. In January 2022 there was an accident where a car came off the road and fell into the cleared area. The lights were installed shortly afterwards and have remained there ever since.

In the Painswick Beacon of March 2022, despite news that an inspector was to visit the site at the beginning of March and make recommendations, we had a relatively gloomy view of the likelihood of progress - 'Realistically it seems likely that the traffic lights will be in place for several weeks if not months', we said. We could hardly have imagined that a year later there would not only have been no progress, but no news on what was planned.

In the meantime, John Trigg, who lives nearby and sees the queues every day, estimates that motorists have suffered cumulative delays of about 60 hours per day, equivalent to 21,900 hours (or over 900 days) of delay over the year. On that basis, the cost of fuel wasted in engine idling alone over that period is likely to be around £80,000 and the cost in environmental damage is incalculable, but immense.



How the Beacon covered the story in its March 2022 edition

New Bus route and timetables

The new route came into force on 19th February, causing some immediate difficulty for the bus drivers who now have to turn from New Street into Gloucester Street. Our photo shows one of the first buses, which eventually managed to negotiate the turning, although it took three goes and significant disruption to other traffic in the process.

The Parish Council has expressed its concern over the lack of consultation on changes to the Bus service, but the response from the County Council points out that the route is part of Stagecoach's commercial network, which receives no public subsidy and has no contract with the County Council. Stagecoach is therefore free to make any changes it sees fit, provided it serves the Office of the Traffic Commissioner with the necessary paperwork and notice period.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS by Terry Parker from the meetings held on 15th February

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

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

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Cllrs Andy Cash (Chairman), Ann Daniels, Adrian Gyde, Sandra Hunkin, Ian Massey, Roey Parker, Martin Slinger
Apologies: Cllrs Rob Lewis and Rosie Nash

Public Questions

Mr David Allott asked the council to accept his apologies as, at the previous meeting he had been wrong in urging the committee to indulge in positive, forward planning as well as reactive planning, dealing with individual applications as they arose. Mr Allott said that subsequent to the meeting, the Parish Council Clerk had brought him up to speed with the actions being taken by the council in regard to his concerns. He did however wish that the council's actions could be more widely publicised.

Mr Allott then referred to the village's parking problems. He asked about the status of the proposals put forward by previous council members. He asked that a parking review be carried out. The Chairman advised that his request would be considered by the Traffic Committee.

Matters requiring a decision

S.22/2626/FUL. Painswick Rococo Garden, Gloucester Road. Full planning approval for access road, car park, walkways, Gabion walls, level changes and alterations to the Bothy, and temporary approval for the proposed structures including Café, Kitchen, Storage, WCs and Reception.

The Committee agreed to fully support the application and further agreed that if the SDC Planning Officers were minded to recommend refusal, the application should be referred to the Development Control Committee.

S.23/0005/HOLD 5 Gloucester Road. Proposed two storey side extension.

The Committee agreed to support this application and requested that the Planning department ensures that the application complies with privacy policies.

S.23/0084/HOLD. The Byre, The Park. Erection of a two storey extension (re-submission of S.22/2165/HOLD).

The Committee agreed to support this application.

S.23/0080/LBC. 2 Rosebank Cottages, Slad Road, Slad. Insertion of a single roof light.

The Committee agreed to support this application.

S.23/0140/HOLD. Beechwood Cottage, Jacks Green, Sheepscombe. Replacement garden building.

The Committee agreed to support this application with the proviso that it is conditioned not to be used as a domestic dwelling.

S.23/0127/HOLD and S.23/0128/LBC. Kings Mill House, Kings Mill Lane. Repairs and alterations to fenestration, flood mitigation measures.

The Committee agreed to support this application

S.23/0056/TCA. Butchers Arms, Damsells Mill Lane, Sheepscombe. T1 Spruce – dismantled and removed. T2 Ash – dismantled and removed. T3 Sycamore dismantled and removed.

The Committee supported this application.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.

PARISH COUNCIL

Members present: Cllrs Martin Slinger (Chairman), Andy Cash, James Cross, Ann Daniels, Adrian Gyde, Sandra Hunkin, Ian Massey, Roey Parker.

Apologies: Cllrs Rob Lewis and Rosie Nash.

Barbara Tait. The Members observed a period of silence in memory of the recently deceased former Chairman of the Parish Council.

Public Questions

Mr David Allott had the following questions.

a. Can you continue to pressure whoever does such work to deal with the many worn away signs elsewhere in the Parish?

Mr Allott thanked the Council for getting the NO ENTRY marking at the bottom of Bisley Street repainted. A number of other signs have also recently been repainted.

b. Can you please continue to get the salt bins refilled. It is over two months since the contents were used to deal with the December snow.

c. Can you please continue to encourage the District and County Councillors to attend the Parish Council meetings and present their reports in person.

Mr Balgobin, the Clerk to the Council, said that the various highways related matters raised by Mr Allott would be forward to the Highways Stakeholder.

Resignation

Councillors noted the resignation of Cllr Philip Taylor. Mr Taylor had asked if the Councillors would agree to his continuing as the Council's Ukraine Liaison Member. The Councillors expressed their agreement.

Short Term Lettings

The Members had received a copy of Cllr Lewis' report prior to the meeting. There was a lengthy discussion about the report, at the conclusion of which, the Members agreed to pursue the registration of Short-Term letting through the District Councillors. In response to a question from a member of the public, the Clerk said that the report could be found on the Parish Council's website. Cllr Lewis said at the conclusion of his report that, due to the lack of response from the District Council, he was proposing to enlist the support of Ward Councillor Keith Pearson in order to progress the matter directly with the SDC.

Charter adoption

The Council agreed to adopt the Parish and Town Council Charter between Stroud District Council and the Parish and Town Councils of Stroud District.

Reports

The Clerk explained that the reports from County Councillor Sue Williams and District Councillors Julie Job and Keith Pearson had previously been circulated



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to the members of the Parish Council and could be found on the Parish Council's website.

Chairman's Report

"Flood Group. We have at last received the information from the meeting with SDC at Ebley. We will shortly be getting together with the two flood groups, that is the Painswick Stream and the Slad Stream and other minor springs to organise ourselves for the next big storm. We will be getting together over the next few months to formalise the groups for help in the cases of bad snow and ice that arrives next time, so if you contact the office I do

know that the County Council are around at the moment filling them.

We had a very good mini Parish Council meeting with The Croft School the other day when pupils came down with an agenda which the Council went through, as if it were a full Parish Council meeting.

It is noted that on the 19th of February the alternative bus routes and alterations to the bus service routes from Stroud to Cheltenham come into place".

The Council expressed its concern at the lack of consultation in regard to the bus

route/timetable changes and agreed to contact the County Councillor asking for better communications and prior consultation with local councils and the public.

Reports from other bodies

Painswick Conservation Group. Cllr Ian Massey updated the Council on the Group's recent activities.

Ward reports. There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.08pm.

Beacon subscriptions

The Beacon is your magazine. It is delivered free to all houses within Painswick and most of the work of writing, producing and delivering it is provided free on a voluntary basis, involving up to a hundred different people for a single issue. But we are dependent on subscriptions, together with advertising income, to cover the substantial cost of printing the Beacon every month as well as other costs. Printing costs have recently increased by 15%.

We are very grateful to those residents who subscribe year after year to keep it going and hope you will continue to do so. We also ask new residents and those who have not previously subscribed, or have done so on an occasional basis, to consider contributing. There is no fixed subscription, but as a guide the average contribution in recent years has been around £12.

An envelope and payment slip are enclosed with this month's issue and envelopes can be left in the Beacon post box next to the telephone kiosk on New Street. We are happy to accept payment by a variety of means, including cash, cheque or bank transfer. To keep track of bank transfer subscribers, we ask for all electronic payments to be given a reference code that will identify the subscriber. If you have received one of our unique reference codes, please continue to use the same code. If you would like to pay by electronic means for this and subsequent years, please e-mail me at subscriptions.beacon@painswick.net with your name and address, asking for a reference code.

Costs for Pitchcombe, Edge and postal deliveries vary and are notified separately.

Jacek Wolowicz

Reminder - Community Snow Volunteers needed

Thank you to those who came forward in response to our article in January; we could still do with more!

As a reminder, Painswick Parish Council are keen to rebuild a Community Snow Volunteer network, with a volunteer for each street or small area who can access salt, spreaders and shovels and rally neighbours to clear the road/pavements for everyone's benefit. All named volunteers will be covered by Parish Council insurances so can operate with peace of mind to help their local patch.

Could you help rebuild this volunteer network, for the occasional, yet critical action required when we get significant snowfall or pro-longed sub-zero temperatures?

Abigail Smith

Coronation celebrations Time to get ready

It seems just the other day Painswick held many street parties for the Jubilee. However, no doubt many are going to be organised for the Coronation on 6th-8th May. Now is the time to start planning, talk to your neighbours, decide on the date and venue and keep your fingers crossed for good weather. The Parish Clerk has agreed to help publicise all the events and parties planned by the streets, organisations and businesses in and around Painswick. So please let the Parish Council know of any dates, venues and contacts and if you need advice the Parish Council is there to help (Tel 01452 812722 email clerk@painswick-pc.gov.uk. The Recreation Ground could be made available, also any group buying of bunting etc. It is understood that the lighting of the Beacon will not take place as the King has asked that there are no Beacons on environmental grounds.

John Barrus




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Women in Space

Despite it being a cold and frosty night in January the temperature in the Church Rooms soon became heated as the ladies of Yew Trees WI listened to Ken Kelly's talk entitled "Women in Space" and learnt that men presented the biggest obstacle to women being in space! - up until March 2022, just 75.



Although the Russian Valentina Tereshkova was probably the first woman in space when she undertook a solo mission in 1963 orbiting the earth 48 times, there was a gap of 19 years before Svetlana Savitskaya became the second. She flew twice, on the second occasion being the first woman to undertake a space walk.

A year later, in 1983, American Sally Ride's presence on Challenger for the seventh space shuttle mission broke the sex barrier in U.S. spaceflight. After this milestone passed the space shuttle and then the International Space Station became places where women could work alongside men and also take command. Sally was one of the six women accepted for the 1978 class of astronauts all of whom flew in space. Meanwhile behind the scenes of the Apollo Mission, women had always played a vital role as engineers and mathematicians - despite the fact that they were referred to as 'computers in skirts', and for 15 years there was no ladies cloakroom! No wonder Ken Kelly's audience became heated!

On Tuesday 28th March Andrea Reid will tell us about Maggie's Cancer Centre, so ladies why not join us at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms.

Celia Lougher 812624

Calling all Singers

Painswick Singers, after our winter break, are planning to restart our meetings again on Monday, 6th March at 7.30pm. Richmond, Painswick have very kindly again offered their auditorium for us to use.



We sing a variety of music, usually chosen by our director and accompanist, Howard Williams, with input from the choir - Carols at Christmas, generally sacred music at Easter and assorted music e.g. music from the shows etc. in the Summer. This year we shall not be having an Easter concert, but one during the weekend of King Charles's coronation. We try to give 3 concerts a year at Richmond, none of which are intimidating (I speak personally, as I was uneasy when I first heard the word "concert"!). The singers are a very friendly group and we welcome all voices. You don't have to be perfect singers, just be able to enjoy music. No auditions are required, just come along and have fun! It is all quite relaxed and enjoyable.

If you need more details, please telephone me, Jean Jones, on 01452-813545. If there is no reply, please leave a message and I will get back to you. Otherwise, just turn up at the reception desk, at Richmond, Painswick at 7.30pm on March, 6th, where I will be waiting to welcome you.

Jean Jones, Membership Secretary

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Six degrees and the Mills

On 1st February John Peters explained the principle of the 6 Stages (or Degrees) of Separation, which suggests that all people (or things or places) in the world are within 6 connections of each other. He gave interesting examples of the connections, which he had discovered through his research, between relatives, friends and in turn their associates ending with famous, or indeed infamous, people.



John's grandfather George had joined the Royal Navy and John's research had shown that a young Horatio Nelson became the sixth connection with George's antecedents. In another example, John demonstrated that he is only one stage of separation from one of the Soviet spies of the 1930s to 1960s - Melita Norwood, who for decades, passed on secrets from the London based British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association, a company that hid its true role of developing atomic weaponry. Therefore the Probus audience was now only 2 stages away from a notorious spy!

On 15th February, the Club heard from Ian Mackintosh about the history of Painswick's many pioneering mills and the causes of their demise in the face of competition from larger and more powerful mills in the Stroud Valleys. Every step of the woollen cloth manufacturing process, except shearing the sheep and sorting the wool into different grades, was mechanised between 1790 and 1890. Fundamentally, owners resisted change, and with a few exceptions delayed investment in modern machinery until it was too late to retain the lead in innovation and development. Interestingly, local mills at one time supplied China with all its woollen cloth.

Ian promoted the Stroudwater Textile Trust, Nailsworth's Dunkirk Mill Museum, and the nearby Gigg Mill Weaving Shed which re-opens to visitors for the Summer season on 23rd April 2023. See the Stroudwater Textile Trust's website for details.

The speaker at the next meeting on Wednesday 8th March will address "Jerusalem - whose is it?" Members' ladies are cordially invited to attend. Non-members are welcome too. See the Club's website for details.

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A healthy balance with Becca

Becca Meadows is exceptional in her understanding of individual health needs. She is also exceptional in her knowledge of the advice needed for follow-up action where required. Becca is a Painswick resident and we are certainly fortunate to be able to avail ourselves of her knowledge and support so close at hand.

A fully qualified and registered nutritional therapist and personal trainer, Becca's real interest is focussed on how to achieve a healthy balance in life, both physical and emotional. This leads inevitably to a state of genuine wellbeing thus enabling you to take control, whether that be domestically, socially or at work. As an example, Becca points out that the benefit for women of a certain age is the resulting ability to balance career, motherhood and personal health.

Everyone is of course different and Becca explains that her approach is not about medication or faddy diets, more about enabling her clients to understand and take ownership of their own health. She arranges an initial one-to-one consultation in order to assess specific needs and follows this up with what is essentially a bespoke programme to suit each individual. Generally this consists of nutritional therapy and/or exercise. When necessary she works alongside other health care specialists emphasising that she herself does not engage in diagnosis or medical treatments. It is about long-term solutions for a wide range of conditions and optimising one's own health.

Becca first became aware of the need for this integrated approach some years ago. She was in the army, a truly male-dominated establishment, and recognised the lack of support for army women in certain situations, e.g. during and after pregnancy, including her own, and also in leadership roles. Her army experience led to a passion for helping such women during and after army life. Having taken a course as a personal trainer during her army career and also highly qualified in nutritional therapy, she is able to deal with a range of conditions in both men and women whether physical, stress-related or simply a desire to improve energy levels.

She is undoubtedly passionate in her desire to help and support anyone who needs or wants to optimise personal health and she is definitely well qualified to do so. Becca works with individual clients, she holds group sessions and she organises corporate nutrition events and workshops. She also works with employers to provide health and wellbeing sessions with employees. Furthermore, she runs Painswick Boot Camp on Monday evenings at 7.30pm at the Rugby Club – a welcoming fun session of outdoor exercise for all ability levels. And in June she plans to organise a Women's Retreat day including yoga, nutrition and exercise. There is a website beccameadowsnutrition.co.uk and Becca can be contacted by tel. 07779 384673 or email info@beccameadowsnutrition.co.uk

Carol Maxwell



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News from St Mary's

This month we have moved a little nearer to finding a new Rector for the benefice. Revd. Sarah Haslam has been placed here by the Bishop of Gloucester as an interim minister. She will be doing a placement here until the end of June. During this time she will be in charge of the benefice. Please give her a warm welcome.



The first Sunday service of the month will be a benefice service on 5th March at Edge Church at 11am. It will be conducted by Sarah. Edge Church has only just been reopened following the disastrous fire last year.

We are now in the season of Lent, the time of penitence and preparation for Easter, marked by the liturgical colour purple. Traditionally, Christians celebrate Lent in some special way. The custom used to be giving up some particular luxury during Lent like chocolates or alcohol. Nowadays the accent is more about taking something else on. Some follow a particular course of study either individually or in a group. For instance the Bible Reading Fellowship have published a booklet entitled "Images of Grace". This contains daily readings and summary questions at the end of each week. Some make a point of extra giving to a chosen charity such as a food bank or a vital need such as the Turkey/Syrian earthquake appeal. Another idea is helping somebody with a job or jobs which they are unable to do themselves.

Sunday 19th March is Mothering Sunday, a special day in the year when we thankfully remember our mothers and all that we owe to them. The Mothering Day service at St Mary's is a family communion service at 10 am and will be conducted by Revd. Paul Kenchington.

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday which is on 2nd April. During Holy Week, our Bishop Rachel invites all clergy to a cathedral Service at 11am to renew their ordination vows. This is not only a service for clergy but there is a general invitation for anyone in the diocese to attend. If you have never been how about attending this year? Have a good Lent.

David Newell

New Season for Music Society

Painswick Music Society has again arranged four outstanding Saturday afternoon concerts in St Mary's Church for its 77th season. The first on 18th March is a very welcome return by the internationally renowned clarinetist Emma Johnson and pianist John Lenehan.



Their programme is a most attractive and varied one including Dvorak's Sonatina, the first Brahms clarinet sonata, Finzi's Bagatelles, and a piece by Emma herself for solo clarinet and tapping foot. Emma and John will be joined by Paul Clarvis on drums for what is set to be a rousing Duke Ellington medley to finish.



The second concert on 1st April is by the tenor Mark Padmore and pianist James Baillieu. Mark has established an international career in opera, concert and recital which has seen him perform all over the world, and James is one of the leading song and chamber music pianists of his generation, described in the Daily Telegraph as 'in a class of his own'. As celebrated exponents of Schubert Lieder, Mark and James' programme includes a selection of 7 Songs of the Seasons including Im Fruhling (In Spring), in addition to Britten's Winter Words and 3 songs by the British-American composer Rebecca Clarke (1886 – 1979).

For our third concert on 22nd April we welcome back the Heath Quartet returning to Painswick for the first time since 2018. The Heaths are such

a charismatic quartet and they are performing a typically enticing programme comprising Haydn's F minor quartet Op.20 No5, Britten's 3rd quartet and Schubert's hugely popular 14th quartet in D minor D810, known as Death and the Maiden.

Our final concert on the 6th May is a first, or certainly a first in living memory, when we will welcome the Italian baroque specialists La Serenissima to perform an all-baroque programme. La Serenissima, directed by baroque violinist Adrian Chandler, is the UK's leading exponent of Italian baroque music. Rising star of the recorder world Tabea Debus and flautist Katy Bircher are joining the ensemble for what will be a fantastic concert. As this date clashes with the Coronation of King Charles, the concert will start at 7pm but other concerts will be at 3pm as normal.

Tickets for individual concerts are £25 for Emma Johnson and Mark Padmore, and £20 for the Heath Quartet and La Serenissima. Membership, giving access to all four concerts costs £65 (a saving of £25) and we are again offering a £10 membership for under 18s and students in full time education. Membership and individual tickets may be bought online at www.painswickmusicsoc.co.uk or, subject to availability, at the door, but to avoid disappointment, you are encouraged to book well ahead. For all enquiries contact Edward Bowron tickets@painswickmusicsoc.co.uk or 07789 006006. Please note that all seats are unreserved except those for committee members, and you may wish to bring a cushion to sit on. It promises to be another great season and we hope very much to see you there.

Nick Steel – Programme Secretary

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Easter holiday art workshops

Artist Hannah Ellis is back with her sell out art workshops for children this Easter holiday! Running 10am-12.30pm, these drop-off sessions are suitable for children aged 5-11. £25pp (reduced rates available if this is unaffordable, please email for more info). To book please email classes@painswickcentre.com

Sat 1st April Mixed media Spring landscapes inspired by Jo Grundy
Weds 5th April Chicken sculptures & Easter egg bunting
Thurs 6th April Rabbit/hare sculptures & reduction printmaking

An Evening with Brian Bilston

Described as the 'Banksy of poetry' and 'Twitter's unofficial Poet Laureate', Brian Bilston has gained a cult following online for his humorous way with words. We're delighted to be hosting him for an evening of readings and discussion on Saturday 10th June at 7.30pm. Visit our website for more information and tickets (only a few tickets remaining as this goes to print!).

Art classes this Spring

We have a number of art classes for children and adults running this Spring (check out our website for more information):

- After-school art classes: with artist Hannah Ellis, for ages 7-11, Weds 3.45-5.15pm, £15/class or £53/term (reduced rates available)
- Drawn to Look with Susan Kester: weekly drawing classes, Tues 10am-12.30pm, £112 for a 6 week course
- Tea, Cake & Watercolours: with Valerian Illustration, 6 week course starting 14th April, Fridays 2pm, £140

Food Nights

Fabulous street food in Painswick, serving to takeaway from our car park every Thursday. 5-8pm, cards accepted, no pre-orders needed:

Thurs 9th March Soul Fries, handcut fries with homemade toppings
Thurs 16th March Bella Mia Pizza, woodfired sourdough pizzas
Thurs 23rd March Dirty Boys Kitchen, award-winning chicken, burgers, fries
Thurs 30th March Burgerlish, organic grass-fed beef & vegan burgers

Other dates for your diary

Please visit our website for more information on all upcoming events.

- Morning Market with local produce from a 5 mile radius, every Thursday 8.15-9.45am
- Wick-Flix presents: The Lost King, Fri 10th March, doors open 7pm

Keep up to date

Always check our Instagram, Facebook and website (www.painswickcentre.com) for up-to-date listings, and our noticeboards at the bottom of Bisley Street are also a great place to find out what's happening. If you would like to be included on our email list so we can keep you up to date with what's on please sign up at the bottom of our homepage or email marketing@painswickcentre.com.

Susie Andrews



Come and join us for canapes by candlelight, and settle in with a drink to enjoy March's community cinema night with Wick-Flix. 'The Lost King' is a charming and whimsical film with an incredible true story at its heart – the discovery of the body of King Richard III under a Midlands car park in 2012. Sally Hawkins stars as Philippa Langley, the amateur historian and sleuth who was a driving force behind the archaeological dig but who felt sidelined by many institutions both before and after the find. This is her funny and touching story, of a growing obsession with the long-dead king, and her insistence on finding his body and laying him properly to rest. Also starring Steve Coogan.

Wick-Flix is a very special community cinema with a unique atmosphere. Tickets are £9 on the door, cash or card accepted. Doors open at 7pm, so come along and join us for a drink beforehand (your first one is included with the ticket price). The film starts at 7.45pm, and there will be an interval for more drinks at the bar as well as sweet & savoury snacks. We are delighted to serve Woodchester Valley Vineyard wines and Marshfield ice creams at our screenings.

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Top rating membership for Alice

Alice Huggins, as many in Painswick know, is an outstanding practitioner in her chosen vocation as a jewellery maker, working in her section of the art studios in the Painswick Centre. It is no surprise to discover that Alice has now been given membership of the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen, a very prestigious organisation originating with the Cotswolds Arts and Crafts movement and dedicated to promoting the finest craftsmanship within many art disciplines. Membership is limited to only those at the top of their craft.

As a new member, one of three, Alice's work is to be showcased in the Guild's new shop in Cheltenham from Wednesday 3rd April until Saturday 13th May, this coinciding with the Guild's 90th anniversary. Membership also means that her jewellery pieces will be shown in the Guild's various exhibitions and can be sold in their shop. A further exhibition, to celebrate the 90th anniversary, is due to be held closer to home in the Museum in the Park in Stroud 17th June – 16th July and Alice's work will also be on display there.

Alice makes and re-models individual pieces of jewellery using precious metals and gemstones. Each item is bespoke and always exquisite. Her membership of the Gloucestershire Guild is well-deserved and meanwhile she continues to practise her very professional craft skills in the Painswick Centre studio. The Guild's shop is at 18 Rotunda Terrace, Montpelier Street, Cheltenham. A visit there to view her work will be both supportive and well worthwhile.

Carol Maxwell

An unfinished masterpiece

Woodchester Mansion is beautiful, set in stunning National Trust grounds but nevertheless something of a mystery inasmuch as it was never completed. At the February meeting Liz Davenport gave an excellent presentation explaining the background and development of this intriguing building. The archive at the mansion – sets of drawings, photographs, letters, ideas, finances - reveals much about the original and constantly changing designs and Liz used many of these items to explain the development and outcome of the construction.



The estate dates back to 1564 but by 1840 the existing house was in poor condition. William Leigh, a very wealthy man, bought it and invited Pugin, the famous architect, to provide possible alterations. He suggested demolition and presented drawings for a new build. But 30 years and two architects later, with the available money dwindling, Leigh was still having changes of mind. The last drawings were made in 1870 and he died in 1873. The drawings and photographs together with the unfinished exposed interior structure give a remarkable insight into the construction techniques of the time. There was so much to this story, both regarding the Leigh family, the beautiful artistic stonework details, the influences on the design details, the money involved and the subsequent uses of the mansion. Finally it was bought by Stroud District Council in 1988 and the Woodchester Mansion Trust was set up in 1989.

At the next meeting the History of Witches in Gloucestershire will be the subject of John Putley's presentation. The Croft School, 7.30pm, Tuesday 21st March. Everyone welcome

Carol Maxwell

Painswick Gardening Club

Adam Alexander, known as The Seed Detective, gave us a fascinating talk about his experiences collecting vegetable seeds from all over the world. Peas from Catalonia, Omani garlic, beans from Syria and Mynamar and many more varieties.

He encouraged us to experiment with new varieties and brought along a good selection for us to buy. It was an inspiring talk to start our vegetable gardening this year!



Our next meeting is on 8th March. As we had to cancel our December meeting, Ken from KW Sharpening Services will be at the Town Hall at 18.45 to collect tools for sharpening at the special price of £3 per item. Please bring along secateurs, shears, scissors, kitchen knives and any other similar items. Please also label them with your name and telephone number and bring cash or card for payment.

Tea, coffee and wine will be available from 7pm and Roger Umpelby will start his talk 'Beneficial Creatures in the Garden' at 7.30. Roger is an entomologist and horticulturalist with many years experience. He is passionate about nature and an acclaimed speaker. We look forward to an informative and entertaining talk on the creatures in our gardens. Visitors always welcome.

Philippa Miller



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Two Challenges met

Summitting Mount Kilimanjaro last September, and the requirement to raise £4,000 for the Meningitis Research Foundation, seemed like a massive challenge but I am really pleased to let everybody know that I was successful! Not only did I manage to get to the summit, I also smashed my fundraising target and raised £4,152 for a very worthwhile charity!

It was an incredible experience but, without a doubt, an exhausting six days of acclimatisation and ascent. We summited on Thursday 8th September having started at midnight the previous day and getting to the top at 10 am – an altitude of 5,895m. During the final ascent, we only had 2 hours of sleep and every thing was a bit of a blur! I certainly don't think I will ever say I am exhausted again!

I would like to thank the many companies and individuals in Painswick who supported me. I was touched by the generosity of the community and am extremely grateful to everybody who has helped me along in this journey.

Emelia Bradley

Two Spring Excursions

In addition to our regular talks in Box (March 21st) and Painswick (April 5th), the Club has two spring excursions, both with engineering content and open to all.



REME Museum

On Wednesday 19th April, there will be an excursion to the Museum of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, MOD Lyneham, Wilts. The REME Corps was founded in 1942 to streamline and professionalise the repair, recovery, and maintenance of increasingly complex machinery, vehicles and equipment needed to fight a modern war, with the Battle of El Alamein being their first challenge. The organisers Robert and Jane Mann (tel. 01453 872243) have arranged a guided tour of the Museum in the morning led by REME Veterans, with lunch available at the nearby Crown's Café. Places are still available to book at £12 per person for Museum entrance and tour. This will be a self-drive trip, with lifts available.

Diglis Island and the new Fish Pass

On Tuesday 25th April, Jane Rowe has arranged a guided tour around Diglis Island, Worcester, the site of two major engineering projects 178 years apart. Four weirs were built in the 1840's along the River Severn between Worcester and Stourport to raise river levels, with accompanying by-pass channels fitted with locks alongside manmade islands. Whilst navigation for barge traffic was improved, the weirs blocked the annual migration of twaite shad and many other species. We will hear about the project 'Unlocking the Severn' aims to restore 158 miles of river for the shad using new fish passages. We shall take the riverside path along to the new Fish Pass and perhaps see some migrating fish from the viewing gallery. Pre-book on 813228 (£5).

Sylvia May cnfsecretary1@gmail.com



The Arts Society

We meet in the Painswick Centre on the second Thursday of the month. Tea and coffee are served before the lecture which begins at 11.00 am. Please see the website for more information.



Thursday 9th February was our first meeting of 2023 and was well attended for an excellent lecture given by Gavin Plumley, a well known presenter on BBC Radio 3 and 4. He spoke to us about the Dutch painter Pieter Bruegel the Elder. In 1565 he, Bruegel, was commissioned to paint a series of images charting the course of the years' seasons. This changed the way landscape paintings were viewed. The landscape was no longer the backdrop but the focus of the painting. In this Bruegel was a pioneer and a new way of thinking about our environment was created.

Our next lecture is on Thursday 9th March 2023. This will be given by Deborah Jenner. She will speak about the History of American painting. More information can be found on the Arts Society's website theartsocietypainswick.org.uk. We welcome both guests and new members to our society.

Jeni Craig



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Warm and welcoming Wednesday mornings

The Town Hall on Wednesday mornings is a good place to spend a couple of hours. The Wednesday Meet, from 10.00 until 12.00, is relaxed, sociable and open to all. Very much focussed on companionship within the community there is a range of activities from which to choose including many different board games, jigsaws, creative artwork, magazines, or quite simply time to engage in a friendly chat. There is scope to explore lots more depending on your interests. And there is the added bonus of tea, coffee and biscuits always available.

Anyone and everyone can benefit from this warm friendly event, a great opportunity to meet with others and get to know people. It is about companionship in a warm and welcoming environment. Furthermore, if you know of someone for whom this may be beneficial do encourage them to come along. Or perhaps you may be able to provide transport for someone who is not able to make their own way to the Town Hall but for whom this may be a very welcome social opportunity. Painswick has a strong community spirit and it is important to ensure it continues to be inclusive. This is an excellent weekly community event and everyone is welcome – just come along. If you wish to know more or feel you would like to offer help with transport etc contact Sandra Glass tel. 814186.



Carol Maxwell

Barbara Tait (1936 - 2023) Former Chairman of the Parish Council and Deputy Leader of Stroud Council

Barbara Anne Holford was born at Clissold Farm in Sheepscombe on 11th November 1936, growing up there with her father Thomas, mother Annie, brother Ted and sister Jane, attending Sheepscombe School and then Stroud High School. In her gap year, she went as a student teacher- teaching Biology and Art at a private school in the Lake District before attending Bretton Hall, affiliated to Leeds University, where she studied fine Art.



From Leeds, it was on to London for 8 years teaching Biology and then Art and Needlework and then to Birmingham as a Head of Department for 5 years, at this time meeting her second husband Norman Tait. They married in Stroud in 1969, moved to Eastcombe, then built their bungalow in Sheepscombe. Barbara taught at a Home Office Approved School before moving on to Maidenhill School for 13 years, leaving due to serious illness. But she returned to teach Human Physiology and Anatomy and Hairdressing Science at Stroud College.

Barbara spent many years as a Sheepscombe representative on Painswick Parish Council, chairing its Footpaths Committee from 1976 to 1984, and leading the Council's involvement in a campaign against US Air Force Tanker planes being based at Fairford. After standing down for a period, she was co-opted back onto the Parish Council in 1991 and within a year was appointed first Vice-Chairman and then Chairman. She was Chairman when the Parish Council celebrated its centenary in 1996, marked by a new Chain of Office that she was the first to wear, and also when Painswick won the Bledisloe Cup for 'Best Kept Village' in 1998.

In 1999 she was elected as one of the District Councillors for Painswick and again quickly rose in prominence, becoming Deputy Leader of Stroud Council in 2001 (she and Norman had by now parted and Barbara had moved into Painswick early in 2001) and was the Cabinet Member for Planning in the Council's ruling Group. She retired from the Council in 2012 but remained very much involved in local issues as Chairman of Painswick Valleys Conservation Group.

Having originally dreamt of being a vet, she had always loved animals — especially cats! Her cat Danny, who had been missing from his original home for a year, suddenly turned up on Barbara's doorstep and discovered that he had found a home that suited him just fine! More recently she took over as Chairman of the Friday Club, a role she relinquished only last November before her cancer returned (something that she had battled very privately) and sadly claimed her on the 14th January 2023. She will be missed by her sister Jane and her whole family (she was an Aunt to 3 generations!) and by all who knew her.

Adrian Holford

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Playgroup Easter Egg Hunt and Great Painswick Bake Off Saturday 8th April 12-4pm

The annual egg hunt to raise funds for Painswick Playgroup is shaping up to be better than ever! Thirty eggs will be on display around the village for everyone to find over the Easter weekend, this year decorated as the children's favourite animals! Many of our wonderful local businesses who are sponsoring the event as well as Playgroup parents have already got their paints out ready to create some fantastic egg shaped creatures! By following the pre-schooler friendly route around the village, families can collect all the clues to solve the anagram challenge and enter the prize draw to win a £200 John Lewis voucher! Saturday 8th April, 12-4pm. Maps available online soon or on the day for £4.

To further entertain the intrepid egg hunters on their return from their adventures we have fete style games, face painting, a bouncy castle and of course a cake sale. The Great Painswick Bake Off is going to be a clash of titans with our local eateries and cafes competing for the title of best Professional Baker! The amateur tier will be for all children and adults who want to enter and once judging has been completed all the tasty cakes will be available for sale. To accompany your cakes, teas and coffees will be for sale from all the village cafes and restaurants. For the more peckish there will be local food vans parked up with a tantalising array of options to satisfy the hungry.

Among all of these amazing attractions, the Easter Bunny himself will be making an appearance, maybe to try and win Best Fancy Dress costume? Whilst waiting for the Animal Fancy Dress Competition to be judged there's also the Bric-à-Brac Stall to browse for bargains and Painswick's own Shady Plant Nursery will be there for you to refresh your gardens! Be sure to grab some raffle tickets for a chance to win some brilliant prizes such as a Family Ticket to Gifford's Circus or a Two Week Pass to David Lloyd Brockworth.

All the money raised will go directly to Painswick Playgroup to improve and maintain the facilities for the children. Painswick Playgroup is a non-profit making charitable organisation run by the community. For more updates please search and follow/like Painswick Easter Egg Hunt on Instagram and Facebook. Entries for the Amateur Painswick Bake Off Competition please email to sign up - easteregghuntpainswick@gmail.com Donations of children's toys and clothes for the Bric-à-Brac Stall please leave in the labelled wheelie bin outside Playgroup (larger items please bring to Alice Huggins at the Artist's Studio in the Painswick Centre). Free parking will be available at Stamage's Lane Car Park and the Recreation Ground (weather dependent). See you all on the 8th!

Jess Barnett on behalf of the Painswick Playgroup Egg Hunt Team

Olympics, Daffodils and Albania

The Club enjoyed a busy February including hosting a well-attended Community Lunch – many thanks to the willing team who prepared and served a delicious selection of home made soups. Then on the 10th we enjoyed a classic DVD of the 1936 summer Olympics. Watching Jesse Owens and other Competitors preparing for the sprint events by “digging” little holes in the track on the start line made you realise how much easier it is for today's Athletes who use pre made starting blocks! That made Owens record breaking times even more remarkable!

Turning to March, Members are very excited as on the 10th we set off on our first outing – a trip around the Golden Triangle of Daffodils – Villages of Dymock, Kempsey and Oxenhall rounded off with a Pub Lunch in Dymock. No doubt there will be a stamped to obtain a window seat on the coach!

On the 24th, retired journalist John Butterworth will present a talk entitled “Cut off from the Rest of the World”. He will cover life in Albania under one of the cruellest dictators and how after 41 years life has changed for the better.

The Club certainly offers a wide and varied programme to its Members. If you would enjoy a Friday afternoon of stimulating talks, trips out and more importantly the company of likeminded people whilst enjoying an afternoon cup of tea and biscuits why not join us in the Town Hall. We meet in the Town Hall, at 2.30pm, on alternate Fridays. Our programme is displayed on the Town Hall Notice Boards and you will certainly receive a warm welcome. See you soon.

**Friday
Club**

Mike Kerton



Bunny is getting ready for the Bake Off!

Anne-Marie Randall
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Connecting Corridors

Before Christmas I was asked to join a meeting titled “Biodiversity in Sheepscombe and Beyond”. The speakers were from Natural England, National Trust and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Each explained, with great passion, how they managed their sites and the message was that Stroud is surrounded by a ring of nationally important limestone grassland and beechwoods.



It is now generally accepted that any conservation area is threatened if it is isolated from other similar areas by unsuitable habitat. There will be a limited ability to exchange genetic material and this will effect a species ability to adapt to changing conditions. This problem is particularly acute for plants which have a more limited ability to spread. It is well known too, that the smaller a site, the more at risk it is. I have commented before that the intensively farmed land surrounding our reserves is currently inhospitable to wildlife.

The solution is to connect these reserves together by restoring suitable ground. Many farms still have neglected banks and valleys which are suitable. Anna Field, of Magnificent Meadows.org.uk, has helped reseed about 100 hectares. With suitable aftercare (grazing is best) good flower meadow can be achieved in about three years. Both Sheepscombe and Edge are now managing their village greens better, for the benefit of wildlife.

Private gardens represent collectively a significant percentage of the UK’s land area. Most are not good for wildlife; too tidy, over fertilised, too many pesticides and inappropriate planting. They could be managed differently and add to the corridor effect. Chloe Cox is the founder of Wildstroud.org and her mission is to promote wildlife sympathetic gardening through educational workshops.

Roadside verges are another potential for connectivity as they often contain the remnants of a very diverse flora which may have been sheltered from the worst effects of pesticide spray drift. Cutting late and removing the trimmings is the way to go, but this represents a challenge to most councils.

These ideas are starting to take traction, but more people need to take an interest, read about it, invest time and money and then progress will happen.

Paul Baxter



The Ukrainian flag flying on the Church Tower on 24th February, the anniversary of the invasion

Elgar the Enigma

Land of Hope and Glory and Nimrod are what many know Edward Elgar for. His life, almost wholly devoted to music in the widest sense, was long, into his late 70s, but his output was relatively small and he frequently suffered from writers block. However his contemporary fame was much celebrated and yet he was largely self taught. All this Sir Tim Brain demonstrated in a fine presentation with energy and scholarship filling in the gaps. Where many contemporary composers had expensively studied abroad the influence of the greats was noticeable in their compositions. Edward Elgar had dissected works of Mozart, Beethoven and Cherubini and noted their constructions. He had performed in all the orchestras he could including that of a Birmingham mental institution and formed and composed for his own wind sextet. All this personal experience he put to use in the great works for which we celebrate him today.



Schubert - sublime music played with friends

Howard Allen appraised us of the short life of Franz Schubert concentrating on his chamber music, solo piano and lieder often performed with friends in private. His output was considerable in a life of only 31 years. Although he wrote a cycle of symphonies their greatness remained disregarded in his lifetime. He himself heard mostly his chamber, vocal and piano works, only once conducting a professional concert of his orchestral compositions. Now he is considered one of the greatest classical/romantic composers. Howard’s talk was illustrated with some fine Bryn Terfel recordings, sublime movements from the Quintets, Octet and Piano Trio as well as excerpts for the piano. Howard’s love of his subject was evident and his audience would undoubtedly be encouraged to explore further the compositions of Franz Schubert.

Please note forthcoming presentations in the Town Hall:-

16th March at 2.30 Ralph Vaughan Williams

Dennis Morgan

30th March at 2:30 A treasure trove...

Reg Wrathmell

Michael Grey

Thank You from Slavutych

On behalf of residents of the Ukrainian Slavutych – a town satellite of Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant, twin town of Painswick, on behalf of all the Ukrainians who are hospitably welcomed by the Painswick host families, I’d like to express my deepest gratitude to all the community for your kindness, friendship and respect, for your help and support of Ukrainians, for comfort and the sense of safety you have ensured us at such troubled and difficult time when Ukraine is resisting the open aggression of Russia.

I am very happy that the Painswick community has given me an opportunity to tell people about the current situation in Ukraine, about the war which was started by the Russian Federation against my country and the struggle of Ukrainians for their freedom and independence. “Talks on Chornobyl” – a number of presentations about Ukraine and Ukrainians, Slavutych town and Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant and its history which I delivered, have been received with a keen interest by the Painswick audience.

Nowadays every step to support Ukraine is valuable. “The Talks on Chornobyl” have given me a chance to collect money and send it to Ukraine, to Slavutych. Donations of the Painswick villagers have made it possible to buy heating equipment for one of Slavutych shelter centers, to purchase a night vision device for a Ukrainian military brigade, to provide Slavutych defenders with warm clothes, boots and special rugs and to help a young Slavutych family – two small girls lost their father who died as a hero. The war has taken him. Every donation, it doesn’t matter if it is big or small, is valuable because it is made sincerely. We greatly appreciate the generous charity donations of every Painswickian and public organizations of the village. We are very thankful to the helpful ladies of Painswick Women’s Institute, all the supportive members of the Friday Club and the congregation of the Pitchcombe Church.

My special thanks are for those who kindly helped me to arrange and hold “The Talks on Chornobyl”. I greatly appreciate all the efforts of my genuine and lovely friends: Frances Watson and John and Pippa Dickinson. Thank you very much!

Julia Marusych

Jottings

When you see vegetables in the supermarket where do you think they come from? Let's take carrots as an example. They are mostly grown in the eastern part of the country where the soil is well drained sandy loam without many stones and a pH about 6, a neutral soil, rather than too alkaline or acid. The seed is planted mostly in May and June but some are later. A carrot crop needs an inch of rain per week from irrigation or rain. They do not need nitrogen fertilizer but more phosphate and potash. The main growers expect to harvest about 700,000 tons from some 9000 hectares. Small scale market gardeners and local growers grow a variety of crops depending on their soil. Varieties have been developed which are successful further north, but here, on the Cotswold brash, we struggle to grow straight carrots.



Having ploughed the soil and sown a crop, farmers have to spray for carrot fly and carrot weevil to avoid damage or loss before harvesting. According to size, the harvester may cost up to £100,000 for a big, new one; with tractors at £60,000 + and then the trailers to transport from farm to packing shed. The total costs of growing come to some £4500 a hectare. When grading, the carrots are sorted into many sizes and shapes to go into different parts of the food chain. About a third of the total product is rejected and goes to animal feed.

Weather patterns are changing so the amounts and timing of rainfall, sunshine and temperature are not always ideal, but we are OK at the moment. With climate warming changing the growing conditions throughout the world, we will have to grow much more of our food here, at home. Globally, the world can grow enough food to feed everyone, but so much of our food is wasted. We chose more expensive, processed foods for convenience because they are quick to heat up. This is understandable with the busy lives so many people lead, but we need to go back to basics when we can.

Martin Slinger

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The joys of Spring at Rococo

I'm pleased to say that we have had a busy snowdrop season with thousands of satisfied visitors enjoying uncharacteristically calm February weather. Now the snowdrops are giving way to a gorgeous display of spring bulbs. During March visiting hours are Wednesday to Sunday 10am until 5pm with last admission at 4pm. No advance booking is needed this month - just turn up.

Painswick
Rococo
Garden

For me this month's delight is the daffodil display. The early ones are already showing through in the warmer, sunnier spots of the Garden with the promise of thousands more to bloom. It is such a time of promise and anticipation of warmer days. Another 10,000 were planted last autumn by our dedicated team of staff and volunteers so the Garden will look even more spectacular than in previous years.

Looking forward to summer, we've been busy finalising plans for our programme of events. Tickets are already on sale for our annual visit from the Handlebards who travel the length of the country by bike, performing Shakespeare. They will be bringing us "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on 30th June and 1st July. We are also looking forward to two performances of "Hercules" on August Bank Holiday Monday, 28th August, also now on sale. Nothing can be better than a show in the open air with the Rococo Garden as the backdrop - it is magical. For more detail visit rococogarden.org.uk.

For those who haven't yet seen it, our new temporary entrance is up and running with a bijou Shop at the heart of the new development. With our new alcohol licence approved, we are now selling our latest Rococo Ale brewed with hops grown here in the Kitchen Garden. It's a gorgeous amber ale with a malty, biscuity finish. This is a limited edition brew and at the moment we're offering three bottles for £10 whilst stocks last. Take home the taste of Rococo to enjoy this spring.

That's all for now. It feels like high time to get outdoors and enjoy the longer and warmer days - I hope to see you at the Garden soon.

Tim Toghill, volunteer

Painswick Library Book Club

Our next meeting is Monday 13th March from 1.30 - 2.30pm and we will be discussing *The Last House on Needless Street* by Catriona Ward. In April we will meet on Monday 17th also from 1.30 - 2.30pm and we will be discussing *The Magician* by Colm Toibin. If you would like to join us please come along to one or both of our meetings. For further information email painswick.library.bookclub@gmail.com

Pat Andrew

Painswick Sports

assembled by John Barrus

Painswick Golf Club

The golf course has been tested over the last month or two. We have had snow and very low temperatures, which prevented any play, then just cold, then rain and lots of it, but now a dry spell that seems almost warm. Many of us have taken every opportunity to play (except during the snow) and the course is in a surprisingly good condition despite the challenges posed by the weather.



Apart from various informal social events, the seniors section held a mid-week stableford competition on 16th February. The competition was notable for the fact that four golfers – John Barrus, Andrew Beard, Rick Carman and Finlay McLean – all scored 39 points. In these circumstances, the winner is decided by the best score on the last 9 holes, and if that doesn't resolve matters then by the best score on the last 6 holes. Congratulations to all four and especially the winner, John Barrus.

Visiting golfers are welcome to play Painswick golf course, though catering facilities at the clubhouse are at present very limited. For more information and booking, please call 01452 812615.

Peter Rowe

Foodbank

Our next collection in Painswick will be on Wednesday 15th March, 10am-12noon at the Stamages Lane car park and at the Stocks by the Church.

At the March collection, please may we ask for some of the following: cooking oil, jam and marmalade, peanut butter, Marmite, easter eggs, crisps, nuts, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, shower gel, razors, shaving gel, toilet roll, household cleaning sprays, laundry detergents, nappies sizes 4, 5, 6 and 7.

If you wish to make a bank donation, you can do so using the following details:

Stroud District Foodbank CIO
Sort code: 09-01-29
Account: 21994911

Your donations are always very gratefully received! Thank you.

The Foodbank Team

Falcon Bowls Club

Looking for something new? An activity all the family can be involved with? Then try playing bowls at the Falcon Bowls Club situated behind the Falcon Inn, New Street, Painswick and it has been since 1554 and has the oldest original green in England and no it's not just a game for older people! That is a myth!



Bowls is an interesting but challenging game that needs skill and precision. It's a game anyone can play regardless of age, sex or ability. It's a game children can play with adults. It's also a way to get some gentle exercise that charities such as the British Heart Foundation recommend.

Over the years many of the Club's members have taken part in Bowls Competitions that go to International Level. Rob Goddard, who many of you will know as the 4th generation of his family to run Goddard's garage, he is Club President and one of our Sponsors. His grandfather, Tom, was an International Player in the 1930s and won numerous competitions. Another more recent member, Tony Allcock MBE, has won 15 World Championships. We have current members that play for the County, also friendly matches against other clubs, or you can just enjoy a game with other Club members, so you can be as involved as much as you want to be!

We have a well-equipped Clubhouse including a licensed bar. During the closed season we have social evenings that include bingo and quiz nights with the highlight being a lovely festive meal. So come along to one of our Open Days. They are on Sunday 30th April 2023 from 2pm to 5pm and Friday 5th May 2023 from 6pm to 7.30pm. This year we will also be joining in with the Bowls' Big Weekend in conjunction with Bowls England, this event will take place over the weekend of 26th to 29th May 2023. More details to follow. Training is available for new players and everyone is welcome.

For more information I can be contacted on 01452 683475 or 07786 274316. Please leave me a message if I don't answer and I will call you back or email me at suepockett@icloud.com

Suzi Pockett, Falcon Bowling Club Recruitment Officer

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Painswick Community Support Update

Donations

Thanks to the generous “pay-as-you-like” donations from those attending our Friday coffee mornings, we are once again pleased to be able to donate to charities and groups in Painswick and to charities with a link to Painswick residents.

- **Age UK Gloucestershire** - Many villagers have benefitted from information and support from Age UK Gloucestershire over the past year. In particular we would like to thank Chris Walker for his ongoing commitment to helping our villagers.
- **Church Roof appeal** - Painswick church is an important and integral part of our community and we are very pleased to be able to support the re-roofing appeal.
- **Friday Club** - Friday club has been running for many years and we wish to support their continued efforts to provide opportunities for their members to meet and to enjoy visiting speakers, activities and day trips.
- **Rococo Gardens** - Rococo Gardens are supported by quite a few village volunteers. The garden has recently begun to provide us with excess seasonal vegetables on a ‘when available’ basis. Free vegetables will be placed at the Friday Hub (Town Hall, 10am to 1130am).
- **Homestart, Stroud** - Home Start provides vital support to families through a variety of services; we wish to support our village volunteers in this very important work.
- **Ukrainian Appeal** - We were pleased to support a recent charity dinner to raise monies for Ukrainian’s ongoing needs in particular generators.

Community Suppers

What a success this has been! Thank you to everyone who has helped turn this initiative into very worthwhile events. Our final community supper will take place on 14th March at the Church Rooms. If you would like to attend, please book as soon as possible. All are welcome. 14th March menu:
Beef lasagne with garlic bread and winter salad / Vegetable D/F and G/F option
Lemon tart with spiced orange syrup and whipped cream / Rhubarb fool, spiced orange syrup, almond cream and candied citrus zest (G/F. D/F. Vegan)
Book now by visiting <https://forms.gle/oDmdfsEJgY5o5pYw7> or call us (community phone number below).

Friday Community Hub

Ever since our Friday Hub started, Richmond Village has, once a quarter, been kindly hosting at their Auditorium and provided transport to and from the village for Painswick residents. As of 1st April, due to other commitments transport can no longer be offered. However, Richmond will continue to host quarterly and all are welcome to attend. We would like to thank Richmond Village for their ongoing support; it is very much appreciated. If you would like to attend but need help with transport, please call or email (details below).

Wednesday Meet in a warm space

Drop in to our Wednesday meet run by Sandra Glass and other community hub volunteers at the Town Hall, 10am - 12 noon.

If you need help or support or have any questions, please call or email us (mobile: 07956 203087, email: painswickcommunity@gmail.com). Our phone is manned 7 days a week from 9am to 5pm.

The Community Support Group - Louise, Abigail, Delyth & Hannah



The age range for those attending the Community suppers has been from under 1 to over 90

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The Croft School's OFSTED inspection



The Croft Primary School was inspected by Ofsted in December last year and graded 'Good'. The school has now received the report of the findings of the inspection. The Staff and Governors believe Painswick can be proud of what the report tells us about the school which serves our community.

Head Teacher Rebecca Gore said that she was particularly delighted with what the children themselves told the Inspectors about being a pupil at The Croft. The report said:

"Pupils are encouraged to become responsible, compassionate and resilient citizens. They are well-mannered and talk proudly about their school. They say that they are happy in school and love learning. The curriculum helps them to 'explore the world, like going on an adventure'. Pupils' personal development and well-being are central to the school's work. This prepares them well for their next stage. Pupils value the rich variety of activities that promote their personal development and well-being, including the use of outdoor learning."

The staff deserve credit for achieving an excellent result. Many schools have seen their ratings reduced from their previous level. Since Ofsted introduced higher standards in 2019, no fewer than 1 in 5 primary schools inspected failed to reach the standard to be judged 'Good'. The staff and governors are united in their determination to pursue a constant search for ways to improve the school. Help and support from the Painswick community is always welcome, so if anyone would like to know more about how they can engage with the school, please contact Mrs Gore. The full Ofsted report can be read on the school's website www.croft.gloucs.sch.uk

Alastair Duncan, Chair of Governors

Property Report

Properties in Painswick are still selling, with the market described by one agent as brisk, but price sensitive. 2 Berry Close even went to best and final offers with Murrays recently, with multiple buyers interested. Other properties going under offer this month include New Cottage at Painswick Court, Flax Cottage in Vicarage Street, Everleigh Cottage and Sen Sook at Sheepscombe and The Bungalow at Cranham, all through Hamptons, as well as Tall Trees in Kingsmill Lane and 4 Juniper Cottages at Wick Street, through Murrays.

An end to one of Painswick's longest running property sagas may even be in sight, as the field off New Drive has gone under offer

through Hamptons, although not it has to be said for the first time. Contracts have been exchanged on The Chestnuts at 1 Gloucester Road, 11 Hyett Orchard and Suttons Mill in Cranham, while the sale of Westmorland House in Kingsmead has completed.

Properties now available for sale include 1 Hillview Cottages in Gloucester Street, an end of terrace Cotswold stone cottage in need of some modernisation (Hamptons, £350,000) and School House in Stroud Road, the former Headmaster's house with four bedrooms, gardens, parking and views (Murrays, £725,000). A little further down Stroud Road, 4 St Marys Mead (Murrays, £850,000) is a detached 4 bed family house with double garage and south facing garden.

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Hamptons
THE HOME EXPERTS

There is another modern 4 bedroom detached property available at Cranham, the Old Barn in the heart of the village, with views over Cranham Woods (Murrays, £850,000) and at Sheepscombe, Greycot is a detached stone property with views and lots of period features (Hamptons, £930,000).

Murrays are Gold Sponsors of WickFlix, which this month is showing 'The Lost King' on Friday 10th March, while Hamptons are sponsoring the Playgroup's annual Easter Egg Hunt (see page 11). Hamptons will also be hosting a coffee morning and plant sale on Saturday 13th May at the Painswick Centre, with all proceeds split between Mind and Cancer Research UK. Offers to donate plants or bake a cake to sell, would be welcomed.

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

Mondays	Gentle pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538	Painswick Centre	8.45 - 9.45am	
	Improvers pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538	Painswick Centre	9.50 - 10.50am	
	Beginners/improvers pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538	Painswick Centre	10.55 - 11.55am	
	Ballyhoo modern dance classes (primary grade modern). Info from Julie ballyhoochalford@gmail.com	Painswick Centre	from 3.45pm	
	Community Choir. Contact Sophie sophie@sophiesterckx.co.uk	Painswick Centre	7.00 - 8.30pm	
	Short Mat Bowls. For beginners and experienced players. All equipment provided. 2.00/session to cover refreshments	Town Hall	2.00 - 4.00pm	
	Mindful Meditation with Kate. www.kate-beatty.co.uk/07793126234	Painswick Centre	12.30 - 1.00pm	
	Badminton (juniors) Contact John Barrus on johnbarrussjp@yahoo.co.uk	Painswick Centre	7.00 - 8.00pm	
	Badminton (adults) Contact John Barrus on johnbarrussjp@yahoo.co.uk	Painswick Centre	8.00 - 9.30pm	
	Painswick Singers . Contact Jean Jones 01452 813545. Start of the new season on Mar 6th. New members very welcome.	Richmond	7.30pm	
	Painswick Bootcamp. Details contact Becca Meadows 01452 451505 or info@beccameadowsnutrition.co.uk	Broadham Field Rugby Pitch	7.30 - 8.30pm	
	Tuesdays	Drawing classes. Info from Susan Skester skester@outlook.com	Painswick Centre	9.30 - 12.00pm
		Zumba with Martina 07891 194396	Painswick Centre	9.45 - 10.45am
		Pregnancy Yoga, Wild Geese Yoga. Oli	Painswick Centre	6.30 - 7.30pm
Painswick Art Club		Church Rooms	9.30 - 1.00pm	
Wednesdays	Rococo Sprites. See www.rococogarden.org.uk	Rococo Garden	9.45 am	
	Strength and Balance class for the over 60s. Contact Trish Tenn on 07956 4666617 or tennpatricia@gmail.com	Church Rooms	10.00 - 11.00am	
	Painswick Bridge Club. Contact Peter Sibley on 812126 or Margaret Wilson on 812305	Church Rooms	7.00pm	
	Table tennis. Contact David On 01452 812464	Painswick Centre	7.00 - 8.30pm	
	Yoga with Kate. www.kate-beatty.co.uk/07793126234	Painswick Centre	7.30 - 8.45pm	
	Painswick Community Support is running a Wednesday Meet in a warm space at the Town Hall with tea, coffee and biscuits. Chat and more. All welcome	Town Hall	10.00 - 12.00pm	
	Classical Pilates Mat Classes with free taster. Whole body workout for all ages and ability. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or info@joannedaleyPilates.com .	Painswick Centre	10.30 - 11.30am	
Thursdays	Strength and Conditioning Circuits. Love Life Fitness www.lovelifeladies.co.uk	Painswick Centre	12.30 - 1.30pm	
	After school art classes. Email classes@painswickcentre.com . Term time only	Painswick Centre	3.45 - 5.15pm	
	Morning Market	Painswick Centre	8.30 - 9.30am	
	Yoga. Contact Kim on yoginikim@icloud.com	Painswick Centre	9.30 - 11.00am	
	Nurturing yoga. Contact Kim on yoginikim@icloud.com	Painswick Centre	11.15 - 12.45pm	
	Tai chi. Contact Joe on 07960 753782	Painswick Centre	1.30 - 2.30pm	
	Dog Training Club. Contact Fiona Chapman on 01452 812462 or fiona.chapman123@btinternet.com	Church Rooms	10.00 - 12.00pm	
	Qi Gong Classic Exercise - contact Jeff Docherty on jeffdocherty@yahoo.com	Town Hall	9.30 - 10.30am	
	Badminton (adults). Contact John Barrus on johnbarrussjp@yahoo.co.uk	Painswick Centre	8.00 - 10.00pm	
	Classical Pilates Mat Classes. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or info@joannedaleyPilates.com .	Town Hall	5.45 - 6.45pm	
Fridays	Takeaway Food Night	Painswick Centre	5.00 - 8.00pm	
	Yoga for Backs. Contact Kim on yoginikim@icloud.com	Painswick Centre	9.30 - 11.00am	
	Ballet with Claire Tracey. Contact BalletClaire@outlook.com	Church Rooms	9.30 - 10.30 am	
	Painswick Community Hub Café: serving tea, coffee and homemade cakes. All welcome	Town Hall	10.00 - 11.30am	
	Church Choir Practice. Contact Chris Swain cgsvain@btinternet.com or 01453 822998	St Mary's Church	5.30 - 6.30pm	
	Classical Pilates Mat Classes with free taster. Whole body workout for all ages and ability. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or info@joannedaleyPilates.com .	Painswick Centre	11.00 - 12.00pm	
Saturdays	Painswick Baby and Toddler Group - Term time only	Youth Pavillion	9.30 - 11.30am	
	Sundays	Mass	Catholic Church	8.30am
Quaker Meeting for Worship		Meeting House	10.30am	
Aikido www.gloucestershireaikido.club .		Painswick Centre	8.30 - 11.00am	



Village Diary

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

March

Friday	3	Painswick Beacon Published		
Sat	4	PBCG - Beacon work party	Painswick Beacon	9.00 - 12.30pm
Mon	6	Community Lunch - Library Book Club	Town Hall	12.00 - 1.15pm
	6	Painswick Singers - start of new season. All welcome. Details Jean Jones 01452 813545	Richmond Painswick	7.30pm
Wed	8	Painswick Gardening Club - KW sharpening services tool drop off, followed by Beneficial Creatures in the Garden - Roger Umpelby	Town Hall	6.45 for 7.30pm
	8	Painswick Probus Club: Jerusalem - whose is it? - David Lees	Painswick Centre	10.00 for 10.30am
Thurs	9	Arts Society, Painswick: New York Schools: From luminism to Rothko - Deborah Jenner	Painswick Centre	10.00 for 11.00am
Fri	10	Friday Club: Outing to Gloucestershire's Golden Triangle to see the daffodils and a pub lunch. £22.00 for bus fare	Stamages lane car park	11.00am
	10	Wickflix: The Lost King	Painswick Centre	7.00 for 7.45pm
Sun	12	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church	10.00am
Mon	13	Library Book Club	Library	1.30 - 2.30pm
	13	Community Lunch - Croft School year 6 class	Town Hall	12.00 - 1.15pm
Tues	14	Community Supper - 2 course meal prepared by local chef . All welcome. To book call 07956 203087	Church Rooms	5.30pm
Thurs	16	Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Debussy piano and orchestral music - Dr David Lucas	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	18	PBCG - Beacon work party	Painswick Beacon	9.00 - 12.30pm
	18	Painswick Music Society: Emma Johnson (clarinet) and John Lenehan (piano). Online painswickmusicsociety.co.uk for membership and tickets. Enq Edward Bowron 07789 006006	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Sun	19	Deadline for Beacon Copy		
	19	Mothering Sunday - Family Communion	St Mary's Church	10.00am
	19	Mothers Day Lunch. £15.00/1 course; £18.00/2 courses; £22.00/3 courses. Menu on Facebook or ring 01452 813902	Richmond Village	12.00 - 3.00pm
Tues	21	Cotteswold Naturalists: 400 years of Stroudwater Textiles - Ian Mackintosh Enq 01453 873262	Box Village Hall	2.30pm
	21	Local History Soc.: John Putley 'Tales of Gloucestershire witches'	Croft School	7.30pm
Fri	24	Friday Club: 'Cut off from the rest of the world' - John Butterworth on Albania	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sun	26	Beacon Praise	St Mary's Church	10.00am
Mon	27	Cotteswold Naturalists: Excursion to East Devon. Enq 814570	Sidmouth	Self drive trip
Tues	28	Yew Trees WI: Maggie's Cancer Centre - Andrea Reid	Church Rooms	7.00 for 7.30pm
Thurs	30	Painswick Music Appreciation Group: A treasure trove of neglected gems for soloist and orchestra - Reg Wrathmell	Town Hall	2.30pm

April

Sat	1	Painswick Beacon published		
Sat	1	PBCG - Beacon work party	Painswick Beacon	9.00 - 12.30pm

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PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

S.23/0005/HHOLD 5 Gloucester Road
Proposed two storey side extension
S.23/0084/HHOLD The Byre, The Park
Erection of two storey extension.
(Resubmission of S.22/2165/HHOLD)
S.23/0080/LBC 2 Rosebank Cottages, Slad Road, Slad
Insertion of a single roof light.
S.23/0140/HHOLD Beechwood Cottage, Jacks Green, Sheepscombe
Replacement garden building
S.23/0127/HHOLD and S.23/0128/LBC Kings Mill House, Kings Mill Lane
Repairs & alterations to staircase, repairs and alterations to fenestration, flood mitigation measures, work to fireplaces
S.23/0056/TCA Butchers Arms, Damsells Mill Lane, Sheepscombe
S.23/0140/HHOLD Beechwood Cottage, Jacks Green
Replacement garden building and new retaining boundary wall.
S.23/0049/COU Land At Beech Farm Beech Lane
Change of use of land for camping and glamping site. Stationing of shepherds hut and glamping pod, wash room facilities, use of existing fishing cabin/shelter building.
S.23/0241/FUL and S.23/0242/LBC Coach House, Painswick House, Gloucester Road
Conversion to residential use and associated works.
S.23/0273/HHOLD Clissold Farm, Sheepscombe
Exterior alterations & the erection of a rear extension and installation of dormer windows.
S.23/0185/HHOLD Hedges, Gloucester Street
Proposed rear extension. Alterations to fenestration.

Book Review The China Nexus by Benedict Rogers

This is an extraordinary, important and timely book. China is a world power that increasingly impacts on our lives, even if many of us do not realise it. From surveillance balloons above the USA to potential snooping on our lives via social media and of course to the power politics that arm and sustain violent regimes around the world, China is of concern - to us all!

In "The China Nexus", Benedict Rogers has carefully and comprehensively analysed the issues that confront the world from China. His writing is not only based on careful research and documentation, but also on his own personal knowledge of China over 30 years and his deep love for the Chinese people. The chapters on "Hong Kong", "Christianity Under Fire", "Tibet", "Uyghur Genocide" and Chinese involvement in mass-harvesting of body parts were for me a shocking revelation which made me so angry with Chinese policies and the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) political system. Xi Jinping's return towards Mao-type violent oppression and Stalinist authoritarian control is truly something that the world should sit up and take note of.

This book is not easy to read; indeed it is a tough task but a MUST for anyone who wants to understand a real threat that faces us. "The China Nexus" is available to Painswick library borrowers now at your local Painswick Library.

Paul Kenchington

CONSENT

S.22/2649/HHOLD Washbrook Mill, Edge Road
Erection of single storey extension and associated landscape works.
(Resubmission of S.22/1951/HHOLD)
S.22/2564/FUL Land East of Beech Lane
Erection of shed and polytunnel
S.22/2363/HHOLD Painswick Mill Cottage, Ticklestone Lane
Landscaping works - construction of a retaining wall
S.22/2606/LBC Ranger Workshop, The Old Ebworth Centre, The Camp
Repair the workshop doors on the Ebworth Centre ranger workshop - make changes to just one of these doorsets (the set facing West). Make some practical alterations, including the introduction of a pedestrian door
S.22/2675/FUL The Worthing's Sheepscombe
Replacement dwelling
S.22/2727/LBC Tocknells Court, Cheltenham Road
Internal & external alterations. Revised extension design. (Resubmission of S.22/0570/LBC)
S.22/2664/HHOLD The Pool House, Bunnage Fields Farm, The Camp
To add approx 1.5m to roof height to include a 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom loft extension
S.22/2725/HHOLD and S.22/2726/LBC Stonechat Cottage, New Street
Remove outbuilding and construction of new extension and alterations - Amendments to applications ref S.22/0506/HHOLD and S.22/0540/LBC
S.23/0056/TCA Butchers Arms, Damsells Mill Lane, Sheepscombe
S.23/0140/HHOLD Beechwood Cottage, Jacks Green

WITHDRAWN

S.22/2456/HHOLD The Red

House, Lower Washwell Lane
Construction of dormer roof with 3 gables to rear and replacement conservatory.
S.22/1464/CPE The Chalet, Bulls Cross, Sheepscombe
Certificate of Lawfulness to demonstrate that The Chalet has been used as a single dwellinghouse for a period in excess of 4 years.
S.22/2235/HHOLD Washbrook Mill, Edge Road
Replacement of existing garage.
S.22/2784/FUL Worgans Barn, Folly Lane
Installation of two animal shelters/ agricultural storage. (Resubmission of S.22/2056/FUL)

REFUSED

S.22/2695/FUL 5 Clattergrove Cottages, Clattergrove
Conversion of garage/store to holiday accommodation.

MINI-ADS

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Primarily for Painswick residents. Text maximum 30 words. Flat charge £5. Free to subscribers for private sales. £5 for business use, holiday rentals. etc.

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

Additional copies of the Beacon

are available from the Premier shop or online, where the Beacon can be seen in full colour at www.painswickbeacon.org.uk

Personal Column

Condolences

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mrs MAUREEN MADELEY formerly of Pitchcombe & Painswick. Widow of the late Vic Madeley. Maureen resided for 3 happy years at Resthaven. Loved and cherished by Dominic(son) & Sally West. Missed by Ben, Harriet, Chloe & Alexandra.

To the family and friends of ELEANOR (ELLIE) HARPER of Nurses House, Friday Street, who died on 30th January.

To the family and friends of PAULINE ROCHE who passed away peacefully at home on 19th February. There will be a small family only service on 6th March. At Pauline's request, no flowers please. Donations can be made to 'Target Ovarian Cancer'. Rob would also like to thank everyone for their kind messages of sympathy and support.



Ellie Harper

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

Debut Novel for local author

The first novel by Penny Boydell from Painswick has just been published. 'A Way to Go' is described as about an intense romance which developed out of an illicit and highly sensual affair of more than 10 years and which survived many hurdles.

"Freed from the ties of work and family by retirement and bereavement, the couple embark on a trip of a lifetime around the coasts of Europe, with its idyllic beaches, historic cities, fascinating art galleries and ancient sites.

It is a gripping and highly readable novel full of wit, fun and escapist pleasures, but with disturbing happenings which raise serious issues of love, estrangement and loss."

The book is published by Austin Macauley and available as a paperback or e-book, from bookshops, online and in the local library.



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NEXT ISSUE

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www.painswickbeacon.org.uk

for current issue and archive, the annual directory and village maps.

for editorial attention only use
beacon@painswick.net
or hard copy - preferably typed
Beacon post box - New Street

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

Local Photographers

The Beacon always welcomes pictures suitable for publication and aims to display the work of local photographers from time to time in colour on the back page. With Spring reportedly on the horizon, we would particularly welcome colourful contributions for the next issue.

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