

The Painswick Beacon

Volume 43 Number 1

April 2020

Painswick in lockdown Community offers support

Like the rest of the country, Painswick has been forced into near lockdown for an indefinite period. With no meetings of more than two people from different households permitted, and many businesses closed, the streets have emptied rapidly. The School of course has closed, as have the Library and the Town Hall. Parish Council meetings have been cancelled and the planned May elections. Church services have been suspended at all the churches. The surgery is naturally busy, but having to operate on a different basis. Face to face appointments have been replaced with telephone consultations and no patients are being seen unless they have first spoken to a GP or nurse on the telephone.

In unprecedented and rapidly changing circumstances though, the community spirit of Painswick has again come to the fore. For anyone who is self-isolating and needs help with basic tasks such as shopping or dog-walking, help is available through the contact details below (see also article on page 3). If you're confined to your home and missing regular social contact, they can also arrange opportunities for telephone conversation to avoid social isolation. The organisers say that anyone in need should not be worried about asking for help. Please get in touch too if you're in a position yourself to offer help to others.

The Painswick Beacon is particularly grateful to the support network for help in delivering this issue of the Beacon.



Painswick roads empty of traffic

Painswick COVID-19 Community Support

Offers support including picking up shopping, posting mail, collecting urgent supplies (e.g. prescriptions), dog walking and providing a friendly phone call.

**If you need support with any of the above,
please contact us on either:**

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painswick.covid19@gmail.com

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS from meetings and delegated decisions in March by Terry Parker

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

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

Suspension of Parish Council meetings

Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, Painswick Parish Council together with other Gloucestershire councils, has suspended the holding of Council and Committee Meetings. All decisions will until further notice be taken under delegated authority by the appropriate members/officers. The Planning Committee of the 4th March was held before the decision to act under delegated authority was taken.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Meeting held 4th March.

Present: Cllrs Rob Lewis (Chairman), Ann Daniels, Mike Fletcher, Roey Parker, and Martin Slinger.

Apologies: Cllrs Andy Cash, James Cross, Ian James and Rosie Nash.

Matters requiring a decision

a. S.20/0162/HHOLD WYCHWOOD, Wick Street. Erection of an extension & remodelling of existing dwelling. The Committee agreed to support this application.

b. S.20/1086/HHOLD THE COTTAGE, Vicarage Street. Insertion of velux windows and erection of larch cladding. The Committee agreed to object to this application as the larch cladding is unsuitable in the Conservation Area. The Committee also shared the concerns of the neighbours with regard to the loss of privacy where the velux windows would overlook their properties.

c. S.20/0210/HHOLD MICHAELMAS COTTAGE, Vicarage Street. Replacement conservatory. The Committee agreed to support this application but would like a condition to be added to ensure that a level of obscurity is provided as requested by the neighbouring property.

d. S.20/0230/LBC WASHBROOK FARM, Edge Road. Removal of internal stud wall to create an open-plan space. The Committee agreed to support this application.

e. S.20/0295/HHOLD GREENLEAS, Longridge, Sheepscombe. Rear loft extension, Atrium and Annexe. The Committee agreed to support this application.

f. S.20/0308/HHOLD WORGANS BARN, Folly Lane. Remove store and two storey extension. The Committee agreed to support this application.

g. S.20/0084/LBC OLD BATH HOUSE, St Mary's Street. Re-roofing of rear slopes of the house, replacing defective stone tile roof with reconstituted stone tiles. The Committee agreed to 'No comment'.

h. S.20/0352/FUL STONE

HOUSE/WEAVERS HOUSE, St Mary's Street. Change of use to two dwellings. The Committee agreed to object to this application as it is contrary to, Delivery Policy E16. The Committee also agreed to request a call into the Development Control Committee should the officer be minded to approve this application. The Committee expressed their, deep concern at the potential loss of retail facilities from within the Retail Centre.

i. S.20.0353/LBC STONE HOUSE/WEAVERS HOUSE, St Mary's Street. Change of use from office to two dwellings. The Committee agreed to object to this application as it is contrary to Delivery Policy E16.

j. S.20.0359/HHOLD WESTWOLD, Sheepscombe. First floor extension. The Committee agreed to support this application.

k. S.20/0344/HHOLD COB HOUSE, Slad. Resubmission of S.18/1620/HHOLD. Replacing side extension with porch; reconstruction of chimney stacks; removal of chimney breast and stack in Living Room. The Committee agreed to support this application.

l. S.20/0345/LBC COB HOUSE, Slad. Resubmission of S.18/1621/LBC. Replacing side extension with porch; reconstruction of chimney stacks; removal of chimney breast and stack in Living Room. The Committee agreed to support this application.

m. S.20/0326/HHOLD KNAPP BARNS, The Vatch, Catswood Lane. Conversion of stone barn into home office, demolition of lean-to and new extension.

n. S.20/0342/HHOLD CHESTNUT COTTAGE, The Park. Demolition with a two storey side and rear extension. Erection of garage. The Committee agreed to support this application.

o. S.20.0371/TPO. DAMSELLS MEWS. Chestnut (T1) – fell. Replant with Chestnut, but in a position further from the outbuilding. The Committee agreed to support this application.

Meeting closure. With no further business, the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Delegated decisions

The following planning applications were all recommended to the District Council for consent.

a. S.20/0436/HHOLD KNAPP FARM, The Vatch, Catswood Lane. Single storey extension.

b. S.20/0460/HHOLD HIGHPOINT, Golf Course Road. First floor extension.

c. S.20.0450/FUL. BROADHAM FIELDS. Replacement of existing defunct cricket nets.

d. S.20/0505/HHOLD WHITEHALL BANK, Stamages Lane. Ground floor rear extension, new dormer window and four new velux windows.

e. S.20/0433/TPO. HYETT ORCHARD, HYETT CLOSE. Lime Tree (T1). Fell. Roots are lifting the tarmac and paving. Lime Tree (T2) Fell. Applicant will replant with flowering cherry/magnolia.

f. S.20/0451/HHOLD. THE BUDDINGS, Slad Road. Replacement external steps, replacement rear lean-to and external alterations.

g. S.20/0452/LBC. THE BUDDINGS, Slad Road. Replacement external steps, replacement rear lean-to and external alterations.

h. S.20/0441/HHOLD. HIGHFIELD, Longridge, Sheepscombe. Two storey extension and detached carport.

District Councillor's report

Councillor Nigel Cooper writes:

"I was going to say that this might well be my last report to the Parish Council as I did not intend to stand for re-election in May. However the elections have now been postponed until 2021, so you will be stuck with me for another year! The response from residents to the Covid-19 epidemic has been great. Support groups have sprung up around the District and particularly in the Painswick area. The various contact details are shown elsewhere in the Beacon.

There is a lot of helpful information on the District Council website: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news-archive/sdcs-commitments-to-residents-and-businesses-we-will-do-whatever-it-takes-to-help-you>

Please follow all the official guidelines and look out for your neighbours. A major concern is that with people being housebound and cut off from normal social contact there will be a real danger to personal well being and in particular mental health. I am also sure that receiving regular phone calls will help people cope with isolation."

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Painswick Surgery Patient Group (PPG)

As circumstances change daily it is possible that the current procedures at our Surgery will have changed by the time you read this. However, at the time of going to press some very severe restrictions have had to be put in place.

The Practice is not open for visits. Do not go to the surgery for any reason.

With several staff already in isolation, Senior Partner Dr Rhys Evans says that exceptional measures are being taken in line with national guidelines:

1. We are cancelling all pre-booked appointments on an individual basis, retaining as telephone appointments only those deemed by a doctor to require prompt action on clinical grounds.
2. We are limiting face to face contact to essential only, and any of these with possible Covid infection/contact are seen in a separate area that is decontaminated after each patient.
3. We are converting every patient on repeat medications to repeat dispensing, such that repeat prescriptions can be requested from the pharmacist direct or issued automatically by the pharmacist without having to go through the surgery until it is time for a medication review: maximum 12 months.

All these measures are taken with regret and with the safety of all our patients as paramount, but will cause distress. Most patients have been very understanding. Please monitor the Surgery website for further news: <https://www.painswicksurgery.nhs.uk>



Painswick surgery - not open for visits

Donate to the Surgery?

In these trying times we would like to repeat the invitation from the last Beacon News. Have you thought of your fellow patients' needs when you attend to your will? Or are you revising your regular charitable giving? Or you're about to? The Surgery has an associated charitable trust which from time to time buys special equipment (eg an ECG machine) as needed. If you are considering this please phone the Practice Manager, Mike Mack-Smith on 01452 812545

David Perry, Group member

Community Support Network

A network of volunteers has been formed to provide non-emergency, practical support to those within Painswick who are self-isolating. Offered support includes picking up shopping, posting mail, collecting urgent supplies (e.g. prescriptions), dog walking and providing a friendly phone call. From Sunday 22nd March, a central organising team has been manning a dedicated phone line and email address between 9am and 5pm, 7 days a week, to field requests for such support.

Over 55 volunteers are covering 13 areas within Painswick. Each request will be forwarded to the area rep most local to the requestor. The volunteer will then get in touch to clarify their needs and action them, as best as practically possible. If you are self-isolating and need support with any of the above, please contact us on either 07956 203087 or painswick.covid19@gmail.com. If you would like to volunteer please contact us on: painswick.covid19@gmail.com

An information website and facebook has also been set up to provide links to local services:
<https://painswickcovid19support.wordpress.com/>
www.facebook.com/groups/painswickcovid19
If you have a service to add to the list, please contact us on social.painswickcovid19@gmail.com

Council contacts

With the Town Hall closed, Painswick Parish Council can still be contacted via phone 01452 812722 or email on clerk@painswick-pc.gov.uk



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Warfare to welfare Yew Trees WI

Wow! Have you ever listened to anyone's life story and wondered why you have achieved so little in comparison?



That was the affect that Mandie Cran had on members of Yew Trees WI after listening to her talk "Warfare to Welfare – an Engineer's Journey", at their February meeting. Mandie writes "At the age of 13 I promised myself 2 things – firstly that I would never let anyone tell me what I could or couldn't do just because I was female; secondly if I wanted to learn something, I wasn't going to wait for someone to teach me, I was going to find out how to do it". Brought up on the Channel Island of Sark, Mandie developed a love for sailing and the outdoor life and soon became a qualified Offshore Sailing Instructor. After reading for a degree in Engineering she was commissioned at Sandhurst and soon became the first woman to train new REME recruits. One of her many stands for feminism was to wear the REME cap badge rather than the Women's Royal Army Corps as she was meant to. Her career later included working on tanks in Germany and rebuilding Westland Helicopters, all big heavy duty stuff which this petite lady obviously relished! Off-duty hours for Mandie included exploring East Germany by bicycle, taking part in the Tall Ships race and skippering a yacht across the Atlantic.

Marriage to a sub-mariner, the arrival of 2 daughters and retirement from the regular army did nothing to slow Mandie down and she became hugely involved with jobs in the Territorial Army, The Highland Regiment Army Cadet Force and also the University of Southampton Officer Training Corps. When she finally decided to retire from military life she began a new career in healthcare; she has started her own business, she sails, skis, mountaineers, walks and volunteers - restoring a garden at Westonbirt. I forgot to mention that at one of her 'quieter' times of life she was able to spend time painting and, being Mandie, turned her delightful scenes into greetings cards which she then sold! Wow, indeed!

Yew Trees members are looking forward to meeting again, as soon as it is safe to do so.

Celia Lougher 812624

Friday Club meetings cancelled

With the restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19 now beginning to impact on our daily lives, the meeting on March 6th was the last for the foreseeable future.



This could continue until September but will be guided by Government advice. Cancellations will include the scheduled outings to Symonds Yat and David Austin roses.

Before we all went into hibernation, the last topic resonated with many members. Sue Jones's well researched and informative talk on "Votes for Women" homed in on Gloucestershire and Cheltenham in particular. Most local women (and men) supporting the cause were less militant than the better-known Suffragettes and campaigned legitimately, shunning activities which damaged property or people. While Cheltenham was a rallying point for the cause in Gloucestershire there were a number of Painswick women involved. Meetings were arranged at the Painswick Institute and prominent supporters included Mrs Clara Herbert and her daughter Mrs Caroline Sandford who lived at Paradise House. Today it is unthinkable that women would not be allowed to vote, but it is worth reflecting that for our grandmothers it was a cause they had to fight for.

Until Friday Club is able to resume a regular meeting, we will miss the friendship of the group and hope you all stay well. Remember to check the Beacon for any changes to the above cancellations.

Pat Francis

The Wonder of Bees Painswick Probus Club



Richard Rickitt who is co-editor of "Bee Craft" and managing director A to Bee (Team Events) delivered fascinating insight to the versatility of bees on 4th March 2020. He explained how bees fly, and how the learning from this has helped in the re-styling of aeroplanes. In addition bees' eyes have 6500 lenses, operating individually, seeing both UV and polarised light. They see shapes, like humans shopping in a supermarket, and plan their trip by time and vibration, or through detecting pheromones. Worker bees have incisors with glands that produce royal jelly for feeding larvae and the queen bee. They also have about three million hairs on their bodies, each with a small electric charge for attracting pollen.

There are 24 species of bumble bee, 225 of solitary bees, but essentially just 1 of the honey bee. Apparently British bees get up early to forage, but Italian bees get up at mid-day, and generally speaking a worker bee can travel 25- 30,000 miles a year. The oldest record of honey collection is from wall drawings in Valencia 18,000 years ago. Egyptians were avid honey consumers and were familiar with propolis which is an anti-microbial bee glue used for sealing hives. Honey is in fact self-preserving and has been found in 4000 year old tombs in Egypt.

The construction of honeycombs is geometrically very specific, and the queen at the centre of the hive is really an egg laying machine. The rate of growth of a larva to a bee in 7 days is equivalent to the growth of a human baby to an African elephant. Interestingly the communication between bees is the only non-human language we understand. A swarm of bees is entirely safe to handle, as the bees then, like birds, have their minds on other things.

Mike Steed

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A curious incident

In a well-known incident in Painswick history, the churchwardens at St. Mary's Church became aware in 1895 that the weathercock on top of the spire was no longer functioning properly. They arranged for it to be checked and it quickly became clear that both the mechanism and the weathercock itself had been damaged by somebody firing at it. When it was brought down covered in bullet marks, the culprit had to own up and make recompense. Arthur Meeze, who lived at Halighw (now Lovedays House) alongside the churchyard in St. Mary's Street, admitted that he had practised his rifle shooting by aiming at the weathercock.

The damaged weathercock is now mounted in the reception area at the Museum in the Park in Stroud and is used as the logo for the museum. The photo below, probably taken in 1895, shows Arthur Meeze on the right holding a violin and bow, and on the left his brother-in-law, William Henry Morris with the weathercock. Arthur Meeze's children, Edgar and Edith are seated in front, his son holding a rifle, which suggests the possibility that he may have shared some of the responsibility for the damage.

The photo surfaced recently in a collection of local history papers and photographs put together by John Bailey, one of the founders of the Painswick Local History Society, who died earlier this year. His wife Pam has donated the collection to the Painswick Community Archives and it is now available for research via the Local History Society. In fact the original photo now hangs in the Bell Tower of the Church, having been sent to the then vicar, Rev. Robert Miles in the 1980s by someone from the Forest of Dean, who was aware of the incident, possibly a descendant of one of those involved.

Arthur Meeze was an interesting character in other respects as well and there is more on him in Painswick Chronicle No. 20, available from the Local History Society.



Back: William Morris, Annie and Melrose Morris (daughters of William and Mary), Mary Morris. Seated: Louisa Morris (mother of William Morris and Sarah Meeze), Sarah Frances Meeze, Arthur Meeze. Front: Edgar and Edith Meeze (children of Sarah and Arthur)

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St. Mary's Church Clergy View

This month we celebrate Easter, the greatest of all the Christian festivals. The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation stone of the Christian faith. Without His resurrection, there would be no Christian religion, no Christian faith and no Christian Church. But Jesus rose from the dead on that first Easter Day and that is why you have a parish church in which to worship God and why I am able to write this article.



Easter is set this year towards the middle of April which is a sensible time for this festival. To celebrate in March is too early; to celebrate towards the end of April is too late. Why doesn't the church have a fixed time for Easter like Christmas? Because we follow the Jewish practice for dating their Passover, which links the festival to the New Moon and Jesus' last Supper was a Passover meal.

This is a great time of the year to celebrate. The Winter is behind us. There are signs of Spring and new life all around. New leaves appearing in the hedgerows and on the trees. New grass to mow! Lovely swathes of Spring flowers everywhere. New lambs skipping in the fields. This new life in the countryside reminds us of the new life which Jesus offers to all of us through His resurrection from the dead.

Rev. David Newell

Due to the pandemic all services in churches across the country have been suspended - we have gone into our own Good Friday of death but we know that resurrection will follow. We will keep you all posted with information.

Rev. Janet Turville (Rector)



Churches Together Around Painswick



At this time we would normally be giving details of Eastertide church services but the ban on gatherings in public buildings caused by the Coronavirus means that there will be no services in our churches or meetings at the Quaker Meeting House for the foreseeable future. The ban will also mean that we will be unable to hold the Good Friday Procession of Witness.

Terry Parker, Chairman

Painswick Valleys Conservation Society



Our AGM was to have been held on Tuesday 7th April, but sadly, due to the withdrawal of our speaker and the circumstances in the country and around the World at this time, we have decided to postpone it. Hopefully we can re-arrange it - possibly sometime in the autumn.

Members will of course, be notified, and we will publicise it in The Beacon. Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Barbara Tait, Chair

Closure of Greenhouse Lane

The County Council have notified the intention to close part of Greenhouse Lane, outside the property known as Lower Greenwell, from 14th until 16th April or until the works have been completed. The reason for closure is to install a water box and meter.

Citizens Advice



Please note that following national guidance on Covid-19 Citizens Advice Stroud has closed its face-to-face services at all offices and outreaches, but will continue to operate a phone and email service. If you need advice please do contact by phone 0808 800 0510, or email by using the email advice page on our website <https://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/stroud-cab-email-advice.php>

Sheila Orson

Newspaper Deliveries in Painswick

In the February issue, the Beacon reported that Shaun Jackson, owner of Gloucester Paper Services, was considering providing a newspaper delivery service in Painswick. He recently advised the Beacon that he now has some 80 customers in Painswick and Sheepscombe, well in excess of the 20 needed to be a viable service. If you are interested please contact him for details. Phone: 07739 926421 or email gloucesterpaperservices@outlook.com.

Bicycle crimes, April 110 years ago

David Robert Foxwell, 29, labourer, pleaded guilty to converting a bicycle, of which he was bailee, to his own use at Painswick. Mr Hutton prosecuting, said the prisoner hired the bicycle from Maurice Birt and never returned it. Supt. Biggs, Stroud, could not give the prisoner a good character. He had already had three months for stealing a bicycle. He had been in gaol since February 25th and was sentenced to four months hard labour.



Reg Hill outside Kings Mill House, 1907

David Cox, of Painswick, who did not appear, was fined 5/- for having on the night of April 16th ridden his bicycle without showing a light at Stroud Road.

At Cheltenham Police Court, David King who is at present serving a term of imprisonment in Warwick Gaol, and who is a native of Painswick, was charged with theft of six bicycles. It was alleged that prisoner stole the bicycles from the roadway and subsequently sold them. When charged, prisoner said "I plead guilty to all the charges, and shall ask to go to Assizes or Quarter Sessions as there are two other charges at Gloucester I want taken". He was committed to Quarter Sessions. It will be recalled that P.C. Jones of Painswick arrested King on Christmas Day on a charge of stealing cutlery at Bristol. Subsequently King was charged at Leamington with stealing bicycles and was sentenced to four months imprisonment.

... and in April 1850

Charles Musty, 26, labourer, 5ft.7in., large head and face, was sentenced to 14 days hard labour for cruelly beating a pig, the property of James Savory, at the parish of Painswick.

... and in April 1880

Thomas Savory was summoned for using threats towards his wife. He did not appear. The complainant, Emma Savory, said she left her husband at the Cross Hands, Painswick, on the last day of January. On the 25th January her husband said he would have blood for supper, and she left him on the following Saturday. She had been to Cardiff, and then went to London, and she came back again to her mother's house at Painswick on the 2nd of this month. She was now afraid her husband would do her some bodily injury.

Jemima Mills, mother of the complainant, said the defendant called upon her on the first of this month, and gave her to understand that he would "do for her" meaning her daughter.

The Bench bound the defendant over himself in £10 and one surety of £10 to keep the peace for twelve months.

Carol Maxwell

Beacon Editorial

It is a rather unusual Painswick Beacon this month, but then we live in unusual times. For over 40 years the Beacon has reported on news and activities in Painswick and the local community. Suddenly there are far fewer community activities to report on, at least in terms of clubs and societies, local businesses and community organisations of various kinds. In an age of social distancing indeed, it might be thought that the whole concept of community had little remaining relevance. And yet, as our cover feature this month shows, the Painswick Community is still alive and as relevant as ever. There have been other signs of community resilience too including free outdoor yoga with social distancing and a planned Country Markets delivery service, although tightening restrictions are making these impossible.

With a huge effort from lots of people, and with particular thanks to the Painswick Covid-19 Community Support network, we hope to be able to get this edition of the Painswick Beacon printed and delivered. Realistically that may not be possible for the next few issues.

We will continue to publish on a regular monthly basis, but until we are able to get back to something like normal life, issues are likely to be both shorter and 'internet only'. The May issue will be available from Saturday May 2nd at www.painswickbeacon.org.uk

There is likely to be very little news of community activities in it, so send us suggestions for other features or articles you would like to see (ideally Painswick-focused in some way, rather than just general interest) and we'll see what we can do.

Don't forget too that news on Painswick is available through our Facebook page and that there are other several other local Facebook pages and groups (as well as other social media sites). Try searching for Painswick and you might be surprised at what you find!

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Music Appreciation Group

The committee by a majority vote made the decision to cancel the meetings planned for 19 March, 2, 16 and 30 April 2020. All members have been duly informed of this decision. The decision has not been taken lightly but with the general uncertainty around Covid-19 it was considered wise to cancel now with a notice on our terms rather than face the potential of being compelled to cancel at the last minute.



I am pleased to confirm that the three speakers of the cancelled sessions, Peter Grainger, Peter Jenkins and Reg Wrathwell, have each agreed amicably to present their programmes in the next season that will commence on 10th September 2020. In due course members will receive information on a reschedule of the cancelled AGM and of an offer of reimbursement of part of their subscription fees.

On 5 March Lynn presented with erudition and wit a delightful programme on the vocal music of his homeland. He played music sung by some of the great Welsh Choirs and he set the scene with grand performances of Cwm Rhondda and Sospan Fach sung by the Morryston Orpheus Choir and the Treorchy Male Voice Choir.

Lynn introduced the religious background of much Welsh music and explained the role of the chapels. He played a superb rendition of Silent Night sung by Aled Jones. Lynn stressed the versatile range of Welsh music with his inclusions of songs performed by the famous artists Shirley Bassey and Tom Jones. He concluded his admirable programme with music sung by Katherine Jenkins and Bryn Terfel.

Lynn's presentation placed a smile on the faces of the members and it was good to leave the Town Hall with the strains in the mind of 'We'll Keep a Welcome' sung by the marvellous baritone Bryn Terfel.

Howard Allen

Painswick Music Society Concerts Cancelled

Due to the ongoing issues with the Coronavirus outbreak and following the advice from the Government regarding the potential risks at large events, Painswick Music Society Committee have regrettably taken the decision to cancel this season's programme.

Those who have bought memberships and tickets should have been contacted but if you have any queries please email painswickmusicsoc@gmail.com

Chris Swain

Painswick Educational Trust

Do you need financial help with your studies or training? If you are a young local resident the Trust may be able to help with funding towards books, tools, equipment or travel. Anyone who would like more information or an application form do ring Michael James on 01452 812646 or myself, Joy Edwards on 01452 812588.

Joy Edwards

Painswick Gardening Club

We settled very comfortably into our new meeting venue (the Town Hall) this month. A positively unique and colourful evening charmed our members and visitors, thanks to Vicky Fox. With snapshots from her family album, Vicky talked us through the years leading to her ownership of the National Collections of Heucheras, Heucherellas and Tiarellas. Stunning plants, beautiful colours. From the family "Arkwright" shop (with a sideline in plants) to running the award winning Plantagogo Nursery, it was quite a journey.



With regard to the Coronavirus. We are following government guidelines carefully and have taken the decision to postpone our monthly meetings until further notice. Sadly the postponement also applies to our visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. We hope to be able to rearrange this for later in the year.

We wish all our members well throughout this difficult time and look forward to seeing you all again soon.

The Painswick Gardening Club Committee

Community Lunches

Community Lunches moved to The Town Hall in January. We would like to thank Roy Balgobin and Irena Litton for their support and encouragement which helped us to relocate without any problems. The new venue has proved to be very popular, we have seen the number of people coming each week rise from less than twenty to around thirty.

We appreciate the effort put in each week by our hosts who have risen to the occasion and provided plenty of soup in a wide variety of vegetable-based flavours. We were tempted by leek and potato, curried apple and parsnip, french onion, tomato and red lentil, stilton and broccoli, and many more. The soups are served with bread, butter and cheese.

Our thanks to our loyal supporters who have braved many wet, windy, wintry Mondays to meet and warm up over bowls of home made soup. The lunches enable us to raise money for local charities and organisations whilst chatting with friends or making new friendships. The recipients of the money raised this season are Mencap Stroud £600, The Beacon Conservation Group £500 and Building Circles in Gloucestershire £500.

Community Lunches will recommence at The Town Hall in the autumn. Why not come along and join this social lunchtime event?

Thank you to all

Mary Sparks David Linsell Charles Garstang

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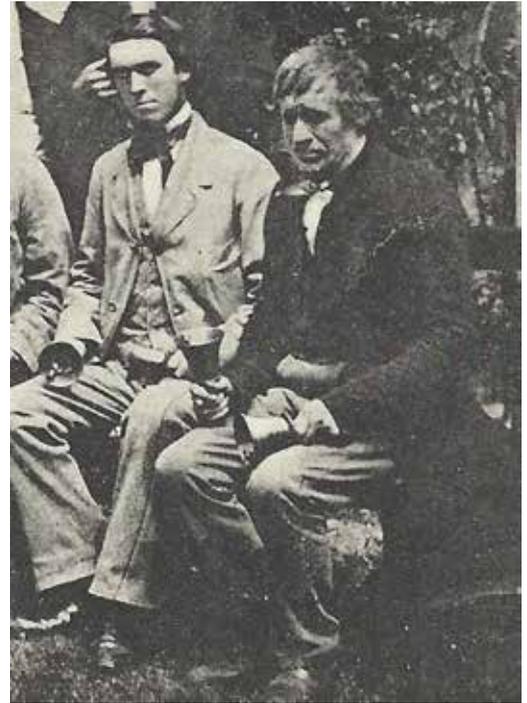
Painswickian of the Year 1883

When St. Mary's Church in Painswick was struck by lightning on a Sunday afternoon in June 1883, doing considerable damage to both the spire and the roof of the nave, it was entirely natural that the Church and the community should turn to Albert Estcourt. He was a local builder, by then based in Gloucester and operating widely around the region, but he was a Painswickian by birth and by upbringing. His father William Estcourt had led the Painswick bellringers for many years between about 1820 and 1860, a period of great success. As a young man, Albert together with his brother Oliver, had joined the Bellingring team and participated in many important peals. So Albert Estcourt knew St Mary's Church well and perhaps its Bell Tower and spire even better. Who could be more suitable to lead its reconstruction?



His father had also been a stone mason and builder, but on a much more modest scale. It was Albert and Oliver who set up a more substantial building business in Gloucester around 1850. They were both young, Albert born in 1832, but the business quickly expanded and took on some substantial contracts. Oliver was a bit older and was primarily responsible for the construction in 1858 of the Gloucester Court of Probate in Pitt Street (now a Grade II listed building). By 1867 Albert was building the Italianate Hillfield House in Denmark Road, Gloucester, also now listed and currently on the market though Moulton Haus in Painswick. In 1877 he did major restoration work at St. Mary's church in Cheltenham, gaining valuable experience for

This is intended to be the first in a series of articles on famous Painswickians of the past. If you would like to nominate a 'Painswickian of the Year' from history, do get in touch.



Albert Estcourt and his father William as bellringers in Painswick

his work in Painswick. Other major buildings included the Oxford University Cricket Club pavilion in the Parks and Clouds House in Wiltshire. Oliver had died in 1871 and Albert had carried on the business, later bringing in two of his sons to work with him.

In later years, Albert Estcourt turned to politics, becoming three times Mayor of Gloucester between 1895 and 1898. As Mayor he laid the foundation stone for the Gloucester Public Library in Brunswick Road and he served as a J.P. for almost twenty years until his death in 1909. His name is remembered in Gloucester through the naming of Estcourt Road. In Painswick the name may be less well remembered, but next time you look up at the spire of St. Mary's or hear the bells ringing, spare a thought for Albert Estcourt, a worthy Painswickian of the Year.



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Beacon Village Quiz

Victory for the Four Green Stedes

A resounding annual fixture, the Beacon Quiz once again saw the hall of the Painswick Centre rapt in optimistic anticipation of victory on Saturday 7th March. Thirteen teams faced questions over twelve rounds on a wide range of topics. A splendid mix of fairly straightforward questions through to the truly challenging, created a wonderful atmosphere of concentrated contemplation interspersed with sheer happy relief.

Midway through the evening the teams enjoyed a relaxing break, some good food and some famous faces to identify. Then the quiz proper resumed and the scores moved on, competitively close. Finally it was the Four Green Stedes who secured the victory, with 'Off the shelf' just one point behind as runners-up. The prize for the best mascot went to TGIF's.

This was a truly enjoyable evening and the teams are to be thanked for their stalwart and good-humoured participation. Thanks too to the Beacon team for organising the event. Let's hope that next year's quiz will see even more brave contestants joining in.

Carol Maxwell



Richard Aspinall presented the trophy to winners Diana and John Elbert, their daughter Holly and partner Tim Hughes - 'The Four Green Stedes'.



Richard with the runners-up 'Off the shelf', representing the Community Library. Left: Sue Kirton accepts the prize for best mascot.



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Is Painswick doing justice to its war memorial?

Thoughts of change as a centenary approaches

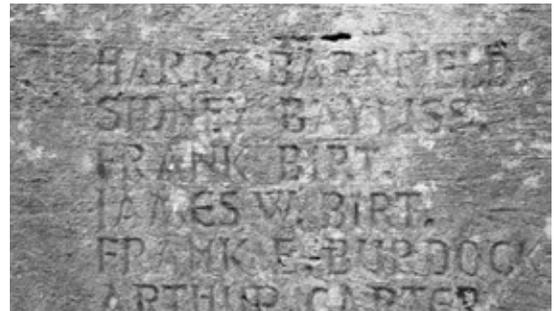
Painswick's War Memorial has been the scene of some poignant ceremonies over the last few years with significant anniversaries of both the first and second world wars. It is an important reminder of the huge sacrifice made by some of our forebears and an important site within the village in terms of both historical significance and visual appearance. And yet, how many visitors, passers by or even residents, give it so much as a second glance? How many visitors pause to read the inscriptions on it? From the Town Hall side it is hidden away behind a solid bank of clipped yews, reinforced by a low wall and a row of parked cars. From most of the churchyard and much of the road it is hardly visible. Seen from close up, many of the names written on it are gradually being worn away.

It was probably never meant to be like this. The Memorial Garden in which it stands, was previously the site of a row of buildings including the old Town Hall. They were bought up by local benefactors in the nineteenth century and demolished in order to improve the view of the churchyard. The Garden is now owned by the Frederick Gyde Memorial Trust and is not part of the churchyard. Its yews have never been included in the supposed 99 trees.

The memorial was unveiled in 1921, so that next year will mark its centenary. Contemporary photos show no trees around it at the time of the ceremony, but they must have been planted shortly afterwards. By the 1930s the yew trees can be seen in much the same shape as today, although rather lower and more open, so that the war memorial itself appears more prominent. The garden was at that time surrounded by railings, melted down in the Second World War, but parked cars were of course not the problem they are today. Victoria Square, in front of the Town Hall was much more of a square than it is now and the Queen Victoria Jubilee Lamp stood in the middle of the road.



The War memorial as it appears today



Names are gradually wearing away



The unveiling in 1921

Modern traffic conditions would preclude that today and car parking is still a huge problem in Painswick so that taking away spaces is barely practical. But could the war memorial be opened up more by reducing the height of the yew trees, or even taking some out completely? Could the area around the memorial be made a more attractive place for people to sit and contemplate, or just pass the time of day? Could Victoria Square and the Memorial Garden be more of a Village Square and less of a thoroughfare? Could something be done to prevent the complete wearing

away of the names on the memorial?

There are potential problems. The memorial itself is a listed building and there are therefore restrictions on how it can be altered. It may not even be possible to recarve the names or inscriptions. The only solution here may be to position a separate plaque with the names marked more durably in metal, as some other communities have done. Cutting back of yew trees makes them unsightly for a year or two, although they recover in time.

But as we approach the centenary of the War Memorial, are we doing it justice and are we doing justice to those who died as well as those who contributed to their memorial? The Beacon would welcome letters, comments and ideas on the subject, as would the Parish Council.



The Memorial Garden from the Church Tower, possibly in the 1930s

Painswick man's bid to row solo across Atlantic Ocean

One man, one boat, 3000 miles of ocean

As we reported briefly last month, local resident Martyn Thornton is planning to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean in December, a challenge that for most of us is almost impossible to imagine. He will have to endure the extremes of ocean weather, whilst testing his physical condition and mental tenacity as well

Leaving La Gomera in the Canaries this December he will follow the southerly trade winds and currents to arrive in Antigua. Martyn is aiming to complete the row in 60 days or less which should see him set a world record for the oldest solo male to complete the challenge (he will be 62).

Of course it's impossible to say how this might be affected by the current Coronavirus crisis,

but at the moment Martyn is training intensively in preparation for the event. His specially made boat was delivered to his home in March and shortly afterwards guided out again through Painswick's narrow streets to its new base on the River Severn.



Martyn is rowing to raise funds for Horseheard, an equine-based therapy charity helping to improve emotional health and well-being of children, young people, service veterans and adults in need. He is hard at work raising sponsorship to fund the challenge and donations to his charity. You may still see him towing his boat through the village on the way to promotional events and training sessions.



If you would like to sponsor his row, whilst getting your logo or name on the boat he has various packages available for companies and individuals - you may even get to name his boat! Contact him by email at martyn.thornton@btinternet.com www.atlanticsolo.co.uk follow on Instagram @atlanticsolo or call on 07785 350840.

And finally for those wondering why - Martyn is no stranger to extreme endurance challenges having hiked in 2017 the Pacific Crest Trail in America which runs from the Mexican border to the Canadian border – a total distance of 2700 miles taking him 5 months with an average daily distance of 20 miles through hot deserts, high mountain passes, dense forests and stunning uninhabited wilderness.

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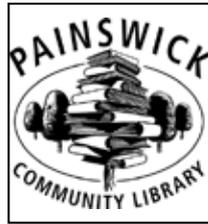
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Library News for April

Closure until further notice

As you may be aware the Library is closed until further notice. If you have books due back in the next few weeks you are welcome to renew them online, however please rest assured no fines will apply during this closure.



Gloucestershire Library Service

All library buildings across Gloucestershire are currently closed but there is still a wealth of online resources available for free to borrowers including books, magazines and audiobooks. All information on how to do this is available by going to Gloucestershire.gov.uk/libraries/ and clicking on the relevant link. Magazines include The Economist, New Scientist, Gardeners World and Good Housekeeping and it's a wonderful resource.

Painswick Library Book Club

The Club's March gathering was well attended with 'The Sealwoman's Gift' by Sally Magnusson's the subject for discussion. Although the initial chapter, aptly named 'Grey', was a bleak start the consensus was that it was worth persevering. The book explores many themes including slavery, religion, women and motherhood, family loyalties and beyond all, survival and is recommended. Although there is uncertainty about when the next physical meeting will take place the next two books were agreed as 'The Ginger Tree' by Oswald Wynd and 'Home Fires' by Kamila Shamsie if you'd like to read along at home.

New Library Management System

The new Gloucestershire-wide library IT system will be activated in early April. If you have signed up for email updates from the library you should receive up to date information. All our amazing library volunteers have been fully trained in the new system.

Ordering new stock

Although no libraries have been able to purchase or add new stock since mid-February please be aware we will be ordering books again as soon as possible. These will include novels such as 'Where The Crawdads Sing' by Delia Owens, 'The Other Half of Augusta Hope' by Joanna Glen, 'Grown Ups' by Marian Keyes, 'The Foundling' by Stacey Halls and 'The Lantern Men' by Elly Griffiths. Non-fiction titles will include - 'Mudlarking' by Lara Maiklem, 'The Volunteer' by Jack Fairweather, 'Surrounded by Idiots' by Thomas Erikson and Julia Samuel's 'This Too Shall Pass'. We will also be adding many children's books. If you would like to reserve one of these or recommend new books for community library stock please let us know the details by emailing library@pinnegar.net - thank you.

The very best to you all and we look forward to welcoming you to the library again as soon as safely possible. In the meantime, stay home, keep safe and happy reading,
Pat Pinnegar

Rococo Garden closed

I am writing this having just taken the really difficult decision to close the Garden for the time being. With the warm sun out and our thousands of daffodils nodding in the breeze today, we feel a long way from the Coronavirus. But the risks are well-publicised and we felt we had no choice but to close the gate until it is safe to reopen. In fact your usual Rococo correspondent, Tim, is one of the 400 British people stranded in Peru at present because of the virus, hence the change in author this month!



We're making plans at the moment to be able to maintain the Garden whilst we're closed so it's still visit-worthy when we are able to re-open. As you will probably be aware, if the Garden isn't open to the public, we aren't able to generate income, and our charity needs money to be able to look after this wonderful place. To support this, we have launched an appeal so that our many friends out there can donate to allow us to continue to mow, weed, plant, maintain in these difficult times. If you are able to support us, please visit our website and follow the links from the news section on the home page.

Whilst we are closed, we plan to keep our website and social media updated with details of what we are up to. In the absence of being able to visit in person, we will do our best to keep our thousands of followers updated on what is looking good - as ever, we want to share the beauty of this place with the world.

Our plans for the rest of the year are on hold for the time being - we're currently making decisions on a day-to-day basis. Again, for the latest news, have a look at rococogarden.org.uk and we hope to be able to pen an update for you next month. In the meantime, thank you for your support and stay safe!

Dominic Hamilton, Garden Director

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Sports reports

assembled by John Barrus

Tennis success for Alicia



2020 has started successfully for Painswick's Alicia Barnett. Her first tournament was the Masters British Tour held at the National Tennis Centre. Although she was carrying a back injury, Alicia cruised through the early rounds to play Freya Christie (world ranked 580) in the final. Alicia lost the first set and was struggling with her back in the second, still managing to save 4 match points. Eventually she won a second set tie break and the final set 6-4.

After 2 weeks off resting her back, she played a Premier British Tour at Bath University. Again Alicia cruised through the early rounds to meet her training partner Sam Murray (world ranked 210 and British number 5) in the final. Sam made no errors in the first set winning it 6-3. Alicia started hitting the ball deeper and took control of the second set winning it 7-5. In the third set Alicia hit top form and won the match 6-4.

She then travelled to Sunderland for a WTA \$25,000. In the singles she lost in the second round to the world 345. Teaming up with Olivia Nicholls for the doubles they got stronger as they progressed through the draw reaching the final against a Spanish pair. Alicia and Olivia were too strong for them and won the first set 6-4. The second set was a lot closer going to a tie break with the Spaniards having 2 set points. Having saved those, our British pair won the next 2 points to win the match. Alicia's doubles world ranking will now be 295.



The Waypoint, caterers at the golf club, providing a take away / delivery service.

Painswick Golf Club



As I write this, the weather has started to improve and the Beacon is looking superb. But recent poor weather has taken its toll on golf, with a number of competitions being postponed or adversely affected. The March Midweek stableford competition was cancelled, but a joint Seniors and Ladies bowmaker did take place on 12th March. The winning team was Anthony Fisher and Peter Rowe plus a mystery player who turned out to be Jane Rowe. Mike Sanderson won 'nearest the pin in two' on the 17th hole. Congratulations to the winners.

The club's AGM due to take place on 20th March was cancelled as a result of the restrictions from the Coronavirus pandemic. Officers for next year are: George Paton (Chairman), Ann Smith (Secretary), Mike Archer (Treasurer), and Carl Gyde (Greens Secretary); Brendan Nunan is President and Dean Vernon remains Club Captain.

The Golf Club has been closed in line with government regulations. This includes both the clubhouse and the course.

Peter Rowe

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Falcon News



Our new season should be just a couple of weeks away at Falcon but unfortunately like everyone else we're now forced to delay things for an indefinite period. The outdoor season runs from mid-April to mid-September so we're still hoping to salvage something from the wreckage of the Covid 19 outbreak.

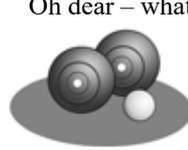
The most frustrating thing about this is once again we've had lots of interest from new people who want to start playing. Several people visited the club before the outbreak started and were very impressed with what they saw and couldn't wait to get bowling. I think the best case scenario is that no club matches will take place till at least June. Hopefully our summer taster sessions will resume then as well.

We'll still be hoping to meet up as individuals or in small groups at the club to bowl socially between now and June with "social distancing" measures in place of course. Life goes on at Falcon. We won't let this thing beat us whatever it is. We will keep people updated on what's happening at Falcon on our website and Facebook page. Meanwhile stay safe everyone.

For more info on Falcon, to find out more about our free summer taster sessions:
davidglass20@gmail.com
01452 814186
Painswickfalconbowls.co.uk
or find us on Facebook

Jon Ellis

Painswick Bowls Club



Oh dear – what a difference a few weeks can make. Last month we were looking forward to the new bowls season and a members' working party was 'waking up' our green in preparation for the official season opening on Saturday 11th April.

No more – thanks to the Coronavirus. As a club we have to put the safety of our members first, so our April activities have been cancelled and we are reviewing the situation on a month-by-month basis. We will recommence our busy season's schedule of friendly and competitive league matches as soon as possible.

Rest assured we are still here. The bowling green can be found nestled between the Painswick Centre and the village recreation ground in the heart of Painswick. We have arguably the best views of any bowls club in the area, as we look over the Painswick valley - a real plus point on those sunny afternoons, when a friendly cold drink on the patio often accompanies the informal after match banter.

We are a friendly club, and always on the lookout for new members. If you fancy trying out your bowling skills, we run open coaching sessions every Friday (weather and Coronavirus permitting) and can provide everything you need – all we ask is you wear flat shoes to protect the green. And if you find you enjoy it, and want to continue, club membership is only £10 for your first season, if you are new to the game.

For more information on the club, committee members contact numbers, a membership application form, and news on the delayed start of our 2020 calendar, please visit our website <https://www.hugofox.com/community/painswick-bowls-club-8716/home/>

Stephen Tye

Difficult Times

As I am writing this the country is entering an enforced period of lockdown because of the Covid-19 virus. The future is very uncertain and the best we can do is follow the advice given and try to keep ourselves, family and friends as safe as possible.

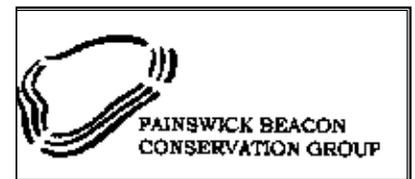
Not surprisingly I have cancelled all work parties until further notice. This is not too drastic as we were to finish winter type work the week after Easter. This winter's work party attendance has been erratic with numbers ranging from less than 10 to as many as 25. The awful wet weather will not have helped and I had to cancel two because of it. However, we have opened up a large new area below Jackdaw Quarry for grazing and recleared the quarry near the 4th tee. The Back from the Brink project has financed and installed two new water troughs, and these will help better manage the areas to be grazed next autumn. We have planted out 500+ cowslip plants raised from seed and transplanted about 150 marjoram cuttings taken from existing plants. Four juniper plants have been transplanted from the original scrape to encourage the spread of this rare bush.

There is still work to be done through the summer, cutting back brambles and spraying regrowth of invasive weeds. Hopefully, if restrictions are lifted, a few of us may be able to do some of this working on our own.

At last we have had some warm weather. There are plenty of violets in flower (good news for the rare pearl bordered fritillary which has been recorded for the last two years) and it looks as if it may be a good year for cowslips which will help the Duke of Burgundy butterfly. The warmth has brought out tortoiseshell and peacock butterflies from hibernation.

Finally, thanks to those who have responded to our appeal for funds, it is very much appreciated.

Paul Baxter



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Painswick Country Market Coronavirus update



Dear Friends and Customers of Painswick Country Market

There have been many changes for us all over the past week or so, and I'm sure there will be more to follow. The situation regarding the Market is that following a directive from Country Markets HQ in Chesterfield we are not allowed to offer the Order and Delivery Service that we had planned. We can only apologise for this, but matters of insurance, risk assessments and in particular personal safety made it almost impossible to put together guidelines to cover all eventualities. Many Markets across the Country have worked hard, as in fact have we, to try to maintain a service but unfortunately that cannot be.

For Painswick Market, we have to remember that not only our Customers but a high percentage of producers and helpers are over 70 years old and so fall into the 'at risk' category, and need to take special care.

As things change, we will keep everyone as informed as we can, and hopefully it won't be too long before we can resume trading! If you would like to be included in an email news stream, please send your details to chris@mc-cc.co.uk and we'll include you on our list.

Many thanks for your patience. Keep well and safe.

Chris Campbell (Painswick Country Market Management Team)

PROPERTY REPORT by Beacon Staff

Like everyone else at the moment, Painswick's estate agents are having to batten down the hatches and operate as best they can in difficult circumstances. Face to face contact is generally having to be curtailed but they are still operating remotely by telephone and email and trialling new innovations like video viewings.

Despite all the difficulties, several houses have been sold recently and others have come to the market. New properties available include 10 Gyde House (Murrays, £400,000), a 2 bed, 2 bath town house style property within this development. The Cottage, Hale Lane (Murrays, £350,000) is a mid-terrace 2 bed, 2 bath cottage with garden and parking in the centre of the village, and there is the possibility of buying the adjoining 1 bed coach house also with parking, for a total of £550,000. Harebell House in Kemps Lane came onto the market briefly through Hamptons, but is already under offer.

Further afield, Murrays are offering the detached 3 bedroom School House at Sheepscombe for £500,000, and there are now two large properties available with far reaching views across the Severn Valley from the Cotswold escarpment. Crows Nest Farm on Upton Hill (Hamptons, £1.75 million) is a small equestrian estate with barns, stables, arena and garaging, while the four bedroomed Suomi (Murrays, £1.2 million) is a contemporary 'Scandianus' built into the side of Coopers Hill just below the A46.

And if you really want to get away from it all, take a look at Yew Tree Cottage, with just under an acre of land at the end of a long rural track near Bisley (Hamptons, £825,000).

Properties recently going under offer include 13 Gyde House and Southwood at Jacks Green, through Hamptons, and South Gables in Cotswold Mead through Murrays, as well as Harebell House referred to above. Contacts have now been exchanged on Windrush at Jacks Green and Bramley House in Lower Washwell Lane.

Finally, news from Pete (The Fish Man) is that all UK ports are now closed to trawlers wanting to unload fish and he does not see the situation changing for about 6 – 8 weeks.

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Regular Village Activities In the light of the Coronavirus pandemic most of the activities below may not be running. Please contact the event organiser to check.

Mondays	Short Mat Bowls. Contact 812464	Town Hall	10.30am & 2.00pm	
	Yoga. Contact Kim 812623	Sheepscombe Village Hall	6.30 - 8.00pm & 8.15pm	
	Painswick Community choir. Contact Sophie 01453 298138	Painswick Centre	7.00 - 8.30pm	
	Painswick Singers Choir - contact Jean Jones 813545	Richmond Village	7.30 - 9.30pm	
	Pilates - Heidi Hardy. Enquiries 07970262538 heidihardyuk@yahoo.co.uk	Cotswold Room, Painswick Centre	9.00-10.15am and 10.15-11.30am	
	Ballyhoo Dance and Theatre School - all ages. Contact Heidi Hardy 07970 262538 ballyhoochalford@gmail.com	Church Rooms	4.00 - 6.00pm	
	Sheepscombe baby and toddler group - every Monday except holidays. £ 4.00 for first child, £1.00 others	Sheepscombe Village Hall	9.30am	
	Upholstery classes. For information contact Victoria or Sophie on 07835617213 or 07766114940 or www.sew-vintage.co.uk	Painswick Centre	10.00am or 6.30pm	
	Morning /evening prayer	St Mary's Church	8.30am/5.00pm	
	Tuesdays	Painswick Art Club	Church Rooms	9.30am
Gentle Pilates for all. Contact Vicky at abcpilates@internet.com or 07934977171		Painswick Centre	9.30 - 10.30am	
Zumba Gold dance fitness for Seniors £6.50 pp. Contact 07766101790		Painswick Centre	10.00am	
Bingo		Ashwell House	6.30 - 9.00pm	
Rococo Sprites - Nature Connections. For Toddlers in term		Rococo Gardens	10.00am	
Nia Holistic Fitness		Town Hall	6.00 - 7.00pm	
Artspace Painswick		The Falcon's Nest	4.00 - 6.00pm	
Morning /evening prayer		St Mary's Church	8.30am/5.00pm	
Wednesdays		Botanical Illustration classes. All day workshops. Prebook 07810 725772	Prinknash Abbey, Cranham	10.00 - 4.00pm
		Yoga - contact Kim 812623	Sheepscombe Village Hall	9.30 - 11.00am & 1.00 - 3.30pm
	Art class (oils) - contact Jane 812176		Afternoons	
	Painswick Bootcamp	Recreation Ground	7.00pm-8.00pm	
	Morning /evening prayer	St Mary's Church	8.30am/5.00pm	
	Thursdays	Yoga - all abilities	Painswick Centre	9.30 - 11.00am
		T'ai chi. Contact Jeff on 07970 303694	Town Hall	9.30am
		Dog training club.	Church Rooms	9.30 - 12.00pm
		Art class (oils) - contact Jane 812176		Mornings
		Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners. Contact 01453 752480	Town Hall	12.00 - 1.00pm
Jolly Stompers as above: Experienced beginners.		Town Hall	12.30 - 1.30pm	
Pilates class. Contact Nicola 07870 953159 or nmarshes@hotmail.com		Painswick Centre	6.00 - 7.00pm and 7.00 - 8.00pm	
Morning /evening prayer		St Mary's Church	8.30am/5.00pm	
Fridays		Baby and toddler group - term time only	Youth Pavillion (Rec)	10.00 - 11.30am
		Adult ballet class	Church Rooms	9.30am
	Saturdays	Artspace Painswick	The Falcon's Nest	2.00 - 3.30 pm
Sundays		Meeting for Worship	Quaker Meeting	10.30am
		Mass	Catholic Church	8.30am

Jottings

It is estimated that fifty million tons of farmed fruit and vegetables, perfectly good to eat, are being thrown away in Europe because they are the wrong size, misshapen or have blemishes. A third of farm production is lost for these reasons.

Pre-farm gate, this loss includes vegetables in the field that have not grown fully, are misshapen or been attacked by pests or weather. Harvesting causes damage, making some products unsaleable. Storing, grading and packing losses can vary from 5% to 25% based a lot just on appearance. So growers are having to grow extra acres of produce to ensure they have enough supply to keep up their contracts.

Produce that does not meet the standards of the supermarkets and other big stores may not leave the farm, or the suppliers, or see the supermarket shelves. The two main ways food ends in the bins - firstly producer to market, known as food loss; and food thrown by the consumer, known as food waste. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) estimate that around 10 million tonnes of food waste is generated every year in the UK, 70% of which was intended to be consumed by people. Five million tonnes of this is edible and equates to £15 billion of food each year. This works out as £70 a month or £840 a year for a family of four.

Bananas are one of the things most thrown away because basically they don't sell or get eaten once in the domestic home - new deliveries are taken from storage and put out on the supermarket shelves where they quickly ripen and discolour. Huge amounts of vegetables are thrown away; particularly cauliflower because of a bit of discolouring to the curd, so thrown as unfit to eat. Strawberries are also known for being discarded and thrown for many reasons, and, of course, the waste from "out-of-date", on the shelves and sold.

You would expect the greatest wastage would be from restaurants, hotels and businesses, including the supermarkets. But the majority of food waste in the UK comes from households: of the 10.2m tonnes of food wasted, 7.1m tonnes is from households: Carbohydrates like potatoes: Daily waste in British households: 5.8 million whole potatoes... Bread: Daily waste in British households: 24 million slices of bread... Then milk: Daily waste in British households: 5.8 million glasses of milk...

Climate change researchers have said that the effect of growing "wasted" food which may be ploughed back in, used as animal feed or used in other ways, is the same as the emissions of nearly 400,000 cars. About 90,000 tons of fresh produce is sent to landfill and others every year. It is bad, is it not, when a tenth of the world population is underfed? Food that's thrown away and ends up in landfill breaks down and releases methane, a greenhouse gas that's 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO₂) for the environment.

The Council has started recycling food waste by encouraging us to separate it out into food bins. This waste is sent to one of Biffa's anaerobic digestion plants where it is composted down and turned into green energy which is sent to the National Grid to power local homes and businesses.

Martin Slinger



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Letters

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

Sarah and Simon Faure, owners of Dutchcombe Farm write:
We are a young family and our plan is to replace the existing approved five bedroom house, with another five bedroomed house. It is slightly larger to accommodate environmental features such as ground source heat. The footprint fits inside the previous house and outbuildings which were very unsightly.

We have planted 1500 native trees, positioned to screen the house over three to five years and another 1300 trees this year capturing carbon created by Painswick. We are the only people doing this in the valley. We have restored an ancient orchard, planting 60 Gloucestershire varieties.

The design is inspired by houses around us, and is positioned to sit nestled in the valley. It is rotated to emit minimum light towards Painswick. The majority of the wing is enclosed in a walled kitchen garden. There will be no floodlights or drive lights, unlike other houses in the valley.

The extant design has no environmental credentials, landscape or screening requirements. A modern low quality box in an exposed position facing directly at Painswick, completely at odds with the local vernacular.

We have talked to neighbours, local builders, ecologists, craftsman, architects and gardeners to create something that is worthy of the valley we live in and will be a place enjoyed and admired by generations to come.

John Newhill from St. Mary's Street writes:
In normal times (before and after the current crisis!) I am a volunteer for the Tourist Information Office, a role which is highly pleasant and enjoyable as I meet lots of lovely tourists from all over the world who think Painswick is amazingly beautiful.

Nearly without exception, they want to know where there is a good local cafe where they can have light refreshments. Immediately before the current restrictions, there was nowhere for those who want a cafe to go in Painswick. We had the excellent Falcon, the excellent Painswick Hotel and the excellent Oak which were always open but there was and will be a huge need for a good, clean, friendly and local cafe, which in my opinion could be very successful if well run.

I would love to think that salvation is coming!

PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

- S.20/0436/HHOLD Knapp Farm, The Vatch, Catswood Lane. Single storey side extension.
- S.20/0460/HHOLD Highpoint, Golf Course Road. First floor extension.
- S.20/0450/FUL Broadham Fields. Replacement of existing defunct cricket nets.
- S.20/0505/HHOLD Whitehall Bank, Stamages Lane. Ground floor rear extension, new dormer window and four new velux windows.
- S.20/0433/TPO Hyett Orchard, Hyett Close. Lime Tree (T1) Fell - roots are lifting the tarmac and paving. Lime Tree (T2) Fell. We will replant with flowering cherry/magnolia.
- S.20/0451/HHOLD The Buddings, Slad Road. Replacement external steps, replacement rear lean-to and external alterations.
- S.20/0452/LBC The Buddings, Slad Road. Replacement external steps, replacement rear lean-to and external alterations.
- S.20/0441/HHOLD Highfield, Longridge, Sheepscombe. Two storey extension and detached

carport.
S.20/0225/LBC Snows Farm, Slad. Erection of canopy porch over patio area and stone chimney fire place. Repair valley to rear of roof on main house with code 4 lead tray.

S.20/0515/FUL Land At Yokehouse Lane. Barn to store agricultural machinery

CONSENT

- S.19/2362/FUL Woodside Bungalow, Slad Road. Proposed access and change of use of the land to residential.
- S.19/2718/LBC New Hall, Bisley Street. Internal alterations to kitchen, dining & lounge.
- S.20/0054/HHOLD Greenstede, Castle Close

Extensions and alterations (including two small dormers to front) with associated landscape for dwelling.

S.20/0130/TCA The Old Exchange, Stroud Road. Norway spruce (T1) fell because it is dying from the bottom up. Replant a replacement tree in the same place.

S.20/0083/HHOLD Springfield Lodge, Slad. Proposed greenhouse and retaining wall.

S.20/0161/HHOLD 25 Upper Washwell. Two storey & single storey rear extension.

WITHDRAWN

- S.19/2733/HHOLD Chessed, Slad Road, Slad. Proposed side and rear extension and alterations.

MINI-ADS

For Sale - **Hostess- Food/Plate Warmer**. Table Top model. New Condition. £25. Tel 01452-814122.

Bose Quiet Comfort 25 **headphones** literally used once. £50. Nescafé Dolce Gusto **coffee machine** with 5 boxes assorted pods. Used few times. £20. Both unwanted Xmas gifts. Tel 01452 810878.

New Covid-19 'Red Hub' in Stroud

Painswick Surgery along with other local surgeries is setting up a hub for the treatment of high-level-need Covid-19 patients. This will be for people referred by their home practice **ONLY** - no drop-ins. Meanwhile the Patient Group is helping gather personal protective equipment (PPE) for the hub which should open shortly for the expected rise in demand.

In short supply are: disposable plastic aprons and plastic gloves, surgical facemasks that are water resistant, face visors and full sealing goggles. If you can help provide these please contact: painswickppg@gmail.com

Our thanks to all those who have helped to produce and deliver this issue of the Painswick Beacon, particularly those who have stepped in to help replace our regular deliverers, many of whom are over 70 and /or self-isolating.

Additional copies of the Beacon

are available from the Best One or online.

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Personal Column

Congratulations

To JOHN HULME. Wishing you a very happy 90th birthday on 15th April with love from your wife Barbara, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. John and Barbara are previous Painswickians of the Year and ran Central Stores (now The Fabric Shop), for 43 years until their retirement in 2002.



John Hulme - Happy 90th birthday

Condolences

To the family and friends of BRIAN KIRKMAN who passed away on Wednesday March 18th. His family are planning to hold a short graveside service on Thursday April 9th but there will be a memorial service on September 19th. If you would like to attend, please contact the family for full details nearer the time.

Thank you

To MARIA and DENNIS who made my horrible experience, when I was walking my dog, much more bearable. Last February I had a fall by the New Drive site and broke my leg. Given an estimated wait for an ambulance of over an hour I was very happy to be found by these two passers-by who cared for me, made me comfortable and flagged down

the ambulance! A heartfelt thanks from James Stewart Lane (still healing at home).

PAM BAILEY and her family would like to thank everybody who shared in the celebration of John's life on Thursday 20th February 2020 at St John's Church, Pitchcombe. He was a very humble and quiet family man and he would have been touched by the number of people that attended the service, and all the messages of support that we have received as a family. We would also like to extend our thanks to Reverend Andrew Leach for his support and for taking the service, and to Chris Swain who played the organ. Finally, a big thanks to the Pitchcombe ladies who arranged the lovely spring flowers in the church and the church hall and to Lynn Partridge and Margaret Court for a wonderful buffet.

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.

Before the lockdown



Social distancing being applied in the bar of the Falcon in those long-ago days before the bars were closed. Nick Slader, Simon Graesser and Eric Johnson enjoy a last pint.

NEXT ISSUE

Publication date

SATURDAY
May 2nd 2020

Deadline for all copy
Sunday, April 19th

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