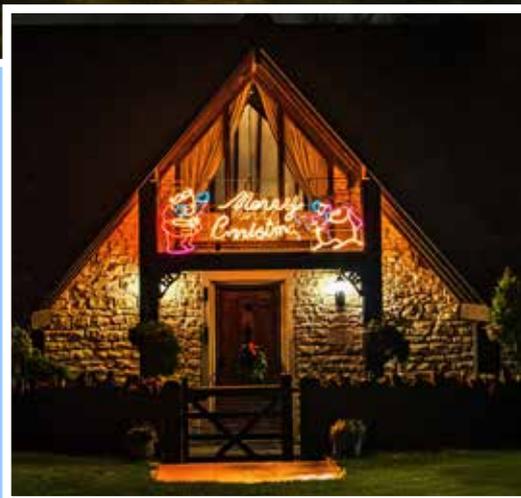


The Painswick Beacon

Volume 43 Number 10

January 2021



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

The Meeting was via Zoom. Chairman Rob Lewis opened the Meeting and moved swiftly on to the Agenda.

Present: Cllrs Rob Lewis, Martin Slinger, Ann Daniels, Ian James, Andy Cash

Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs James Cross, Roey Parker, Rosie Nash

Matters requiring a decision.

There were 9 items requiring a decision.

S.20/2423/FUL Land at Yokehouse Lane. Erection of agricultural building for honey extraction, equipment storage, machinery and general agricultural use. Unanimous Support.

S.20/2487/LBC 22 Gloucester Road, Painswick. Replace staircases. Unanimous Support.

S.20/2457/HHOLD Tamarin Lane, Sheepscombe. Proposed annexe. Unanimous Support.

S.20/2408/ HHOLD Worgans Barn, Folly Lane. Construction of detached outbuilding to house, bio-mass boiler and its associated plant. Unanimous Support.

S.20/2518/LBC The Painswick Hotel, Kemps Lane. Provide screening roof cover over bin storage area in rear kitchen courtyard to mitigate views of bins seen by hotel guests. Unanimous Support.

S.20/2501/LBC Cobb House, Slad. Minor changes to permitted application

S.20/0345/LBC. Amendments to joinery details Unanimous Support., redesign of fireplace and additional dormer. Unanimous Support.

S.20/2543/HHOLD Alderley, The Highlands. Single storey rear extension,

garage conversion, replacement dormer, replacement porch, facade treatments and alterations. After a discussion led by Cllr Ann Daniels about the use of cedar cladding the Council agreed to support the application.

S.20/2387/TCA Paradise House, Paradise. Fell Ash Trees which show signs of Ash Dieback - fell/replace trees located along the A46 first and then fell/replace all other trees within 18 months. The replacement proposal is 70% Beech and 30% Oak. This Application is a directive from the District Council. Full Support.

S.20/2200/TCA Wordings Orchard, Sheepscombe. T1 - Holm Oak, Complete removal. G1 - 4x Beech Trees, crown lift above the power line. T2 - Lime. Remove the left hand bow as it leans up over the house. Lift the crown to balance the tree. Thin Crown removing no more than 30%.

PARISH COUNCIL

Again the Meeting was held via ZOOM. Chairman Martin Slinger opened the Meeting and welcomed all who had connected to the Meeting. Cllrs Abigail Smith and James Cross joined the Meeting.

Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Rosie Nash and Roey Parker

Reports

a) To receive reports from the County and District Councillors.

The County Cllr was not present. District Cllr Nigel Cooper joined the Meeting and reported that the Service Committees were drafting their 2021/22 budgets. A full Council Meeting will be held on the 25th February to agree the budget. He expected the District Councils element of Council Tax to be raised by the maximum allowed, 2%. On behalf of himself and his fellow local Cllrs Julie Job and Keith Pearson he wished everybody a very Happy Christmas

and all the very best for 2021, which is going to be quite challenging.

b) To receive the Chairman report.

The Chairman extended his thanks to all the Councils Staff, its Members, and the Parishioners for all their hard work and support during the past difficult 12 months. He ended by wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

New Drive

The Chairman reported upon the recent non sanctioned works undertaken on several trees along New Drive. The matter was being investigated but he was hopeful that the trees will recover

Parish Office

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Office will remain closed in accordance with the current Covid restrictions. However, email and telephone calls will be answered and this service will remain in place throughout the Christmas period.

c) To receive the Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that the Councils apprentice, Lucas Edney had passed his NVQ practical test and now only needs to complete a theory test to complete his Apprenticeship. The examiner had been very impressed by both the knowledge and positive attitude of the candidate.

The Clerk also reported on the work he is currently undertaking in regards to the Community Support Group.

d) Councillors

Cllr Andy Cash updated the Council on several ongoing traffic issues in Slad, blocked drains and cracked road surfaces. He thanked the Clerk for arranging for a replacement road sign to be erected by the County Council.

Cllr Abigail Smith reported that a Highways Communication Hub had been set up to provide information on the A46 road closure that is due to start on the 4th January and lasting for 3 months.

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Further Information is available on the County Councils Highways Dept website.

CLlr James Cross reported that he had recently attended a Climate Group Action Meeting. Local Groups were either organised by local residents or by Parish Councils. He proposed to discuss with both Residents and Councillors the possibility of setting up a local Group to pursue the need for electrical charging points.

To Agree to Renew the Local Councils Gold Accreditation

The Council unanimously agreed to renew its Gold Accreditation.

Finance Approval of Accounts

To approve the Accounts for Payment
Payment of the Accounts schedule presented to the Meeting was approved by the Council who also noted and approved the grant to the Painswick Beacon Conversation Group.

The remaining two items on the Agenda for consideration were deemed as "Confidential" and members of the public and press were excluded from the discussions.

Date of next Meeting

Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 7.30pm
via ZOOM.
The Meeting closed at 8.50pm

A46 Closure - Update

Latest information is that the closure of the A46, which should have started on the 4th of January, will continue until March 31st after which lane closures will follow until completion of the works. The cost of £1.2m will be met by the Dept of Transport. The 66 Bus will be diverted via the B4073 through Abbeymead to the Cross Hands and take an extra 8 minutes.

Covid figures

Official COVID figures for the Painswick area, including Bisley, show a dramatic increase in the week to 25th December. Up from 4 to 24, giving a 500% increase, a significantly higher increase than for much of the rest of the Stroud area. No doubt these figures will be out of date by the time you read this, hopefully on the way down.



The first snowfall of the winter..

arrived just after Christmas providing tobogganing opportunities on the Beacon for many days following.

What happened to this tree?

Concerned residents raised the subject with the Parish Council as to why this once lovely tree has been demolished. (See Parish Council report)



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Delyth Allen - Painswickian of the Year

When given the news that they have been voted Painswickian of the Year the chosen ones are always completely taken aback with shocked amazement. This year's POTY, Delyth Allen, responded with gentle surprise and disbelief. As many in Painswick will testify, this gentleness is absolutely characteristic of Delyth's personality but, it must be stressed, it is also coupled with an impressively strong determination to strive for the betterment of mankind.

The effects of Delyth's positive activities have been and continue to be felt across the community. With a heartfelt concern about the wellbeing of those who are alone, especially the elderly, she has quietly and consistently helped with shopping, giving lifts when needed, cooking and giving meals and generally making contact simply for a chat and to provide much needed company. As predicted, she is reluctant to see information about many, many such acts of kindness being stated publically.

At the other end of the age scale, Delyth has been involved for some years with the youth club, essentially coordinating pastoral work. Readers may recall that during the summer holidays in 2020 she initiated the scheme to provide hot lunches and activities for local children. Having immediately offered her services when the Painswick Community Support group was formed, taking her turn on the phone duty helpline rota, she was one of the original committee members. Recognising with growing concern the potentially detrimental effects of Covid restrictions on children's physical and mental wellbeing, she applied for and received funding to set up the lunch and activity scheme locally. She worked with Nathan Youlton and many Painswick children were indeed the beneficiaries of her efforts.



Delyth was a volunteer at the community library during its first two years, only stopping to take up a post teaching literacy to 7-11 year olds for whom English was a second language, this in a Gloucester school in an area of high deprivation and cultural diversity. This was after retiring as a teacher of modern languages.

The plight of refugees and asylum seekers has also been a focus of Delyth's attention to the needs of others. Gloucester has been the centre where many, mostly Syrian, have been taken for safety and Delyth volunteered to help in whatever way was needed. She took a TEFL (teaching of English as a foreign language) course in order to be better able to help and voluntarily spent every Monday teaching the refugees. Recognising the importance of this work she then also offered to teach similar groups in Stroud on Thursdays. And even during lockdown, Delyth has been teaching English as a second language voluntarily to teenagers via WhatsApp.

For most of us this would be satisfactory, but for Delyth the desire to achieve the maximum benefit from communication and understanding via language required a little more. She decided to learn Arabic! Prior to lockdown she had been doing this for two years learning 'from a Syrian refugee who had herself been a teacher in Syria.' She felt this was really important in her work 'with the many Syrian and Arab refugees and asylum seekers I came into contact with in my English teaching.'

Delyth's concern for the refugees in Gloucester included the fact that they were in a situation confined in more ways than one. Together with Frances Watson, she arranged on several occasions to bring some of the women and children to Painswick to enjoy a happy, healthy day out. Visits to the Rococo Garden were organised and Delyth describes how the look of sheer joy on the faces made it all worthwhile. She also points out that Dominic Hamilton insisted on not charging an entry fee.

Whilst talking to Delyth about these and many other acts of kindness - which she insists need not be mentioned - she always refers to the people who have worked alongside her. She is adamant that most of what she does is simply part of joint efforts and that teamwork, especially where individuals can offer a range of expertises and skills, always achieves the maximum gain. However, she does in fact do so much herself and is modest to an extraordinary degree. She is magnanimous, compassionate, caring, exceedingly sensitive to and aware of the needs of others and with the good of humanity at the heart of her beliefs and actions.

Delyth came to live in Painswick with husband, John, and their three children, who attended the Croft School, 25 years ago. Incredibly modest, she has quietly and collaboratively striven continuously towards making life so much better for so many. She is certainly worthy of the accolade, Painswickian of the Year.

Carol Maxwell

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Also highlighted under Painswickians of the Year

...and very importantly a "thank you" to...

The Best One, The Pharmacy, and the Painswick Community Support Group

2020, a year of exceptional circumstances and one in which many Painswick people contributed far beyond what would normally be expected for the good of the community. Readers have recognised the outstanding and much appreciated contribution made by many groups and businesses locally but in particular have mentioned the staff at Best One, and have praised the Pharmacy for remaining open throughout and going far beyond the usual call of duty. However, it must be the Painswick Community Support group, formed as a result of Covid-19, that deserves special praise and recognition for outstanding service to the local community. The many community-based tasks undertaken by this group certainly demonstrated the spirit of community which makes Painswick the wonderful place it is.



Painwick Centre News



It is with no surprise but a heavy heart that as the New Year commences, in common with many small businesses and charities around Painswick, we start the year unable to open fully since the Tier three restrictions came into place on Boxing Day and now on Tier 4.

There is, as yet, very little guidance from the local and national organisations that help community centres and village halls like ourselves operate but the government guidance is clear –

- community centres and halls, and libraries can remain open. Group events should not take place, unless there's a specific legal exemption to the social contact rules e.g. support groups, supervised activities for children

As you can see there is very little lee-way for the Painswick Centre and the groups that use our facilities.

However, this time we intend to make best use of the time to do what maintenance we can and to ensure that as soon as we are able to re-open we are once again a Covid secure building that can safely be used.

Over the past few months we have had a few 'strange' occurrences at the Centre – lights being left on and taps left running when there have been no users – but we don't think there are ghosts! Because of this we intend to make some changes to the security at the Centre. The Beacon Hall door lock will be changed and new keys issued to each user group. A deposit scheme will be put in place and we apologise for any inconvenience but would ask that if you have a Beacon Hall key you return it to the Centre. We will also be monitoring the car park use more closely.

We hope that Serena will be back at work before this copy of the Beacon lands on your doorstep but after a break in South Africa for Christmas her return may be somewhat delayed! In the meantime the email is the best method to make contact – painswickcentremanager@gmail.com and either the Trustees or Serena will do our best to help with any queries you may have.

We remain hopeful that as we emerge from the plague and more and more people are vaccinated the Painswick Centre will be able to return to being fully open with many different activities, and some new ones, taking place throughout the week and we will, of course, keep you informed through our website, by word of mouth, posters on our noticeboards and through a regular column in the Beacon!

Dawn Tyson

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St Mary's News



May I wish you a very happy, peaceful and hopeful New Year from all at St Mary's. The last year was such a difficult one for everyone but it was a joy to see how the people of Painswick pulled together to help one another.

It was also a joy for St Mary's to host one of the 'naughty elves' in our porch and to hear the cheerful chatter of children as they marvelled at all the paper decorations the three elves had produced (I actually didn't think they were naughty just creative!) Thank you to all from Croft School who worked so hard to make this happen.

As we go into January, we are hoping to hold the following services, but as always it will be dependant on what the Government and the Church of England advise as we continue to battle the pandemic.

- January 3rd- 9.30am Holy Communion
- January 10th 9.30am Holy Communion
- January 17th 9.30am Holy Communion
- January 24th 11am Beacon Praise
- January 31st 9.30am Holy Communion and 11am Benefice service of Morning Prayer on Zoom

As we are still restricted in numbers if you wish to worship at any of our services please let Margaret Radway know on 07896430107

I also look forward in the coming year to getting to know more people in and around Painswick

Rev Janet Turville

Churches Together Around Painswick Annual Report 2020



AD 2020 will long be remembered as the year when the life of our local churches was changed in a way no-one could have foreseen when the year began. The closure of the churches because of the Covid-19 pandemic meant that parishioners had to stay at home. There was however an unexpected benefit in that church services were able to be "streamed" to households with an Internet facility. Perhaps not surprisingly there were considerably greater numbers "attending" the services at home than would have been present physically. That situation was better explained as during the times when the churches were allowed to open, "social distancing" meant that there was a strict limit on the numbers allowed to attend.

With the pandemic restrictions not coming in to force until later in March, CTAP was able to host the Christian Unity Week events in late January with a service at the Catholic Church on the 19th and to host the Community Lunch the following day. We were pleased to be able to hold the annual supper at The Bistro on the 27th, particularly as this would be the last occasion we could meet there following the sale of Cardynham House. On 6th March the World Day of Prayer was held in the Catholic Church with the international service composed by the women of Zimbabwe. The constraints caused by the pandemic meant that the Holy Week and Easter Services could not take place. For the first time the annual Week of Prayer for World Peace was held at the Quaker Meeting Hall during the week of the 12th October. The weather was kind and so the prayers could be said in the garden enabling us to comply with the pandemic social distancing regulations.

Terry Parker, Chairman

Stunt goes wrong

In the Guardian newspaper, 1st December, there was an interesting report of a man being rescued after jumping into the river Thames from Tower Bridge for a stunt. Two young men were nearby and, realising something was very wrong, came to the rescue by diving in themselves in order to save him from drowning. One of them is a former Painswick resident, Toby Green. Toby, now aged 23, grew up in Painswick, was a pupil at the Croft School and now lives in London. A foolish stunt, but definitely a heroic rescue.

Carol Maxwell

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Thank You

Richmond Painswick would like to thank you, the local community, for your continued support and kindness.

We hope you are keeping well.
Please stay safe and let's stay connected.

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ANSWERS to the PMAG Christmas quiz

1. Holiday Inn
2. The Nutcracker
3. Oliver Cromwell
4. In the bleakmidwinter
5. Once in royal Davids City
6. J S Bach
7. Away in a manger
8. Gene Autry
9. O holy night
10. St Francis of Assisi
11. Gold
12. Coco-Cola
13. An old silk hat
14. O come all ye faithfull
15. Jingle bells
16. Mendelsson
17. Blue
18. O little town of Bethlehem
19. What child is this?
20. God rest ye merry gentlemen
21. Be in good health
22. German
23. Ladies dancing
24. Bethlehem
25. 26th December
26. We three kings
27. I saw mommy kissing santa claus
28. Donner, Dancer and Dasher
29. Morecambe and Wise
30. One

New Year positive thoughts

2021 dawns bright at the Rococo Garden, full of promise and anticipation. Certainly that's the mindset we are adopting after such a challenging year in 2020. For us, the physical manifestation of this new start is the sight of over five million snowdrops pushing their way up through the ground and blooming to grace our hidden valley with their white pristine beauty. This year we will be helping our visitors have a safe and enjoyable visit with the aid of our online booking system. This allows visitors to book an arrival time slot in advance which has been a positive development both for them and us, brought about by the pandemic.

One of the things I enjoy in my role at the Garden is seeing the fascinating amount of work which goes on behind the scenes. Sadly ash dieback continues to attack the younger ash trees in and around the Garden, meaning more tree safety work. We are gradually replanting with new native saplings, some of which have been donated by visitors and locals. This is where one sees long term garden planning at work as we are thinking at least a hundred years ahead in choosing and siting the right species. If you would like to plant a tree here in memory of a loved one or to mark a special event, do get in touch with Roger, our Head Gardener at garden@rococogarden.org.uk.

Our team are also planning to cut the maze which hasn't been trimmed for over a year. The maze will look a lot smarter and the team are working on ways visitors may be able to use it safely in the future. In the meantime, the maze has earned its keep recently as the location for a music video to accompany a single aptly named "Labyrinth" being released by a "metalcore" band. Yet another example of the variety and opportunity this year has brought!

I do hope you will come and share some of the magic of this special time of the year when we re-open on Saturday 16th January.

Tim Toghill, volunteer & trustee

Foodbank Collection

Please can you keep on giving?

The next Foodbank collection is on Tuesday 19th January between 10 and 12 noon outside the church and in Stamages Lane car park.

The list includes:

Pasta/cooking sauce, steamed puddings, tinned custard, instant coffee, pet food, savoury snacks, cereal bars, bleach, antibacterial spray, washing-up liquid, toiletries - but any non-perishable goods will always be welcome and never wasted.

FB saw a 77% increase in requests in November compared to the year before and are having to rely on kind financial donations to keep the warehouse stocked. The donations from you all in the Benefice villages really do make a difference so keep giving if you can. Thank you so much.

Joan Warner, Margaret Radway, Pippa Dickinson, Pippa Medcalf (07740 514230)

Painswick Rococo Garden



Anne-Marie Randall
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Police report



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

Reported crime on the rise in Painswick

November 2020

White Horse Lane	ASB
Vicarage St	ASB
Berry Cl.	Criminal damage
New St	4 x ASB
Canton Acre	ASB
Golf Course Rd.	2 x ASB
Stamages lane	ASB
St Mary's Mead	Vehicle crime
Greenhouse La.	Assault

October

Golf Course Rd	Vehicle crime
Vicarage St	2 x Assault
Hambutts drive	2 x Assault
Ashwell	Assault
New Street	3 x Assault
Knapp Lane	ASB

September

Ashwell	Assault
New Street	Assault
Golf Course Rd	Criminal damage

August

Golf Course Rd	ASB
Vicarage St	Burglary
	Criminal damage
Kingsmill La.	Assault
Greenhouse La.	Burglary
New Street	ASB
Churchill Way	ASB
Gloucester Street	2 x ASB

Notes

ASB = Anti-Social Behaviour

Location given means near to that area.

Painswick Surgery Patient Group (PPG)

Covid-19 vaccinations have been underway for some time in our Primary Care Network (group of five local surgeries), working together at Rowcroft. Over the weekend of 19/20th December 1100 over-80s were given their first round after some complex planning of the logistics.

From Liz Burge one of our PPG members:

I joined the self-distancing queue up the steps, had my temperature taken at the entrance and went in. Details were taken and I was directed to one of the consulting rooms for Painswick people and waited a few moments to be called. The health professional giving the injection further checked about allergies and medication and gave an opportunity to ask questions. I then waited for fifteen minutes and was free to go. I was given two leaflets full of information about the vaccine and a card confirming a second appointment. This all took about forty minutes. As I left I was delighted to find Dr Rhys Evans doing his second job as car park attendant!

The current plan is that GP surgeries will not be involved in vaccinating the housebound but the Practice is compiling a list of these patients to give to the CCG's Covid mass vaccination team, who will be dealing with administering the vaccine to patients who are unable to get to one of the standard clinics. Also, the Practice has now been given limited permission to transport the vaccine, at least to care homes, so will be trying (at the time of writing) to get patient consent, supplies and staff to vaccinate all care home residents and staff from 29th December.

Predictions for your vaccination date

Patients are asked not to contact the Surgery to find out when they will be vaccinated as current pressures are very high while 'flu vaccinations continue alongside all the normal needs that present themselves in winter. This site: <https://www.omnicalculator.com/health/vaccine-queue-uk> will give you a prediction for when you will be likely to be offered the vaccine but the estimates are not guaranteed. Local updates are posted here: <https://www.painswicksurgery.nhs.uk>

Carers Information and Advice

There is an excellent information and advisory website provided by the Gloucestershire Carers Hub here: www.gloucestershirecarershub.co.uk.

The hub was commissioned by the Gloucestershire County Council and NHS Gloucestershire in 2019. This is a helpful and comprehensive site and its main objective is to improve the life of carers in Gloucestershire through tailored advice, training and information.

And finally, in these times of extreme pressure on the NHS it is disturbing to us as fellow patients to hear that our Surgery's receptionists have received some insulting and belligerent remarks which are entirely unwarranted. They are suffering from Covid too, some have had to quarantine and others have had to plug-on while short staffed and working weekends to deliver vaccinations. So be nice!

And here's an inspiration for all of us:

This particular cohort of (over-80) patients have lived through war, post war food shortages and catastrophic economic collapse – they didn't moan about the rain, or the wait – they just waited and were happy to do so. Yesterday afternoon when we were getting rid of the last few I pushed a lady up the ramp in the rain who cried all the way up as she was so happy to feel the breeze and rain on her face after 9 months at home.

Rowcroft Surgery Practice Manager

David Perry



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e.g. 7C of the R = seven colours of the rainbow !

1. 26 L of the A
2. 3 C of T L
3. 2 H of P
4. 4 B
5. 4 S
6. 2 W in a F
7. 3 C
8. 3 BM
9. 3 F in a Y
10. 2 US in C
11. 500S in a R of P
12. 24 B B in a P
13. 24 H in a D
14. 1000 Y in a M
15. 11 P in a CT
16. 52 C in a P
17. 60 S in a M
18. 1 W on a U
19. 10 GBH on a W
20. 32 P in a C S

Quiz supplied by Sue Jones



Review of 2020.

What a year it has been!

The year started well with well attended, regular work parties and the welcome help of volunteers from Bigfoot Mountain Bikers and several students doing their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Two new water points were installed by The Back from the Brink Project and we cleared a large area around the lowest one to create a new paddock area. We were allowed to put our seven Dexters out a month earlier, so they grazed this area hard until they were moved up onto the ramparts at the start of August. Cowslip plants, grown from seed, and marjoram root cuttings, taken from established plants, were transplanted to suitable areas to help the Duke of Burgundy and Large Blue butterflies respectively. Several juniper plants were transplanted, from the original juniper scrape to other sites. A huge, multi stemmed sycamore was removed from the high point of the quarry road to allow sunlight into the base of the adjacent quarry.

Then came the Covid lockdown.

When the situation eased, grant money from Painswick Parish Council was used to cut back brambles. Regrowth was treated with herbicide to allow grass and flowers to better re-establish themselves. Socially distanced work parties were allowed and I have had to organise up to thirty helpers in groups of five or six on different parts of the Beacon. Luckily, a number of helpers have taken the role of "mini team leaders". Although it is harder for me to find jobs for so many small groups and to organise the equipment, it has worked very well indeed. I think smaller groups seem more motivated and less time is lost chatting at coffee time! However it is a shame we have to work this way, as part of the enjoyment of PBCG is the social interaction.

Recent work has included clearing scrub from the 15th and 16th fairway, partly for conservation but also to allow golfers to see walkers better. Several areas, which cannot be grazed, have been cut and raked, follow up work has been done in several recently cleared areas, collected seed sown and scrub cleared from around the Trig Point juniper bushes.

The cattle have now been on the Beacon for six months and are doing a fantastic job. I think it's fair to say the majority of people love seeing them, despite the occasional dog getting a belt from the electric fence. The two older cows are fairing much better this year probably because their calves are, at last, virtually weaned and they are more used to the tougher diet. An exciting development is the introduction to this country of a Norwegian "NoFence" system, which does away with the need for temporary electric fencing. It has been successfully trailed by the National Trust and is being used on Robins Wood Hill nature reserve. It may well solve most of the problems we face grazing the Beacon. More of this later.

Paul Baxter.

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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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*Peter Rowe (813228) Beacon Advertising
advertising.beacon@painswick.net*

History of the Broadham Sports Ground

The purchase and development of Broadham Fields

Starting in the summer of 1980 Painswick Rugby Club had been negotiating to buy the fifteen acres of land known as Broadham Fields opposite Cotswold Mead. It is the only flat land in Painswick and would provide facilities in the village not just for rugby but for a host of other sports such as hockey, cricket and netball. It would also make a fine site for a new sports pavilion with more adequate car parking space. Negotiations had been ongoing with the local County authority, which own the land, and at times had been difficult; in fact there was a time when a smaller area had to be considered. However obtaining the larger site was considered too good an opportunity to miss offering the village the additional space for community facilities although recognising the extra financial implications. On the 25th March 1981 Ted O'Neil, Rugby Club Chairman, announced that agreement had been reached for the purchase of Broadham Fields with the County authorities for the larger area for an initial outlay of in the region of £44,000. Broadham Fields would now need to be transformed to provide two rugby pitches, a hockey pitch, a cricket square plus car parking. Plans had also been drawn up to convert two cow sheds into changing and shower rooms with the hope that the grounds would be ready for use by that September.

The club had high hopes of some grant and loan support from the Sports Council and the Rugby Football Union. An appeal was then launched for donations and a scheme to attract interest free loans. The Trustees of the Rugby Club announced in June the setting up of a Sports Committee to co-ordinate the activities with the other sports clubs that it was hoped would use the field and help with the development of the necessary facilities.

The Chairman of the England Rugby Selectors and former England Captain, Budge Rogers, officially opened the Broadham ground and facilities on Sunday 3rd October 1981 with a president's XV playing an invitation XV. During May 1982 the Parish Council was approached by the Rugby Club to ask whether the Council would be interested in purchasing a 3 ½ acre strip of Broadham adjacent to the A46 to assist in meeting the repayments to the County Council. This offer was rejected as the Parish Council felt that it did not need the land.

The Cricket Club decided not to move to the new Broadham fields until such time that a clubhouse was available. The Tennis Club meanwhile needed 2 additional courts and with the cricket club staying at the Recreation Ground this made expansion there difficult, so the club entered negotiations with the Rugby Club and agreed a rental agreement for the new courts to be sited at Broadham.

New Sports Pavilion

In order to obtain funds for a sports pavilion at Broadham successful applications were made in 1993 to the National Foundation for Sports and Arts on behalf of the village producing £50,000 and to the Lottery Fund producing £118,475. Planning consent for the new sports pavilion was granted in November 1995 after prolonged consultation with Stroud District Council. The clubhouse would have two bar lounges and a south facing veranda all with views of the grounds. The sports pavilion was designed for multi-purpose use including short matt bowls, skittles, short tennis

As a result of the COVID restrictions there has been little in the way of organised sport in Painswick for the last month. So our sports correspondent has dug into the archives for this look back at the origins of Broadham Sports Field in Painswick



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and circuit training as well as social functions. Building work commenced in March 1996 with completion in the autumn. Building costs were estimated to be around £230,000. Meanwhile the Tennis Club had received a grant for £12,500 out of the village application, towards the building of an additional 2 courts at Broadham which were completed in 1995.

In October of that year the Cricket Club hosted their vice-presidents evening in the newly completed clubhouse and looked forward to using it next season. The Tennis Club, now with four courts at Broadham, hoped to use the clubhouse for some of its social functions and indoor junior practices. The Hockey Club, after initially using the Broadham pitch had to move away when regulations insisted on artificial pitches only.

Painswick is indeed lucky to have such an excellent sporting facility mainly due to the foresight of leaders of the Rugby Club at the time when suitable land became available. This has enabled the rugby, cricket and tennis clubs to expand and also to provide coaching facilities for the young people of Painswick and surrounding villages.



Reproduced from various articles reported in the Beacon over many years.

Painswick Golf Club

I am very sorry to have to report the death of Mike Hoey. Mike has served the club loyally in so many ways over many years. He led the club as Captain in 2007 and then as President until ill-health led to him standing down. But he also helped with many smaller mundane tasks to keep the club going. And I shall miss him as a playing partner. Our thoughts are with his wife and family at this sad time.



Last month saw the re-opening of the golf course after the month-long lockdown. The catering facilities were reopened, but with stricter rules limiting its use. Now that our area has moved up to tier 4, the catering facilities at the clubhouse will be closed again.

In the Seniors section, one social competition took place last month – a Blue Bogey Pairs competition with partners drawn from two pools – higher handicappers and lower handicappers. This was a better ball competition off the blue tees, so some good scores were expected – and there were many. Congratulations to the winners - Nigel Barnett and Mike Sanderson – with an excellent score of -16.

The Seniors section AGM had to be cancelled because of the coronavirus restrictions and will take place in due course. A number of changes to the committee have taken place, with resignations and new members being co-opted until confirmed formally at the AGM. Nigel Barnett is the new Seniors Captain. Other new members are Robin Hare (Seniors vice-Captain), John Barrus (Seniors Secretary) and Phil Taylor (Seniors Competitions Secretary).

Painswick Golf Club welcomes visiting golfers. Bookings can be made on-line with a link from our website www.painswickgolf.com or call 01452 812180.

Peter Rowe

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Flood management in the Painswick Valley

Last winter was the wettest on record and the continuing work to improve the Painswick stream to minimise flooding, improve biodiversity and water quality has brought national attention. Stroud District Council is partnering with local landowners and a range of regional and national organisations to introduce natural flood management (NFM) schemes along the Painswick Valley from Cranham and Sheepscombe down to Salmon Springs.

To date, 14 different projects involving 21 landowners have resulted in the creation of 223 NFM interventions along 7.7km of watercourse. These include 144 leaky dams and 9 earthen bunds to hold water back, 8 soakaways, 40 track drainage improvements plus 1350 trees planted and 2km of streamside fencing to keep cattle out of the stream. This winter several schemes are planned including woodland creation at 2 farms, pond installation, leaky dams, fencing and spring-fed troughs.



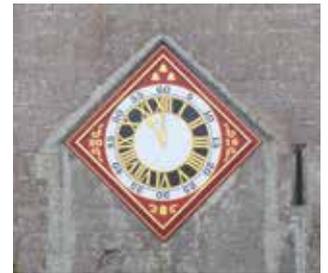
People living along the stream have reported a range of benefits from a visible 'slow in the flow' when there's heavy rainfall to cleaner water through reduced siltation. Peter Burdett has 10 leaky dams on his land and said: "It is already possible to see how the water has been held back during periods of heavy rain, with each leaky dam working cumulatively, without any interference to farming activities. It has been a pleasure working with this project."

A gauge has been installed on the stream and a free flood warning service is available to residents. To sign up for that or to discuss the potential for stream improvement projects on your land please contact Rosemary McCloskey, Stroud DC's RSuDS Officer at rosemary.mccloskey@stroud.gov.uk.

Angie Scott, Chair of the Painswick Stream Management Group

St. Mary's Church Clock

After ten years of looking after the church clock, Douglas Robinson was finding the steep spiral steps of the tower increasingly difficult to negotiate, and asked if I would be interested in taking over. I shadowed him for six months, to learn the ropes, and now enjoy keeping the beautiful old clock in good time. Thanks to Douglas for his long years of service.



The current clock, made by J H Benson of Ludgate Hill, is a fine example of Victorian horology. It was installed in 1899 and replaced an older, smaller clock which was installed in Sheepscombe Church. It has three trains mounted in a cast iron frame, one to drive the pendulum, one the quarter chimes and the other for the hour strike. The heavy cast iron weights of each train originally had to be wound by hand every day, but in the 1970's an automatic electric winder was fitted.

Many factors affect the accuracy of turret clocks but temperature is the most dramatic as this alters the length of the pendulum rod and therefore the rate at which the clock ticks. Victorian engineers cunningly developed the compensating pendulum. This utilises the differing rates of expansion between steel and zinc to minimise the effects of temperature change. Atmospheric pressure, humidity and the viscosity of lubricating oil all have an effect on time keeping. Even with a compensating pendulum the clock speeds up in the summer, as the oils thin and become less viscous, and slow in the winter as it thickens. Over the year the daily gain or loss will be quite considerable. Compensating for this by moving the pendulum bob up or down is almost impossible to do accurately as a very small movement of the heavy bob has a large effect. It is more accurately done by adding or subtracting small weights half way up the pendulum. This seems counter intuitive but can be proved by some very advanced mathematics: way beyond my ability! To try and understand this better I have produced graphs showing the max & min temperature in the clock cabinet, the gain or loss in seconds per 24hrs and the effects of adding or subtracting weights.

It would appear that 1 deg centigrade equates to 1.2 sec/24 hrs or about 6 gm weight. So, a yearly swing of 20 deg means an adjustment in weight of 120 grms. This seems rather a lot to me and makes me wonder if the pendulum rod is as good as it should be.

Paul Baxter

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Salt Bakehouse comes to Painswick

There's bread ... and then there's really good bread and the difference is unmistakable. It is therefore good to report that Painswick residents now have the opportunity to avail themselves of some excellent artisan bread every Thursday morning when the Salt Bakehouse has a presence in the Town Hall car park from 9.00am until approximately 10.00-10.30am.

Salt Bakehouse is a family business which has won prestigious awards for its artisan breads. The bakery is in Stonehouse and the company now has a shop in Union Street, Stroud. A relatively small business it is nonetheless one producing top quality food to the highest standards. Using very few ingredients (really good bread comprises only two or three) which are as far as possible locally sourced, the Bakehouse does supply pubs, restaurants and cafes. We are therefore fortunate that Painswick is one of only three places to which the company is offering this mobile van service.

After the first visit in December word obviously spread and by 10.00am the second week all the bread was sold out. Steve is the man with the van and he explains that the bread is artisan sourdough and there are several different flavours. He also has a mouth-watering range of pastries and seasonal mince pies and stollen for sale. Purchases must be by card not cash.

This is an excellent new service in our midst offering top quality bread and pastries. Do go along and see for yourself. The picture shows Steve selling the last loaf at 10.00am!



Carol Maxwell

6 Weeks to Wellness

How yoga can help us to live happier and healthier lives in 2021

What does it mean to feel 'well'? It's the eternal question and one that the incidents of 2020 have made us question all the more. If it's been some time since you enjoyed a sense that everything was well with the world, it might be worth considering how yoga might offer some comfort and a sense of positivity for the year ahead. Starting on Zoom in Painswick this month there's a new '6 Weeks to Wellness' yoga course run by local yoga instructor Emma Mercer – open to anyone who is curious about what yoga can do for them.

"It's not about whether you can touch your toes or balance on your head," says Emma. "It's about becoming aware of how your body feels in certain poses and how your mind reacts to those situations. In essence, yoga is about connecting with yourself through movement and stillness to find a sense of inner strength and resilience."



During lockdown Emma has, not surprisingly, found herself busy teaching classes on Zoom to many local residents. "Zoom classes have been amazing," she says. "Even though we are not in the same room, there's still a wonderful sense of community, connectivity and compassion that comes across as we've all got to know each other on screen. Yoga really helped me through a difficult 2020 and I can't wait to share some sense of wellbeing with my fellow Painswickians!"

Emma's '6 Weeks to Wellness' yoga Zoom course will begin on Wednesday 13th January at 9.30am and is open to people of all ages – no previous experience of yoga is necessary as students will work at a level that is suitable to their needs.

To find out more or to book your place, call or text Emma on 07818 087385 or email emma@familymercerc.com. Visit Facebook/YogawithEm to find out about all of Emma's online Zoom classes.

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Jottings.

Two years ago, after 15 years, I retired as your local Snow plough Operator. It went like this: Gloucestershire County Council would ring and ask me to clear certain key roads and after that do the villages and local roads. I would cover the villages of Sheepcombe, Slad, Painswick, Edge, Pitchcombe and parts of Cranham.

I would not do the big roads like the A46 or the A4173 - that was for the big boy's kit. I could be out for as much as four hours a day according to the amount of snow fall. You are not allowed to pile up snow on people's property without permission from the County and if a road is completely blocked then it needs to be dug out. You were not allowed to clear private roads.

The snow plough is fitted to the front of the loader of the tractor. My plough pushed the snow towards the kerb side. Usually my first route would be ploughing from the A4173 at Edge Church over to Whiteshill, down to the flag pole at Paganhill and back to keep the Bus route open. Then over Painswick Beacon to keep the cemetery open in case of a funeral and the same at Cranham to keep the Church and School open plus Painswick School.

Snow, when it is a foot deep, is quite hard to push with the snow plough. This is something most people do not think of. Also, you have to keep the plough at least two inches above the road because of hidden man-hole covers and other things sticking up in the road. That means that the centre of the road is completely cleared but the sides of the road still have snow and ice on them where the vehicles tyres run. A lot of the roads are ridged in the middle if you have a good look.

It could be quite frightening at times and here are just a few examples: Tibbiwell in Painswick - you have to work downhill, ploughing up-wards does not give enough room for vehicles to pass. But the bend and the camber half way down will put you in the ditch if you are not careful.

Coming from Ebworth, in Slad, towards the Vatch, you come down over the cattle grid. Here you have to come to a stop by going into the bank crossing the road. Then, crawling down round the bend into the Vatch, because of the big drop down into the field if you do not get it right. Then onto Summer Street. When you come out at the far end you need to turn round and this is not easy when the road is full of cars. Many a time people come out of their houses to watch me turn round not liking the snow plough hanging above their cars.

In Pitchcombe going up The Pitch is easy - it's the coming down the steep road onto the A46 which is difficult when you cannot stop on the ice. Going round the village is not easy either. You first go into the farm entrance to see if anything is coming up the hill, take a deep breath and if it is clear, plough down the road. Remembering the road is cambered to the left, you have to be careful not to veer into the cars which, of course, are parked on the left. Fortunately, I always missed them.

Vehicles are the main problem when snow ploughing. Many times I have had my heart in my mouth and taken a deep breath, hoping not to hit one. But then we have not had much snow for a few years.

Martin Slinger

News from Citizens Advice – Employment problems



Please let anyone with difficulties know that we are able to offer advice by Freephone and email, but sadly as yet, not face to face contact. Unfortunately, the number of enquiries about Employment problems has soared over the last 6 to 9 months. Many people have needed advice on whether they are entitled to furlough pay, how this is calculated, and whether they might be able to claim Universal Credit in addition. Redundancy is also a big issue and many have concerns about how they will get a redundancy payment if their employer is unable to pay it.

The reason so many people need further help to understand the system is shown in the following example.

Mrs D was managing by having 2 jobs, this meant that in lockdown her income came from a mixture of paid work and furlough payments. It got further confused by a change in the National Minimum Wage during this time which gave her a small increase. She was then offered redundancy from one job, and again it was important to be aware of the calculation of her redundancy pay, and any other payments which she might be due. Finally, she needed to know if she had any entitlement to Universal Credit to boost her income.

Being uncertain of how she would be able to manage and what action she should consider, understandably caused Mrs D great anxiety. By having these payments calculated and explained to her by our adviser meant that she was able to make informed decisions and became able to cope with her situation.

We also advise on a whole range of other employment issues. The knock-on effects of job loss can cause financial as well as relationship and housing difficulties. For help with any of these issues contact Stroud Citizens Advice on: Freephone: 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Friday 10 am to 4 pm.. or email (via the website): <https://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk> and then click on 'advice' and 'email advice'.

Peter and Jane Rowe

Library News for January

Library is now closed

The library is now closed as per tier 4 restrictions but trustees are looking at ways of offering a Click and Collect library service in a Covid secure way. We are also exploring the potential of a home delivery service. Please look at our website for updates

AGM

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of The Community Library in Painswick (a company limited by guarantee) will be held on Thursday 28th January 2021 via Zoom at 8pm

New Books

Following a bumper period of new releases we have added many new books to our stock which are exclusively available to Painswick borrowers for the first six months and not reservable online.

These include the Booker prizewinning gritty debut novel 'Shuggie Bain' by Douglas Stuart which is a tale of poverty and addiction in 1980s Scotland and offers deep insight into the relationship between a child and a substance-abusing parent.

Anne Glenconner's novel 'Murder on Mustique' draws upon her wealth of knowledge about the island and love of storytelling to create a gripping murder mystery offering what has been described as 'perfect escapism'. In 1958, Lady Glenconner and her husband began to transform the island into a paradise for the rich and famous. They granted a plot of land to Princess Margaret who built her favourite home there. Lady Glenconner was appointed Lady in Waiting to Princess Margaret in 1971 and kept this role until her death in 2002.

Other recent books include Jeffrey Archer's 'Hidden in Plain Sight', William Boyd's 'Trio', Michael Connelly's 'The Law of Innocence', Nicci French's 'House of Correction' and Elly Griffiths' 'Postscript Murders'.

Biographies have been very popular and additions include Billy Connolly's 'Tall Tales and Wee Stories', Barack Obama's 'A Promised Land', John Cooper Clarke's 'I Wanna Be Yours' and, 'Let's Do It: The Authorised Biography of Victoria Wood' by Jasper Rees.

Additions for our younger readers include Maggie O'Farrell's first children's book 'Where Snow Angels Go' and 'The Danger Gang' by Tom Fletcher. Please call the library on 01452 814744 during the above opening times for more information.

A comprehensive list will be posted on the library's website (www.painswickcommunitylibrary.org.uk) and will be available at the library.

Happy Reading

Pat Pinnegar



Library Book Club



Our December Library Book Club meeting was once again via Zoom and our discussion was of Anatomy of a Scandal by Sarah Vaughan. The plot centred on the trial of James, a charming, handsome and successful junior cabinet member, who was also a very close friend of the British Tory Prime Minister. Their friendship dated from childhood, from their days at Eton and then Oxford. The plot took us back to their exploits as members of the Oxford Libertine club, with drunkenness, drug abuse and vandalism. It exposed a sinister culture of male chauvinism and arrogance, with a strong sense of entitlement due to their very privileged background. There was much to discuss here.

Much of the narrative is delivered through Kate, the barrister who is prosecuting James, who has been accused of rape by a colleague with whom he had been having an affair. Kate has an interesting and unexpected link to the defendant and his wife. The trial was a thought provoking glimpse into the judicial system and gave us plenty to discuss with regard to problems associated with this type of criminal case.

Our views on the book were mixed. Some enjoyed it but others were less enthusiastic due to the nature of the subject matter and the unpleasant male characters that were so very well drawn by the author. We thought it would make a very good TV crime drama. It certainly gave us plenty to talk about and not enough Zoom time to do it justice.

The Christmas read is The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri. The next meeting will be on 11th January at 2pm.

Pat Andrew.

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Property Report

The estate agents' websites currently seem to feature more properties recently sold or under offer, than houses that are still available, but there are still some very desirable properties on the market. More desirable than most, if rather less affordable, is Jenkins Farmhouse on Jenkins Lane between Painswick and Pitchcombe, available through Murrays at £2,750,000. In a similar bracket, Hamptons have Turnstone House on Greenhouse Lane at £2,150,000.

Slightly more affordable are Columbus Cottage on the Cheltenham Road, a renovated period house with four bedrooms and a self-contained annexe or home office (Hamptons, £845,000) and Bankside, a modern 5 bedroom house on Kingsmill Lane with its own gym (Murrays, £795,000).

Hamptons were very happy to sponsor the Naughty Elf Trail that saw so many young families walking round the village in December. All Painswick's estate agents wish you a very happy New Year.

Historic crimes

January 1841 – Mr Hyett the victim

Thomas Hill, 24, labourer, charged with stealing six pounds weight of bacon, the property of William Henry Hyett Esq. Sentence: six months in solitude in penitentiary. Sarah Shouls, 44, labourer, charged with stealing turnips, the property of William Henry Hyett Esq. Sentence: seven days hard labour.

January 1891 – New Year's Eve at the Falcon

Robert Johnson, landlord of the Falcon Hotel, charged with keeping his house open and selling intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours on 31 Dec. Three men were found there, one of whom drank whiskey, by P.C. Chappell at midnight. Defendant asked the bench to take into consideration the time of year, the weather etc. Fined 5/- and 8/- costs.

Martin Goddard, Richard Adey, Albert Berry, summoned for being on licensed premises, the Falcon, on 31st Dec. during prohibited hours. They pleaded ignorance of the time, would not have stayed had they known it was so late, were sorry and now threw themselves upon the mercy of the bench. A nominal fine of 2s.6d and 6s.4d were imposed as the magistrates believed the defendants had not intended to violate the law.

Carol Maxwell

Two-way loyalty

On the Friday before Christmas many residents' dining plans almost went awry. Pete the fish man was on his way to Painswick in his van, stocked up with our special orders, when disaster struck. A burst water main on the A40 resulted in Pete, along with many other drivers, being stranded and unable to move. He made a desperate phone call at 8.45am to explain and to say he would not give up! His Painswick customers did not give up either, returning at intervals to the Town Hall car park to await his arrival. Pete eventually appeared at 11.45am to cheers and clapping. It had taken him three and a half hours and he had had to go via Chepstow. Now there's loyalty – on both sides!

Carol Maxwell

Answers to the January Quiz - How many can YOU solve ?

1. 26 letters of the alphabet
2. 3 colours of traffic lights
3. 2 Houses of Parliament
4. 4 Beattles
5. 4 seasons
6. 2 weeks in a fortnight
7. 3 cheers
8. 3 blind mice
9. 3 feet in a yard
10. 2 ugly sisters in Cinderella
11. 500 sheets in a ream of paper
12. 24 blackbirds in a pie
13. 24 hours in a day
14. 1000 years in a millennium
15. 11 players in a cricket team
16. 52 cards in a pack
17. 60 seconds in a minute
18. 1 wheel on a unicycle
19. 10 green bottles hanging on a wall
20. 32 pieces in a chess set



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Personal Column

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.

Congratulations

Jonathan and Sally Unwin are delighted to announce the engagements of their son WILLIAM (Bagin) UNWIN to FIONA TAIT and their daughter ALICE UNWIN to MICHAEL BURNS.

Welcome

To JENNIFER AND ROBERT CUMMING who have recently moved to Spring Cottage, Tibbiwell.

Thank you

To Yew Trees WI with my thanks for the regular updates, the quizzes and for the beautifully decorated Christmas cake. All are much appreciated. Sending blessings for 2021 and looking forward to seeing you all as soon as Covid allows. Barbara Clark

Condolences

To the family and friends of MIKE HOEY who sadly passed away on Christmas Eve

Disclaimer

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Michael Caruthers-Little

It has been requested that I write a few words about my brother Michael who died on 25th October.

The family, whose home is at Pitchcombe House, have connections with Painswick, Pitchcombe and the Stroud valleys going back for centuries.

Michael was born in 1941, the eldest of 3 sons and a daughter. Following schooling at Wycliffe College, a degree in Philosophy and Economics at University College London employment followed in education including with the training dept at British Steel. A 'call back' to the home county led to retraining and joining the Legal Practice of Little & Hutton, (formerly Little & Bloxam) of Rowcroft, Stroud. Some time later a merger led to a name change to Goldinghams, (and subsequently Red Kite Solicitors).



With many associations in the Stroud area -Stroud Rotary Club, CAB, Liberal Democrats, Pitchcombe PC and Village Hall and others-a particular responsibility was as Chair, for 40 years, of the Trustees of Resthaven Home, Pitchcombe, over a period of much change and necessary improvements. He was very pleased at the recent successful merger of Resthaven Home with the Lilian Faithfull family of care homes (also a charitable trust).

Also, in the 1990's, he was a leading member of the Painswick Valley Group committee set up to oppose the proposed granting by Stroud District Council of building consent for 1000 homes between Stroud and Pitchcombe.

On retirement Michael enjoyed:

-Supporting, with Joan, his family and particularly seeing his grandchildren Eloise, Billy and Thomas, formerly of the Croft School, as they progress with their education at the King's School Gloucester.

-Active membership of Painswick Golf Club -with the highlight a 'hole in one' on the 12th !

-Continuing as Head Gardener at Pitchcombe House.

-Overseas travels and maintaining links with family connections.

As Rosemary Jones of Pitchcombe put it in her recent Tribute on Pitchcombenet (much appreciated by the family):

"Michael has always been there for us....using his legal skills to sort out any problems arising.....including being responsible for the village hall car park, donating the land and guiding the planning process...In recent years he has born ill health courageously....."

Michael and Joan enjoyed 55 years of very happy, married life.

Joan and the family have greatly appreciated all the messages of love and sympathy at this time.

David Little

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Naughty Elf Trail brings Christmas joy to Painswick

In the run up to Christmas, the streets of Painswick were filled with families on the lookout for some very cheeky elves. The first ever Painswick Naughty Elf Hunt ran from 18th-23rd December, and it was far more popular than organisers Friends of the Croft School (FOTCS) had ever imagined despite some atrocious weather conditions.

Faced with a £10,000 annual fundraising target – and having already had to cancel a year’s worth of their usual events including the summer fayre, Safari Supper, fireworks night and Christmas discos – FOTCS thought long and hard about how they could bring some Christmas cheer to local families, even if the very tightest Covid restrictions were in place in Painswick.

And so the Painswick Naughty Elf Trail was born, designed to be enjoyed by family or household groups as part of their daily exercise. It was run over six days on a numbered, circular route in the hope of spacing out family groups as much as possible. The hunters followed a map to 24 locations where Santa’s elves were up to no good in window displays around the village, and children and adults alike enjoyed finding them putting on a show in the Town Hall window, indulging in the bar stock at the Oak, having a rave in a caravan and all sorts of other cheeky antics.

Participants collected a letter from each elf display, then unscrambled them to create a festive phrase – ‘We wish you a merry Christmas’. All those with the correct answer were entered into a draw for the star prize, which took place on Christmas Eve. The lucky winner was Hannah Ferris, who got a welcome early Christmas present of a £200 John Lewis voucher.

“We’ve been blown away by the response to this event from residents and participants alike – indicative of how many people needed a Christmassy lift in this very strange year,” Hannah Lansdowne and Ali Smith, co-Chairs of FOTCS, tell us. “We’ve raised a staggering £3.8k of much-needed funds for The Croft School. This is more than we ever imagined and we need to say a huge thank you to our sponsors, Hamptons Painswick and Painswick Parish Council, for making it all possible. We’re reliably informed that the trail has brought a boost in business to our village shops and eateries in the few days before they were forced to close again under Tier 3 rules, which is an added bonus. We also owe huge thanks to all the village homes and businesses who hosted the elves and all the mischief they brought with them!”

FOTCS noted with concern and understanding reservations by a couple of local residents about the number of people walking in the village. Great care was, of course, taken to ensure that the trail followed government guidelines for outdoor events organised by charitable organisations, and to impress the importance of social distancing on those taking part. And many, many messages were received from village residents, some of whom were shielding, expressing joy at the happy voices and smiling faces moving past their windows.

“We’ve been inundated with hundreds of messages from all sorts of people – families, retired couples, care homes – thanking us for running the trail in these very difficult times. It has been incredibly humbling for the committee members involved to spread much-needed Christmas joy to so many. The Painswick Naughty Elf Trail has helped us take a giant leap towards a school fundraising target that seemed unachievable just a couple of months ago. The funds will go directly to replacing the old playground climbing tower that is no longer safe to use. FOTCS are so grateful to the people of Painswick for their support, patience and incredible community spirit in helping to make the trail a success,” say Ali and Hannah.

If you would like to support FOTCS to support their fundraising target, donations can be given via their website: www.pta-events.co.uk/fotcs



Sarah Bishop

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PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

S.20/2604/TPO Overdale, Slad Road, Slad

TPO 543 - Beech tree, prune back over my boundary line.

S.20/2605/CPE The Little Bridge House, Stepping Stone Lane

Change of use of land to residential following planning consent to erect a private garage on 9/7/1981 (planning ref S. 5016/C).

S.20/2682/TPO Hillfoot Cottage, 22 Gloucester Road

Fell 2 x Beech trees in close proximity to overhead lines.

S.20/2709/HHOLD Orchard View, Cockshoot, Sheepscombe

Single storey rear extension.

S.20/2726/TPO Lullingworth, Stroud Road

Dismantle tree nos. 0152; 0153; 0154; 1772; 1773; 1776; 1779 as identified in attached Arborists report.

CONSENT

S.20/2068/VAR Hambutts Orchard, Edge Road

Variation of condition 2 (Approved Drawings) of S.19/0725/FUL.

S.20/2053/LBC Castle Hale, Stamages Lane

Removal of existing metal framed swimming pool enclosure, new outdoor pool and garden office.

S.20/2052/HHOLD Castle Hale, Stamages Lane

Removal of existing metal framed swimming pool enclosure, new outdoor pool and garden office.

S.20/2185/HHOLD Sheaves, Longridge, Sheepscombe

Side extension, renovations and hard landscaping.

S.20/2208/HHOLD Highfield House, Gloucester Street

Replace existing lean-to with single storey extension.

S.20/2209/LBC Highfield House, Gloucester Street

Replace existing lean-to with single storey extension, internal alterations and new front door canopy and door surround

S.20/2174/TCA Valley Way, Vicarage Street
(5) Portugal Laurel to the left. Reduce in height to approximately 4.0m from its base and trim side. (6) Variegated Holly and Cypress in the corner. Reduce their height to approximately 5.0m from its base and shape a little. Valley Way, Vicarage Street

S.20/2266/HHOLD Tocknells Court, Cheltenham Road

Minor alterations to approved application

S.19/1243/HHOLD - Proposed extension.

S.20/2267/LBC Tocknells Court, Cheltenham Road

Minor alterations to approved application

S.20/2352/HHOLD Westmorland House Kingsmead

S.20/2311/TCA West Hayes, Far End, Sheepscombe

Fell 7 various trees and reduce in size and shape Elm tree.

S.20/2394/TCA The Croft, Sheepscombe

Unknown (T1) - Prune removing 4m of growth.

S.20/2387/TCA Paradise House, Paradise

Fell Ash Trees which show signs of Ash Dieback - fell/replace trees located along the A 46 first and then to fell/replace all other trees within 18 months. The replacement proposal is 70% Beech and 30% Oak.

WITHDRAWN

S.20/2104/FUL Land between 15 And 16 Upper Washwell

Creation of a 3 bed dwelling.

REFUSED

S.20/1994/HHOLD Holcombe Folly

Erection of four garages with living accommodation.

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Front page pictures

reflect a selection whilst walking around Painswick this Christmas

Joyce Barrus

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NEXT ISSUE

Publication date

SATURDAY

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Sunday, January 24th**

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A selection of the many displays on the recent successful Elf trail around Painswick. See the report on page 18

