

The Painswick Beacon

Volume 46 Number 3

June 2023

New Trustees take over at Painswick Centre Partial Closure of Centre to be reversed



Standing room only - a view of part of the Hall at the Town Hall meeting

After a week of dramatic developments, the Trustees of the Painswick Centre agreed on the evening of Friday 26th May to call an Emergency Trustees Meeting, at which they would bring in new Trustees and then step down themselves. It is likely that one of the first actions of the new Board of Trustees will be to reverse the partial closure of the Centre that had been announced on 28th April, to take effect from 12th June.

The decisions followed a packed meeting at the Town Hall on the evening of 22nd May. It had been called by a small group including several former Trustees of the Centre, who believed that the closure

was unnecessary and should be reversed as a matter of urgency. The Open Meeting proposed by the Trustees would not have happened until 14th June, two days after the closure was due to take effect. Although different views were expressed at the meeting, it was evident that there was a lot of support for reversing the closure and indeed a lot of passion about the Centre's future.

A large number of offers of help have already been received by the meeting's organisers and other offers made directly to the Trustees, but it is likely that more support will be needed, both in terms of time and money, if the Centre is to thrive in future. The part-time staff who worked at the Centre have gone, the tenants of the attached cottage have had to leave and there are a series of other problems that have been outlined by the Trustees in their report, which we publish on page 12 of this issue. That report was written before the announcement of an emergency Trustee Meeting, but in other respects remains relevant. It has been a fast-moving position and there may have been further developments by the time the Beacon is published.

Some of the background to the recent developments is explained in a further article on page 13, and on page 11 we have an article on the history of the Centre, written for us by Susie Andrews.

Painswick goes Green

In the by-election on 17th May, Painswick for the first time ever, elected a Green Party councillor to represent the village, together with Upton St. Leonards on Stroud District Council. More details and full result on page 3.



Local showstoppers

Painswick's bakers were in stunning form for the Coronation celebrations, with Clare Chad-Daniels producing an amazing crown cake for the Gyde House Coronation Celebration. At the Kingsmill Lane party, a Union Jack themed cake by Lucy and Debbie caught the eye.



Churchill Way and the Croft party outside The Croft School



Street Party Time!

What better excuse for a street party than a Coronation, and they haven't been coming along very frequently in recent years.

Below: St. Mary's and Hale Lane



Above: Tables down the centre of Vicarage Street created a great party atmosphere.



Above: The Gyde House party featured an amazing royal crown cake by Clare Chad-Daniels.

More photos on the inside back cover

By-Election win for Gary Luff

The Painswick and Upton ward has elected its first ever Green Party councillor, who has taken the seat from the Conservatives in the by-election held on 17th May. The winning candidate, Gary Luff, lives in Painswick and is a retired insurance company executive who now runs a community interest company.

His victory was celebrated with a visit to Painswick by Green Party co-leader, Carla Denyer. The Green Party heads the coalition that is currently in charge of Stroud Council and this win increases their representation to 14 councillors.

Gary would like to thank Painswick residents for their support throughout the campaign and for voting for him. If you have anything you would like to raise with him you can contact him at CLr.gary.luff@stroud.gov.uk or on 07773 778050.



The Result

Gary Luff (Green Party)	1168
Sue Williams (Conservative)	817
Ros Savage (Liberal Democrats)	381
Ela Pathak-Sen (Labour)	180

Right: Carla Denyer and Gary Luff (in the centre) with Green Party activists. Catherine Braun, leader of Stroud District Council is on the right

Return of the Swifts

The swifts that spend the summer soaring over Painswick, their plaintive cry audible until July, were seen to have returned on May 6th, earlier than in 2022. Ten left in July 2022 but fewer have come back. Let's hope the rest are on their way. Migrating from Africa, their journey is 6000 miles. It depends largely on the weather - warm and wet is how they like it, as this encourages the insects on which they feed. A pair of birds will consume 20,000 flying insects in a day. How lucky to have somewhere suitable for them to nest, the only time they touch terra firma. The mud they need to build their nests is hard for them to come by but manmade ones can be bought to put up in the eaves.

Penny Govett

Painswick Garden Project?

Over ten years ago there was a push to find land for vegetable gardens in Painswick. Sadly, this didn't work out. We would like to try again.

Do you fancy growing your own vegetables and fruit – but lack the space? Skills? Motivation? Or time? Do you think you might like to be part of shaping and contributing to a community garden project of some kind? Perhaps a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), allotments or something else? Please contact us, telling us what you would like to do. Once we know how much interest there is, we will be better able to look for land in the village. Please email: painswickorchardgroup@gmail.com

Greg and Iris McCormick

All change at Handmade In – Painswick. Though the coffee will still be flowing

Anne-Marie Randall and Sandie Randle, founders and directors of Handmade In-Painswick, are very pleased to announce that the café aspect of their business will be under new ownership from the 5th June 2023. Lauren Bryan and Jayne Watts, long standing employees in the café and known to many of you, will be the new café proprietors and are launching their business Arts Café - Painswick Ltd. Sandie and Anne-Marie will continue to curate the work of local artists and artisans from Painswick and the Stroud District, which will be for sale in the shop. The café and shop will remain in the Gardner Room at the Painswick Centre.

Anne-Marie and Sandie are grateful to everyone who has welcomed and supported their enterprise. They have thoroughly enjoyed developing the café and meeting so many lovely people who have become regulars and friends. Going forward they will focus on their first love, the arts and their work with artists and makers, and are certain they are leaving the café in very safe hands. We are sure that you will continue to support Lauren and Jayne as they take the café forward.

Sandie Randle

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS by Terry Parker from the meetings held on 17th May

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 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Rob Lewis (Chairman), James Cross, Ann Daniels, Adrian Gyde, Ian Massey, Roey Parker, Martin Slinger. Apologies. Cllrs Andy Cash and Rosie Nash.

Public Questions

Mr David Allott enquired whether there had been a response to the Parish Council's letter concerning Golf Course Road. The Clerk said that there had been no reply but the matter was being handled by the full Council.

Matters requiring a decision

S.23/0876/OUT. Land adjoining Stamages House, Stamages Lane. Outline application for the construction of up to 3 self-build dwellings (resubmission of S.22/1437/OUT).

The Committee resolved to object to this application as Members considered that it did not accord with planning policy for a development outside of the settlement boundary and would not, the Members believed, be considered as an exception site application.

S.23/0708/HOLD. Chestnut Cottage, The Park. Erection of a two storey side & single storey rear extension. Resubmission of S.20/0342/HHOLD). The Committee agreed to support the application.

S.22/2699/FUL. Woolpack Inn, Slad Road, Slad. Installation of fire escape and external alterations to side elevation and installation of velux windows to rear. Resubmission of S.21/3021/FUL The application had already been approved by the Planning Authority.

S.23/0431/HHOLD. Farundell, Damsells Mill Lane, Sheepscombe. Single storey rear extension, alterations and landscaping. This application had already been approved by the Planning Authority.

S.23/0502/LBC. Woodside House, Slad Road. Provision of an en suite shower room within an existing bedroom. This application had already been approved by the Planning Authority.

S.23/0897/HHOLD. Trillgate, Slad. New greenhouse. The committee agreed to support this application.

S.23/0631/HHOLD. Mirfield, Stroud Road. Erection of first floor extension, change of external materials and replacement garage. Alterations to S.22/2437/HHOLD. The Committee agreed to support this application.

S.23/0755/HHOLD. Edgewood, Longridge, Sheepscombe. Raise the ridgeline, erection of single storey rear extension and alterations. Amendment to S.22/1392/HHOLD. The Committee agreed to support this application.

S.23/0748/FUL. Fletchers, Knapp, Catswood Lane. Construction of 3 agricultural general purpose buildings. The Committee agreed to support this application.

S.23/0749/FUL. Land at Briar Cottage, Sheepscombe. Erection of a single dwelling & associated works. The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this application pending a site visit.

S.23/0831/HHOLD. Tilia, Castle Close. Erection of single storey garage and workshop extension, single storey front porch, first floor dormer to front and first floor gable extension to rear with associated external material changes. The Committee agreed to support this application, subject to it being in accordance with planning policies in regard to privacy and that a condition be applied so that the garage was not used as a dwelling.

S.23/0887/HHOLD. Bulls Cross, Sheepscombe. Erection of roof extension, partial garage conversion and single storey extension. The Committee resolved to defer this application in order to understand more fully the conservation aspects.

S.23/0917/HHOLD. Falkland House, Gloucester Street. Erection of replacement single storey extension and alterations to landscaping. Erection of outbuilding. The Committee resolved to support this application.

S.23/0918/LBC. Falkland House, Gloucester Street. Replacement single storey rear extension, replacement

pointing, replacement doors and windows and further internal alterations. The Committee resolved to support this application.

The meeting ended at 7.38pm.

PARISH COUNCIL 7.40 pm.

Present: Cllrs Martin Slinger (Chairman), Ann Daniels, Adrian Gyde, Sandra Hunkin, Rob Lewis, Ian Massey, Roey Parker, Abigail Smith.

Apologies: Cllrs Andy Cash and Rosie Nash.

Public questions

A resident asked about space for a mother and toddlers group and was advised to speak with the Clerk. Mr Allott referred to his previous question concerning land at Golf Course Road. He also referred to a recent meeting concerning the wildflower area on the Recreation Ground. Mr Allott invited the Council Members to a meeting concerning the future of the Painswick Centre. The Clerk advised that Members could attend in a private capacity but not as Parish Council representatives.

Election of Chairman

The Council unanimously resolved to re-appoint Cllr Martin Slinger as Council Chairman.

Election of Vice Chairman

The Council unanimously agreed to re-appoint Cllr Andy Cash as Council Vice Chairman.

Committee representation

The Council agreed the membership of the following committees: Finance & General Purposes Committee, Rural Environment Committee, Planning Committee, Traffic Committee, Land & Buildings Committee.

Representatives on other bodies

The Council agreed their representatives to a number of local organisations. The details are available on the Parish Council's web site.

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County Councillor's Report

Cllr Williams had submitted her report to the Councillors prior to the meeting. The Councillors agreed to hasten the public consultation regarding the safety measures being proposed on the A46 at Broadham.

Chairman's Report

Cllr Slinger in his report referred to the open meeting held on 3rd May at which representatives from various organisations and parish councillors had been present to answer questions from residents. At the same time, the Annual Report was published, which is available on the website. Cllr Slinger drew attention to the vacancy for a Slad Ward councillor. The Chairman said that the number of problems at the Painswick Centre had caused a considerable increase in the Clerk's and Deputy Clerk's workload. He wished to thank them on behalf of the councillors and local residents.

The Slavutych Friendship Group (SFG)

The group had a stall on the Recreation Ground on 8th May. One Ukrainian family wore a splendid national costume. Many visitors came to the stall and showed a

lot of interest. Twelve people put their names down to the pen-friend scheme. Also, kindness was shown by many who contributed £200 for a Slavutych charity devoted to restoring the mental and physical health of local soldiers injured in the war. Contact is being established between groups in Painswick and Slavutych who have common interests. A walking trail that connects the 3 'Friends of Slavutych' road signs has been devised. The route will be walked on Ukraine Independence Day, Wednesday 24th August and will be open to all-comers. Members of the Slavutych Women's Group and Golden Age University hand-wrote a letter of several personal comments that make it clear how much they value our friendship during these dark times (see page 10).

Painswick Centre

The Council unanimously agreed to register the Painswick Centre as an Asset of Community Value with Stroud District Council.

Annual Governance Statement

The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement for the Financial

Year ending 31st March 2023. The councillors extended their sincere thanks to the Deputy Clerk for ensuring that the accounts were prepared to such a high standard.

Ward reports

Cllr Abigail Smith wished to extend thanks to the Council's Office and Grounds Staff on behalf of the Community Support Group for all their support in helping with the preparation of the Coronation Community Event.

Cllr Abigail Smith updated the Council on a recent meeting with the new Highways Stakeholder and advised that he is looking into potential safety measures along Edge Road.

Cllr Roey Parker updated the Council on Sheepscombe matters including parking concerns, the grass cutting regime for the Village Green and the spring in the road, which is still awaiting further repairs.

Cllr Rob Lewis reported that the Signage to the Churchyard Walkway that was in the car park had gone missing.

The meeting ended at 8.49 pm.



A view of the Hall at the Parish Council 'Drop-In' Annual Meeting on May 3rd

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Painswick Probus Egypt in the 1980s



On Wednesday 26th May 2023 Club member and past president Ian Breckels spoke to members about a short period during his 35 year career with Shell, spent mostly abroad.

Ian joined Shell's research division initially but soon moved to upstream operations as a wellsite petroleum engineer. Ian's talk focused on a particular assignment in Egypt in 1981-83 when he was deployed as part of a small team whose task was to explore for oil and gas in a remote desert location, which was part of a concession area recently acquired by the company. The potential for hydrocarbon reserves had been identified by a geophysical survey team. Ian was accompanied by his wife, Dianna.

Based in Cairo, Ian and Dianna quickly learned that to get on with the locals it was important to keep smiling, whatever the challenge. These came in many forms. When driving, there were 2 rules: the biggest vehicle wins, and the driver with the most to lose gives way. Most traffic lights were best ignored, and the car's horn was vital for self-protection.

Site hazards in the Western Desert included relics of WWII ordnance such as landmines. Communications relied on 2-way radio. Drinking water was trucked from Cairo. Local water-well drillers were employed to supply industrial water for the drilling rig. An airstrip, essentially comprising firm sand, was prepared at each drilling location to enable rig crew changes and some material supplies. Exploratory drilling successfully confirmed an oil reservoir which was rapidly brought into production.

Soon after Ian's arrival in Egypt, President Sadat was assassinated. Reliable news was patchy apart from the BBC World Service, plus Dianna's access to information while working in the British Embassy in Cairo, both of which proved invaluable. The main lessons of his time there – keep healthy, keep a sense of humour and be prepared for the unexpected!

Henry Hall

Bath or Looe?

Members of Yew Trees WI were delighted that the Chair of the Gloucestershire Federation, Janice Cole, joined them for their meeting in April – a social evening optimistically welcoming the start of Spring!



Looks of alarm soon faded when members realised that the quiz they were challenged with required a devious mind rather than a high IQ. A knowledge of the UK helped the winning team to untangle the names of 30 towns e.g. "Most homes have one nowadays". This question caused contention, was it Bath or Looe? In order to keep the peace, both answers were allowed!

Revived by some refreshments, the evening ended on a very jolly note with our President, Jennie Preece, demonstrating various ingenious ways to tie a scarf. Some members proving more successful than others at this too!

Members were also delighted at the support for, and success of, our Coronation Cream Tea which resulted in two local charities benefitting from the profit made.

On Tuesday 27th June we look forward to welcoming Dr Gillian White who is well known to many Painswick residents as a very popular speaker. Her talk on "Henry VIII – Field of the Cloth of Gold" is open to all so we look forward to seeing many of you at 7.30 pm in the Church Rooms.

Celia Lougher 812624

Of cesspits and hedgehogs

On 28th April members listened to a fascinating talk by Angela Lerwill on "Writing a Book." She began writing the book after discovering her late mother's reminiscences of life on the family farm in which they all lived. The farmhouse had been built in the 16th Century and although it had been "modernised" to a certain extent it still had a "cesspit" that had to be regularly emptied! Among the many duties both mother and daughter undertook to assist with the running of the farm was collecting eggs from the hen house! Her book will be published later this year.



Then on 12th May, still keeping to the "Rural Life" theme, Marian Harper, from the Hedgehog Rescue Centre, gave an illustrated talk about what was a familiar garden visitor in the 1950's – the Hedgehog. Unfortunately since then there has been a significant fall in the Hedgehog population here in the UK. Hedgehogs are nocturnal and if you see one during daylight hours it will probably either be ill or injured. Please contact the local Hedgehog Rescue Centre, which is run by the speaker's daughter, Emily Harper. Telephone 07949 976717. Hedgehogs hibernate during the winter period and are just beginning to "wake up" and emerge back into our gardens and hedgerows. In addition to their normal diet of caterpillars, beetles and small insects they have developed a liking for cat food! Several members had kindly donated cat food.

Onto June. On the 9th Malcolm Lewis will be playing and talking about "Classic Radio Signature Tunes" – should bring back memories for most of us! Then on the 23rd, Harvey Sagar, local retired Neurologist and Author, will talk to us on "Tales and Verses of Medicine and other Times." Intrigued! Come along and find out! We meet in the Town Hall at 2.30pm. See you there.

Mike Kerton

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Excursions for summer and beyond London, Devon & Tewkesbury

As we bring our winter season of talks to a close, we can look forward to an exciting programme of excursions this summer.



Starting with a coach trip on 4th July to the Royal Chelsea Hospital in London, which was founded in 1692 by King Charles II. The impressive buildings, designed by Sir Christopher Wren among others, provide accommodation for some 300 Chelsea Pensioners, recognisable by their scarlet uniforms. There will be a 90-minute tour of the Hospital, together with an opportunity to visit either The National Army Museum (free) or the botanical Chelsea Physic Gardens (an additional £12.50), both within walking distance. The cost of the trip £50 pp includes coach and entrance/tour of the Hospital; non-members are welcome to join us. Further information from Robert Mann tel. 01453 872243. Booking deadline Monday 12th June.

Robert Mann has also arranged a longer excursion by coach to explore North Devon, based in Bideford, from Tuesday 19th to Friday 22nd September. Full itinerary and booking arrangements from Robert, contact details above.

Inspired by our recent talk about the John Moore Museum in Tewkesbury, Denise Magauran is organising our next self-drive excursion – date being finalised - which will include a guided tour of Tewkesbury Abbey and a visit to the Museum itself, which is housed in some of the best-preserved timber-framed buildings in England. Please contact Denise on 814570 for information and to book a place.

Sylvia May cnfsecretary1@gmail.com

Painswick Gardening Club

After a most interesting and enlightening talk by Emilie Woodger-Smith in May, we are all now aware of the best ways to introduce wildlife to our gardens and the merits of improving our garden soil and reducing pest control. She also introduced us to the benefits of composting either using a cold bin, hot bin or a Bokashi! This created a great deal of interest and many of these bins may soon be seen in Painswick.



Change of Date

James Cross, Head Gardener of The Bishops Palace Gardens in Wells will talk about their Past, Present and Future on Wednesday 7th June. (Not on 14th June as previously stated). He will look at the history, recent developments, plants and planting styles of this magnificent 14 acre garden. Do come along to the Town Hall for refreshments from 7 pm with the talk starting at 7.30 pm.

Visitors are always welcome.

Philippa Miller



More photos on the inside back page

Coronation Community BBQ

A huge thank you to everyone who braved the rain to enjoy the Painswick Community Support BBQ and make it such a fabulous event. Over 40 volunteers worked to set up, take down, serve tea and coffee and dish out over 550 hot dogs, burgers and veggie options. Others manned the Painswick Centre's pop-up Bad Apple bar to keep all thirsts quenched.

It was wonderful to be joined by fellow community clubs and societies - Painswick Local History Society, Painswick Beacon Conservation Group, Painswick Gardening Club, Citizens Advice, Flower Guild and Slavutych Friendship Group. All of whom put on fascinating displays and provided a real focal point. Painswick Bowling Club invited people onto their green to try their hand and our local Sportily group entertained the children with a range of games. In keeping with the Big Help Out day of the Coronation weekend, there was plenty to get involved with and sign up for!

When we started planning the event a couple of months ago, we never envisaged this level of enthusiasm from the community. With numbers exceeding our wildest dreams and the weather forecast getting worse and worse, it really was a rollercoaster of a run up! But with the tremendous support of volunteers, and the good humour of the community who turned out despite the rain, it was a truly memorable event.

And we raised over £660 that has gone into the kitty to support future Painswick Community Support endeavours. Watch this space!

Abigail, Delyth, Louise and Hannah, Painswick Community Support committee

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News from St Mary's

June promises to be a quieter month following all the activity in May. We will remember May for the Coronation of King Charles III, three Bank holidays and many local community events bringing people together. In the church we held a special Coronation communion service and celebrated Pentecost, one of our major Christian festivals.



The first Sunday in June, the 4th, is Trinity Sunday as we celebrate God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As this is the first Sunday of the month we will have a benefice service which will be at our church in Sheepscombe at 11am. It will be led by Revd. Paul Kenchington. All the Sundays after Trinity are named after Trinity for the remainder of this year, marked with the liturgical colour green.

On Sunday 11th June we celebrate the feast of St. Barnabas, one of the early disciples of Jesus. He became a constant missionary companion of St Paul as they took the gospel message around the whole of the Mediterranean area establishing new churches. One of our church house fellowships groups followed a study about St Barnabas recently, which we found very illuminating. He is called "Son of Encouragement" for the helpful support he gave to those new churches, not least the church at Antioch.

You will be aware of the appeal for the work needed on the church roof at St Mary's. This work is due to start during this month and will last for four months. The appeal has raised £216,000 so far which is short of target, so is still open for contributions. Any further support will be welcome.

David Newell

A look back at La Serenissima ... and a look ahead to next year

A wonderful season ended with the vibrant and captivating ensemble La Serenissima, who are the UK's leading exponent of Italian Baroque music. The group was founded in 1994 by violinist Adrian Chandler. A Guardian journalist has written of his "avant-garde approach that would have awed Hendrix". The programme, Crossing Borders, referred to the great interchange of music between Italy and Germany in the Baroque period. Vivaldi and Telemann were familiar, but new to nearly all of us, were Sieber, Schreyfogel and Brescianello, all inspired by Vivaldi. Adrian's introductions were filled with historical knowledge based on his own discoveries, anecdote and humour. Telemann concertos started and ended the concert, opening with a stately Moderato and ending with a dazzling and exhilarating duet played flawlessly by Katy Bircher (flute) and Tabea Debus (recorder). We were enthralled by this music, its energy, rhythm, nuances and melodies and the total commitment and musicality of the players.



Next year, our first concert features Catrin Finch, previously the Official Harpist to the Prince of Wales, and Aoife Ni Bhriain (fiddle) playing music with a folk theme. We look forward to welcoming again the renowned vocal ensemble Voces 8, followed by a local duo, Hannah Roper (violin) and Adrian Partington (piano) whose programme includes The Lark Ascending. The Meliora Collective - a flexible dectet (string quintet + wind quintet) - complete the line-up. As part of our educational outreach, there will be a youth violin masterclass and a choral workshop.

Thank you all very much for coming to our concerts and also for your generous donations and sponsorship. Along with all smaller music societies, we face the challenges of reduced audiences and increased costs, so please spread the word about our concerts and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Sue Pack

Stroud Choral Society - Saturday 17th June 7pm

Please join us for our Summer Concert on Saturday 17th June at 7pm, Holy Trinity Church Minchinhampton. We'll be singing the colourful Zimbe! Come, sing the songs of Africa! by Alexander L'Estrange, an uplifting celebration of African traditional song with vibrant jazz quintet, for adults and our children's choirs, The Minpins and Stroud Choral Youth Choir. It is an infectious piece, joyous, touching, moving. The programme also includes 'Songs and Cries of London Town' and 'A Little Jazz Mass' and other music by Bob Chilcott. This concert is an exciting departure for us and brings our singing community together.

Tickets will be £15 and include a programme, glass of prosecco or soft drink. 12-18 years £5, under 12 free. Tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk, M&B Stores in Minchinhampton, Shiny Goodness in Nailsworth, choir members or on the door.

Sue Pack

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How St. Mary's Street looked for several days in May

A master of musical impressionism

On 27th April Dr David Lucas visited us from Wiltshire to provide the Group with a most informative talk on the piano and orchestral compositions of Claude Debussy. Debussy and Elgar were born within 5 years of each other. The Frenchman however wrote neither symphonies nor concerti but, like Elgar, was self motivated and is viewed as an originator and master of musical impressionism. A Monet of musical composition, producing wonderful works for the piano, orchestra and chamber ensembles.



We heard movements from the 'Preludes' performed by Cypriot pianist Martin Tirimo and London Symphony Orchestra recordings under the baton of Sir Andre Previn. The Nocturne 'Sirenes' with wordless chorus was particularly memorable. It was fascinating to hear of the early influence of Gabriel Faure and the strained relationship with his compatriot Saint-Saens who more conventionally wrote lots of symphonies and concerti!

11th May saw the season finale and the PMAG party. Held in the evening (with the ever present threat from the weather), attendance was encouraging and enthusiastic. A delightful buffet was enjoyed by all and a variety of musical lollipops ranging from rag time opera to Irish folk tunes, Kiri Te Kanawa to Pavorotti and Bach to Mozart to Beethoven, was as ever competently DJ'd by Duncan Richardson. Thanks were made to Howard (standing down as Chairman) and Gill Allen and Michael Kerton (leaving the committee) for their years of support. We look forward to reconvening in the autumn.

Michael Grey



Don't miss the last Wick-Flix before the partial closure of the Centre, it is bound to be a fabulous night!

For the final (for now?) Wick-Flix, the wonderful team are showing 'What's Love Got To Do With It?'. A charming romantic comedy, it stars Lily James, Shazad Latif, and Emma Thompson.

*"A rom-com with some great zingers and spot-on social and cultural commentary."
Anne Brodie, What She Said*

Wick-Flix is a very special community cinema with a unique atmosphere. Tickets are £9 on the door, cash or card accepted. Doors open at 7pm, so come along and join us for a drink beforehand (your first one is included with the ticket price). We have a fixed capacity so it's best to arrive sooner rather than later to ensure you are not disappointed. The film starts at 7.45pm, and there will be an interval for more drinks at the bar as well as sweet & savoury snacks. We are delighted to serve Woodchester Valley Vineyard wines and Marshfield ice creams at our screenings.

Susie Andrews

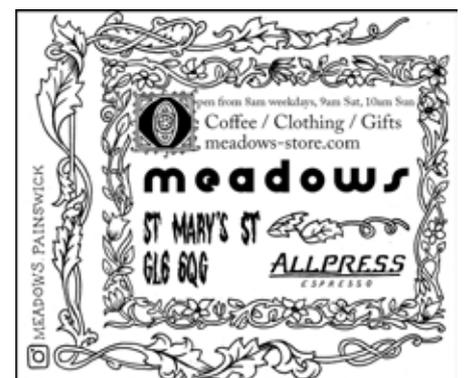
David Chapman writes:

Unfortunately, due to the partial closure of the Painswick Centre, this will be the last Wick-Flix for the time being. Wick-Flix first screened in November 2017 and, despite a two-year closure due to Covid, we will have shown 47 films to an average audience of 75.

We could not have achieved this without the support of our sponsors over the years, in particular Murray's Estate Agents, Woodchester Valley Vineyard and Goddard's Garage, who have supported us from the start.

I am also hugely grateful to the many volunteers that have helped us over the years and to the amazing Steering Team that month after month makes sure it all happens on the night.

Wick-Flix may have to reinvent itself to return in a new format at a different venue. Until then, thank you for watching and au revoir.



Letters

David Allott writes from Stamages Lane

Some Beacon readers may wonder why I ask so many questions at Parish Council meetings. I assure them it is not to be smart or difficult, and I am not 'grumpy' – well most of the time. I do believe though that our local democracy is important, fragile, and should be exercised. I admire the local team of councillors who, voluntarily, give up their time to advance our community's interests. So when I see a local issue and I would like it to have a public airing, I take advantage of the monthly '15 minutes set aside for public questions'. This is beside simple issues that are dealt with by a brief visit to the Parish Clerk.

For the future, I wish that other locals would come when they have a query, or merely to witness democracy in action. It would be nice to hear another voice, and I am sure the councillors would welcome that too!

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Wonderful visit to a unique building

A beautiful afternoon and a stunning, slightly mysterious mansion set in idyllic National Trust grounds – what more could the History Society hope for for its annual outing? Woodchester Mansion is certainly unique inasmuch as it was never completed and yet retains everything a building of its size, grandeur and elegance represents apart from the final coverings.



Liz Davenport gave members a superb guided tour starting with a summary of the background to the building of the house - William Leigh, a zealous Catholic, his wealth, the constantly changing designs and prolongation of the construction work, the influences on the architectural design, the final dwindling of his financial resources and the consequent state of incompleteness. The exterior of the mansion displays various architectural influences, the use of different building materials and the magnificent gargoyles for drainage purposes.



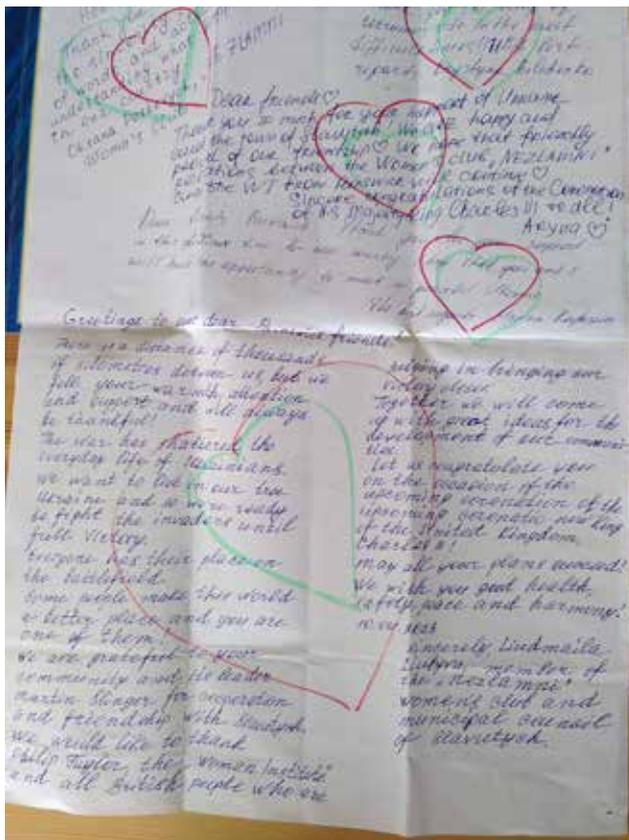
Gargoyle at The Mansion, Woodchester Park. Photo by Brian Robert Marshall

The interior is extraordinary and being able to physically experience the reality of this unfinished work is stunning. The Victorian building techniques, materials used, workmanship and stonework are fully evident in a way in which a completed building can never reveal.

Woodchester Mansion has little or no finishing 'touches', eg plaster and paint work, meaning all the basic building techniques normally hidden are on full view. Curiously however there are many

examples of exquisite artistic and decorative stone work despite other features remaining in a very basic state. This visit brought to life so much of what we think we know about Woodchester Mansion. All the incredible details covering design, techniques, materials, purpose, usage etc were there to be both enjoyed and understood by members and the overwhelming verdict was that it was amazing.

At the next meeting, the last of this season and also the AGM, members/visitors will be treated to a grand selection of Painswick photographs from the past. Croft School, 7.30pm, 20th June. Everyone welcome.
 Carol Maxwell



Slavutych

The photo on the left shows part of a handwritten letter of appreciation sent to the Slavutych Friendship Group (SFG) in Painswick by the Slavutych Women's Group, thanking the people of Painswick for our friendship and support.

Philip Taylor and the SFG

The origins of The Painswick Centre

At the turn of the twentieth century, Mrs Frances Sarah Williams was spending time in Painswick visiting her daughter, who had married the local vicar. She was a very wealthy widow, whose first husband had been part of the Lea & Perrins Worcester Sauce empire, and she had a habit of being very generous with that wealth. Frances Sarah decided to buy a plot of land in the middle of the village and instructed an architect to create 'The Painswick Institute and Working Men's Club'. In 1906 she laid the foundation stone at a large ceremony, but before she did so she placed a glass tube with a letter inside below the stone. The letter detailed what she hoped the building would bring to the community, and a copy of it was recently rediscovered in the Centre's archive material.

"This bottle was placed under the foundation stone of the Painswick Institute and Concert Hall by Mrs F S Williams who laid the stone on Dec 8th 1906. Mrs Williams... was struck by the want of any provision for indoor recreation or amusement for the working men & most generously decided to build the Institute & Hall, of which this stone forms a part, for the use & enjoyment of the men of Painswick. The Institution is not to be in connection with any religious body, but Mrs Williams feels that an opportunity to engage in healthy recreation & amusement might tend to brighten men's lives & benefit them both morally, mentally & physically.... When the building is complete it is to be handed over to Trustees for the benefit of the Town of Painswick forever."

Nine months later the building was complete, on time and on budget, built by local firm Burdock & Sons. It had been designed by William Curtis Green and featured fixings and fittings by notable Arts & Crafts designers including C R Ashbee, Ernest Gimson, and the now-infamous Eric Gill. The front of the building was designed to sit inconspicuously in the centre of the village, with the large, more modern-looking hall behind, placed at an angle so it does not dominate, and made of blocks using gravel from the pit on the Rec. A rifle range (now the skittle alley) was added in 1908, and the bowling green was also built although not formally opened until 1912, once the seeded grass had established enough to make the green playable. (The bowling green gave the working men somewhere to play as they were not permitted entry to the 'gentry's' bowling club behind the Falcon public house.)

While the Working Men's Club took up most of the front part of the building, plenty of other local clubs and societies also used the Institute. The local Women's Institute was officially formed there and met regularly, and women began to demand to be allowed to be members of the Institute, which was finally approved in 1923. The 'Working Men's Club' part of the building's title was fairly quickly dropped, and over time The Institute was shortened to simply the 'Stute. It became The Painswick Centre in 2002, after the closure of the Working Men's Club in 1997.



Mrs. Williams saying goodbye to the architect William Curtis Green at the opening ceremony in 1907. Courtesy of Gloucestershire Archives.



Princess Diana visiting the Guild of Gloucestershire Craftsmen exhibition in 1985. Courtesy of Gloucestershire Archives.

Over its long 116-year life, the 'Stute/Centre has faced many changes and challenges. The first big fundraising campaign was needed by the early 1930s to re-roof the building; and the original gift of land by Frances Sarah Williams had included around eight cottages, which appear to have been sold off over the course of the last century, presumably to obtain injections of funds. The building was briefly requisitioned by the Ministry of Defence at the outbreak of the Second World War, before being handed back and becoming the 'Painswick Canteen', established to feed evacuees and locals during the war. The closure of the Working Men's Club in 1997 was a time of huge change and tumult, but the community rallied to allow the Centre to re-establish itself.

For well over a century, the Centre has been home to many clubs and societies, has hosted countless exhibitions, plays and community events, welcomed royalty, fed schoolchildren, and brought people together. It has, as Frances Sarah intended, 'tend[ed] to brighten men's [and women's] lives'. Long may that continue.

Susie Andrews

For further information on the history of the Centre, see Painswick Chronicle 20, available through the Local History Society

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Report from the Trustees of the Painswick Centre

The decision to partially close

We know that everyone has been shocked by the partial closure of The Painswick Centre. We acknowledge that the notice period has been very short and has undoubtedly caused difficulties for many users of the Painswick Centre and we are deeply sorry for this. We took the decision extremely seriously, however once the realities of the financial situation became clear, rapid action was necessary to stop hemorrhaging of funds. We made the decision to partially stop operations in line with guidance published by the Charity Commission (CC12), which outlines what Trustees are bound to do to attempt to avoid insolvency.

We recently undertook a detailed financial forecast exercise to help the Board understand the Centre's exact position. The forecast showed that if the Centre continued to operate as it was currently, it would have suffered a loss of over £60,000 by the end of this year. Several further financial forecast scenarios were then run which confirmed that the Centre would slip into insolvency if immediate action was not taken. At this point the Trustees concluded that the current financial model was not viable and the only option available was a partial, immediate closure. Activities currently continuing are those which make a positive financial contribution to costs and are self-administering. All negative financial contribution activities or those requiring administrative input have had to be given notice. The Centre still holds cash in reserve of c.£60,000, but this is not enough to cover current operational and maintenance costs, and would be completely exhausted within 7 months of continued operations. The partial closure has been actioned to safeguard as much of those cash reserves as possible to ensure a future for the Centre.

The financial situation

There has been recognition for a number of years amongst the Trustee body past and present that while the Centre's income looks to have largely 'washed its face', it has not generated enough to adequately maintain the 116 year old building. As a result, vital investment into the building itself has been dictated by available funds rather than by what has actually been needed to properly maintain the building. This has resulted in a 'sticking plaster' approach, which unfortunately is no longer viable and in fact has stored up problems which now require immediate – and costly – action if the Centre were to remain fully operational.

The financial forecast included a conservative estimate of £40,000 needing to be spent this year on immediate repairs to simply keep the Centre's doors open, including: a new boiler, guttering repairs and associated asbestos works, electrical supply problems, roof leaks, and drainage issues. In addition, a number of other unavoidable costs have arisen this year:

- Utility bills increasing from c.£7,000 per year to a projected £16,500 (this figure includes Government subsidy, which if removed will increase this forecast figure).
- Legal fees to change from an unincorporated charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (which would allow the Centre to set up a commercial arm to undertake permanent trading); and to register the charity's property with the Land Registry (a long-standing issue which dates back at least three decades).
- The cottage behind the Centre, which has traditionally brought in rental income, has significant structural damp issues and has recently been rendered uninhabitable. This will equate to a loss of income for the Centre of c.£5,000 for the remainder of this year, and an annual loss of income of at least £9,000 going forward until it is made habitable, with standing charges for utilities and Council Tax remaining payable.

KEY FINANCIALS

Please note all figures included here have not yet been subject to independent examination.

2022

Revenue:	£98,367
Expenses (direct & indirect):	£99,021
Profit/loss for the year:	-£653

Jan – April 2023

Revenue:	£31,543
Expenses (direct & indirect):	£38,466
Profit/loss to date:	-£6,923

Forecasts for full year 2023

Operating as is to year end:	-£68,000
Full closure:	-£27,000
Partial closure:	-£23,000

Moving forward

At the time of going to press over 400 responses have been received to the survey about the future of the Centre, and so far the response is overwhelmingly to save the Centre, with plenty saying they will volunteer time, money or skills to help. This is extremely positive and heartening. Those who have been involved over the past 5+ years have unanimously recognised that fundamental, large-scale change has been needed to the business model of the Centre; tweaking the current model will not be enough. The time for that change to happen is now. A new plan is needed that develops a long-term, relevant and sustainable future for The Painswick Centre in line with its charitable purpose.

A new board of Trustees is needed to step forward to develop that plan for the community, and in particular a new dynamic Chair is needed. That new board will also have the authority to convene one or more committees of volunteers to look at specific issues or tasks. The skills and experience needed across the board and any sub-committees will include Finance, Business/Commercial Development & Strategy, Buildings & Maintenance, Boards & Governance, Legal, Fundraising, H&S, Risk Assessments and Compliance, HR & Staffing, Project Management, Secretarial & Record Keeping. A recruitment process is now open. Anyone interested in being involved in making change happen by either being a Trustee or sitting on a volunteer committee, or by offering pro bono skills and advice, please send an email to info@painswickcentre.com by Friday 9th June.

The remaining three trustees will continue to progress necessary actions for the time being. We are not permitted to resign at this point due to Charity Commission rules to maintain a quorum, however, all are prepared to step down once a new board headed by a new Chair has been properly elected according to the charity's constitution.

The Trustees



Background to the changes at the Painswick Centre

How the story has unfolded ...

The announcement of the partial closure of the Painswick Centre from 12th June, came just after the Beacon's May edition went to press and seems to have come as a shock to most local people. The Handmade In - Painswick Café and Shop, Wick-Flix, the Art Studios and the various food events have shown a lively spirit of enterprise and have given the impression of a thriving Centre for the community. Numerous local groups have also used the Centre on either a regular or occasional basis, fulfilling the vision of its benefactor over 100 years ago (see page 11).

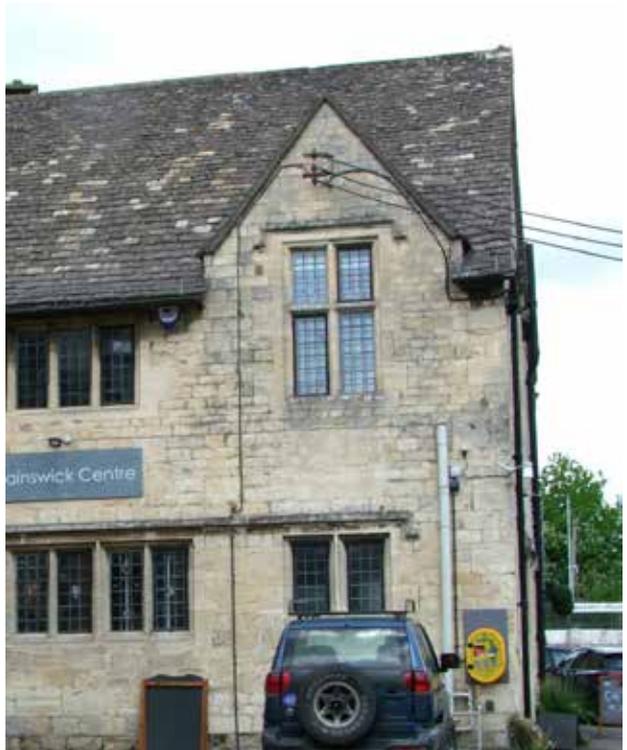
Even to those who had studied the Centre's accounts, the closure came as a surprise. The Trustees' Report and Financial Statements presented to the last AGM in September 2022, showed a small surplus, together with cash holdings of over £70,000. The Trustees then reported 'a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future'. There had been small surpluses in previous financial years as well - £6,333 in 2018, £394 in 2019, £5,049 in 2020 and £2,404 in 2021. The latest figures show a deficit of £653 in 2022.

However there have been disagreements amongst the Trustees over a number of issues. Five Trustees resigned at the AGM in September 2022, leaving just three remaining Trustees - John Podmore, Judie Hill and Roy Wallis, all of them local people working on a voluntary basis. Facing a difficult financial situation, it was this group that made the decision to close down some activities, as described in their report opposite.

Groups who made regular use of the Centre had to scramble to find alternative accommodation. That included Wick-Flix as well as societies such as Painswick Probus, the Cotteswold Naturalists and the Arts Society and a range of exercise classes and sports activities, including Yoga, Pilates, Aikido and Badminton amongst others. Kim Brockett, who has run Yoga classes at the Centre for several years, was one of those who felt that there must be alternatives to the closure and that urgent action was necessary. She worked together with former Trustees John Williamson and David Allott and Parish Councillor Adrian Gyde, to convene the Town Hall meeting on 22nd May.

The Group realised that more community involvement would be essential to achieve success and so also worked to gather commitments of both practical and financial support. Perhaps more controversially, they proposed using a provision in the Trust Deed that enables user groups to appoint Trustees outside the normal process and were able to find sufficient volunteers willing to be appointed in this way. However, recognising the level of support and commitment that the group had gathered, the Trustees agreed to work with them to achieve a transition to the new arrangements.

It remains the case, regardless of who the Trustees are, that the Painswick Centre faces some significant challenges. Nobody doubts that the costs of maintenance of the building are very significant, that energy prices have increased substantially, and that significant voluntary effort will be needed both to overcome the current issues and to keep the Centre running in future. Appeals for further practical and financial support seem almost inevitable. But the spirit that has been shown in the last few weeks suggests that there are still many more chapters to be written in the already long history of the Centre.



Parish Council Annual Report

The Annual Report of the Parish Council has been published and is available in full on the Parish Council website. The Chairman, Cllr. Martin Slinger, commends the work of Painswick's Community Support Groups in revitalising the community after Covid, while there are separate short contributions from the chairmen of each of the Council's Committees.

On Finance, Cllr. Ian Massey reports on the budget for 2022 – 23, which has seen an increase of under 6 per cent, while Cllr. Abigail Smith, chairman of the Traffic Committee, reports on EV chargers, the Broadham traffic lights and ANPR cameras as well as other measures aimed at speed awareness.

Anne-Marie Randall
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A recognition of success



I recently hosted a meeting of butterfly and conservation experts on the Beacon. The aim was to better understand how we could manage woodland edges for wildlife, particularly the pearl bordered fritillary, a rare butterfly which is making a comeback locally. Small numbers have been seen in our area over the last few years. This was sent to me for inclusion in the Beacon magazine.

“My name is Alan Sumnall, and I am the Lead Land Manager East for the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. I oversee the management of our reserves in the East of the County, but also work with partners to link our sites in Nature Recovery Zones (NRZ’s). This is all about being bigger-better-more-joined; bigger areas of habitat, in better condition, more of it, and importantly, joined throughout the landscape. This will increase habitat resilience, allow wildlife to disperse into the wider countryside, building larger, more resistant populations. I work with many partners to achieve this vision and a prime example is Painswick Beacon. To my shame, I have not visited the Beacon since before the pandemic. I was invited by Paul Baxter regarding its potential for woodland butterflies as several of our sites support target species. I had heard a lot about the Beacon, particularly the success of the NoFence grazing.

The impact of the NoFence grazing is incredible; I visited during the last week of April, which had been a cold month by recent standards. There was little in flower, but the rosettes of many indicator species were easy to spot, and the mosaic of grazing sward heights created was brilliant. There were short areas with numerous Orchids germinating, areas of longer grass with countless Cowslips, and what really caught my attention was the number of Juniper plants. Locally, Juniper is of concern, but this visit gave me hope as it was germinating everywhere. Paul and everyone involved with the management of the Beacon should be very proud of what they have achieved as this is not easy, especially working with livestock.

The heterogeneity of grazing heights, scrub, and woodland edge habitat, avoiding a uniform structure, will provide increased micro-niches for many different species. Taking butterflies as an example, the longer areas will support Duke of Burgundy (with national declines in distribution by 89%), whereas the shorter areas will support the reintroduced population of Large Blue (formerly extinct in the UK and building a stronghold in the Cotswolds). Back to the woodland. There is huge potential here and we saw numerous indicator species including Wild Strawberry and Woodruff. With some coppicing, creating scalloped edges, and selective thinning, this part of the Beacon could easily support increased species, including those which we came to discuss. The NoFence has been a huge success; now onto the woodland!”

Paul Baxter

New Directions for Qwerty A question of quality

The past three years have undoubtedly been a challenging period of flux and uncertainty for many. For one young Painswickian however, this has been a time of definite positive progress on an impressive scale. Three years ago the Beacon reported the launch of QWERTY, a brand new enterprise featuring Cotswold craft beers, by Quinn Leatherbarrow-Stokes. So, three years on, how is the business faring?

Quinn’s unwavering drive, energy and belief in the product together with his outstanding business acumen have produced remarkable results. He and his business partner Niki now work with 80 craft breweries across the south of England – an amazing achievement for two young men (both only 25). They have also recently established a highly regarded digital advertising agency, Qwerty Commerce, which helps independent breweries, and also other small businesses, to improve their on-line sales.

The other well established aspect of the business is the independent craft beer hampers featuring the ‘best of’ selections from the many small breweries Quinn and Niki have chosen to work with. These are ideal as gifts and an added bonus for Painswick residents is a 10% discount! Just type in the discount code ‘PAINSWICK’ at checkout. This side of the business is flourishing with daily deliveries both near and far. There is a website www.QWERTYBeerBox.co.uk and orders can be placed by email QWERTYbeerbox@gmail.com

Proud to be able to support local businesses such as the Best of Cotswolds, Quinn is undaunted after all this time in his passion to develop the business. “We have come a long way in three years,” he says “but there’s still a long way to go.” Without doubt this young man from Painswick is set to achieve great things.

Carol Maxwell



Niki and Quinn

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High summer in Britain's most beautiful alternative garden

With the sun properly warming the earth as I write this, outdoor events suddenly feel like the most natural thing – and luckily we have plenty lined up over the next two months.

For a fresh perspective on life, try solstice yoga with local expert Kate Beatty during the evening of Wednesday 21st June. It's the ultimate chance to enjoy the Garden in the twilight and to pause, reflect and connect whilst appreciating the great outdoors at a special time of year. For more information and to book see <https://www.facebook.com/katebyoga/> Later that week, on Friday 23rd June, we would be delighted to see you for our first ever Village Picnic – see separate article below.

Painswick
Rococo
Garden

Summer simply wouldn't be summer without the excitement of outdoor shows. Coming up at the end of this month we welcome back The Handlebards who will be performing Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" on 30th June and 1st July. Nothing can be better than a show in the open air with the Rococo Garden as the backdrop - it is magical. Then on Friday 7th July, those consummate performers Wild Arts present "Opera on the Bowling Green". It promises to be a stylish and memorable evening you will not want to miss. I've booked my tickets already, so with any luck the weather will be perfect! For more detail about each performance and to book, please visit the what's on pages of www.rococogarden.org.uk.

Finally, June visiting. We are open Wednesday to Sunday 10-5pm. No advance booking is needed – just turn up – but if you want to guarantee admission and save time then you can book and pay online. I guarantee it is one of best times in the Garden, especially in the kitchen garden, which is in its prime. At the height of summer you can easily while away an hour in the sun with a loved one whilst you sip on a limited edition Rococo Cider (which I mentioned last time – now on sale!) That's everything for this month. I do hope to see you in the Garden.

Tim Toghill, volunteer

A thank you and an invitation Village Party invitation June 2023

On the evening of Friday 23rd June from 5.30 to 8.30pm, the Rococo Garden team are opening the gates to the Garden for free to local residents as a thank you for their support over the last few years. If you live in Painswick and surroundings, you are warmly invited to bring friends and family to come and see the Garden in its summer splendour and enjoy a relaxed evening together.

As well as free admission, a free glass of summer punch will be offered on arrival (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic options will be available) – please bring your own cup/glass/bottle as we do not own enough glasses! A bottle bar will be available at the entrance serving our own Rococo Garden ale and cider (which are made with Garden hops and apples respectively) as well as gin & tonic, prosecco and Woodchester Valley wines. We will also be selling our own range of ice creams.



The Kitchen Garden. Photo by Joab Woodger Smith

All you need for admission is to bring a copy of this magazine or other evidence of living in the GL6 postcode area eg a utility bill. Please bring a blanket and a picnic if you would like. Garden games will be provided on the Bowling Green.

The evening will only be cancelled in the event of extreme weather – if in any doubt, please check the news section of rococogarden.org.uk on the day. Any questions in advance of the day, please email info@rococogarden.org.uk.

The Painswick community has been absolutely critical to the Rococo Garden Trust's survival over the past three years. Despite the pandemic and our move out of our base at the Coach House last year, the Garden continues to thrive. This is in large part thanks to the loyal support of our volunteers, Friends and donors who have allowed us to continue to look after this much-loved historical gem.

Dominic Hamilton, Garden Director

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Painswick Sports

assembled by John Barrus

Lissey's Team Success at the Billie Jean Cup

Great Britain (GB) received a tough draw against France who are seeded number 3 in the world. Katie Boulter and Harriett Dart played in the first three singles matches. Both players nearly pulled off wins but lost all the singles matches on tie breaks.

Lissey Barnett and Olivia Nicols played the last match against a top seeded French pair: Burel/Miadenovic. A tight first set was won by GB 7-5; however, the French came back strongly to win the second set 3-6. The French players went on to dominate a ten-point tie-break racing to a 2-8 lead. Point by point, Lissey and Liv built up the noise from the capacity crowd. Suddenly, it was 8-8 and the GB pair went on to win the match 11-9, receiving a massive crowd ovation.



Lissey attended the Gloucestershire LTA awards dinner where she was a guest of honour and received a standing ovation for her achievements award. Lissey and Liv have now been granted automatic entry to the French Grand Slam. They will now have played in all four Grand Slams.

Lissey, who was chosen as Joint Painswickian of the Year at the end of last year, is a member of Painswick Tennis LTC and can highly recommend it to all standards of tennis players. If you are interested, please contact the secretary, Ruth Smith on 07919 246386
Nigel Barnett

Cricket

Painswick Cricket Club began their WEPL Premier 2 season against Goatacre. In a closely fought match Painswick lost by 4 wkts. Main contributors for Painswick were John Connolly scoring 66 and Jarren Bacher taking 5 wkts for 34 runs in an impressive display. The following Saturday against Hatherley and Reddings, Painswicks fortunes changed. Luke Woolway scored a superb 137 not out plus a tight bowling display saw Wick win by 12 runs.



The second team lost their match to Hatherley and Reddings on the final ball. Andy Barnard top-scoring for Painswick with a fantastic 94, Matt Curtis supporting with an fabulous 78. Adam Wager weighed in with 34 runs to boost things at the end of the innings. Emily Austen was top of the bowlers for Painswick with 8 overs 2 wkts and 44 runs. The seconds also recovered the following Saturday with a victory over Lechlade by 5 wickets.

Mid week saw the first team return to winning ways with a comfortable victory over Apperley by 5 wkts. Bowling highlights were Ruby Eklins, Oscar Newcombe and Tig Galvin all claiming two wkts. Batting wise Luke Woolway (37) and Nath Fagg (38) steered Painswick home.

Thankfully the rain has decided to go away for a while, this has enabled all our junior sides to start enjoying their matches.

Steve Pegram

Badminton

The annual Badminton club tournament was held at the end of April in the Painswick Centre. After many close games the winners in the final were Rebecca Attwater and John Barrus, runners up Steve Pratt and Julia Richardson.



Pictured opposite is Club Chairman Mohammed Hussain presenting the cup to the winners on the right. The Badminton club regrettably may have to move elsewhere in the light of the current trustees closing the hall and with no information forthcoming.

John Barrus

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Update from The Croft School

It's been a very busy half term and we have packed lots in since we returned from the Easter break!

Like many, the children enjoyed celebrating the King's Coronation; they learnt some songs and made their own crowns, as well as joining their friends for an indoor picnic.

In other music news, Year 4 have been learning clarinet with the Gloucestershire Music Service this term. We also now have 50 pupils across the whole school from Reception to Year 6 having instrumental lessons at school with a variety of peripatetic teachers. To recognize their achievements, several have taken part in our Croft Music Showcase, as well as demonstrating their musical skills in our 'Croft's Got Talent' show. Well done everyone!

Children in Key Stage 2 have taken part in some exciting trips this term. We took 30 children to London to watch 'Matilda the Musical'; they had a fantastic (if very tiring!) time and can't wait to go again next year! Years 3, 4 and 5 spent a day at the Corinium Museum in Cirencester finding out lots of facts about Romans for their enquiry lessons.

Finally, a huge well done to our Year 6 children who showed great resilience during SATs week. We are very proud of them and their hard work in their final year at The Croft!

Cat Martin, School Administrator



Jottings

A lot of the grassland you see in our valleys, whether permanent or short term, has been sown. There is very little "Ancient Grassland", which has never been ploughed, left in the country.

There are some sixteen different grass species and varieties which are planted these days, often in mixes. At least four of them are Ryegrasses which are shown to be the fastest to grow to get a good crop. Then there are four which are deep rooting, like Cocksfoot, Timothy and two types of Meadow Fescue.

These may be increasingly used in the future because with them having deep roots they can cope better in drought conditions. The Red Fescue, known as the chewing grass, is fine leaved. It tolerates drought well and may also be one of the grasses used in lawn mixes. All of these can be grazed or cut for hay or silage.

Legumes, members of the pea family, such as clover, can trap nitrogen from the air and make it available for use by other plants in the soil. Key legumes include Lucerne, Sainfoin, Sweet clovers and the vetches amongst others which are deep rooting and can cope with drought conditions. Then there are herbs like Chicory, Ribgrass, Yarow, Salad Burnet and Sheeps Parsley. These increase diversity and lift trace elements from deep within the soil. They can be mixed with regular grassland species to increase grazing diversity.

So there you have a good collection for your grassland planting. If you plant the right seeds you can get shorter growth height just for grazing and then there are other seed mixtures giving short or high final growth height for hay and silage. Then of course there are specialised mixtures for horses, to graze and to plant on their paddocks, race courses, polo pitches, and arenas.

There are environmental seed mixtures of all types for field margins, pollination and food for birds. Wild flower mixes may have up to twenty-eight different types of seed depending on what conditions they will experience – acid or alkaline, high or low land, cold frost areas or sheltered sites. Even down to your lawn, tennis courts and cricket pitches you can find just about any seed mixture.

Martin Slinger



Mohammed Hussain presents the Badminton trophy (see page opposite)

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News from the Library

Locally-born and educated David Donaldson has written a book "A Painswick Panorama", recently published by Ex-Libris Press, which is a series of over 100 interconnected poems. As he says in the Preface "... a labour of love, having grown up in Painswick ... a serious attempt to come to grip with its astonishing history". David will read extracts at a Launch Event at the Library on Thursday 15th June 11.00 – 12.00. All are welcome, with no charge!



We are very grateful to Pat Pinnegar who has stepped down from her roles as trustee and as our chief book-buyer. Her shoes cannot be filled by one person alone, so Paul Kenchington and Jenny Cumming are leading a team of volunteers to keep the Library up to date with new books. A selection of the latest new books coming shortly is given below, with the full list on the Library's website: www.painswickcommunitylibrary.org.uk

Ian Cridland

Adult Fiction:

Old God's Time
Trespasses
Exiles
Demon Copperhead
Atlas
Bournville

Sebastian Barry
Louise Kennedy
Jane Harper
Barbara Kingsolver
Lucinda Riley
Jonathan Coe

Adult Non-Fiction

Meadowland
Horizon
A Short History ... in 50 Lies
We are Bellingcat
Freezing Order

John L. Stempel
Barry Lopez
Natasha Tidd
Eliot Higgins
Bill Browder

Junior

The Cosmic Diary...
Bluey Swim School
The World's Worst Children 3
The Magic Faraway Tree
Mission: Total Confidence

Tim Peake
Bluey
David Walliams
Jacqueline Wilson
Ant Middleton

Foodbank

The Trussel Trust has issued its End of Year statistics which make for sobering reading. Food banks in the Trussell Trust network distributed close to 3 million emergency food parcels nationally between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023. This is the most parcels that the network has ever distributed in a financial year and represents a 37% increase from the same period in 2021/22. With your help, we have contributed to this support for those in need – thank you!

Our next collection will be on Wednesday 14th June in the Stamages Lane car park. PLEASE NOTE – we will no longer be collecting at the stocks, only in the car park.

Please may we ask for non perishable food items, in particular cooking oil, tinned vegetables and potatoes, jam, peanut butter, marmite, savoury snacks, washing up liquid and laundry liquid. Your help has made a real difference!

The Foodbank Team

Property Report

A busier month this time, with both local agents reporting several new properties now available, although mostly slightly outside the main village. Very much in the village though is Stonebarrow on Tibbiwell, a three bedroom cottage dating from the late 1700s (Hamptons, £700,000). In Pitchcombe, Hillcrest on Halfway Pitch is a beautifully renovated 5 bed period property with a separate studio (Murrays, offers over £850,000) and Greyholme on Lurks Lane is a detached 4 bedroom home with landscaped gardens and stunning views (Hamptons, £750,000).

The Painswick Pooch Coffee House, with a 2 bedroom apartment over it, is back on the market through Murrays at £379,000, and at Painswick Court, on the road from The Park to Sheepscombe, there is a package of three converted barns, with scope for multi-generational occupation, guest accommodation or rental income (Hamptons, Price on application). In Slad, The Old Chapel, a former Congregational Chapel, has been converted into modern family accommodation, but still with many original features (Hamptons, £1,150,000).

Properties going under offer include Upper Cottage in Tibbiwell, Gerrans in Orchard Mead and Old Barn House in Cranham (all through Murrays) as well as Little Acre in Kemps Lane, 17 Churchill Way and Flat 6, Hyett Orchard (through Hamptons). Sheepphouse Cottage on Stepping Stone Lane, built in the 1930s for a local brewing family, but very much in the traditional Cotswold style, has now completed through Hamptons. Tilia in Castle Close, New Cottage at Painswick Court, Sevenacres near Sheepscombe and Taliesin in Edge have also completed and contracts have been exchanged for 4 Juniper Cottages on Wick Street.

The Hamptons Coffee Morning and Plant Sale on 13th May was a great success, raising over £1,000 to be split between Mind and Cancer Research UK/ Bowelbabe. Their thanks to all those who donated cakes and plants and everyone who attended and helped to raise such a great amount of money.



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

Please note that anything booked in the Painswick Centre may be subject to change

Mondays	Gentle pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538	Painswick Centre	8.45 - 9.45am	
	Improvers pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538	Painswick Centre	9.50 - 10.50am	
	Beginners/improvers pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538	Painswick Centre	10.55 - 11.55am	
	Ballyhoo modern dance classes (primary grade modern). Info from Julie ballyhoochalford@gmail.com	Painswick Centre	from 3.45pm	
	Community Choir. Contact sophie@sophiesterckx.co.uk	Painswick Centre	7.00 - 8.30pm	
	Short Mat Bowls. All equipment provided. 2.00/session	Town Hall	2.00 - 4.00pm	
	Mindful Meditation with Kate. www.kate-beatty.co.uk/07793126234	Painswick Centre	12.30 - 1.00pm	
	Painswick Singers . Contact Jean Jones 01452 813545.	Richmond	7.30pm	
	Painswick Bootcamp. Details contact Becca Meadows 01452 451505 or info@beccameadowsnutrition.co.uk	Broadham Field Rugby Pitch	7.30 - 8.30pm	
	Tuesdays	Drawing classes. Info from Susan Skester skester@outlook.com	Painswick Centre	9.30 - 12.00pm
Zumba with Martina 07891 194396		Painswick Centre	9.45 - 10.45am	
Painswick Art Club		Church Rooms	9.30 - 1.00pm	
Rococo Sprites. See www.rococogarden.org.uk		Rococo Garden	9.45 am	
Wednesdays	Strength and Balance class for the over 60s. Contact Trish Tenn on 07956 4666617 or tennpatricia@gmail.com	Church Rooms	10.00 - 11.00am	
	Classical Pilates Mat Classes. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or josephinedaley@me.com	Youth Pavilion	10.30 - 11.30am	
	Painswick Bridge Club. Contact Peter Sibley on 812126 or Margaret Wilson on 812305	Church Rooms	7.00pm	
	Table tennis. Contact David on 01452 812464	Painswick Centre	7.00 - 8.30pm	
	Yoga with Kate. www-kate-beatty.co.uk/07793126234	Painswick Centre	7.30 - 8.45pm	
	Strength and Conditioning Circuits. www.lovelifeladies.co.uk	Painswick Centre	12.30 - 1.30pm	
	After school art classes. Email classes@painswickcentre.com . Term time only	Painswick Centre	3.45 - 5.15pm	
	Thursdays	Morning Market	Painswick Centre	8.30 - 9.30am
		Yoga. Contact Kim on yoginikim@icloud.com	Painswick Centre	9.30 - 11.00am
		Nurturing yoga. Contact Kim on yoginikim@icloud.com	Painswick Centre	11.15 - 12.45pm
Tai chi. Contact Joe on 07960 753782		Painswick Centre	1.30 - 2.30pm	
Dog Training Club. Contact Fiona Chapman on 01452 812462 or fiona.chapman123@btinternet.com		Church Rooms	10.00 - 12.00pm	
Qi Gong Classic Exercise - contact Jeff Docherty on jeffdocherty@yahoo.com		Town Hall	9.30 - 10.30am	
Classical Pilates Mat Classes. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or josephinedaley@me.com		Town Hall	5.45 - 6.45pm	
Takeaway Food Night		Painswick Centre	5.00 - 8.00pm	
Fridays	Yoga for Backs. Contact Kim on yoginikim@icloud.com	Painswick Centre	9.30 - 11.00am	
	Ballet with Claire Tracey. Contact BalletClaire@outlook.com	Church Rooms	9.30 - 10.30 am	
	Painswick Community Hub Café: serving tea, coffee and homemade cakes. All welcome	Town Hall	10.00 - 11.30am	
	Church Choir Practice. Contact Chris Swain cgswwain:btinternet.com or 01453 822998	St Mary's Church	5.30 - 6.30pm	
	Classical Pilates Mat Classes. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or josephinedaley@me.com .	Church Rooms	11.00 - 12.00pm	
	Tea, cake & watercolours art course starts April 14th for 6 weeks	Painswick Centre	2.00pm	
	Painswick Baby and Toddler Group - Term time only	Youth Pavillion	9.30 - 11.30am	
Sundays	Mass	Catholic Church	8.30am	
	Quaker Meeting for Worship	Meeting House	10.30am	
	Aikido www.gloucestershireaikido.club .	Painswick Centre	8.30 - 11.00am	



Village Diary

Please let me know your club and society dates for the diary on cvasp.26@gmail.com. Please note that anything booked in the Painswick Centre may be subject to change.

June

Fri	2	Painswick Beacon published		
Wed	7	Painswick Probus: The Royal Progress of 1535 - Alan Pilbeam	Painswick Centre	10.00 for 10.30am
	7	Gardening Club: The Bishops Palace Gardens, past present and future - James Cross	Town Hall	7.00 for 7.30pm
Thurs	8	The Art Society: Feasts and Fantasy - Nicole Mezey	Painswick Centre	from 10.00am
Fri	9	Friday Club: Classic Radio Signature Tunes - Malcolm Lewis	Town Hall	2.30pm
	9	Wick-flix: What's Love Got to do With It	Painswick Centre	7.00 for 7.45pm
Sun	11	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church	10.00am
Weds	14	Painswick Centre Public Meeting	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Thurs	15	Reading by David Donaldson from his new book of poetry 'A Painswick Panorama'. Admission Free.	Community Library	11.00am to 12 noon
Sat	17	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group - guided walk. Email pmbaxtersfm@gmail.com or 07971 633242	Beacon	10.00am
	17	Paradise House Open Day	Paradise House	1.00 - 3.00pm
Sun	18	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church	10.00am
	18	Deadline for Beacon Copy		
Mon	19	Library Book Club	Library	1.30 - 2.30pm
Tues	20	Local History Society - AGM, followed by a talk illustrated with old photos of Painswick	Croft School	7.30pm
Fri	23	Friday Club: tba		
Sun	25	Beacon Praise	St Mary's Church	10.00am
Tues	27	Yew Trees WI: Henry VIII - Field of the Cloth of Gold - Gillian White. This is an Open Meeting - 4.00/visitor	Church Rooms	7.30pm
Wed	28	Painswick Probus: Henry Hall Part 2	TBC	10.00 for 10.30am
Fri	30	Painswick Community Hub coffee morning hosted by Richmond	Richmond Auditorium	9.30 - 11.00 am
Fri	30	Painswick Beacon published		

Paradise House Open Day Painswick crimes, June 1893 Saturday 17th June

Painswick residents are invited to an Open Day at Paradise House on Saturday 17th June, from 1pm to 4pm. BBQ, cakes, teas, coffees, and other drinks available for all visitors, as well as a chance to look at spaces being redeveloped to support the work of the Community.

Albert and Mary Jane Creed, charged with being drunk and disorderly in Vicarage Lane June 10th. He pleaded guilty, his wife not guilty. PC Packer proved the case. Both defendants, who have been convicted "over and over again", were sentenced to 14 days hard labour. *Stroud News*

Leonard Screen, charged with stealing three onions, value 1d, the property of George Merrett. Merrett deposed: I live in Painswick, am a labourer. I have been missing onions for the last six weeks from my allotment garden. On 14th June at nearly 9.00pm I passed along, had a look at my onion bed and put myself in hiding. I saw defendant coming in, going to his allotment and picking some thistles. When there was no-one else around he came to my onion bed and commenced to pull some onions. I shouted "Now I've caught you; I've been looking for you for some time." He ran away, dropping three onions which I picked up. They corresponded to those growing in my garden. Fined 2s.6d. *Stroud News*
Carol Maxwell



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PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

S.23/0876/OUT Land Adjoining Stamages House, Stamages Lane
 Outline application for the construction of up-to 3 self-build/custom build dwellings (resubmission of S.22/1437/OUT)
 S.23/0887/HHOLD Bulls Forge, Bulls Cross, Sheepscombe
 Erection of roof extension, partial garage conversion and single storey extension.
 S.23/0917/HHOLD Falkland House, Gloucester Street
 Erection of replacement single storey extension and alterations to landscaping.
 Erection of outbuilding.
 S.23/0918/LBC Falkland House, Gloucester Street
 Replacement single storey rear extension, replacement pointing, replacement doors and windows and further internal alterations.
 S.23/0620/HHOLD Highpoint, Golf Course Road
 Installation of solar panels on roof.
 S.23/0967/HHOLD Sen Sook, Far End, Sheepscombe
 Erection of first floor extension, replacement garage, single storey rear extension and landscaping.
 S.23/0922/TCA Gyde House, Gyde Road
 T1. Ash - Fell. T2. Ash and Acer group - remove stems.

CONSENT

S.22/2699/FUL Woolpack Inn, Slad Road, Slad
 Installation of fire escape and external alterations to side elevation and installation

of velux windows to rear. (Resubmission of S.21/3021/FUL)
 S.23/0005/HHOLD 5 Gloucester Road
 Proposed two storey side extension.
 S.23/0080/LBC 2 Rosebank Cottages, Slad Road, Slad
 Insertion of a single roof light.
 S.23/0465/LBC Painswick Mill Cottage, Ticklestone Lane
 Remodelling of existing single storey extension to rear. (Resubmission of S.22/1615/LBC)
 S.23/0464/HHOLD Painswick Mill Cottage, Ticklestone Lane
 New garage and remodelling of existing single storey extension to rear. (Resubmission of S.22/1614/HHOLD)
 S.23/0431/HHOLD Farundell, Damsells Mill Lane, Sheepscombe
 Single storey rear extension, alterations and landscaping.
 S.23/0502/LBC Woodside House, Slad Road
 Provision of an en-suite shower room within an existing bedroom.
 S.23/0654/HHOLD Ridgewood, Queens Mead
 Replacement of existing porch canopy with enclosed porch.

WITHDRAWN

S.23/0605/HHOLD Trillgate, Slad
 Replacement studio building.

REFUSED

S.23/0565/FUL and S.23/0566/LBC Painswick House, Gloucester Road
 Conversion of existing visitor centre / cafe to two dwellings and associated work.

Broadham Traffic lights

Update received this month from Gloucestershire County Council Traffic engineers in response to our enquiry about progress on the public consultation exercise for the proposed scheme:

'The scheme was discussed at our departures boards this week. The findings are being reviewed this week and where any changes are required, are being worked through. We are hopeful that within the next 2 weeks we will be able to start the public consultation, we will however seek to bring this forward as quickly as possible.'

The Beacon goes viral

In our March edition, we featured on the front page a story marking the first anniversary of the temporary lights at Broadham. Our picture of a birthday cake by the lights was a light-hearted take on a serious matter.



Three months later though, with the lights still in place, the story has been taken up by regional and national media, featuring on several national news websites and then used by the Jeremy Vine show on BBC Radio 2, which invited listeners to phone in about other longstanding sets of lights. It even achieved an appearance on 'Have I Got News For You' in their section to suggest the missing words in a headline.

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Personal Column

Congratulations

To PHILIP BERRY of Highfold Farm and to KARIN BELLISHAW, who were married on 23rd April at The Bear of Rodborough.



Thank You

The Painswick-Slavutych Friendship Committee would like to thank all who made donations to help Ukraine at the Coronation Community BBQ on May 8th. £200 was raised. This has been passed to a charity in Slavutych helping to rehabilitate people taken prisoner by the Russians last March, some of whom have now been released.

MINI-ADS

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Mini-Ads

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

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

Condolences

To the family and friends of GRACE HANCHET, who died in hospital at the age of 93, on 24th April, after falling down on Easter Sunday. She was a member of the Painswick Short-mat bowling club in the Town Hall and helped with the Friday market for many years. She was well loved and will be greatly missed by her children Michael, Stephen, Allyson and Elisabeth, her grand children and great grandchildren.

To the family and friends of NAOMI ADAMS, known to many as the lively and vivacious estate agent at Hamptons, who helped them to buy or sell their houses in and around Painswick. She was diagnosed with bowel cancer 18 months ago and passed away on 3rd May. If anyone wishes to have details of the funeral, please speak to the Painswick Office of Hamptons.

To the family and friends of JUDITH MUNRO of Gloucester Street. Although seriously ill for a number of years, Judith died suddenly in early April. Before retirement Judith was a secondary school maths teacher, working in Zambia and Gosport, Hampshire. Passionate about helping young people, Judith was a classroom volunteer for many years at The Croft School, where she served a period as a Governor, and an early volunteer at the library, where she served a term as a Trustee. Sadly ill health ended her involvement in both. A quilter, embroiderer and cross stitcher, Judith's home is a testament to her skills.

The Beacon is always willing to publish in the Personal Column, news of births, weddings, significant birthdays or anniversaries, new arrivals in Painswick, people leaving the village to live elsewhere, or of deaths. There is no charge for this service.

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

Road Closures Damsells, Pincot and Knapp Lane

On 9th June the road from Damsells Mill to Painswick Court will be closed for pole testing on behalf of Openreach.

A short stretch of Pincot Lane will be closed from 22nd to 24th June to allow for a new water connection by Severn Trent Water and part of Knapp Lane from 27th to 29th June, also for works by Severn Trent.

NEXT ISSUE

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Left: Julia, Nastia and Ygor wore Ukrainian national dress to the Coronation Barbecue on the Rec



Above: A highlight of the Gloucester Street Party was the Children's Castle Building Competition, which turned into a memorable Box fight!



Above: Stepping Stone Lane



Above: Yew Trees WI were providing Cream Teas in the Church Rooms on Monday afternoon



Left: Even under grey skies, the Community Support Coronation Barbecue drew large crowds



A group shot taken at the Kingsmill Lane Coronation party, with the hosts, John and Sue Lendon sitting in the centre



The striking rainbow that appeared over Painswick on the evening of 9th May was captured by several local photographers, including Pete Lewellyn, who created this collage of photos taken in Vicarage Street and the Recreation Ground