

The Painswick Beacon

Volume 44 Number 1

April 2021

Community-led electric vehicle charging points

Prior to the opening of the Parish Council Meeting Stephen Aiano gave a very interesting and informative presentation on ORCS - "On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme." The scheme aims to meet the current and anticipated needs of local residents who are unable to charge electric vehicles at home due to a lack of off street parking and to provide reliable access to charging points near to their homes. Currently a quarter of properties have no off-road parking and up to 450 cars are parked in either designated parking areas (car parks) or general on-street parking areas.

Local Authorities can apply for funding for 75% of the Capital costs for installing chargepoints. The funding is available for on-street chargepoints and in car parks owned by the Local Authority. The main charging location would be Stamages Lane car park. Options currently being researched are up to 4 rapid chargers (1 hour charge) and 12+fast chargers (2-7 hour charge).

Communication is currently being undertaken with local residents Parish, District and County Councils. By adopting this scheme Painswick will not only be seen to be "trailblazers" but residents will benefit from an improvement in both air and sound quality.

At the conclusion of the presentation the Council expressed their support and agreed that the project be moved forward.

Further information see page 15

Mike Kerton



Town & Country Financial Planning Ltd

Victims of local crime

Some of you will be aware that over the last 12 months or so our office in New Street has been the target of repeated instances of criminal damage and a theft. A member of staff has also been assaulted suffering facial injuries. Therefore, regrettably, we have been forced to close our office in New Street as these events are beyond our control.

This is not to say T&CFP has ceased trading. On the contrary, our investors' portfolios have recovered from the market falls of last year and they are now seeing valuations in excess of those prior to Covid-19 reaching our shores. We also believe our portfolios are well placed to benefit from a global economy that is emerging from the pandemic.



Please refer to our website www.tandc.org.uk for ways in which we are able to help you and your family. In the meantime, if you do see any suspicious activity around the 3 New Street area, please contact the Police immediately.

Thank you for your continued support.

Martin Falshaw APFS Chartered Financial Planner/Director

See page 4 for report on crime in Painswick and pages 12&13 for empty commercial properties in Painswick

Local Elections 6th May

Prospective candidates

The Beacon would welcome a brief resume (100 words maximum and picture) of candidates for the Parish, District, County and Police Commissioner elections. Closing date Sunday April 18th.

Information for the Local Elections

Voting by post

In the light of Covid 19 and if you do not want to vote in person at your polling station you can apply to vote by post. To vote by post you need to be registered to vote and then complete a postal vote application form and return the form by post/email. An application form can be downloaded using the following from <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections>. The deadline to apply is 5pm on Tuesday 20th April.

Registering to vote

In order to vote, you must be registered on the electoral roll. If you are not already registered, please go to <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>. The deadline to register is midnight on Monday 19th April

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

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

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members Attending via ZOOM

Cllrs Rob Lewis (Chairman), James Cross, Ann Daniels, Rosie Nash, Martin Slinger

Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Andy Cash, Ian James and Roey Parker

Public Questions

Before opening the Meeting Chairman Rob Lewis asked members of the public, who had remotely joined the Meeting, whether there were any questions. Mandy and Nick Free responded saying that they had concerns about the Application for proposed extensions and new garage at Geldeston, Back Lane Edge. They owned the next door property. The proposed site and height of the new garage would "overshadow" their property and obstruct their view. The Chairman said that the Committee would take their comments into account when considering the Application.

The Chairman then opened the Meeting.

Matters requiring a decision.

There were 12 items requiring a decision:

S.21/0304/HHOLD Geldeston, Back Lane, Edge. Proposed extensions and new garage. Support for the extensions to the property but objection to the application over the size and siting of the new garage which overlooked neighbours properties and was detrimental to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

S.21/0278/REM Land to the East of Stamages Lane. Reserved matters approval for vehicular access. Construction Method Statement, layout and access and ground levels of Application S.17/0792/OUT for a four bedroom detached dwelling. As there are still concerns over ownership of the land and land drainage issues the Council agreed to Object to the Application.

S.21/0378/TCA Fieldcroft, Sheepscombe.

Removal of Field Maple. Unanimous Support subject to the condition that a replacement tree is planted, not an Ash Tree. The Committee suggested a Wild Cherry.

The following Applications were supported unanimously

S.21/0335/HHOLD Greenleas, Longridge Sheepscombe. Extension to create atrium and extended balcony with associated internal alterations. Amendment to previous approval.

S.21/0380/HHOLD Brookhouse Mill Cottage, Kings Mill Lane. Construction of dormer windows and new porch.

S.21/0316/HHOLD Tipsymead, Slad. Proposed two storey side extension, front porch, rear glazed doors and small balcony to upper ground floor and minor door/window alterations.

S.21/0374/HHOLD 4 Court Orchard. Construction of front, rear and side extensions

S.21/0435/HHOLD Highfield House, Gloucester Street. Conversion of garage building to home office and studio for working from home.

S.21/0445/LBC Fortunes Well, Far End, Sheepscombe. Replacement of door and four dormer windows.

S.21/0516/Ludloes, Gloucester Street. Felling and replacement of 5 trees.

S.21/0359/TCA Hedges, Gloucester Street. To lift crown and trim sides of a Leylandii Tree, Trim top and reduce sides and general pruning of an Apple Tree.

S.21/00542/TCA Byfield House, Bisley Street. Fell 10 Leylandii Cypress Trees.

PARISH COUNCIL

Presentation

Prior to opening the Meeting, held via ZOOM, Chairman Martin Slinger introduced Stephen Aiano who gave an informative presentation on community electric vehicle charging points. The Council supported the concept and agreed to move the project forward. See article on front page.

Chairman Martin Slinger then opened

the Meeting and welcomed all who had connected to the Meeting. Cllr Abigail Smith joined the Meeting.

To welcome Siobhan Baillie MP to the Meeting - Questions and Answers Session

Unfortunately due to the pressures of Parliamentary business the MP was unable to join the Meeting. She hopes to be able to attend the April Meeting via Zoom.

Apologies for absence

Cllrs Andy Cash, Ian James and Roey Parker

Reports

District Councillor Nigel Cooper reported on the Council Tax for the year 2021/22. Although the Parish Councils precept has increased by 2% (on a Band D property an increase from £59.73 to £60.92) this compares favourably with other large Parishes for example Bisley £63.33 or Chalford £69.83.

Unfortunately the timetable for the new Local Plan has slipped slightly but a small group of Cllrs, including myself, are meeting regularly to give member input. There is a great deal of cross party agreement on the plan content. Everybody agrees that it is vital that a new plan must be agreed and in place to give clarity for future development across the whole District to deter predatory developers. It is hoped to present the final draft to the Environment Committee on the 20th April and to the full Council on 29th April. If it is approved it will then go to Government Planning Inspectorate for consideration followed by a Public Enquiry.

At the next Meeting the Council will discuss the important issue of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and prepare a draft for public consultation. Also the Stroud District 2030 strategy - Climate change response plus the exciting proposal regarding the developments around a prototype nuclear fusion plant at Berkeley.

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Council Chairman Cllr Martin Slinger asked the Council to approve a revised quote of £6950 for the cost of removing the Ash Trees, which have severe Ash dieback, from the Recreation Ground. This was agreed by the Council. He also reported concerns over the increasing numbers of full bags of dog waste being discarded around the Parish and a noticeable increase in fly tipping.

Parish Council Clerk Roy Balgobin reported that if Governmental advice permits the Parish Office will reopen for essential business on Wednesday and Fridays only - 10.0am to noon - from the 14th April. Only one member of the public will be allowed into the Office.

Painswick Community Support Group. Cllr Abigail Smith advised that there were no further updates since the last Meeting.

Councillors. Chairman Martin Slinger reported that Edge Residents were still very concerned about the speed of traffic on the A4173 by Edge Church. Arrangements had been made for the Police to carry out spot checks using hand held radar guns.

Cllr Abigail Smith reported that as a follow up to the February Meeting she had written to the County Councils Highways Dept for approval that the Parish Council were able to put up "20's plenty" signs as a first step to address the speeding concerns in Jacks Green. Also asked about longer term measures that can be pursued and raised a number of Highways matters around the Parish. She had recently attended a Painswick Beacon Conservation Group meeting. The group were looking into "no fence" cattle control methods.

To discuss the forthcoming elections and offer potential Councillors an opportunity to attend a virtual Q&A session on the role of being a Parish Councillor

The Council agreed that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk will hold a Zoom Meeting at 6.0pm on Wednesday 24th March to speak with potential candidates and also offer informal conversations to those who can't make the Zoom Meeting.

To consider carrying out a Public Consultation in regards to the War Memorial and its surrounds

The Chairman reported that following several recent articles in the Painswick Beacon concerning the War Memorial and its surrounds many emails had been received. As a consequence he felt that a public consultation was needed to ascertain the views of Parishioners. The Council agreed to carry out the consultation via the May Beacon edition.

To discuss and agree dates for the Annual Parish Meeting

The Council agreed to hold its Annual Parish Meeting via Zoom on the 28th April and subject to Government guidance a physical Parish Meeting later in the year.

Accounts

The Council approved the "Accounts for Payment" list circulated prior to the Meeting. The Council agreed to a grant of £250 to the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens.

Date of next Meeting

Wednesday 21st April 2021 at 7.30pm via ZOOM.

EXTRAORDINARY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Meeting had been called following the considerable Local and Social Media interest generated by the decision at the January Planning Meeting not to support the Street Traders Application to sell coffee and cake from a converted horsebox on the Beacon. The Applicant, Mrs Lucy John, stated that following separate Meetings with the Conservation Society and Waypoint both had withdrawn their objections to the Application. Details of material changes to the Application had been circulated to all Cllrs and there was support from local Residents for the Licence to be granted.

The Chairman then opened the Meeting.

To Give Further Consideration to the Following Street Licence Application following an Appeal to Stroud District Council Application Ref: 21/00014/STRADE After a brief discussion the Chairman asked each Cllr for their recommendation. There was unanimous agreement that in light of the new information, particularly that both the Conservation Society and Waypoint had withdrawn their objections, to support the Application.



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Police Report

Crime statistics for Painswick taken from the Gloucestershire Constabulary web site.



High level of reported incidents in January

Painswick made an exceptionally high level (27) of reports to the Police in January way above the 6 month average of 10 per month. Does this reflect the difficult conditions of the lockdown and would it be part of a national trend?

January 2021

Golf Course Rd Nr Highlands B3073 Nr Beacon	Criminal Damage, Assault ASB ASB (2) Criminal Damage (2) Assault
Upper Washwell Pullens Rd Butt Green Victoria St Ashwell Chelt. Rd nr Rec New St White Horse Ln Hale Ln Hyatt close Hambutts Drive Beech Lane Vicarage St	ASB, Assault ASB ASB Burglary ASB Assault (2) ASB ASB (2) ASB (2) ASB Assault ASB, Assault ASB (2)

December 2020

Gloucester Rd Golf Course Rd B4073 Nr Beacon Stamages C.P Hale Lane New St Tibbiwell Victoria St Beech Lane	ASB ASB Theft, ASB ASB ASB ASB ASB (2) ASB (2) ASB (2)
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December 2019 had 13 reports made

Notes

ASB = Anti-Social Behaviour

Location given means near to that area

January 2020 had 12 reports made

Following up on an enquiry from the Beacon, Debbie Collicott, Police Community Support Officer, has replied below with a more detailed analysis of the January reported incidents and comments on the effects of lockdown.

4 x welfare
1 stolen car
5 domestics
8 covid breaches
1 road accident
4 neighbour disputes
1 malicious communications
1 abandoned call
1 anti-social behaviour
1 fraud

Obviously, with data protection there's a limit as to how much detail I can give you, but on a positive I note that there are no burglaries or violent crime.

Those listed, particularly the covid breaches, are similar to other areas. It's not to say all of those reported were genuine, on investigation many of the calls were unfounded.

The neighbour disputes all relate to ongoing issues between two parties. Similarly with the domestics incidents.

The welfare incidents speak for themselves, as we have had a number of these throughout the county, particularly with elderly residents. With the NHS so desperately stretched, the Police have had to backfill jobs which the ambulance service would normally attend.

Painswick and the surrounding area is still a lovely place to live in and if I can offer some reassurance to you, has not had a sudden increase in serious crime. Many of the incidents which have been attended are in some way connected to the lockdown and subsequent fallout from it.

Hopefully, once it is lifted, life can return to some semblance of normality. Although it's been an exhausting time for us all, it has also seen some wonderful acts of kindness and generosity.

Debbie Collicott Police Community Support Officer

Additional copies of the Beacon

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

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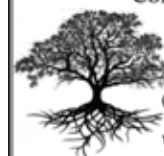
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Book Club

Our March Library book club read was *The Shadow King* by Maaza Mengiste, shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2020. The novel centered on the Italian invasion of Abyssinia (now Ethiopia), in 1935, a prelude to the outbreak of World War II. The narrative is told from a number of perspectives by the central characters. They include three Abyssinians: Hirut a maid and her master and mistress Kidane and Aster and two Italians Colonel Fucelli and a photographer named Ettore.

The main theme is the role of women in the brutal conflict which engulfed Abyssinia following the invasion, a role largely ignored in the history books. In addition the warrior women challenge the proprietorial control of men over women, in a culture where even slavery still existed. As the novel portrays, the war itself was an unequal struggle of an industrialized nation armed with planes, tanks and poison gas pitted against a primitive force armed only with spears and too few guns.

The author piqued our interest in the relationship between the characters and in their personal histories but left us with several questions unanswered.

For most of our members it was an initiation into a country and a history that was unfamiliar territory and although we perhaps didn't enjoy the novel as much as we had hoped, generally we were pleased to have persevered with what we found to be quite a hard read.

Our next book is *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi. Zoom meeting on Monday 19th April at 2pm. For further details email Pat Andrew painswick.library.bookclub@gmail.com

We would like to extend our thanks to Carole Smith, a founder member of the Library book club, who has worked so hard to keep it alive over the past difficult year.

Pat Andrew



Library re-opening – again

The library will be closed over the Easter weekend (April 2nd to 5th) re-opening on Wednesday April 7th and Saturday April 10th from 10.30am to 12 noon for Click and Collect only.

From Monday April 12th, subject to volunteer availability and in line with government guidelines and other Gloucestershire libraries, we will reopen to borrowers following the same Covid19-safe guidelines as before Christmas. For the remainder of April we will be open for limited hours with the situation reviewed for May. The opening times for the library will be Monday afternoons from 3 till 5pm and Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10 till 12 noon.

Any updates to these opening hours will be made on the library's website, on social media and via the Town Hall Noticeboard.

Withdrawn Stock

During lockdown over one hundred library books for all ages which had been withdrawn from Painswick stock were made available in the Main Hall of the Town Hall during Post Office opening hours. These books were extremely popular and we think this has been a safe and successful way to keep the library service available during lockdown.

Pat Pinnegar

The War Memorial – an update

During the past few weeks things have moved on apace with regard to the current and future state of Painswick's war memorial. Many residents have already expressed their wish to see action taken which would result in a more obvious display of visible pride in and respect for those of our Painswick men who sacrificed their lives in both world wars. Currently the memorial is all but hidden from view.



The location of the memorial is a very public space and it is therefore important that all Painswick residents are involved in any developments. To that end, the parish council view this as a matter for public consultation and it is hoped therefore that a questionnaire seeking your views on this subject will be ready to be included in every copy of next month's Beacon.

There are currently varying ideas as to whether the surrounding hedge should be removed altogether, partially removed or reduced in height and width. Should the area be opened up as a community space? There is also the problem of the legibility of the names, disappearing on the soft and dirty stone of the memorial. One suggestion is to place a very low stone wall nearby with the names etched on to attached metal plates. Your opinions and ideas will be much appreciated.

One important extra ... As the names will need to be reproduced it is important to add any others from the two world wars not already included and also any other Painswick war dead from subsequent conflicts. Please get in touch if you have relevant information.

Carol Maxwell

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New from St Mary's



As I write this it is just a year since we first went into Lockdown and the Church building had to be closed for public worship which also meant we were not there for Easter Sunday although worship continued in our homes. Over the following months we have been open and closed according to what was happening with our hospitals, the rate of virus in the community and the government guidelines. It is therefore with great joy that we are able to

announce that we will once again be open for services from Easter Sunday. As a day when the Christian Church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus it is extra symbolic that we should be open again for the first time in 2021 on this Sunday.

The Church marks this extra special event with flowers and an Easter Garden and would usually be open for visitors to come in and enjoy them. Although we cannot leave our church open at this time, we will have the porch open during daylight hours with the Easter Garden there for people to come and see from Easter Sunday. Why not bring a flower or leaf from your own garden to add to the display? There will also be a prayer tree in the porch for anyone who wishes to leave a thought or prayer for a loved one, or to write a note of thanksgiving. Paper and pens will be available and pens will be sanitised each evening but you may prefer to bring your own with you.

Our services for April are as follows:

April 4th- Easter Sunday- 9.30am Holy Communion

April 11th- 9.30am Holy Communion

April 18th 9.30am Holy Communion

April 25th 11am Beacon Praise.

We look forward to seeing everyone again but ask that if you intend to come to a service you let Margaret Radway know on 813440 as social distancing rules still apply and so the number we can safely seat is limited. Also please do remember to wear your mask.

Wishing everyone a joyous Eastertide

Rev Janet Turville (Rector)

Cotteswold Naturalists: Stroudwater Canal Restoration Project



Our next illustrated talk by Zoom is on Wednesday 7th April at 2.30 pm when we will be joined by Anna Tarbet, Canal Environment Manager for the Cotswold Canals

Connected (CCC) project. This is a National Lottery Heritage funded project that will reconnect the Stroudwater Navigation Canal, pictured, from Ocean Railway Bridge in Stonehouse to the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal at Saul Junction. Alongside the canal restoration, CCC is purchasing land to recreate the traditional habitats of the Severn Vale and form an important link between the River Severn in the west and the valleys of the Cotswold escarpment to the east. Anna Tarbet's talk will focus on 'The environmental and ecological benefits' of the project which are being managed by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

After the talk, we will hold the Club's AGM at about 3.45 pm. This will be an important opportunity for members to ask questions about the Club's plans.

With the relaxation of restrictions to allow meeting in small groups outdoors, the Club's guided walks programme can resume, starting with a visit to Sapperton Canal Tunnel and Thameshead.

As well as the Club's online talks, we also provide access to talks and guided walks offered by other organisations such as the Gloucestershire Local History Association.

Contact me for more information on tel. 01452 813228 or email janeerowe2015@gmail.com Membership for 2021 costs £20, or £30 for two or more people at the same address. If you have not tried Zoom before, we can offer some Guidance Notes to get you started.

Jane E Rowe

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News from Painswick Surgery

COVID-19 vaccinations

At the time of writing, Painswick Surgery, together with the other four surgeries in our Network, has now given first COVID-19 vaccinations to over 20,000 patients. We have also given over 1,600 second vaccinations. Most vaccinations have taken place at the Rowcroft Medical Centre in Stroud, although we are now also vaccinating at Horsfall House in Minchinhampton.

Any patient over 50 years old who has not been vaccinated should call the surgery as soon as possible to arrange an appointment.

Patients should expect their second vaccination to be about 11 weeks after their first vaccination. However, the exact date and time of second vaccination appointments may be different from the date given when the initial booking was made. Painswick Surgery will contact patients both by text message to mobile phones and by letter if the appointment date is changed.

Patients should be reassured that all second vaccinations should happen within 12 weeks of their first vaccination. Although we will be giving some first vaccinations in April, most of the vaccinations for the next month will be second vaccinations.

COVID-19 vaccinations - staffing

Many doctors, nurses and administration staff from Painswick Surgery are working at Rowcroft Medical Centre and Horsfall House for the vaccination program. This puts quite a strain on the remaining staff at the surgery. If you need to contact the surgery, please be patient!

COVID-19 vaccinations – volunteers

We are very grateful to all the volunteers from all five network surgeries who have been working at the vaccination centres, as car park marshals, wheelchair pushers, patient check-in and check-out and patient observers. They have all made a huge contribution to a very efficient operation. Thank you.

New staff at the surgery

We are very pleased to welcome Dr Shashank Pillai to the surgery. He is our new Registrar and will be with us until August of this year.

We are also very pleased to announce that Jenny Vallely has now joined the management team at the surgery on a permanent basis. She will be sharing the practice manager duties with Michael Mack-Smith.

Michael Mack-Smith, Practice Manager

Painswick Surgery Patient Group (PPG)

Vaccination news

I write this as the Practice's network is in the middle of probably the most intensive vaccination period of the current effort with over 5000 being striven for in a week. Of course, this could not have been achieved without the particular advantages of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine. More news from the Practice manager is above.

eConsult

As reported last month we fed-back to the Commissioning Group the comments we had received on eConsult and have since heard that their people have met with representatives of the company responsible for it. It seems they are not overly responsive but do of course have to balance safety and accessibility. They are apparently working on reducing the amount of information the system collects and are aware that the pain scoring aspect is unsatisfactory. Major changes are not expected in the next months but some refinement of the approach should take place. The Practice continues to emphasise that without the administrative advantages eConsult brings them they would not be able to cope in this period of massive vaccination demand let alone have been able to bring down waiting times for appointments so drastically in comparison to last year.

Scam warning – again!

Gloucestershire Constabulary tell us of a new 'phishing' scam whereby a text comes through saying you are eligible for a Covid-19 vaccination and asks you to click on a link. Do not click on it. If you do you will be taken to a fake NHS page on the Web which asks for bank details for 'proof of address'. As we said last month, no genuine NHS arrangement will ask for any such details or any money – ever. Remember though, if due for a jab you will be contacted by text (or phone if you do not have a mobile) but the text will start by stating the names of the doctors at the surgery as a sign that it is authentic.

The Safeguarding Board will be providing a week of morning events from Monday 12th to Friday 16th April, using MS-Teams, shining a light on safeguarding during the COVID-19 pandemic. They will have a particular focus on the Voluntary and Community Sectors' contribution to keeping people safe during this challenging time. Each day will focus on a specific theme, the dates and topics of the sessions are below and more information including booking links are available at <https://bit.ly/390jIG6>

Anyone is welcome and they hope that by providing the sessions online they will enable more people to attend than ever before.

Monday 12th April – Financial Abuse
Tuesday 13th April – Domestic Abuse
Wednesday 14th April – Substance Misuse
Thursday 15th April – Mental Health
Friday 16th April – Disability

David Perry



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Help to discover more stone stiles in Gloucestershire?

Stone stiles are found in many areas of the country. There are examples throughout Gloucestershire including the area in and around Painswick & Sheepscombe. For centuries they have provided access to locals walking along pathways as they went about their business whilst preventing sheep and cattle from straying further afield. Despite the historic value of these stone stiles, scores of them have been abandoned and some now lost forever.

In 2020 Peter Wilson, launched 'The Stile Project'. Working in association with CPRE and the Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club, Peter's aim is to produce a record of every remaining stone stile in Gloucestershire before they are lost forever ...but he needs your help.

When you are out walking, if you spot a stone stile, or if you know of an existing stile, please photograph it, if possible from both sides. Download a Stile Recording Form by going to the CPRE website, <https://www.cpreglos.org.uk/creating-a-record-of-gloucestershire-stone-stiles/> Please give as much information as possible before emailing the form to: peter.wilson@woodchestervalleyvillage.co.uk

Any 'duplicate' stiles recorded are welcome as you may take a better picture than the one already on file. In addition Peter is looking for background notes; history, geology and the landscape setting of each stone as well as its precise OS location. Don't worry if you're not able to give all that information but he would like to know exactly where you came across the stile.

It's heartening to report that since the project was launched just a year ago, over 500 stiles have been recorded by 175 people in Gloucestershire. Peter believes however there are up to 100 stiles in the county as yet unidentified. The stile you come across may be one of those! So next time you go for a walk and see a stone stile, please take a picture, download the form and send it to Peter with as much information as possible.

Maggie Booth



Photos courtesy Roey Parker.



Return to school after Covid

On the 8th of March 2021, schools around the country returned to full capacity after 2 months of students learning from home. The first day nerves were back, but the welcoming and familiar environment of school soon quelled that feeling.

Local secondary school, Stroud High, had staggered Covid-19 testing of students in order to ensure a safe return. After working remotely for 8 weeks, all of the students agreed it was a nice change to see so many familiar faces when lessons began again in full swing. The headteacher, Mark McShane, commented and said that the return of the students "brought the school back to life" after the building felt "soulless" without the usual hustle and bustle. Despite the eager return, it wasn't without its complications. Parents and carers had their own anxieties about pupils returning, and to combat this the school body made sure that communication was kept up to date and everyone was regularly informed of the ever changing situation. After talking to a few Year 12 students, it can confidently be said that the first full day back was a "great feeling" and boosted moral.

The return of pupils to the local primary school The Croft was similar as the students were excited to get back to school and teachers were eager to return to normal teaching. Mel Curtis, a member of 'Friends of the Croft' and a parent said that her child "couldn't wait to go back and apart from being shattered, he is loving it". Rebecca Gore, the headteacher of the Croft, stated that "it's easier to have all the children in school to be able to teach them all at the same time" so you can only imagine the relief having pupils in school must have brought the hard working teachers and staff.

As the academic year progresses, we can only hope that children are able to stay safely at school and keep learning.

Daisy Stark



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Jottings.

Farmers have several ways of managing their fields depending on whether they need to clear the soil of the previous crop. Ploughing (tilling) is to loosen and turn the soil. It brings up fresh nutrients and buries weeds and remains of the previous crop. The field then needs to be harrowed or disked to break up the clods of earth. This gives the tilth needed for growing seeds.

Back in the 50s and 60s a 60 horse power (hp) tractor was as big a tractor you had on a normal farm round here. Then you could have a large rotavator on the back of the tractor which you used after you had ploughed to get a tilth. The trouble with this machine was that it chopped up all the rubbish you had hidden under ground. Couch was a big problem in those days before sprays were used. You would cultivate the field which would bring the long strands of couch to the surface, and then you would rake it up into piles with the seed harrow; and burn it to get it out of the way.

You go back and forth with these machines until you had a fine seed bed to plant your seed. That may take up to a week and then you would roll it down with a ring roller, what we call a Cambridge roller.

The power harrow was developed with fingers which were lowered into the ploughed soil and spun round at high speed. This delivered a tilth in no time. You just drove this machine across the field on a tractor very slowly and the job was done in one day.

Ploughing is starting to go out of fashion in the big arable areas. All-in-one machines have been developed: On the front is a cultivator which only digs down a couple of inches. Then comes the seed drill followed by a spring tine harrow and finally a roller to roll the soil down. Because this machine only digs down a couple of inches it does not kill all the worms and other wildlife which is good for the soil. The soil structure is preserved.

Hay meadows benefit from rolling to push down stones, flatten mole hills and even out the surface damaged by frost heave or bad poaching. This is so that the hay making cutters are not so damaged or the hay contaminated by soil. The plough is still needed on the smaller areas like ours, especially if we are ploughing in turf, where you need the turf to be buried before you get round to getting a seed bed for a new lay or another crop.

Sometimes the farmer may plough deeper than usual bringing up seeds which have been buried and dormant for years. Poppy seed then comes to the surface and you get the glorious masses of red flowers in set-aside fields.

Martin Slinger

Beacon Subscriptions reminder

The Beacon is your magazine. It is delivered free to all houses within Painswick and most of the work of writing, producing and delivering it is provided free on a voluntary basis, involving up to a hundred different people for a single issue. But we are dependent on subscriptions, together with advertising income, to cover the substantial cost of printing the Beacon every month as well as other costs. We are very grateful to those residents who subscribe year after year to keep it going and hope you will continue to do so. We also ask new residents and those who have not previously subscribed, or have done so on an occasional basis, to consider contributing. There is no fixed subscription, but as a guide the average contribution last year was just over £12.

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

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

Jacek Wolowiec

Painswick Educational Trust

The Trust has some money available to help local young people with their education. If you have slipped through the net over the past year or need some financial help over the next year or so do get in touch and we may be able to help. In the past we have assisted with items from books to laptops. Please ring *Michael James 01452 812646* email mjgjames@outlook.com or *Joy Edwards 07810 476473* or by email joyatthepough@gmail.com.

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The first draw of the Lucky Severn Lottery took place on Saturday 20th March, and we're delighted to say that one of our supporters was among the lucky winners! It's a new weekly lottery run by Stroud District Council to raise funds for local charitable and voluntary organisations. Tickets only cost £1 and 50p from that goes straight to the worthy cause you choose. So far we have sold over 70 tickets, but can you help us reach our target of 100? There are lots of prizes up for grabs including a massive jackpot of £25,000, and every penny we get goes towards the upkeep of the Centre, which has been at the heart of the village for over 100 years.

To play visit: www.luckysevernlottery.co.uk/support/the-painswick-centre or call 01453 602960

How it works:

Follow the link above or Google Lucky Severn Lottery

If you're not taken straight to The Painswick Centre's page. Click on Play and then search for us

Buy as many tickets as you'd like for the weekly draw

50p from every ticket goes straight to us and another 10p goes to other local causes

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Susie Andrews

Parish Office will reopen

For essential business on Wednesday and Fridays only - 10.0am to noon - from the 14th April. Only one member of the public will be allowed into the Office.

Dog waste bin at Hambutts Field

In recent months the dog waste bin at the Edge Road entrance to Hambutts Field has often been overflowing. Furthermore, the bin lid is unable to close. It hardly presents an attractive visual or olfactory welcome to Painswick for walkers on the Cotswold Way or anyone else.

Emptying the bin is the responsibility of Stroud District Council. In 2019 SDC were asked by Hambutts Field Trust to repair or replace the bin and agreed to do so. However, nothing happened and in 2020 the bin appeared to be emptied less frequently, presumably a consequence of Covid working restrictions. Despite repeated requests SDC appeared unable to address either problem. However, SDC have now stated that the bin will be emptied on a weekly basis but the bin itself was not their responsibility.

However the Parish Council swiftly came to the rescue and mended the lid. Dog walkers have been very cooperative in cleaning up after their dogs and not leaving mess in the field. However, if the bin does start to overflow it would be appreciated if they could take their waste bag to another dog waste bin or possibly take it home. Views like this should be a thing of the past ... watch this space.

Dylan Davies on behalf of Hambutts Field Trust



Like everyone else, members of the Yew Trees WI are eagerly awaiting the day when they can all meet together in person. Meanwhile their monthly meetings continue on zoom, the next being on Tuesday 27th April which will include the AGM. Members are also able to join regular online talks and demonstrations organised by the Gloucestershire Federation of WIs. These include topics as diverse as Keeping fit and

healthy at home; The Javelin Park incinerator; Modern calligraphy; and How to make hot cross buns! An enterprising Yew Trees member has arranged a jigsaw swap for her fellow puzzle enthusiasts so everything possible is being done to keep WI ladies entertained until that wonderful day when they can all meet under the same roof again.

Celia Lougher 812624

History Teaser from last month

The photo on the right was of a Flower festival at Christ Church probably late 70's or early 80's.

From the left Jim Hodge, Gladys Hutt, Margaret Harper, Marion Sadler, Rev Phyllis Cordon, Mrs Harper (Margaret's mother) and Fred Hutt.

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A warm welcome back to The Oak

With fingers crossed for some lovely spring weather it is good news that the courtyard at The Oak will be open from Monday, 12th April. The latest regulations do permit pubs and hospitality businesses to begin serving customers outside, albeit tentatively, from that date and Painswick is fortunate in that The Oak's courtyard is indeed a delightful outside venue for social relaxation.

Morning coffee and afternoon tea, both with cakes, will be served, with lunch from midday and dinner from 6.30pm. At weekends food will be available on Saturdays from 12.00-9.00pm and on Sundays from 12.00-5.00pm.

Covid restrictions will of course still apply but nonetheless it is perhaps the first move towards a state of normality. 17th May is currently the date set by government for indoor opening as well, with the same restrictions in place, and the hope is that by June the situation will lead to fewer restrictions being necessary. For so many people this will be the first opportunity for many months to be able to enjoy actually going out for a social occasion. The Oak will be serving food and drinks and will be pleased to welcome customers, old and new, to the lovely courtyard setting.

... and The Falcon

The Falcon will not be opening in April but next month's edition of the Beacon will carry an update and some interesting news about The Falcon. Watch this space!

Carol Maxwell



The Waypoint opening up again

The Waypoint with its large outdoor seating area and fine views over the Cotswolds will be welcoming customers again for meals from the 12th April. The Waypoint situated at Painswick Golf Club will also continue to offer Take Aways. Contact 01452 812180. Walkers always welcome to drop in for light refreshments.

The Bistro at St Michaels

The Bistro at St Michaels will also start its outside table service from the 12th April in addition to the Take Away arrangements currently operating. Further details phone 07877 282 446.



Road Closures - Advance Notice

Both Jenkins Lane (from the A46 across to the A4173 Pitchcombe to Edge road) and Wick Street (from Hawkwood College to Stratford Park) will be closed from 7th April to 9th April 2021 to allow for works on behalf of Gigaclear.

A section of Sevenleaze Lane (the road from the Beacon across to Edge) will be closed from 24th May to 16th June 2021 to allow for works on behalf of BT Openreach.

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Empty commercial units in Painswick

In recent years there has been an increase in empty commercial properties around Painswick which does not give a welcoming experience to visitors. In many cases the empty units are linked to the accommodation above and with people living in that accommodation the local Councils are unable under current regulations to take any action. The Parish Council does put what pressure it can on landlords to try and fill the vacant shops below but they cannot be forced to. Perhaps they are waiting to get change of use to residential in years to come .

One possibility would be for the Parish Council to recommend change of use to residential; however the present policy of the Council is that it would consider each application for any change of use on its merit, as they feel it is important to keep some shops available for retail businesses to come into Painswick.



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Empty homes

An empty property is a wasted resource both for the owner of the property and those in need of housing. Properties which are left vacant for extended periods of time can cause problems for the local environment, the surrounding community and attract anti-social behaviour.

What we can do to help. Stroud District Council offers FREE help and advice to owners of empty properties and will assist owners in bringing the property back into use. An interest free loan is also available subject to availability. Conditions apply.

Report an Empty Property If you are concerned or aware of an empty property, please contact us. www.stroud.gov.uk/housing/private-sector-housing/empty-homes. An officer will investigate the property and make every effort to make contact with the registered owner with the aim of bringing the property back into use.



Moulton Haus

The latest business to move out is the estate agent Moulton Haus who have decided to operate on-line only and can be reached on 01452 812100 info@moultonhaus.co.uk.

The Future

Local Estate Agents have indicated that despite the current Covid 19 restrictions there is interest being shown for several of the commercial properties.

Invariably some homes and commercial properties are in transit between owners/tenants and hopefully will soon be filled again.



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Painswick Tennis Club is open again

PLTC is pleased to announce that the tennis club is open again, with a few restrictions, but club sessions, competitive matches, private singles and arranged doubles are allowed.

There is also coaching for any age group, standard and singles or group sessions....please contact Charlie Ferrett on charlieten-nis101@gmail.com or 07871628773....for details.

The tennis club is very friendly and will always welcome new members whatever your standard of play. Please contact Ruth Smith, the secretary on 01452813693 for further details.

Joan Griffiths (president)

Painswick Golf Club

By the time you read this, the golf course will be open again. I am really looking forward to getting out and playing on 29th March. I expect that I will spend quite a bit of time looking for my golf ball in the rough and the quarries, but finding it always makes me feel good!

Golfers, walkers, riders and everyone enjoying the Beacon, please take care. We can all enjoy the space with consideration for others. And please watch out for each other.

The first golf match will have taken place a few days after the course has opened – against our friends from Gloucester. Next month I hope to report that our new Seniors Captain, Nigel Barnett, has led the team to success.

Peter Rowe

Falcon Bowls News!

With hope on the horizon here at Falcon we are feeling optimistic! The 2020 “season” was a non-starter and we were limited by the rule of six to just playing amongst ourselves. But in 2021 there’s reason to be hopeful that we can return to playing matches and competitions in the coming months. It’s our intention to open our green as usual this month and start bowling from the beginning of our season on April 24th..

We’ve certainly been keeping busy during the closed season with the green being tended by our small but dedicated team of greenkeepers. We’ve also had a new shed built to replace the old one which had seen better days, revamped our club website to give it a more friendly face and been cutting back, tidying and replanting the green surrounds for the season ahead. All being well in June Falcon will open its grounds for the National Garden Scheme. All proceeds from the opening will go to the various charities supported by the scheme.

This season we’ll also be getting a new club shirt which is generously being sponsored by Painswick’s own Goddard Garage. Robert Goddard has historic links to the club as his Grandfather Tom, an England International was a member for many years

As usual this season we’ll be encouraging people to Get active Have fun and Play bowls by offering free taster and coaching sessions throughout the season and reduced 1st season membership rates

For more info on Falcon: Painswickfalconbowls@mail.com 01452 814186 Painswickfalconbowls.co.uk or find us on Facebook



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Support Electric Chargepoints for Painswick

Further to the report on the front page there are a few important points to add.

Electric cars are cleaner and quieter, and better for the environment, and they will, indirectly, contribute to reducing the number of vehicles parked on-road. But this shift to electric will happen effectively and efficiently only if we all have good and reliable access to chargepoints at or near our homes, and now is the moment to get ahead of the curve.

In parallel with this, we will also have a campaign to encourage those households who do have off-road parking, and support them in applying for similar government funds to help install their own domestic chargers off-road.

Among the requirements of the funding bid is receipt of requests for a charging infrastructure from local residents who cannot park off-road. We need to hear your voice. If you would like to see chargepoints for electric vehicles appropriately installed, accessible to local residents, we want to hear from you. If you support Painswick installing chargepoints for electric vehicles, please write to evpainswick@gmail.com to let us know – it doesn't have to be more than a quick sentence to give us your view.



Stephen Aiano

Painswick Rococo Garden **Some good stuff brewing**

If you were wandering in the Kitchen Garden at Rococo last summer you might have noticed the pair of eye-catching tall “witches’ hats” covered with impenetrable green tangles. Planted back in 2019 and nurtured by our team of expert gardeners, these were Fuggles and Magnum hops which really benefited from the weather in 2020. They were harvested in the autumn and have been used to produce the first Rococo beer - Red House Amber Ale. This brand-new brew is a collaboration with a new artisan brewery in Minchinhampton and is now on sale from the Garden Shop. This is another great example of the Garden working with expert local suppliers to add to our expanding range of high-quality produce. This includes vegetables in season, cut flowers, honey, chutney and jam. A case of 12 bottles of Red House Amber Ale is £40 and a half case £20. These can pre-ordered for collection after 12th April by sending your name, preferred collection date (any open day after 12 April) and your phone number to shop@rococogarden.org.uk.

Rococo Garden on BBC Countryfile

The Garden was featured on BBC1's Countryfile show late in March. We were delighted to welcome local presenter Ellie Harrison who helped Head Gardener Roger divide snowdrops and who enjoyed exploring the beauty of the hidden valley. Our mass banks of daffodils are looking amazing in the warm sun as I type this and should continue well into April. The Garden can help your own garden too, with an extensive range of high quality plants on sale. We also offer great coffee and delicious cake and have been delighted to welcome many new Friends recently who have discovered the Garden and added to the cheery buzz about the place. Membership starts at just £27.50 and you can download a form from rococogarden.org.uk.

I've said it before in these pages, but I will say it again – the staff, volunteers and trustees at Rococo are hugely appreciative of the local support we've been lucky to receive during the past year! Every penny you spend helps to keep the Garden open and provide a haven of peace and tranquillity in difficult times. Thank you and we hope to see you soon.

Tim Toghill, volunteer & trustee

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The Malthouse – a welcome addition

The Malthouse Collective, managed by Painswick's Lindsey Butcher, is, like all such businesses, closed in its usual format. It has however, continued to sell items from its wonderfully eclectic range on-line through Facebook and Instagram or by telephone requests. There is so much of interest there and to add to the experience a new development is imminent.

On 15th April the Hop Barn, a new outdoor heated seating area for 30 will open as an extension of the Brick and Brew Cafe at the Malthouse. Carefully designed to accommodate all the currently necessary distancing and ventilation regulations, the barn will allow for groups of up to six people to meet together. A warm, comfortable, covered space it provides an ideal all-weather outdoor seating area with the opportunity to enjoy lunch or tea/coffee and cake from a good range of menu options.

Lindsey rightly points out that this is an ideal place in which to relax and maybe socialise during this interim period. She also explains that the arrangements in place comply strictly with all the advice given for such outdoor venues. So, the upshot is good food in a safe, comfortable environment. Tables will be available at 10.00am, 11.30am, 1.00pm and 2.30pm every day except Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Although you are welcome to drop by, Lindsey says that booking is advisable, telephone 01453 755800.

It is anticipated of course that more of the Malthouse will be open again in May and it is looking to recruit a porter for Sundays. To apply email contact@themalthousecollective.co.uk. Meanwhile do go and enjoy the new outdoor space.



Carol Maxwell

Property report

Properties in Painswick still seem to be selling briskly, with high demand and a general shortage of properties to sell. New onto the market recently are the Lamp House, a large four bedroom property close to the Town Hall (Murrays, £1.2m) and The Old Library at 5 Stroud Road, a modern apartment in an old building, with two en-suite bedrooms (Hamptons, £425,000).

Flat 3 Hyett Orchard is also available, a two bedroom apartment in this over-55s development (Hamptons, £190,000) and there are two large detached properties down towards Pitchcombe. The 5 bedroom Weavers Mill on Pincot Lane is on the market at £1.5 million, with 10 acres of land through Murrays, who also have another 5 bedroom house, Norton Cottage on Wragg Castle Lane at £1.3m, with a still spacious ¾ of an acre. But if you really want space, there are 100 acres to be had at Hammonds Farm, opposite Hawkwood College, between Wick Street and the A46. That's on the market for a mere £3m through Carter Jonas. Even £3m though is low compared with possibly the highest price ever achieved for a Painswick property when the sale of the magnificent Holcombe House recently went through with Murrays for around £5m.

St Andrews on New Street, one of the Georgian terraced houses overlooking the churchyard, came briefly onto the market at a more modest £695,000 through Murrays, but rapidly went under offer. Other properties recently going under offer through the same agent include Cranmore Cottage in Vicarage Street, Stable Cottage in Hale Lane, School House in Stroud Road and Monksditch in Cranham Woods. Through Hamptons, 6 Brookhouse Mill at the bottom of Tibbiwell and The Old Stores in Cranham have gone under offer and contracts have exchanged on Columbus Cottage in Cheltenham Road, Little Gables in the Highlands, Rosemary on Longridge and nearby Cockshoot House.

The Painswick Playgroup's Decorate an Easter Egg Competition is being sponsored by Hamptons, with prizes across five age groups. Call them for more information or check out the Playgroup's social media.



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Spring has sprung!

What a difference a few weeks makes. The daylight hours have been drawing out, the temperature is rising and at last, the ground is drying out.



The first warm spell in March brought out some butterflies from winter hibernation; brimstones, red admirals and small tortoiseshells have all been seen. A number of the latter overwintered in the spiral stairs of the church tower; a perfect place that is protected from the worst of the weather and a relatively constant temperature. It is hoped they could find some early blooms to nectar on and that they survived the cold snap in March.

On the Beacon, in areas grazed by the cows, it is possible to see the grass is regrowing. If you look carefully you may notice the cut edge left by the grazing cows is now at the top of the fresh looking growth. This is because, unlike most plants, grass grows from the base of the leaf not the top. We will be checking to see what comes up in the bramble areas we cleared this time last year. I have noticed patches of bare ground sown with collected grass and flower seed have started to germinate. In about a month's time any bramble regrowth will be sprayed off to give the new seedlings the best chance possible.

Early flowers are out, primroses, violets, celandines, lung worts and the cowslips are starting to show. Early blossoms are out and tree buds filling, soon to burst into fresh growth. Spring is wonderful around Painswick, we are so lucky. It's a real tonic after such a wet and windy winter, made even more trying by the long lock down.

Covid-19 has hit the conservation work hard this winter. Being in level 4, I felt we had to stop work parties. Almost nothing has been done, since before Christmas, and I know many of us are keen to start again. Before lock down we were getting record numbers helping and quite a few new members joining. By the time this goes to press I hope to restart with separated groups of 5-6, as we did before lock down. Its getting a little late, for major clearing work, as we don't want to compromise nesting birds, reptiles and newly growing flowers. However, there are some areas which will benefit from carefully tidying up brush piles left from previous work parties.

If anyone wants to join us and help look after the Beacon please contact me for details.

Paul Baxter 07971 633 242

A tale of delivery, dialogue and disbelief.

It's a sunny March morning. I take a risk and venture outside. A short stroll up to our front gate reveals a view of the 17th Fairway of the Painswick Golf Course and the cemetery – both are, not surprisingly, quiet.



I hear the sound of grating stones that indicates a vehicle is approaching our drive. It's a van, a driver emerges; he looks marginally aggressive – I thus conclude he must be English rather than the European that usually delivers parcels who, whilst not in complete command of our language, is smiley and helpful. I brace myself for a totally different encounter. Out of politeness, I start our meeting – “Morning” – nothing. “Wallis, Clattergrove?”

“Yes”

“Parcel”

“Really?” is what I wanted to reply but, instead I say “Thanks”

The driver then throws my parcel on the ground. “Put your foot by that”

“What?”

“It's a new thing thought up by them in the office. It's proof of delivery. I have to photograph your foot by the parcel”

Many responses rush into my head but I manage to stop them turning into speech. I do as I'm told.

After posing rather self-consciously with an extended right foot, I pick up my parcel and turn to escape back to my garden.

“Don't go” I'm ordered.

“Why not?”

“I have another parcel for you.”

This parcel suffers the same cavalier treatment as the first and lands at my feet.

“Put your foot by that”

By now I'm starting to quite enjoy this farce and, by way of bringing variety into the proceedings, I place my other foot by the parcel. Both my feet as evidence are now on his mobile phone.

All parcels now delivered and foot proofed, I return to my garden and start the process of unravelling what I have just experienced. I begin to see the ridiculous side of the delivery, let's say from Hermes, as that is their name.

I fantasise that the Hermes equivalent of Prince Charming will arrive – on a horse? - and will bring with him as back-up, an adjustable single glass slipper he found on Google.

He will then demand I produce all my footwear to see if any match the photos. Having anticipated this, I will have either hidden or set fire to my guilty shoes. I could now claim non delivery and receive compensation. I sometimes worry about myself.

Roy Wallis.

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April

Sun	4	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church	9.30am
Wed	7	Cotteswold naturalists: AGM + Environmental and ecological benefits of Stroud water canal restoration project . Anna Tarbet. Enq 813228	Talk by Zoom	2.15 for 2.30pm
Sun	11	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church	9.30am
Sun	18	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church	9.30am
Sun	25	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church	9.30am
Tues	27	Yew Trees WI Spring event - AGM and Social Evening	By Zoom	7.30pm

Painswick Feast - what d'you think?

After the last 12 months, we could all do with something to look forward to. Painswick Feast has always been a "by the community, for the community" event to bring everyone together around the traditional Clypping service in the second half of September. It offers an opportunity for local caterers and others to show off their talents and local residents to show their support for our local businesses.

With the hope of restrictions being fully lifted in the summer, dare we dream that such an event could go ahead this year?

If you would be interested in joining a small committee to see if we can make this happen, please get in touch with.....

Alistair Spiers and Abigail Smith - alispiers1@gmail.com

Foodbank

The people of Painswick and the surrounding villages have shown tremendous support for our local foodbank during the pandemic. But do you know how it works?

Firstly, the Painswick team take the donations to the Foodbank warehouse in Brimscombe. Volunteers help unload, weigh the donations and store them by type (coffee, soup etc) and expiry date. This enables the food with the shortest expiry date to be issued first, minimising waste.

In 'normal times' food is transferred as needed to the drop in centres at Dursley, Stroud, Stonehouse, Wotton, Nailsworth, Farmhill, and Cam. During Covid, food is being delivered straight to people's homes. People in need of food are identified by local care agents – Charities Aid Foundation, P3, surgeries and others. Clients are issued with a voucher which can be exchanged for a bag of food. At the drop-in centre, while the bag is being prepared, the client receives a cup of tea, a listening ear and information on where to find further support. Each bag provides 3 days' worth of nutritionally balanced food for the client and their household. It will typically include tins of beans, meat, vegetables, and fruit, breakfast cereals, soup, pasta, rice, sauce, tea or coffee, sugar, biscuits, and snacks. Toiletries are also available.

Apart from three part time staff, the system is run by volunteers. There are 8 trustees (of whom two live in Painswick and one in Sheepscombe), about 150 regular and another 150 occasional helpers. And many, many wonderful donors!

The next Painswick collection will be on 13th April 10am – 12pm in Stamages Car Park, St Mary's and by the Stocks. Suggested items are UHT fruit juice, UHT milk, tinned fruit, tinned custard, tinned tomatoes, tinned puddings, savoury snacks. As always, any non-perishable items within use by date will be gladly received.

Joan Warner, Pippa Dickenson

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PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

S.21/0278/REM Land To The East Of Stamages Lane

Reserved matters approval for vehicular access, Construction Method Statement, layout & access and ground levels of Application S.17/0792/OUT for a four bedroom detached dwelling.

S.21/0374/HHOLD 4 Court Orchard
Construction of front, rear and side extensions.

S.21/0435/HHOLD Highfield House, Gloucester Street

Conversion of garage building to home office & studio for working from home.

S.21/0445/LBC Fortunes Well, Far End, Sheepscombe

Replacement of door and four dormer windows.

S.21/0516/TCA Ludloes, Gloucester Street

Felling and replacement of 5 trees - holly tree (T1) eucalyptus tree (T2) and 3 beech trees (T3, T4 & T5).

S.21/0574/LBC Ludloes, Gloucester Street.

External changes to door and windows, reinstatement of boundary wall and gate, replacement flat roof to front hall and Internal alterations.

S.21/0662/HHOLD Lantern, Kingsmead
Erection of oak framed garage, garden store and open log store.

CONSENT

S.20/2487/LBC 22 Gloucester Road Painswick

Replace staircases.

S.20/2800/FUL Westmorland House, Kingsmead

Demolition of existing house and garage and construction of replacement dwelling.

S.21/0018/HHOLD 1 Tocknells Cottages, Cheltenham Road

Construction of wooden shed.

S.21/0101/HHOLD 1 Severn Cottages, Vicarage Street

Single storey garden room extension.

S.21/0140/FUL The Painswick, Kemps Lane

Provide screening roof cover over bin store area in rear kitchen courtyard.

S.21/0212/HHOLD Halfpenny Cottage, Tibbiwell Lane

Replace dormer windows with double glazed frame and casement to match existing, installation of 2 Velux, roof windows and a circular window to rear gable.

S.21/0213/LBC Halfpenny Cottage, Tibbiwell Lane

Replace top floor front and rear dormer windows with double glazed frame and casement to match existing, installation of 2 Velux, roof windows and a circular window to rear gable. Installation of

secondary glazing to remaining window frames and internal alterations.

S.21/0168/TCA Verlands, Vicarage Street

T1 Western red Cedar - Fell to ground level. T2 & T3 Common Lime - Crown reduce by 2-3 meters, remove epicormic growth and deadwood, to reduce sail. T4 Copper Beech - Crown reduce by approximately 2-3 meters, Remove crossing/dead branches.

S.21/0359/TCA Hedges, Gloucester Street

T1: Leylandii Tree: Crown lift by 2m and lightly trim sides. T2: Apple Tree: Trim top by 1.1m and reduce sides by around 0.4m and general pruning.

WITHDRAWN

S.21/0190/HHOLD Hammonds Cottage, Wick Street

Conversion of existing garage into an ancillary annexe, including alterations to roof and the addition of a lean-to to accommodate solar panels (Re-submission following approval of S.20/0935/HHOLD).

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Maximum word limits (300)

Now that we are receiving more items for the Beacon and hopefully soon back to normal it is important that contributions have a maximum of about **300 words** unless you have approval for more by the editor. This enables the Beacon to include as many contributions as possible in each issue

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Personal Column

Condolences

To the family and friends of FRANKIE MARSH from The Highlands, who passed away at the beginning of March. Frankie was an amazing wonderful person who touched all our hearts in many ways. A service of thanksgiving and a celebration of her life and ministry is planned on Tuesday July 13th at 12 noon in St Marys.

To the family and friends of MARGARET RICHARDSON, who has died aged 86. In recent years she regularly attended the Wednesday Ashwell Group and the Friday Club in Painswick, having previously worked at the pharmacy in the early 70s. She is the mother of Mike Powis and grandmother of Oli Powis who still works at the pharmacy.

Congratulations

JESSICA BARNETT and ERIC ALLARD would like to announce the safe arrival of their son Rowan on Friday 19th March. A brother for Rupert, and a second grandson for Nigel Barnett and for Peter and Linda Allard.

ROY AND ELLIE HARPER (pictured below) of Nurse's House Friday Street, Painswick, proudly announce the celebration of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 3rd. April. They have a daughter Dawn, son Neil and three grandchildren, Charlie, Eleanor, and Harvey. They moved to Painswick ten years ago and they say they knew they had made the correct decision when a near neighbour kindly invited them to dinner on the day they moved in. Roy tells us he is relieved that jewellers are not open for business



Thank you

The family of NIGEL BURT would like to express appreciation for prayers and support given by the Clergy and Churchwardens of St Mary's. Jane, Tim and Sarah are very grateful for the lovely cards and thoughtful messages sent by so many friends during Nigel's illness and their subsequent bereavement. Thank you to everyone.

All at sea - A big thank you

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the whole of Painswick for the amazing support and encouragement I received from the minute I decided to undertake the row to the moment I finished and beyond. I've been overwhelmed by the messages of support, the generosity of strangers and the motivation provided by friends and neighbours. I cannot thank you all enough. Hopefully my summary below of the challenge will go some way to answer the "what was it like" question I've been asked so many times since arriving home:-

64 days of therapy on steroids describes the most amazing experience of my life! Huge highs, huge lows and enough thrills in between to enthral and captivate anyone. Every day brought a new challenge and a new experience. I've conquered personal fears, felt the thrill of the unexpected, and amazed myself with the depth and scope of my own personal resources when under pressure.

The ocean is a great leveller - no hubris allowed and always with a little trick up her sleeve when you least expect it. Your world is reduced to the most simplest tasks repeated day in day out teaching you just how little you really need whilst free you up to truly live in the moment without any outside influence. I loved the immenseness and the sheer endless blue. Nowhere can you find the solitude and serenity that is so powerful for self awareness than as a solo rower.

I've been called a hero and a legend - both of which embarrass and humble me in equal measure. I do not see myself as either, often wondering why others seem to see what I've done in such light when one of my main motivations was to show that literally anyone can do this (or any other personal challenge). To me it really is a case of an ordinary 62 year old man working hard to inspire others to fulfil their dreams by example.

Martyn Thornton

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.

Thank you

KAY BRAGG was overwhelmed at the kindness & help offered by so many friends & neighbours, both during George's illness & afterwards. Kay & the family would like to thank everyone for the many cards & letters & also thanks to the friends who stood in the street on the day of the funeral. It was all greatly appreciated.

NEXT ISSUE

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