

The Painswick Beacon

Volume 47 Number 12

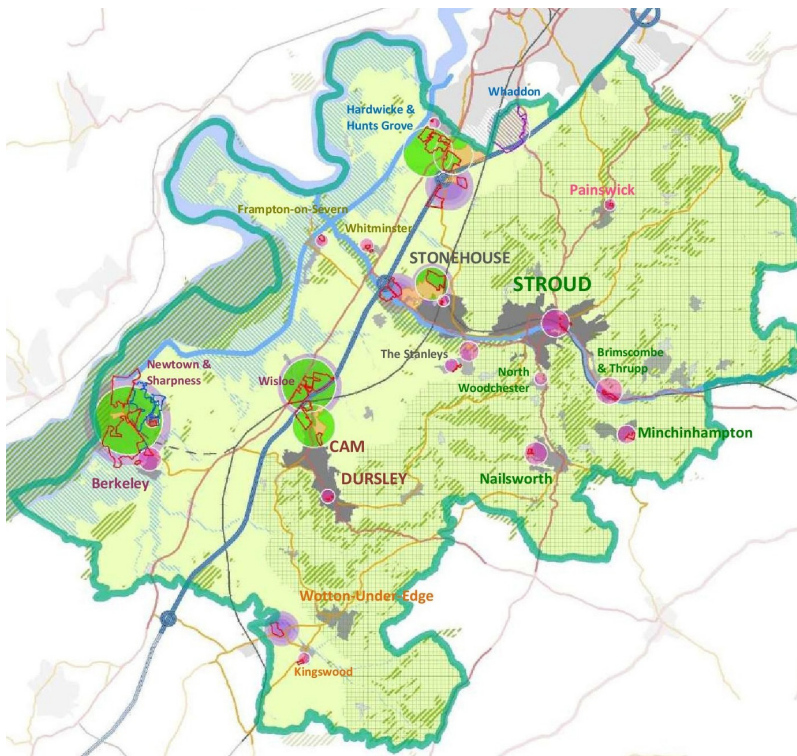
March 2025

Local Plan for Stroud District rejected as Council faces abolition

A year after Stroud District Council asked for a pause in its Local Plan process, it has been told by planning inspectors to go back to the drawing board. The plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate more than three years ago, but the inspectors have now concluded that it is undeliverable in its present form and in the required timescale.

Their concerns relate to improvements that would be required to junctions 12 (south of Gloucester) and 14 (south of Dursley) on the M5, if major housing developments at Hardwicke and at Sharpness / Berkeley were to go ahead. In each case the junction improvements would require significant finance from National Highways, but are not yet in their forward programme.

Without a new plan (the current plan was adopted 10 years ago), Stroud is in a weak position to defend planning appeals on sites that have not



been designated for development. With the Government committed to ambitious targets for housing, developers will no doubt be eyeing up sites in and around Stroud. On the new basis recently introduced by the Government, Stroud is considered to have just 3.24 years supply of housing land, compared to the 5 year requirement.

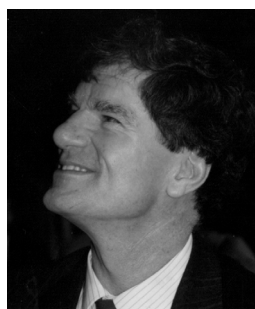
Another major complication for Stroud Council though is that its own existence is in doubt. The Government has called for the abolition of most District Councils and their replacement by unitary authorities. That is most likely to mean a single Gloucestershire Council, although a group of local MPs has suggested two Councils, covering East and West Gloucestershire (Stroud would be in the West). Some powers might also go to a new strategic authority for a wider regional grouping.

Sensing an opportunity, the County Council applied to the Government to delay elections due this year, until the new structure could be in place, but has been turned down. Other counties did get approval and will now form the first wave of new unitary authorities, with Gloucestershire probably consigned to a second group. That leaves Stroud District in limbo as it struggles to re-start its planning process.

Lynn Steer 1940 - 2025 Founding member of the Beacon team

We are sad to report this month the death of Lynn Steer, an exceptionally well known figure in Painswick, after 50 years of living here. Some of his many interests and achievements are recorded in an appreciation on page 11, written by his wife, Sylvia.

We make special mention here though of his role as one of the team that started off the Beacon in April 1978. Painswick owes a particular debt of gratitude to the foresight and commitment of Lynn and his colleagues in those early days.



Beacon Subscriptions

It is the time of year to renew, or start, your annual subscription to the Painswick Beacon. All the details are on page 3.

Please contribute and do not leave it to others to ensure that the Beacon survives and prospers.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - from the meeting held on Wednesday 19th February 2025 reported by David Allott

The Meeting had some animated discussions about the likely effect of the Local Plan rejection and about the prospects for the abolition of Stroud District Council. See page 1 article. The relevant Stroud District Councillors and Planners may now struggle to fend off unwelcome Planning Applications. Their best defence locally, may be reliance on the protection of 'protected landscapes'. The national position is that "Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in ... National Landscapes which have the highest status of protection". The former AONB is now renamed "Cotswolds National Landscape".

The future of Gloucestershire County Council, in one piece or two – will not be decided soon. Early comments on the proposals are due now but final submissions are not due before November.

The meeting quickly approved the January 15th meeting's minutes, and noted there have been no applications to date for co-option to the Parish Council. As a result there are still two vacancies, one in Slad ward and one in Painswick ward.

Sue Williams' County Councillor's Report highlighted that over 100,000 trees have been planted across 250 projects in the last year. The council remains on target to plant a million by 2030. Further to the County's aim to reach net zero by 2045, £50,000 worth of grants have been awarded, and £1 million is approved to be spent across the county on solar panels.

Other capital projects include a new 200-place special school for children and young people and three new adult care homes. A further £10 million will be put towards the council's £100 million four year plan on road improvements and £24.5 million has been identified as efficiencies, saving and extra income for next year. The Council's spending for 25/26 will rise by £32.7m to almost £65m with Band D properties paying £6.65 more a month

Digital Technology and tourism: The amazingly named RSPAWIR (River Severn Partnership Advanced Wireless Innovation Region) is funding two digital tourism conferences with advice on how 5G and wireless technologies can support businesses and boost the visitor economy. Both events are free to attend. For more information go to the Gloucestershire website.

District (and Parish) Councillor Gary Luff had a lot to report. A recent planning meeting had approved a speculative application for 17 dwellings at Coaley, despite it being outside the village's settlement boundary and despite concerns about sewerage infrastructure. As a result of the housing supply shortage a so called "tilted planning balance" now applies and it is harder to resist planning applications that have not been consulted on, identified and allocated by the District Council, as the most suitable places for new development. Stroud's target has been raised from 620 to 840 homes per year.

Local Government Reorganisation: SDC is working with the County Council and

the five other District Councils to explore options for one or two unitary councils for the county. GAPTC (Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils) will be part of the discussions.

Second and Empty homes: At the full Council meeting on 13th February the premiums were confirmed. Second homes will be subject to 100% premium (=Council Tax x 2) and empty properties will, after one year, pay the 100% premium. There are a number of exemptions. There are currently 70 second homes in Painswick.

Croft School Council

The meeting received the many notes from the meeting with The Croft School Council. The children are brilliant at coming forward with ideas and requests!

1. Recreation Ground: There were several suggestions to add new equipment. The Council asked for their top three options and committed to seek funding for at least one before the next meeting. No Smoking, No Littering and Dogs on Leads signs were suggested for the area near the play equipment. It was agreed that if the children design the signs, the Council will have them made and installed.

2. Community Gardens: The proposal was considered. The School confirmed that they do have their own vegetable garden and need more volunteers to assist.

3. Speeding in the villages: The children raised concerns about Edge Lane in particular. Many of them have to cross the A46 by the Lychgate and use Edge Lane on their way to school. Also when going to Richmond for swimming. The Council will ask the PCSO if they could increase their presence at appropriate times.

4. Litter Picking: The children are keen to carry out some litter picking in problem areas, such as hedges, under seats in the Recreation Ground and places where drivers throw litter. Councillor Gary Luff will arrange a weekend Litter Pick through the Stroud District Council's Litter Champion.

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Last year, after the article by our chairman describing the increase in costs to produce The Beacon, we had a small increase in the number of subscribers and those that subscribed also gave more. Thank you to all the subscribers of last year and can I ask that you continue to support The Beacon this year and the years going forward.

Of all the households that receive The Beacon, less than half currently subscribe. We need to expand our number of subscribers to ensure the continuation of The Beacon. If you do not currently subscribe, can I ask that you consider taking out a subscription. We suggest a minimum payment of £15 per household, but we welcome subscriptions of any amount.

Our preference is for bank transfers to account The Painswick Beacon, Sort Code 30 98 29, account number 00217777, but we are also happy to accept payment by cash or cheque. Please complete the slip enclosed in the return envelope which you should have received with this copy of The Beacon and which shows all the necessary details. The envelope can be dropped in to the The Beacon Box (beside the phone box outside Murrays) or posted via Royal Mail (please ensure you put a stamp on it if using Royal Mail!)

Once again, thank you to all our subscribers for supporting your Painswick Beacon.
Jacek Wolowicz



Our next film will be Thelma, on Friday 14th March. See the website for details.

Inspired by a real-life experience of director Josh Margolin's own grandmother, THELMA puts a clever spin on movies like Mission: Impossible, spotlighting an elderly grandmother as an unlikely action hero. With infectious humour, Margolin employs the familiar tropes of the action genre in hilarious, age-appropriate ways to tackle aging with agency.

In the first leading film role of her 70-year career, June Squibb portrays the strong-willed Thelma Post, a feisty 93 year-old grandmother who gets conned by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson and sets out on a treacherous quest across Los Angeles, accompanied by an aging friend and his motorized scooter, to reclaim what was taken from her. Doing most of her own stunts in the film, she demonstrates that she is more than capable of taking care of business – despite what her daughter Gail, son-in-law Alan, or grandson Danny might believe.

Your Painswick Directory

As you may have noticed, the updated Painswick Directory has not been issued in hard copy this year. It is however available online – go to www.painswickbeacon.org.uk and click on the heading Directory 2025.

The directory lists local businesses, clubs, societies, enterprises and organisations and is updated regularly. If you know of, or are involved in, any activity please ensure the details in the directory are correct, and of course if there are any which are missing please let us know. Email carolmaxwell@talktalk.net or place hard copy in the Beacon post box in New Street.

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Carol Maxwell

Julian Telling Garden Services

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Gentlemen, note the 25th March Your chance to attend a WI Meeting!

At Yew Trees WI next meeting Marc Begg - a proud Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers - is giving a talk with the intriguing title "Medals to Metal". It is an open meeting so both men and women are warmly welcome to come and hear the fascinating story of Marc's life to date. Marc was born and grew up in New Zealand where he balanced an engineering apprenticeship with training and competing in winter sports. He then travelled through Europe on the professional Snowboard tour before moving to the UK. In the final part of his talk he will cover the buying of a Steel Fabrication workshop in Cirencester and the path he has followed to ensure the business is a sustainable ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) responsible company. We look forward to seeing lots of visitors on Tuesday 25th March 7.30 pm in the Church Rooms. (Visitors: £4.)



Duck races in Bibury, Wassailing in Stroud, Tall Ships in Gloucester Docks, Cheese Rolling at Brockworth and the County Show at Moreton-in-Marsh are just some of the colourful Gloucestershire events and traditions that have been captured on film by Kate Peake. Kate's audience was delighted to discover the inclusion of Painswick's Feast and Clypping ceremony in the miscellany of happenings recorded by Kate and shown to Yew Trees' members at their January meeting. Her use of drone to film these events gave her audience a wonderful new perspective on some familiar scenes. A bird's eye view of Painswickians encircling St Marys while singing the Clypping hymn wonderfully illustrated the embracing of the church. Members were also intrigued when as an 'encore' Kate showed her newest video, that of the mammoth construction work being undertaken on the A417 at Crickley Hill.

Celia Lougher 812624

Painswick Feast 2025 Sunday 21st September

Intriguing evidence on the origins of the Painswick Feast and Clypping Service have been uncovered by Carol Maxwell from the Painswick History Society. With attention focussed on some medieval findings, the Feast organiser in chief, Stephen Aiano, is spearheading a medieval theme this year.



So now is the time to dust off your armour, tune up your psaltery, blow the cobwebs from your shawm and consider some jousting practice in time for the Feast.

Get ready to join us for Clypping, apple pressing, dog showing, fabulous music, puppy dog pie and cider. Queries Contact: Stephen.aiano@aol.com

Iris McCormick

One General on another The life of General Ismay

On Thursday 6th Feb. 2025 Lieutenant General Sir John Kiszely gave a fine outline of his biography on the life and work of General Lord Hastings (Pug) Ismay (1887-1965).



Ismay was born in Nainital, India, and educated in the UK at Charterhouse School and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He then served in the Indian Army as an officer of the 21st Prince Albert Victor's Own Cavalry. During WWI, he served with the Camel Corps in British Somaliland, in the British fight against the "Mad Mullah", Mohammed Abdullah Hassan. After some 6 years Ismay felt his future was stuck in a backwater and entered a period of "war-weariness" (depression), the first of several such episodes in his lifetime. In 1922 he attended the Indian Army Staff College Quetta, followed in 1924 by staff training at the RAF Staff College Andover, each paving the way for promotion to the highest Army echelons.

Appointed to assist government with handling the consequences of the General Strike in 1926, Ismay soon made his mark with politicians, including Winston Churchill. When preparations were being made for WWII he became Churchill's closest military adviser, gaining a reputation as "the man with the oil can" while resolving differences between superiors including the military Service chiefs. Throughout the war he participated in most major policy decisions by the Allied powers. Ismay also assisted Churchill with writing his memoirs.

After retirement from the Army in 1946, Ismay briefly became a minister before serving as NATO Secretary General, 1952-1957. His time in office saw many challenges - the Soviet invasion of Hungary, Suez, the Cyprus Crisis of 1963-64, and the death of Stalin. Steering NATO through these crises required judgement, patience and humility. His legacy is that of NATO with a strong central headquarters connecting its political and military dimensions, and an organisation with a global security perspective.

Henry Hall

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The Arts and Crafts Movement flourished in the Cotswolds between 1880 and 1920, and many talented women contributed, including Painswick textile designers Phyllis

Barron and Dorothy Larcher. Come and hear about their lives and work at our next talk given by Dr Katherine Bradley, retired lecturer and co-founder of the Oxford International Women's Festival: Painswick Centre 5th of March 2.30pm.

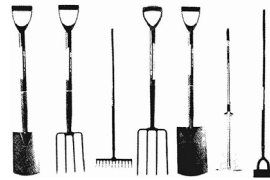
This will be followed at Box Village Hall, on 18th March (2.30pm), by a talk from Fergus Dignan about the work of Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Then on 2nd April at 2.30pm in the Painswick Centre we will have a chance to hear about the Glorious Cotswold Grasslands programme. In the 1930s, 40% of the Cotswolds AONB was covered in wildflower-rich grassland, abundant with wildflowers and a vast diversity of wildlife... however less than 1.5% remains. This project aims to restore around 200 hectares of this grassland. Lectures are free for Members, non-members welcome (£5 charge), just drop in or contact Paul Wyeth; CNFCLectureSec.pw@gmail.com 07472 021 517.

Our next two excursions (The Bathurst family home in Cirencester and Javelin Park incinerator tours) are now fully booked but there is much to look forward to over coming months with a visit in May to the A417 Missing Links construction site for a presentation, after which we will step outside for a view of the latest works; a private guided tour of Woodchester Mansion in June, a guided walk along the Stroudwater Canal, plus a Salisbury excursion later in the year.

Membership remains unchanged (£25 individual, £40 couple) so do renew your subscription if you haven't already or join now to get exclusive email updates of walks, excursions and talks organised by the Club, as well as other activities of interest. For Membership queries please contact Clare Woodman: CNFCMembershipSec@outlook.com Website: www.cotsnatsfield.club or find us on FaceBook Sylvia May, Email: cnfcsecretary1@gmail.com

Painswick Gardening Club

On February 12th Chloe from 'Wildstroud' came to talk to us about gardening for wildlife: The total area of land occupied by private gardens is much more than that of wildlife reserves, so leaving the reserves isolated from each other. She, and a friend, started the group "Wildlife Project" in 2019 with the aim of providing nature corridors and reserves around Stroud. Our gardens might not support everything but could allow plants to spread through to different areas and animals follow, so joining up the reserves. Gardens can offer a refuge for plants and animals excluded by disruption and development of their habitat. If conditions improve, plants and animals may re-establish back. So Chloe's message was "Share your garden".



On 12th March we have Andy Jeanes returning to talk about Clematis. He came last year and enthused us with climbing plants in general, but is actually a clematis specialist. He works with the Guernsey Clematis Nursery and has a lifetime of knowledge and experience, so we look forward to suggestions as to how to manage clematis.

We meet in the Town Hall at 7 pm for tea/coffee and perhaps a glass of wine, ready to start the talk at 7.30pm. Come and join us.

Joyce Barrus

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May Morris in the Tapestry Room at Kelmscott Manor
By Mary Annie Sloane (courtesy: William Morris Gallery)

Sisters Cox Trust - Hardship Fund

The Sisters Cox Trust is now accepting applications for grants from its Hardship Fund for "the benefit of the sick or needy of all classes in the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's Painswick." You do not have to be a churchgoer to apply for this. Please make applications in writing marked 'Confidential' to Reverend Sarah Haslam at The Benefice Office, The Lychgate, Stroud Road, Painswick, GL6 6UT. Or email Rev Sarah at beaconnector@gmail.com Please apply by 1st April 2025.

Lindsay Gardiner

Daffodil Photos

For the April Beacon we hope to show a collage of pictures of daffodils taken from gardens or areas around Painswick. Please email any pictures for consideration to beacon@painswick.net

News from St. Mary's Enjoy the silence this Lent

“In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength” – these prophetic words found in the Old Testament book of Isaiah are calling to many of us today who, in an increasingly fast-paced, troubled and ‘noisy’ world, are simply searching for peace. Is more peace and quiet something you could do with?



Our ‘Big Ask’ survey last year showed that many churchgoers in our area would appreciate more times of rest and silence. So, during Lent (which begins on March 5th on a day called Ash Wednesday and continues up until Saturday 19th April, ‘Holy Saturday’), we are encouraging our churches to lean into times of stillness and silence as we seek to encounter Christ and experience the peace of the Lord more fully.

What will this look like? Well, in our times of gathered worship on Sundays, service leaders will ensure that a couple of minutes of quiet will be held after the Word has been expounded in the sermon or talk, and other periods of quiet and pauses may also be introduced.

In addition, on Mondays during Lent (with the final session on Monday 7th April) there will be a short service of silent meditation held in Painswick Church between 6-6.30pm. Everyone is welcome. On the final service there will be the opportunity to share in a simple Eucharist, too.

If you have any other ideas about how to enjoy silence collectively – such as joining others on a silent prayer walk – please let us know and our weekly church family newsletter ‘Beacon Light’ will gladly help you to shape and share your plans so that others might join you. Please do let Bea know, by emailing beaconbeneficeoffice@gmail.com and include ‘Silence’ in the subject header.

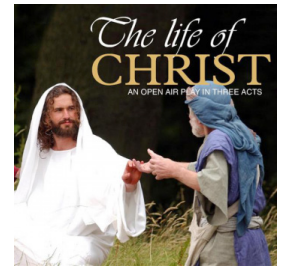
Of course, not everyone enjoys silence, so please note that our regular church worship and activities will continue as usual. As we draw closer to Easter itself (particularly in Holy Week), this will include a number of choral events and extra worship services that are rich with music and participation.

Do keep checking Beacon Light for news of all your local church’s events, services and activities, as well as posters and of course your village magazine and emails as usual.

Revd Sarah Haslam

'The life of Christ' at Wintershall A kind of English Oberammergau

Churches Together Around Painswick is organising a trip to the Wintershall Estate in Surrey on 19th June 2025. Tickets are £35 each and we will book a coach and confirm the cost of travel once we know how many wish to join us. Tickets are selling out so, if you do want to come, please contact Ela Pathak-Sen, Chair of Churches Together by email ela@commotionuk.org as soon as possible. You will need to pay a deposit of £20 so that we can secure the tickets. If you want to know more about this beautiful re-enactment, go to www.wintershall.org.uk



Michael and Clare Irving who have been to Wintershall write: "For the last twenty-five years the owners of the Wintershall Estate near Guildford in Surrey have brought together a cast of over one hundred to tell the life of Jesus Christ as described in the Gospels. The play lasts from 10am to 3.30pm and it takes place by the actors and audience moving around the Estate. They move together to three different natural theatres as well as to a lakeside! There’s a Galilee too! The part of Jesus is played by a professional actor and all the other cast are volunteers. Some have been taking part for years. Behind the scenes there so many others. The Sound System is the finest I have heard in the outdoors!

Since it started, we have been here on three occasions with others and by ourselves. It is a life transforming occasion and really does bring alive the whole sweep of the life, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Our Lord. Thousands come every year. As we move around the grounds we are caught up in the drama - we are there - we are hearing the teaching of Jesus - we are disciples - we are being changed.

Wintershall is only two and a half hours away. I am delighted that a party are going this year. Should you come, you will need a packed lunch, a picnic rug or perhaps a light folding chair. June is usually dry and sunny but it could be otherwise so perhaps a light waterproof! We cannot recommend it enough. It is a truly unforgettable and transformative experience."

Ela Pathak-Sen

World Day of Prayer Service Friday 7th March

Churches Together Around Painswick, World Day of Prayer Service, 10.30am on Friday, 7th March at Our Lady and St Therese Church in Painswick.

This beautiful Service has been prepared by the women of the Cook Islands, which lie between Tonga and Samoa in the South Pacific Ocean. We hope to capture something of the magic of these islands through music, pictures and refreshments based on local delicacies. Please join us.

Frances Watson



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Companionship - but no cutlasses

What a start to the New Year! On the 13th January the Club hosted the Community Lunch in the Town Hall. Several Members kindly donated "home made soup" which was gratefully appreciated by those who attended. Then on the 24th Vicky Weaver presented a fascinating talk on "Bespoke Life for Companionship". Having worked for several years for Social Services she decided to provide an alternative service by offering a service similar to that of a "Personal Assistant." The vision was to give her clients, who live at home, the quality of "one to one time" and become a "befriender." Her business is booming!



Then on the afternoon of 30th January 20 of us set off by car or bus to the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham to enjoy Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance." Personally although I thoroughly enjoyed the production the modern dress and lack of Cutlasses took the edge off it!

On 7th February Kate Peake returned to the Club to talk to us and show film clips on amongst others "Vintage Transport in Gloucestershire" and "Views of the County and Beyond." A riveting and interesting presentation. Kate is a registered drone pilot and film maker. She had brought her drone with her and we were surprised how small it was!

What does March hold in store for Members? On the 7th we have an "Afternoon of Readings and Monologues" hosted by Paul Evans. Then on the 21st we have an "Outing by Minibus" to visit the County's "Golden Daffodil Triangle" with lunch at The Beachamp Arms in Dymock.

Warmer, drier weather is forecast for March. So why not venture forth and join us in the Town Hall at 2.30pm on the 7th March to enjoy an afternoon with like-minded people. After the presentation we serve tea and biscuits and most important of all the opportunity to relax and chat. All over 50 are welcome, the visitors fee is £4. We look forward to "Meeting and Greeting" you on the 7th.

Mike Kerton

New Parish Church Electoral Roll

Every six years a completely new Electoral Roll has to be prepared for members of St Mary's Parish Church who are eligible to take part in and vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and stand as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The new Electoral Roll has to be completed by the date of our APCM this year which is Thursday 8th May at 6.30pm in the Church Rooms.



We will be contacting all those who are on the current Electoral Roll to complete a new application form, and inviting those who would like to apply for church membership for the first time to get in touch with us.

Forms are available in Church or can be requested from Church Wardens, Lindsay Gardiner (01452 814282), Dylan Davies (01452 812966) or from Frances Watson, Electoral Roll Officer (01452 812071).

Lindsay Gardiner

Music for the innocent ear and Antonio Vivaldi

The intriguing title of Jenny Buckland's talk encompassed a number of composers who ought to be better known and a very pleasant and informative afternoon demonstrated this with well chosen musical examples. The list, diverse and international, comprising solo piano, art song, chamber and orchestral ensemble was mainly drawn from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Gloucester was represented by Ivor Gurney and we heard the Clarinet Concerto composed by his tutor Charles Villiers Stanford whose fame as a composer declined at his death.



The second presentation in the month brought a return visit from Dr Timothy Brain who gave an absorbing summary of the rise, fall and re-rise of "Mr Four Seasons" Antonio Vivaldi. With a brief excerpt from "Spring", the ubiquitous phone jingle, he went beyond with excerpts from the Gloria, Concerto for two trumpets and Ottone. Vivaldi had travelled extensively throughout Europe, his fame fading on his death in Vienna and has revived in comparatively recent times on discovery of his many unpublished manuscripts in Northern Europe. Always absorbing and thoroughly researched, the group can hopefully look forward to further presentations from Dr Brain.

We hear the saddest news concerning the death of Lynn Steer, a long standing contributor and member of PMAG. We send sincere condolences to Sylvia and the family. For a fuller celebration of his long and varied life see page 11.

Next meetings 2:30 PM in the Town Hall:
Thursday March 6th
Schumann & Brahms Duncan Richardson (new date)
Thursday March 20th
Stravinsky after the Rite of Spring Dr David Lucas
Thursday April 3rd
Featuring the Oboe Joyce Barrus (new date)
Michael Grey

A vigil for Peace

Quaker Meeting will host a vigil for peace on Sunday April 13th 9.50 am for 10 am - 10.20 am at the Quaker Meeting House, Vicarage Lane.

All are welcome... and of course welcome to stay on for the meeting 10.30 - 11.30 am.

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Events at the Painswick Centre

Let's Dance 2nd March - see opposite
WickFlix 14th March – Thelma.

Food Trucks March :

- 1st Thursday – Ground and Round Burger
- 2nd Thursday – Box Kitchen Pizza - who are introducing delicious tiramisu to the offering
- 3rd Thursday – Taste of Punjab
- 4th Thursday Burgerlish

The Thursday morning market needs the village's support to continue. There is a plan to increase the number of traders again and do a spring re-launch with giveaways and promotions. Look out for this on social media etc.

The Painswick Centre's website is being modernised and will soon have up to date content and a calendar of events.

Rob Targett

David Loose

We are deeply saddened by the recent passing of David Loose, a valued trustee of the Painswick Centre. David stepped forward and volunteered to be a trustee when his help was most needed. His extensive corporate experience brought wisdom and insight, helping to guide our work in countless ways. Beyond his strategic contributions, he will be fondly remembered for his warmth and generosity, not forgetting the joy he brought as our very own Father Christmas at recent Goodwill evenings.

David's presence will be greatly missed, but his legacy will live on in the community he served so well. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

Trustees of The Painswick Centre

Events at the Golf Clubhouse

Following the huge success of our Christmas Fair, we are holding a Spring Home, Garden and Pets Fair, raising funds for Great Western Air Ambulance at Painswick Golf Club. Friday 4th April and Saturday 5th April, 10 am to 5pm each day, entry £2.



We are also hosting live music on Gold Cup night (14th March). Chris Woodchuck will be performing all the popular Irish Folk songs to get those toes tapping! Music from 7pm until late. Kitchen open from 6pm to 9pm.

Lucy Gorton



Let's Dance! comes to Painswick Sunday March 2nd, 10am, Painswick Centre

Let's Dance! is a national campaign to inspire everyone in the UK to embrace dance as a way to improve their health, connect with others, and have fun. Its mission is to get more people dancing together, regardless of age, fitness level, or experience. Spearheaded by Angela Rippon CBE, the campaign is supported by leading organisations including the Sport and Recreation Alliance, NHS, and Parkinson's UK.



It launches across the country on 2nd March and Painswick will be very much a part of that, thanks to Claire Lewis who is passionate about dance and movement for the wellbeing of all. She will be joining the Let's Dance campaign by hosting this event on Sunday 2nd March, 10.00-12.00, at The Painswick Centre, to which all are cordially invited.

The event will bring greater awareness of how dance and movement benefits mental and physical health. It will focus on Nia - Sensory Dance Movement, where all genders, ages, and abilities are welcome to join in. The dance movement will be guided by Claire to inspiring music and everyone will be encouraged to move in their unique body's way to find comfort and joy in their own ability to move, whether that is sitting or standing. All are welcome.

The event is free, but to allow space for all, please book in advance at <https://clairelewis.co.uk/event-list> (even with short notice). Any voluntary donations at The Painswick Centre will be gratefully received on the day.

Sensory Dance Movement is offering a course of classes in March 2025. For more information, please contact Claire on 07920 748933, chickpeas@hotmail.co.uk or <https://clairelewis.co.uk>

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A Johnston family marathon

Raising funds for Crisis

Painswick resident Ian Johnston will be taking part in the iconic London Marathon on April 27th. Ian, who lives in St Mary's Street, will be running alongside his Aberdeen-based sister Jennifer, and they are using the opportunity to raise funds for Crisis, the homelessness charity, an issue they care passionately about.

Both have taken part in the London Marathon previously, Ian in 2019, Jennifer in 2021 and have run many races together but this is the first time they are attempting a full marathon as a duo. Ian says "I count my blessings daily to live amongst such lovely people in the beautiful village of Painswick and in a safe and secure home. Sadly, not everyone is so fortunate and many people find themselves homeless due to issues such as poverty, losing a job, family and marriage breakdowns or physical and mental illness. Crisis provides the emotional and practical support to assist individuals and families who are facing the trauma of homelessness."

Ian and Jennifer's JustGiving Page



If you would like to support Ian and Jennifer's fundraising for Crisis, please use the link www.justgiving.com/page/ianandjennifertogether to make a donation. "Your support is greatly appreciated" says Ian "and we will be sure to let you all know how we get on. With a combined age of 129 we won't be looking to break any records but the cause will spur us on to the finish line!"



Ian Johnston with a display of his running medals

Vacancy for a School Governor

The Croft School in Painswick has a vacancy for someone to join the Governing Body. The Croft is a thriving Primary school rated 'Good' by Ofsted. The role of a governor is to ensure that the school is well run, meets its legal obligations, and sets the highest standards for the education it provides for its pupils.



Governors attend six main board meetings plus other committee meetings every year. We also try to get to know the school well by spending time in the school and attending school events.

Our governors bring a range of skills and experience to the role. It is not necessary to have a professional background in education. Any experience of a governance role in other fields would be valuable but not essential. Above all, we need people with the energy and drive to help us make the school the best it can be. We would particularly welcome people with a track record of community outreach or fundraising, and any links to businesses or organisations in the local area would certainly be of interest. One of our goals is to extend the reach of the school more widely into the community, so there is a real opportunity for a new governor to bring expertise in that area.

If you think this is an opportunity which could be of interest or you would just like to find out more, please contact the chair of governors, Alastair Duncan, at aduncan@croft.gloucs.sch.uk to arrange a discussion to explore the role.

Rebecca Gore, Headteacher

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16,000 mile trip ends in Bali

Joe's amazing achievement

You may recall reading in the December Beacon about Joseph Worsley's amazing challenge – to cycle from Painswick across countless countries for a very worthwhile cause. Well, he's made it, and what an achievement.

Joe's original aim was to cycle across Europe to Istanbul but, spurred on by a desire to both challenge himself and raise money for his chosen cause, he decided to go further. This meant cycling on across great swathes of land from Kazakhstan through central Asia and China, then on through Laos, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia with a final destination of Bali. Since our last report he has ridden an additional 6,000 miles to reach a total of 16,000 miles for the entire journey.

I asked Joe if there had been new problems and challenges since the last report to which he responded: '... tackling the mountains of Vietnam and Laos (including the infamous Ha Giang Loop), riding some of my biggest days to make it to Bangkok for a New Year's Eve reunion with some friends I'd made in central Asia (including one 200 mile day), a couple of bouts of food poisoning in Indonesia and also riding through much of south east Asia's rainy season. Luckily I've faced no real mechanical issues recently and have had the company of a Canadian guy that I met on the road for much of this stint which has made things much easier, and being able to share these experiences with others is part of what has made this trip so special. Of course, that extends to the locals who have been so kind, friendly and hospitable beyond all reasonable expectations.'

Setting off from Painswick in May last year this has of course been a lifetime experience for this young man and one from which he has gained some incredibly valuable wider knowledge and understanding. Apart from the challenge which the trip presented, Joe's real motivating factor was to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society, a cause close to his heart as his beloved grandmother has dementia. He feels passionately that this is a cause worthy of great support and his original aim was to raise £1000. By November this had been exceeded and Joe raised the target to a possible £2500. Amazingly he has now raised just over £3500 and is naturally overjoyed. On his return, (he will be home by the time you read this), having previously worked in the NHS and with this current amazing experience, Joe sees his future working for a charity or organisation involved with a cause about which he feels strongly. This is a young Painswick man who quite evidently has so much to offer for the benefit of society.

So many families are affected by Alzheimers and other forms of dementia which makes his charitable cause a really important one. His cycling journey across so many lands is an amazing undertaking resulting in a stunning achievement. His cause is certainly worth supporting. Surely we in Painswick can raise his final total - £4000? You can donate via the justgiving website: www.justgiving.com/page/jwcycleseast.

The photograph is one taken of Joe from Mount Bromo, an active volcano and the last mountain he climbed before reaching the finish. Joe is definitely a young Painswick man of whom we should be proud.

Carol Maxwell



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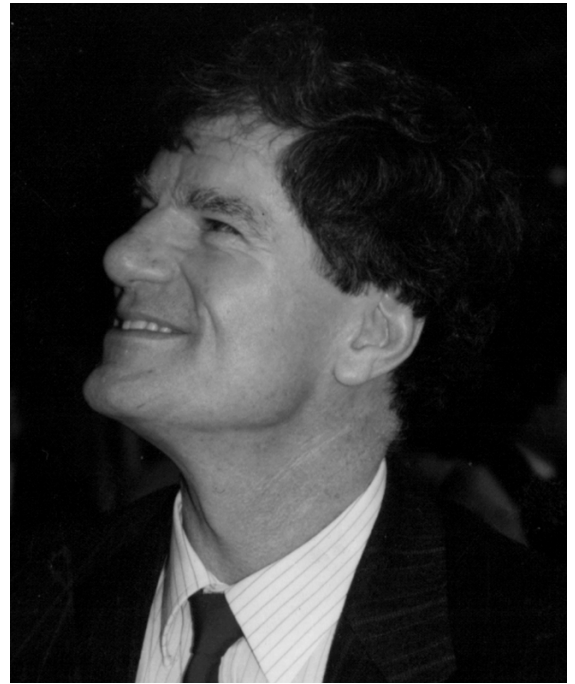
Anthony Lynn Steer 1940 - 2025

Lynn was born in Neath, South Wales and later attended Birmingham University from where he graduated in electrical engineering.

When Lynn moved to Painswick in 1975 with his wife and 3 children, he had recently completed a 3½ year contract near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia as a Colombo Plan Adviser/Senior Lecturer at MIT. This contract was part of the British Government aid scheme at that time to fund the development of technology in Commonwealth countries. In 1974 he left Malaysia and soon after his return was fortunate to obtain a Senior Lecturer post at Gloscat.

He quickly became absorbed in village life and played cricket and rugby for the local teams and tennis informally. In later years he held a season ticket at Gloucester Rugby Club. In the late 70s he was invited to join Painswick Tennis Club to encourage a group of young men who wanted to play tennis more competitively. He went on to enter a men's team in the Gloucester League, and soon after a mixed team was entered in the Winter League.

In 1980 he obtained a tennis coaching qualification which enabled him to coach local youngsters. He did this for several years and briefly at Stroud High School. The proceeds of his coaching fees were donated to build a practice wall at Broadham for the Club. Lynn was President of the Tennis Club from 1984-87 and was later made a Life Member for services rendered over the years.



Lynn at a reception in the early days of the Beacon

His interests were not only limited to sport as he was a beekeeper and held an allotment for several years. He was also on the original Painswick Beacon Committee for over 2 years, which worked hard to produce the first issue of the Beacon in April 1978 when the copy layout had to be done manually before printing.

Always interested in education, he worked as a School Governor for both the Croft School and then Stroud High School. He loved Mathematics and obtained a Maths degree in 1991. After retiring from the post of Head of School at Gloscat he taught Maths part time at Stroud College and coached GCSE and 'A' level Maths to several children in Painswick. He was also a part time external examiner for Edexcel for many years which involved travel to the Middle East and Southeast Asia in addition to UK colleges, before finally retiring at the age of 74.

In recent years he belonged to the Falcon Bowling Club and loved to spend time there, even when ill health prevented him from playing. Lynn had a positive attitude, great sense of humour and lived his life to the full. He died on 11th February peacefully at home surrounded by his family.

Sylvia Steer

Return of the Easter Egg Hunt

The Painswick Playgroup Easter Egg Hunt will again take place on Easter Saturday – the 19th April 2025 between 12-4pm. Now in its 17th year, it is a great family day out and raises vital funds for our village Playgroup (Registered Charity Number 900465). The main event is on Easter Saturday in the Memorial Ground of St Mary's Church, but the Egg Hunt itself can be completed at any point between Easter Saturday and Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

Local businesses have generously sponsored each egg, which are beautifully decorated by the sponsors or Playgroup parents and placed in windows around the village for everyone to find. Maps will be available to buy online, paper copies will also be available to buy from some local businesses as well as on the day in the Memorial Ground. Finding all the eggs gives you the opportunity to enter a prize draw for a John Lewis Voucher.



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Alongside egg hunting, there will be activities at the Memorial Ground (face painting, teddy bear tombola, bottle tombola, raffle, cake stall, lots of hot food options, refreshments and other stalls). Our wonderful village pubs, shops and cafes will all be open serving food and drinks. The Great Painswick Bake Off returns for its third year - categories for entries are: Under 16, Best Decorated and Best Tasting – all with fabulous prizes! Thank you to our Gold Sponsor Hamptons who have once again supported the Easter Egg Hunt 2025.

Map sales will be advertised locally soon, keep an eye out for posters! Please search for 'Painswick Easter Egg Hunt' to find our Facebook and Instagram pages, or email easteregghuntainswick@gmail.com for more information.

Jess Barnett

Gardenlink - a Citizen Science Project

This spring a project called Gardenlink is starting which will monitor the distribution of reptiles in gardens and land around the Sites of Special Scientific Interest of the Painswick and Slad valleys. The need for connectivity corridors between these sites is regarded as an essential component of a wider landscape recovery.



The slow worm is a legless lizard, not a snake

Many people are now starting to manage their gardens in a more nature friendly way, leaving messy corners, planting pollinator friendly plants, creating deadwood piles, creating hay meadows, using less chemicals and so on. All of this will encourage insects, fungi, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals to recolonize your gardens.

Reptiles often seem to be forgotten about. Britain does not have many species and they are all under threat from habitat loss and predation. Domestic cats and introduced pheasants kill many every year. There are six species found in the UK; common lizards, slow worms, grass snakes, adders (or vipers), sand lizards and smooth snakes. The last two are not found in our locality. Unfortunately, many people have a fear of them, especially the ones that look like snakes. Only the adder has a venomous bite but will only use it if severely provoked, they are very secretive and will usually slither away before you see them. Making the venom uses

a lot of energy, so the adder will initially use a dry strike as a warning before resorting to the real thing. People are often fearful of snakes, but their presence is to be celebrated as it is an indication of a healthy ecosystem and they help keep down the slug population.

The project will require volunteers to attend a short training tutorial and then install a corrugated sheet in a suitable location on their land. Reptiles use this to shelter under and warm up in the sun. Regular monitoring of what may be hiding underneath will create a distribution database. This is an example of citizen science, where many amateurs can produce meaningful results.

Paul Baxter

Jottings

There is mixed opinion as to whether to keep cows inside or outside in the winter: The new way of thinking by some people is to keep their animals out all the year round. If the ground is stony like our Commons, it can be ok. There is plenty of space and the soil drains well, so the animals do not compact the ground too much. Here, the combination of grazing the grass down and puddling, opens up bare earth enabling other species of plants to germinate. But if you keep too many cows in a field the ground becomes waterlogged as the soil structure is broken down, reducing drainage and the grass cannot grow so well the next year.

If cattle stay out all winter, this is called "outwintering" which can be cheaper and better for the animals and soil. Cows prefer being cooler. You, of course, have to give them extra feed in cold spells, especially snow. At these times, ice on the water troughs needs breaking up every day. The ridge and furrow effect you see in some fields was caused by ploughing in the old days and was found to offer better drainage in a wet climate: moisture drained into the furrows. Cows can lie on the dryer top or shelter in the dips. According to the way the wind was blowing you knew where the cattle and sheep were and you knew over the years where you could find them sheltering. They could be by walls and hedges. Being well fed, outside and having a dry place to lie on, there is less likelihood of infection spreading. One problem of being outside is that prolonged standing in mud can cause foot rot. Farmers have to go out to check and count their stock every day to ensure none have got caught in a hedge or river, or stolen.




It can be easier to keep cows inside during the winter but they need regular feeding with hay and dry concentrates. So they need to drink a lot of water. They are comfortable and warm and the farmer does not have to go out in the dark bitter cold and rain. And it is easier to keep a close watch that they do not get infections or injured.


Martin Slinger

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Blooming spring

With spring well and truly on its way, March is all about the daffodils here. For me there is no better signpost towards warmer sunshine and longer days than these cheery yellow blooms. Regular visitors will know that we have been adding thousands of bulbs to the display each year, thanks to the hard work of our dedicated staff and volunteers each autumn. Last year a generous donor financed the purchase of a further 8,000 wild native bulbs (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*) which were planted down in the woodland area. We are eagerly looking forward to seeing them in flower!



Garden visiting hours this month are Wednesday to Sunday 10 til 5 with last admission at 4pm. No advance booking is needed this month although on peak days (eg Mothering Sunday, 30th March) the facility is always there to guarantee admission.

Towards the end of the month, on Tuesday 25th March, we are hosting our first ever workshop on how to lift and divide snowdrops. Led by Head Gardener Roger Standley, participants will learn expert tips and practical techniques as well as enjoying a tour of the Garden. There are limited places available so we recommend early booking via rococogarden.org.uk.

Looking forward to summer, we've been busy finalising plans for our programme of events. The ever-popular Handlebards are back with three nights of "Much Ado About Nothing" Thursday 26th - 28th June. And for the theatrical connoisseur, we are delighted to have superstar actor Anton Lesser back with us on Saturday 21st June for two performances of music and words based around the works of Thomas Hardy. For more information and to book, again please visit rococogarden.org.uk.

That's all for now. I look forward to seeing you at the Garden soon.

Dominic Hamilton, Director

News from The Croft School

Term three has flown past at The Croft School and the children and staff have been really busy. Children from across the school have been representing the school at many different sporting events, including netball, gymnastics and football. On each occasion the children have demonstrated good skills and teamwork alongside our school values.

Twenty-nine children and three members of staff went to the BP Pulse Live Arena in Birmingham to participate in Young Voices 2025. This was an amazing experience for the children – seeing the size of the venue and the choir – as they were singing in a choir of 5348! At the end of the evening one of the children said: "I enjoyed it very much, it was really fun to go out and sing with other children and spend the afternoon and evening singing".

Within school the children have been participating in an Oracy competition – Look Who's Talking. The children had to talk on a topic of their own choosing to an audience for two minutes. Firstly, winners were chosen from each class and then following a whole school assembly three overall winners were chosen who will be representing The Croft at the Stroud District Finals at the end of February.

Over the past couple of weeks, The Croft have been really busy getting fully involved with community events. Year Six have served soup, bread and cheese to local residents at the community lunches. The children were absolutely excellent and thoroughly enjoyed prepping and serving the food to those who attended. It is great to see the children building life skills and working together as a team.

Our School Council had the opportunity to meet with the Parish Council about things they would like to change around Painswick. This included things like more play equipment in the park, signs to remind people of the speed limit and not to smoke, and a voluntary litter picking team. All of the children represented the School brilliantly!

Rebecca Gore, Headteacher



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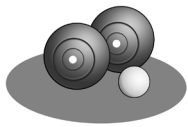
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Painswick Sports

assembled by John Barrus

Below: Painswick Bowling Club at the back of the Painswick Centre

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With spring in the air, there's no better time to step outside, meet new people, and enjoy a sport that's both fun and rewarding! Lawn bowls is a fantastic way to stay active, soak up the fresh air, and enjoy some friendly competition—all at your own pace.

We're excited to announce that Painswick Bowls Club, conveniently located between the Painswick Centre and the Recreation Ground, will be opening its green for the season on Saturday, 5th April. Whether you're a seasoned player or have never picked up a bowl before, everyone is welcome!

Special Friday Social Sessions

On Friday afternoons and evenings, the club opens its doors to non-members for a relaxed game, plus access to our inexpensive bar and BBQ—the perfect way to unwind and socialise with friends, both old and new. Give It a Go! All equipment will be provided—just wear flat-soled shoes, and our friendly members and trained coaches will be on hand to guide you.

For more information, please contact either John or Heather on: johnxwilliamson@gmail.com (tel. 01452 813315) or heatherloach@yahoo.co.uk (tel. 07979 088059). So why not come along, give it a go, and experience the charm of this timeless sport? You might just discover a new passion!

John Williamson

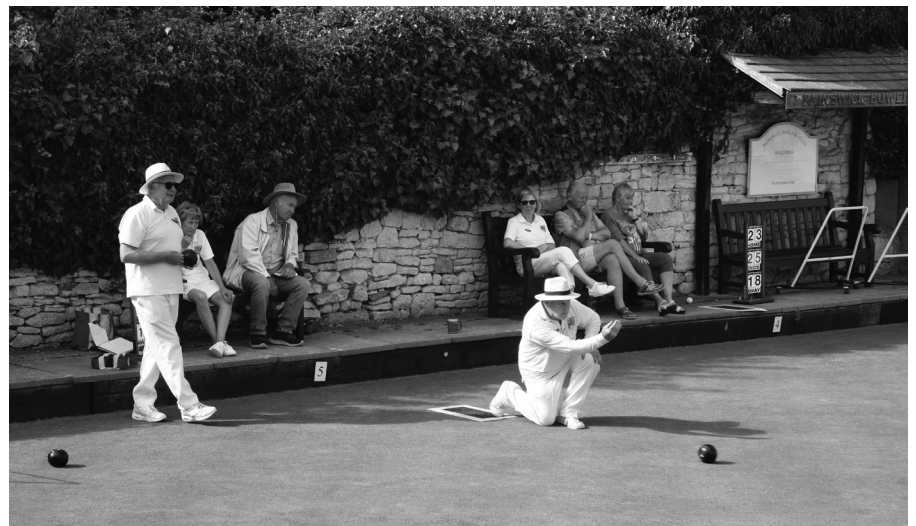
Painswick Football Club First team continue their good season

The recent results in the Gloucestershire Northern Seniors League
1st February Painswick 4:1 Gala Wilton Reserves
8th February Bream Amateurs 0:4 Painswick
15th February Painswick 1:2 Frampton United Reserves

Forthcoming Home Matches in March

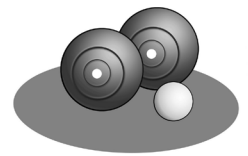
1st March Painswick v Barnwood United
22nd March Painswick v Harrow Hill

Painswick are currently 5th in Div 2 out of 16



Falcon Bowling Club

In mid April the Falcon Bowling Club (based behind the Falcon Hotel) will start our season. Our first match is on April 20th and we finish mid-end September. We are delighted that so many new members have joined since last August and they will be very active both bowling and socially. We are very, very happy to talk to potential new members and our contact is Sylvia Steer (steer5@tiscali.co.uk)



Next year we are hoping to enter more competitive leagues which will help both male and lady members and we have a good programme of friendly matches throughout the season which are always most enjoyable.

We also have many social events - watch WhatsApp and local media for details, or contact Myra Savage (savagebowler@btinternet.com). We are very proud that Myra has been made an Honorary Life Member of Gloucester Bowling Association and an honour very well deserved.

We have bowling roll-ups on Monday evenings and Friday afternoons which are good for new bowlers to get to know our Club and to start bowling. We are a very friendly Club and proud of our history as we were formed in 1554, being (we think) the oldest Bowling Club in England.

The Club looks forward to the new season and to welcoming new members.

John Newhill

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Library News New Books

Here is a selection of the new books. Altogether there are 47 on the list. You will find them on the New Books displays as you come into the Library.



Adult Fiction

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--|
| The Secret | Lee Child | |
| In the Company of the Courtesan | Sarah Dunnant | |
| The Paris Notebook | Tessa Harris | |
| Holly | Stephen King | |
| The Schoolteacher of Saint-Michel | Sarah Steele | |

Adult Non-Fiction

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| All that Matters | Chris Hoy |
| The Girl from Montego Bay | Rose Hudson-Wilkin |
| The Siege | Ben Macintyre |
| Harold Wilson: 20th Century Man | Alan Johnson |

Children's

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Paper Dolls | Julia Donaldson |
| Mirabelle in Witch City | Hariett Muncaster |
| Mirabelle Gets up to Mischief | Hariett Muncaster |
| Mirabelle has a Bad Day | Hariett Muncaster |

As usual, the full list is available on the Library desk or on the website: painswickcommunitylibrary.org.uk. If you can't find the book you want, and wish to reserve it, please speak to the desk volunteers.

Ian Cridland

Foodbank

Our next collection will be on Wednesday 12th March. Volunteers will be in the Stamages Lane car park from 10am - 12 noon. The top items required by the Foodbank this month are: tinned ham and corned beef, fruit squash, UHT milk, shampoo and conditioner and laundry liquid. Other non-perishable items will also be received with thanks.

We were very grateful to receive seven sleeping bags at our February collection. These went to the Marah Trust which, given the cold temperatures, will have been very much needed. Thank you to our kind supporters for donating these items.

As always, 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. Thank you!
The Foodbank Team Mobile: 07950 651228

Library Book Club



The Library Book Club will next meet on Monday 10th March 1.30-2.30 and we will be discussing the popular recent novel, Precipice by Robert Harris.

Following that, we will meet on Monday April 7th to discuss The Interview by J. David Simon. If you are interested in joining us please do come along to one of our meetings. New members are always welcome and for further information email painswick.librarybookclub@gmail.com

Pat Andrew

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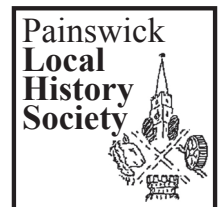
Wooden Castles

At the meeting on 18th February the Local History Society welcomed back a former chairman Mark Bowden, to talk on Timber Castles. Mark worked for many years for what is now known as Historic England and has become a leading expert on castles from around the 11th / 12th century, often in the form of 'Motte and Bailey' castles that many of us remember from school.

Surprisingly little is known about such castles as they have not survived in the way that stone buildings have. Even the mottes, or mounds, are often difficult to identify and relatively few have been excavated. The largest motte, at Thetford, Norfolk is 95 metres across, but others measure only 20 metres by 1/2 meter high! There is a small motte at Taynton Parva near Gloucester and another near the Frome at Miserden Park. They are particular concentrated around the Welsh border regions, but spread all over the country.

Mark speculated on whether there might once have been a timber castle in Painswick in the area around Castle Hale, although on balance the answer seemed to be probably not. Interestingly though there was one at Pain Fitzjohn's 'other' manor at Painscastle in Powys, Wales - an area that was probably then more dangerous than Painswick.

Karen Goddard



St Michaels
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Guided Walks with Cotswold Wardens

The Cotswold National Landscape (the name now used for the Cotswold AONB) offers a range of guided walks led by the Cotswold Wardens, including the following:

Mon. 3rd March: 'Harbingers of Spring'. Difficulty: Easy, Duration 3.5 hours, Meet at 10 am at the Community shop in Coaley

Fri. 7th March: 'Shorter and steadier at Crickley Hill'. Difficulty: Easy, Duration 2 hours, Meet at 10am at the cafe at Crickley Hill Country Park

Thurs. 20th March, 'Hills and Hillforts'. Difficulty: Moderate, Duration 2 hours, Meet at 10.30am at Vestry Cafe, South Street, Uley

More details of these and many other walks in the Cotswolds at <https://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/exploring/guided-routes/>

Property Report

A house in Painswick for under £200,000 doesn't come up that often these days. Admittedly 4 Prospect Terrace, off Tibbiwell (Murrays, £195,000), has just one bedroom and is described as in need of modernisation, but it is end-of-terrace, has good sized gardens and lovely views - and for that price you can't have everything.

For an upgrade to the next level you might consider May Cottage in Butt Green (Hamptons, £450,000), also end-of-terrace, but with two bedrooms, private off-road parking and described as in excellent order. Or 15 Gyde House (Hamptons, £375,000) is a second floor two bedroom apartment as part of this listed building set in maintained gardens. Angels Roost, a modern detached 2 bed cottage tucked away off Vicarage Street is another option (Hamptons, £450,000) and Shoestring Cottage (Hamptons, £795,000), a Grade II listed 4 bed cottage near the top of Tibbiwell goes up another level.

For those at retirement age and upwards, Richmond Village is currently offering Apartment 11 (Richmond, £489,950), a two bedroom independent living apartment, or Apartment 2/1 (Richmond, £289,950) a one bedroom assisted living apartment. See the Richmond website for more information.

There is a choice of properties newly available outside the main village, including Tragarth in Cranham (Murrays, £450,000) a three bed semi, and Cranham Close at Prinknash Corner (Murrays, £1.1 million), a period detached family home with 5 bedrooms, large gardens and lots of parking. In Pitchcombe, Moorea on Halfway Pitch (Hamptons, £575,000) is another three bed semi and coming soon, at Longridge, Beacon View (Hamptons, £700,000) is a Cotswold stone cottage with 3 bedrooms and stunning views across to Painswick.

1a Upper Washwell and 3 Gloucester Road have recently gone under offer with Hamptons as has Maryland in Sheepscombe through Murrays. 1 Prospect Terrace, Flat 7 Hyett Orchard, Stable Courtyard at Painswick Court and Vermont in Cranham have all exchanged and/or completed.

Hamptons are again the lead sponsor for the Painswick Easter Egg Hunt this year, while Murrays are the Gold sponsor for Wick-Flix - next showing Thelma on Friday 14th March.

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Wanted to Buy: Old Bottles, flacons, pots etc.... especially anything marked Painswick. Good prices paid by Painswick collector. Please contact Miles - 07766 460127.

Gardener required for a few hours a week or fortnightly, for general maintenance work, in Painswick. Hours can be very flexible. Call 07746 740883.

For sale: 1. Thule bike rack. Holds 2 bikes. Hardly used £60. 2. Salomon ski boots in original box Performa 7.0. Size 27.5. Used twice on dry slope. £90.

For sale: Knitmaster 360 with Ribber and instruction books. Also a large supply of wool in various colours. Tel 01452 813225.

Mini-Ads

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

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



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

| | | | |
|--|--|---|------------------|
| Mondays | Gentle pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538 | Painswick Centre | 8.45 - 9.45am |
| | Improvers pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538 | Painswick Centre | 9.50 - 10.50am |
| | Beginners/improvers pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538 | Painswick Centre | 10.55 - 11.55am |
| | Ballyhoo modern dance classes. Julie ballyhoochalford@gmail.com | Painswick Centre | from 3.45pm |
| | Community Choir. Contact sophie@sophiesterckx.co.uk | Painswick Centre | 7.00 - 8.30pm |
| | Short Mat Bowls. All equipment provided. 2.00/session | Town Hall | 2.00 - 4.00pm |
| | Mindful Meditation with Kate. kate-beatty.co.uk/07793126234 | Painswick Centre | 12.30 - 1.00pm |
| | Painswick Singers. Contact Jean Jones 01452 813545. | Richmond | 7.30pm |
| | Paradise Art Studio evening classes. takepart@paradise-house.org.uk | Paradise House | 6.30 - 8.30pm |
| | Tuesdays | Zumba with Martina 07891 194396 | Painswick Centre |
| Painswick Art Club £35/term. Contact Joyce Barrus on 01452 812942 | | Church Rooms | 9.30 - 1.00pm |
| Wednesdays | Rococo Sprites. See www.rococogarden.org.uk | Rococo Garden | 9.45 am |
| | Strength and Balance class for the over 60s. Contact Trish Tenn on 07956 4666617 or tennpatricia@gmail.com | Painswick Centre | 10.00 - 11.00am |
| | Painswick Bridge Club. Contact Peter Sibley on 812126 or Margaret Wilson on 812305 | Church Rooms | 6.45pm |
| | Table tennis. Contact David Harris on 07453 027766. | Painswick Centre | 7.30 - 9.00pm |
| | Yoga with Kate. www-kate-beatty.co.uk/07793126234 | Painswick Centre | 7.30 - 8.45pm |
| | Classical Pilates Mat Classes Jo on 07968 799741 or info@daleypilates.co.uk | Painswick Centre | 10.30 - 11.30am |
| | Strength and Conditioning Circuits. www.lovelifeladies.co.uk | Painswick Centre | 12.30 - 1.30pm |
| | After school art classes. Term time only. classes@painswickcentre.com . | Painswick Centre | 3.45 - 5.15pm |
| | Wed Pop-in. A warm space to join others over a cuppa and perhaps try a new skill. Contact Sandra Glass on 814186 | Town Hall | 10.00 12.00pm |
| | Thursdays | Morning Market | Painswick Centre |
| St Mary's Mums, Contact 07833 727701. Term time only | | Church Rooms | 9.15 - 10.45am |
| Nurturing yoga. Contact Kim on yoginikim@icloud.com | | Painswick Centre | 9.30 - 11.00am |
| Vinyasa Yoga. Contact Kim on yoginikim@cloud.com | | Painswick Centre | 11.15 - 12.45am |
| Tai chi. Contact Joe on 07960 753782 | | Painswick Centre | 1.30 - 2.30pm |
| Dog Training Club. Contact Fiona Chapman on 01452 812462 or fiona.chapman123@btinternet.com | | Painswick Rugby Club | 9.30 - 12.30pm |
| Qi Gong Classic Exercise - jeffdocherty@yahoo.com | | Town Hall | 9.30 - 10.30am |
| Classical Pilates Mat Classes. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or info@daleypilates.co.uk | | Town Hall | 5.45 - 6.45pm |
| Takeaway Food Night | | Painswick Centre | 5.00 - 8.00pm |
| Fridays | | Yoga for Backs. Contact Kim on yoginikim@icloud.com | Painswick Centre |
| | Ballet with Claire Tracey. Contact BalletClaire@outlook.com | Church Rooms | 9.30 - 10.30 am |
| | Painswick Community Hub Café. All welcome | Town Hall | 10.00 - 11.30am |
| | Church Choir Practice. cgswain.btinternet.com or 01453 822998 | St Mary's Church | 5.30 - 6.30pm |
| | Classical Pilates Mat Classes. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or info@daleypilates.co.uk | Church Rooms | 11.00 - 12.00pm |
| | 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

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sat | 1 | Painswick Beacon Conservation Group working party | TBC | 9.00am |
| Mon | 3 | Community Lunch provided by Dog Training Club | Town Hall | 12.00 - 1.15pm |
| | 3 | Community Supper. Call 07956 203087 to book | Church Rooms | 5.30pm |
| Tues | 4 | Morning Prayer | St Mary's Church | 9.00am |
| Wed | 5 | Ash Wednesday: Holy Communion, Ashing + Soup | St Mary's Church | 12.00pm |
| | 5 | Cotteswold Naturalists: Women in Arts and Crafts movement - Katherine Bradley Enq 07472 021517 | Painswick Centre | 2.30pm |
| Thurs | 6 | First Thursday Club: brother.do.you.love.me - Manni and Reuben Coe. Tickets www.firstthursdaypainswick.co.uk | Painswick Centre | 7.00 for 7.30pm |
| | 6 | Probus: The Nuclear Power Industry - Maurio Cantoni | Painswick Centre | 11.00 for 11.30am |
| | 6 | PMAG: Schumann and Brahms - Duncan Richardson | Town Hall | 2.30pm |
| | 7 | Painswick Beacon Conservation Group working party | TBC | 9.00am |
| Fri | 7 | Friday Club: Readings and monologues - Paul Evans. Enq 812942 | Town Hall | 2.30pm |
| Sun | 9 | Family Worship + Baptism | St Mary's Church | 11.00am |
| Mon | 10 | Library Book Club | Library | 1.30 - 2.30pm |
| | 10 | Silent Prayer and meditation | St Mary's Church | 6.00pm |
| Tues | 11 | Morning Prayer | St Mary's Church | 9.00am |
| | 11 | Prayer and Praise | St Mary's Church | 7.00pm |
| Wed | 12 | Gardening Club: Clematis - Andy Jeanes | Town Hall | 7.00 for 7.30pm |
| | 12 | Midweek Communion | Richmond | 11.30am |
| Thurs | 13 | The Arts Society: The Art of the Cartoon - Harry Venning | Painswick Centre | 10.00 for 11.00am |
| Fri | 14 | Painswick Probus: Cheltenham Gold Cup TBC | | |
| | 14 | Gold Cup Evening - live music with Chris Woodchuck | Painswick Golf Club | 7.00pm till late |
| | 14 | Wickflix: Thelma | Painswick Centre | 7.00 for 7.45pm |
| Sat | 15 | Painswick Music Society: concert - Clare Hammond on piano | St Mary's Church | 3.00 - 5.00pm |
| | 15 | Painswick Beacon Conservation Group working party | TBC | 9.00am |
| Sun | 16 | Holy Communion | St Mary's Church | 11.00am |
| Mon | 17 | Silent Prayer and meditation | St Mary's Church | 6.00pm |
| Tues | 18 | Cot Nats: Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Enq 07767014957 | Box Village Hall | 2.30pm |
| | 18 | Morning Prayer | St Mary's Church | 9.00am |
| | 18 | Local History Soc.: Andrew Leach - history of St. Mary's Church | St Mary's Church | 7.30pm |
| Thurs | 20 | Cot Nats: Guided Tour of the Mansion House. Pre-book 813228 | Cirencester | 9.45 for 10.00am |
| | 20 | PMAG: Stravinski after the Rites of Spring - Dr David Lucas | Town Hall | 2.30pm |
| | 20 | Painswick Probus: History of films 1870 - 1930 - Patrick Furley | Painswick Centre | 11.00 for 11.30am |
| Fri | 21 | Friday Club: Outing by minibus. Lunch at Beachamp Arms, Dymock | Stamages car park | 10.00am |
| | 21 | Painswick Beacon Conservation Group working party | TBC | 9.00am |
| Sun | 23 | Deadline for Beacon copy | | |
| | 23 | Beacon Praise and Baptism | St Mary's Church | 11.00am |
| Mon | 23 | Silent Prayer and meditation | St Mary's Church | 6.00pm |
| Tues | 25 | Yew Trees WI: From Medal to Metals - Marc Begg. Open meeting - | Church Rooms | 7.00 for 7.30pm |
| | 25 | Morning Prayer | St Mary's Church | 9.00am |
| Thurs | 27 | Cotteswold Naturalists: Visit to Glos Energy from Waste Incinerator + optional lunch. Pre-book 01453 823286 | Javelin Park, Haresfield | 9.45am |
| Sat | 29 | Painswick Music Society: concert - Carducci quartet and Emma | St Mary's Church | 3.00 - 5.00pm |
| | 29 | Painswick Beacon Conservation Group working party | TBC | 9.00am |
| Sun | 30 | Mothering Sunday. Holy Communion | St Mary's Church | 9.30am |
| | 30 | Evening Worship | St Mary's Church | 6.30pm |
| Mon | 31 | Silent Prayer and meditation | St Mary's Church | 6.00pm |
| April | | | | |
| Fri | 2 | Cot. Nats: AGM & glorious grasslands - Anna Field 07472 021517 | Painswick Centre | 2.00pm. Note early |
| Thurs | 3 | PMAG: Featuring the oboe - Joyce Barrus | Town Hall | 2.30pm |
| | 3 | Probus: George Cadbury and Bournville Trust - Duncan Cadbury | Painswick Centre | 11.00 for 11.30am |
| Fri | 4 | Friday Club: Birmingham City of Culture - Malcolm Lewis 812942 | Town Hall | 2.30pm |
| | 4 | Painswick Beacon Conservation Group working group | TBC | 9.00am |
| Sat | 5 | Painswick Beacon published | | |

Personal Column

Condolences

To the friends and family of BRIAN KIRK who died on November 18th 2024 at the age of 79. The funeral was held at his house at Damsells Mill. Brian was well known in Painswick as the owner of Robinson Associates, based for a long time at Red Lion House in St. Mary's Street and later at Weaver's Cottage in Friday Street.

To the family and friends of LYNN STEER who died peacefully at home on February 11th. There is an appreciation of Lynn on page 11.

To the family and friends of DAVID LOOSE, who has died recently (see page 8).

Thank you

My thanks to the Painswick Beacon and especially to Stroud Cats Protection for finding the stray little black cat (February Beacon) a new home. Yvonne Rawson.

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

PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

S.25/0075/VAR Croft Edge, Hollyhock Lane

Variation of condition 2 (Plans) from S.24/0205/HHOLD.

S.25/0217/HHOLD Macs Cottage, Kings Mill Lane

Erection of a first floor extension and external raised terrace area.

S.24/2134/VAR Cherry Tree Glamping, Sevenacres, The Camp

Variation of condition 4 (max number of caravans) from S.19/0976/FUL - max number of caravans altered from 25 to 40 caravans

S.24/2222/LBC and S.24/2221/HHOLD Hill Farm House

Erection of a single storey extension and bay window to replace the existing porch and lean-to plant room. Internal alterations

to upgrade ground floor wc, first and second floor bathrooms. New external door opening at ground floor in to existing kitchen, widen existing door opening to new bay window. New door openings to 2nd floor bathroom and into existing roofspace. Infill of original external door. Erection of fencing, a replacement shed with solar panels, ground source boreholes and trenching and replacement garage doors.

S.24/2282/HHOLD and S.24/2283/LBC Painswick Lodge

Internal alterations & refurbishment, upgrading of existing services. Remedial works to retained walls, partitions & ceilings. Removal of inappropriate rainwater goods. New entrance doors to north elevation (replacing an existing window) & reinstatement of historic doors. Existing opening door opening closed up. Landscaping works including reconfiguration of access drive.

CONSENT

S.24/2226/HHOLD Dutchcombe Farm, Yokehouse Lane

Erection of a single storey side extension including hard landscaping.

S.24/2197/HHOLD Junipers, Edge Road Extension and conversion of existing garage into annex.

S.25/0157/TCA Fourwinds, Churchill Way

T1 - Leyland Cypress - remove to ground level.

S.24/2248/HHOLD 11 The Croft Erection of single storey rear extension, porch with replacement roof over garage, and garden outbuilding.

S.24/2210/LBC and S.24/2209/HHOLD Court House, Hale Lane

Erection of lean-to log and bin store.

S.24/2170/HHOLD Hambutts Barn, Edge Road

Erection of a stone parapet and replacement garage door.

S.24/2028/HHOLD and S.24/2027/LBC Steanbridge House, Slad

Relocation of existing entrance piers, installation of new gates and change of finishing to existing boundaries.

Relocation of existing entrance piers, installation of new gates and change of finishing to existing boundaries.

Relocation of existing entrance piers, installation of new gates and change of finishing to existing boundaries.

S.24/2054/FUL Land South Of Edge Road

Provision of grass track, changes in levels, and enlargement of the existing pond (retrospective).

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NEXT ISSUE
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Seen around Painswick ...



This car burst into flames, with the petrol tank igniting, after pulling in to St. Mary's Mead. We understand that no-one was hurt.

A new sign on Gloucester Road was erected pointing the wrong way, but quite quickly corrected - (Photo: Niall Cook)

Snowdrops at the Rococo Garden have been in glorious bloom (Photo: Colin Rayner)

