

The Painswick Beacon

Volume 48 Number 11

February 2026

A Painswick Panto: Oh Yes It Is!

In October The Painswick Beacon ran a front page appeal for volunteers to recreate a much loved village tradition of Christmas Pantomime.

The response to that appeal was revealed on 16th and 17th January as the curtain opened on stage at the Painswick Centre. Backdrops of a beautiful palace, green forest, dark mine and the little cottage as well as the Magic Mirror set the scenes. The stage was filled with wonderful creatures: owl, ladybird (problem with spots doctor), rabbits, a mole with a white stick and a bear.



At the palace the fearsome guards tried to keep order for the wicked Queen aided by her elegant ladies. The drama rose as the magic mirror informed Her Majesty that Snow White was the fairest of all. Seven little dwarves chattering, dancing and singing continued the drama and the comedy. Nanny kept the show moving along with help (or hindrance) from Prince and his jazzy DJ and of course the Audience. However, after many jokes, dancing and singing the wicked Queen was overcome by remorse at the sight of Snow White having succumbed to the poisoned apple. Sweet Snow White forgave her and the show ended Happily Ever After .



A wonderful return of a Painswick tradition with the Jolly Wick Players founded and enthused by George Bancroft-Livingston and thanks to the principal sponsor Richmond Villages Painswick with support from Exedra Nursery, Core Lighting and The Oak at Painswick.

David Cutler

George Bancroft-Livingston writes: “We all had such a blast bringing the pantomime back to Painswick. It would not have been possible without the passion and dedication of our amazing team, cast and parents (and the patient partners too!). It was a joy to see the community come together so a huge thank you to everyone who put their hand up. See you next year...?!”

Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 21st January 2026

Reported by David Allott

Chairman's report

The Chairman's report advised that following the flooding incident the Town Hall floor would be fully restored by being sanded and varnished during the first week in February.

A new under counter freezer will soon be installed in the Town Hall kitchen as part of the Community Food provision scheme.

Telephone Kiosks:

The conversion schemes are progressing. Condition reports and electrical quotes are expected soon.

Ward Reports:

Sheepscombe: Councillor Sandra Hunkin reported that the proposed road closure near the Village Hall would split the village since it would prevent access for both vehicles and pedestrians. It was agreed to press County Highways to ensure pedestrian access was maintained.

Painswick: Councillor Rosie Nash expressed her concern about inappropriate parking in Vicarage Street. In a recent incident traffic in the area came to a standstill for FOUR hours. Parking along Vicarage Street will be reviewed at the next Traffic Committee meeting.

Cemetery Lodge:

The Council considered quotes for the work needed to complete Phase 1. It decided to accept the £1,000 quote from LM Electrical Services plus a further £200 for an extra power socket if needed. It agreed in principle to accept the lower quote for plastering subject to receiving acceptable details on materials and labour hours.

District Council:

There have been many meetings, mostly establishing strategies and broad objectives. These relate to such things as Climate Change, Litter, Local Plan, Flood Management, Energy Efficiency.

Cotswold National Landscape Board: The international target of 30% of land for nature by 2030 was introduced. For the Cotswolds the target is 40%.

It was noted that there are currently 373 active voluntary wardens. Their core activities are Work Parties, Parish Warden-ing, Walk Leading and Outdoor Learning.

Biodiversity: Since Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) became mandatory in February last year 119 applications were submitted. 35 were granted, 44 are pending and 40 were withdrawn/refused.

Energy efficiency: We are reminded that homeowners wishing to improve their home can have help from the "Furnow Gloucestershire" scheme assisting with advice, access to grants and end-to-end management.

County Council:

Roads: We are encouraged to continue to use the "Fix My Street" system to report issues with the roads. An additional £15million has been allocated to improve Gloucestershire's roads, BUT this has been partly funded by reducing County Councillors funds by two thirds, from £30,000 to £10,000 each.

Waste disposal: The helpful "waste wizard tool" will help you by searching to find ways to repair, reuse, recycle or dispose of your household items.

The Falcon going forward

Change at The Falcon is imminent. Balfour Winery are about to relinquish their lease of The Falcon and it is to be taken over by a local couple. There promises to be a much greater local emphasis for the future of this wonderful historic inn, a welcome development. A fuller article will appear in the March issue of the Beacon.

In the meantime, please note that The Falcon will be closed from 9th February reopening in the evening of 13th February. Essentially this is for some refurbishment to be undertaken. The reopening, Friday the 13th, is to be celebrated with a warm welcome to all. There will be live music, canapés, an opportunity to meet the new team and a lovely atmosphere which it is hoped will be enjoyed by as many Painswickians as possible.

Don't miss this delightful local occasion. The Falcon, 7.00pm, Friday 13th February.

Carol Maxwell



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Snowdrops & Half-Term



Each year, just as winter feels at its longest, a quiet transformation begins at Painswick Rococo Garden. The first snowdrops push through the cold soil, offering a gentle promise of spring. Introduced to Britain in the sixteenth century, these modest flowers have travelled far, and today they thrive in great numbers across the garden's valley.

Rococo Garden is now home to one of the country's most impressive naturalised displays, with more than five million snowdrops creating sweeping drifts of white across slopes and woodland edges. Their beauty lies in their simplicity, with *Galanthus nivalis* and the taller *G. 'Atkinsii'* forming a living tapestry that draws visitors back year after year.

For many local families, a winter walk among the snowdrops has become a cherished ritual — a chance to stretch the legs, breathe crisp air, and enjoy the garden at its most peaceful. Winding paths offer ever-changing views and quiet places to pause.

The garden is open daily from 17th January to 1st March, 10am–5pm, with last admission at 4pm.

Friends of the Garden visit for free. You can join Friends of the Garden at rococo.org.uk/join-and-support.

During February half term, children can enjoy an I-Spy Trail, encouraging young explorers to spot winter wildlife and notice the small details that make the season special.

Marta Gardner

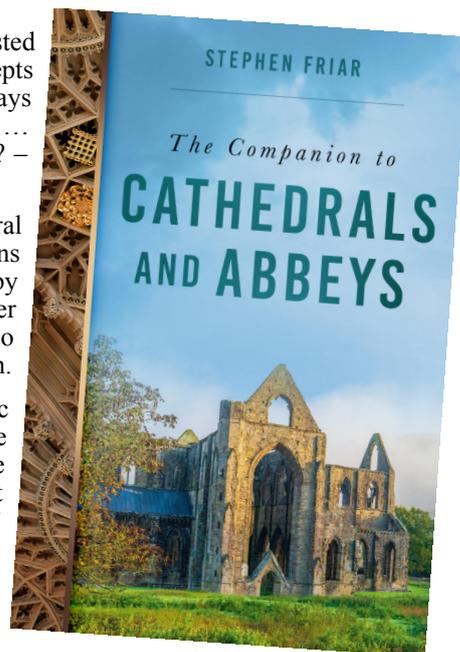
Reissue of local author's books

Books which help us to understand any subject which we find ourselves becoming interested in can prove invaluable. Straightforward explanations of specialist words, theories, concepts and facts together with brief outlines of relevant historical developments are always welcome in these situations. To this end, five such books titled The Sutton Companion to ... were published by Sutton Publishing during the 1990s. And the Painswick connection? – They were the work of local resident, Stephen Friar.

Steve has written and edited several books on subjects such as heraldry and architectural history, the first in 1987, but these five, the Companions, focus specifically on explanations to assist with better understanding. They were revised and reprinted a few years later by The History Press and Steve is now delighted to announce that they are about to be further revised and reissued by The History Press. This is excellent news of course and it is also indicative of the fact that the demand for such detailed explanatory literature remains high.

A former head teacher, Steve has for many years been involved in the Society of Heraldic Arts which he founded in 1987. He is particularly pleased that the Companion books are to be reissued recognising that the demand for such aids to understanding, almost like sophisticated dictionaries, continues to be necessary. "It is particularly gratifying that these books, which were so well received at the time, should become available again," says Steve.

The first one is due to appear in March – The Companion to Cathedrals and Abbeys. (The new jacket is pictured). It will be followed by The Companion to Castles in April, ... to Heraldry in May, ... to The English Parish Church in July and ... to Local History in September. Steve will donate copies to Painswick Library and he anticipates that they will be available at local outlets.



Carol Maxwell

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Memories of the Pin Mill (1974-1978)

Episode 3: The Packing Area

The factory was split very much along gender lines. Mostly the men were on the machines/presses and the women packed the loose pins and paper clips into boxes of a set number, before putting these into larger boxes for delivery to customers. Some were packing by hand while others were taking the feed from a machine that looked like a helter-skelter. It was designed to separate the paper clips and deliver exactly the right number of items, based on weight. It was repetitive work, but conversation levels were always high, reflecting the importance of the social aspect of the job. The men were generally working with a higher degree of independence and isolation. There wasn't much fraternising during the tea breaks, and I came to understand that the women were living different lives to the men. Often their work would continue when they got home, and they took on the role of wife, mother or daughter. They were motivated by different things.

All of the women were kind to me. When I started, I was 17 years old, terribly shy and naïve, not even used to addressing older women by their first names. Even now, some of them I remember best by their surnames - Mrs Halliday, Mrs Gerrish, Mrs Clark, Mrs Horton, Mrs Harris (no relation!)... I did know Doreen (aka Miss Hanks, later Mrs Gyde). Molly Foxwell was lovely. In Madeleine's case, I'm not sure I remember her surname (Chambers??), but she was lovely too.

The only developing male-female relationship that I noticed (and believe me, I could have missed some!) was between Ken Wixey and Betty Mitchell. Ken was rumoured to be a former jockey. He had the build for it – quite short, wiry, and incredibly strong. He and Betty were said to be engaged, and they used to sit together quietly during the tea breaks (unless Ken had done something that had made Betty cross with him). To be fair to them both, they did get married later on.

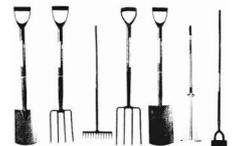
There were girl students as well as boys down the Mill. As with the grown-ups, things tended to be split along gender lines, so the girls were part of the Packing operation. Even during breaks, there was little interaction, and it wasn't easy trying to engage them in conversation. I'd like to use the excuse that they were never on their own, or that one was always being watched (both of which were true), but really I was just a bit shy. So - apologies to the girls who were down the Mill with me. It wasn't you; it was me. But you were scary, even if you didn't mean to be.

(No names have been mentioned here, as I'd like to think that some of the young ladies concerned are still with us. Do let me know if you are - my wife will confirm that I have fewer problems talking to women these days!)

Eric Harris

Gardening Club

In January, Mandy Bradshaw came to talk to us about twelve local gardens: "Through the Garden Gate". Mandy is a Cotteswold-based gardening journalist, writing articles for Cotswold Life, Amateur Gardening and other publications as well as a regular blog. With a colourful selection of her photographs, she gave us a fascinating overview of a selection of local gardens, owners, gardeners and how they evolved.



Next month, on Wednesday, 11th February, we have Kate Good of "Fox Lane Flowers" coming to talk about "Cut Flower Farming". Gladioli corms are already in the stores, to plant in March, for cut flowers in the summer. What else can we grow? Kate trained in organic horticulture at River Cottage and set up her own business in 2022. Now at Oakbrook Community Farm in Stroud she can grow flowers for cutting and offer courses and workshops.

Then, on March 11th we have John Parker talking about trees.

Guests welcome @ £5. We meet in the Town Hall at 7 pm for tea/coffee and perhaps a glass of wine, ready to start the talk at 7.30pm. Come and join us – Wednesday evening 11th February.

Joyce Barrus



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Painswick Community Support

Ann Williams

Painswick Community Hub was most touched to receive a very generous donation given in memory of Ann Williams. Ann was a much-loved regular at our weekly Friday Hub coffee morning and will be very much missed for her cheerful presence and friendship. We are extremely grateful to her sister, Vivien, and all who donated. The funds will be used to support and enhance the community activities that meant so much to Ann. Watch this space but any ideas from Ann's family and friends would be most welcome.

(We are very grateful to our Friday Hub volunteers who bake cakes and serve at the Hub and help keep this much-valued community event going every week).

A Curry Night to remember!

Thank you for joining us at the Community Supper at Painswick Church Rooms on January 6th.

With around 60 villagers in the room, everyone thoroughly enjoyed poppadoms and chutneys, Methi & Korma chicken curry, vegetarian dahl, onion rice and naan bread. Judging by the empty plates and lack of food waste, it was clearly a big hit!



We'd like to say a huge thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who helped set up tables and wash up at the end, and of course to Mumma's Meals for serving up an absolutely delicious curry (see photos above).

Community Lunches

The community lunches are going well - please continue to support the remaining community groups hosting including The Croft School Y5/6 class, the Falcon Bowls Club, Churches Together around Painswick and finishing with Painswick Bowling Club on Monday, March 2nd.

If you need help or support or have any questions, please call or email us (mobile: 07956203087, email: painswickcommunity@gmail.com). Our phone is manned 7 days a week from 9am to 5pm.

*Delyth, Hannah and Louise
On behalf of Painswick Community Support*

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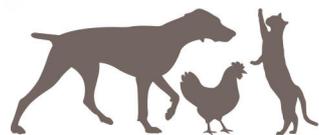
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BEACON BENEFICE

Have YOU seen your local church's new website? For the past few years we have been trying to work out how to take down old websites designed many moons ago, that no longer reflect the life of the church and the communities here... We did not manage to solve that problem!



However, last year we began building a new website for our whole benefice. If you remember, your local parish church is part of a grouping or family of churches called Beacon Benefice, which seeks to love and serve its community in all seasons and in as many ways as we are able, because that is what Jesus taught his followers to do.

Log on and have a wander around. I wonder (amid spotting mistakes, no doubt!) will you learn something new about church life and the Christian faith? Please do write in and let us know what you think and, as ever, if you would like to be involved in any aspect of church life, we would love to have you.

If you're not sure what that means, well, for starters this month as a benefice we are still running Alpha on Monday evenings to help you explore your questions about the Christian Faith. As part of Churches Together, we are involved in an Ageing Gracefully course on Fridays in Painswick, and as part of the wider global Anglican Church still, we will be marking Lent and the build-up to Easter, beginning with a service in a church near you on Ash Wednesday - Wednesday 18th February. Please check our new website to learn about all our latest news, services and events: Beaconbenefice.org.uk

Revd. Sarah Haslam

A Big Thanks to St Mary's Tree Angels!

How lovely it was to have the Churchyard at the centre of our village lighted up once again throughout December and January for Christmas and New Year. This can only happen with dedicated teamwork because the lights on each yew tree are charged by batteries which need re-charging twice a week! This entails getting the battery from each tree in the morning, plugging them into their chargers inside the Church and in the afternoon collecting them and reconnecting them onto each tree before dark!

So this is to say a HUGE THANK YOU to the Tree Angels team: Phil Ion, Andy MacDonald, Ian Marsh, Cathie Goodman, Ben Compton, Fiona Ormerod, Ian Ormerod, Lou Kemp, Nigel Willis, Lynsey Willis, Sarah Bishop, Emma Thomson, Gary, Anna, Dylan and Rory.

Your time and effort are a 'Christmas' gift to the whole community!

Lindsay Gardiner, Dylan Davies (Church Wardens)



Helping the Homeless

Everything you do for one of the least of my brethren, you do for me"

We asked - and you gave and gave and gave some more. Thank you so much, wonderful Beacon Benefice, The Catholic Church of Our Lady and St. Therese and The Quakers for supporting CTAP's work with the local homeless and people in poverty.

You donated two large sacks of excellent socks and pants and gloves and hats and all good things to make people feel a little more loved, a little more dry and clean and a little happier knowing they are not forgotten.

The donations were divided between Marah, Gloucester City Mission and and Gloucester Hospital spare clothes cupboard for the homeless.

Pictured right with her kind permission) is Marah guest: Lena (with Nathan behind) modelling her socks and hat.

Love and huge thanks from the CTAP team.

Pippa Medcalfe





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Probus Club

On 8th January our fellow member Alexander Norman entertained us with a talk entitled "Captain de Havilland's Moth" which concentrated on the cast of extraordinary characters who had flown the plane in the early years after the Tiger Moth's first flight in 1925. Apart from the celebrated Amy Johnson, the typist from Hull who made the pioneering flight to Australia, other female aviators included Sophie Elliot-Lynn who had won a course of flying lessons in a raffle and then flew from Capetown to England, a journey completed in reverse in 1931 by Lady Mary Bailey, despite having a broken compass; The Times described it as "the greatest feat of any woman ever." Later, Beryl Markham (whose family hailed from Painswick) flew solo east to west across the Atlantic. She was a prominent member of the White Mischief set in Kenya and was notorious for conducting simultaneous affairs with the Prince of Wales and his brother the Duke of Gloucester. Another early pioneer was Sir Francis Chichester, now better known for his later sailing exploits. On 22nd January the club enjoyed Kate Peake's delightful film-with-commentary of an aerial tour of the Wye Valley, from its source at Plynlimon via Hereford and Ross-on-Wye to Monmouth. The tour, which Kate had filmed on her drone camera, was loosely based on the eighteenth-century guidebook of the Reverend William Gilpin and incorporated his own words, detailing the charms of Tintern Abbey, St Briavel's Castle and many other picturesque locations.



Robin Vick

Cloth industry in Stroud and waterborne trades near Gloucester



Our next to two talks focus on local history. On Tuesday 17th February, 2.30pm at Box Village Hall, Ian Mackintosh and Ann Taylor will be presenting 'The history of Stroud: "There's naught that's pretty, wise or witty" Stroud originally was simply a remote corner of Bisley parish. Water sprang from the hillsides and flooded the narrow valleys of the Frome and its tributaries, the Slad Brook and Painswick stream. This talk describes the town's emergence from its possible origins to the Georgian period when it had grown into a 'sort of capital of the clothing villages'. It discusses not only the built environment but some of the people and events recorded during the period. Ian is a retired History teacher and a founding trustee of Stroudwater Textile Trust and Ann spent many years working at Museum in the Park.

Then on Wednesday March 4th at 2.30pm in the Painswick Centre we will learn how people through history have made a living on the River Severn. This talk will explore the rich history of the River Severn in Minsterworth and Elmore parishes near Gloucester, focusing on the important roles that fishing and waterborne trade have played in medieval and post-medieval life, and highlighting parishioners' ingenuity in dealing with floods. Our speaker, Dr Simon Draper, is a local and landscape historian researching and writing scholarly parish histories for the Victoria County History (VCH) project in Gloucestershire, where he is County Editor, and Oxfordshire, where he is Assistant Editor. Having studied archaeology at university, he also edits the annual Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.



Duni Fish House on the River Severn

Our bi-monthly meetings are free to Members and open to the public (£5 at the door). No need to book, just drop in. Further information about the Club and its activities (including the full list of lectures and Membership details) can be found on the CNFC website www.cotsnatsfield.club.

Sylvia May cnfcsecretary1@gmail.com

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Painswick Art Club

Local Artist, Rupert Acker, came to Painswick Art Club on Tuesday, 20th January, to show us how he paints his oil landscapes. He likes to paint au plein air rather than from photographs which make the scene look flat. So he showed us a quick, easy technique using a palette knife and popping the finished picture in a deep frame to protect it. And, no solvent smell! Rupert doesn't use brushes so nothing to clean. Well ... perhaps some splooges on his face.



We were very impressed. Have a look at his work in 'The Loovre' - the old public toilets in Painswick.

Joyce Barrus

Come and join us!

'Variety is the spice of life' they say and 'variety' is a good description of the topics on this year's speakers' programme for Yew Trees WI with subjects as varied as Opals, Bletchley, Honey Bees and the Life of Nurse Edith Cavell? Our next meeting is on Tuesday 24th February at 7.30 pm in The Church Rooms when Kate Peake and Angela Rundell will talk on "Dressing the Georgian Woman". In addition to our monthly meetings, other activities such as walks, outings, skittle matches and theatre trips are organised all adding to the variety on offer to members. So, ladies why not make it one of your New Year resolutions to give us a try? A warm welcome awaits you.



Celia Lougher 812624

Turning Pages - The Joy of Words

A great novel, a wonderful poem, enlightening information, in fact inspirational literature of all kinds can do so much for our general wellbeing and positive thinking. Sharing the experience of reading good books with others can further enhance the enjoyment and enthusiasm and in Painswick now there is a golden opportunity to do just that. Turning Pages is an inclusive gathering of readers, a literary group, which holds regular meetings to which all are welcome.

The idea is to share experiences of books read, engage in friendly conversation about them and to listen to readings of extracts from novels and poems. A wide range of fiction and non-fiction is included and, in a relaxed and definitely unpretentious setting and atmosphere, the meetings are focussed on a love of reading and can be enjoyed both by lifelong readers and by those looking for literary inspiration. There is no pressure and no obligation.

Turning Pages was started about 18 months ago by Painswick resident, Rowland Oxland. Rowland's wife was deeply involved in publishing and was passionate about her work. She died in 2021 and Rowland wanted to do something in her memory, something of relevance. Turning Pages was the ideal answer. It provides the perfect opportunity to share truly good literature and to develop a real love of reading. At the meetings people can read favourite pieces and poems, or even, as often occurs, extracts from their own writing. Or you can simply sit and enjoy listening to the readings.

The meetings are open to all and take place in The Falcon. If you are interested and would like to know more you can contact Rowland, tel. 07760 895330. And who knows – you may feel inspired to put pen to paper yourself.

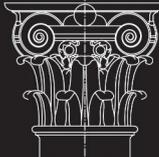
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Jottings - Birds in Winter

Wrens and long-tailed tits do not migrate, although long-tailed tits may assemble into larger family groups to forage together; and huddle in "living balls" at night time to sleep when the weather is cold and wet. The older and more experienced in the middle to try to keep warm, but if it really gets cold, you see the ones on the outside drop off and pass away hence in some years there is a drop in numbers.

Wrens nearly do the same but huddle up in closed spaces like trees, walls and fences. 'Winterwatch' recently showed a group of up to 60 huddled together in a box. A lot of migratory wrens from further north – Scandinavia and Eastern Europe - come down to winter in the UK, returning in the spring.

But both do, as other birds do, moult in late summer so they have full new plumage for the winter. There are small muscles at the base of each feather so the birds can fluff out to look several times larger than normal. This helps keep out the cold. Heat cameras show they lose heat through their heads, especially around the eyes, and they can be seen tucking their bills into their back feathers.

Finches, such as chaffinches, will eat insects and seeds in the summer but change to eating just high fat, high-energy seeds and nuts in the winter. Goldfinches, especially, love teasels, so leave the seed heads standing for them. All finches flock to feeders with suet, sunflower hearts and niger seeds. Gold finches collect in conifers at night time; and many migrate as far south as Spain.

At night, many birds find holes in trees and walls and in farm buildings especially where there are animals. The heat rises up to give them a bit of warmth.

Crows cope with bad weather by preening their feathers with oil from near their tails. This makes them more water proof and the feathers carefully aligned to hold in the maximum heat. They also have a counter-current heat exchange system so that blood going down to their feet warms the blood coming up from their feet. We can hear them gathering in large roosts in the evening, especially down by Tesco's, Stroud

Martin Slinger

Library Book Club

The next meeting of the Library Book Club is on Monday 9th of February and we will be discussing Borderliners by Peter Hoeg. We then meet again on Monday 9th March to discuss The Names by Florence Knapp. Both meetings are from 1.30 -2.30pm. If you are interested in joining us please come along to one of our meetings. For further information email painswick.library.bookclub@gmail.com



Pat Andrew

More Cows Acquired

For the last two years our small herd of seven Dexters have successfully grazed on the Beacon all year round. Consequently, rank areas of grass are starting to come back into condition and areas recently cleared of scrub and bramble are starting the slow process of reverting back to grassland.



Unfortunately, one of the short-legged cows Bobby, developed severe problems with his knees and had to be put down at the beginning of January. We had already decided to buy two new calves this spring, funded by a grant from the Sommerfield Trust. (They helped fund the purchase of the original herd.) So, we decided to replace Bobby with another calf. We have just taken delivery of them and currently two are in a paddock at The Park and the other is with the herd on the Beacon ramparts. Tom, Dick and Harry are very cute indeed. Their delivery did not go according to plan as they escaped from the training paddock we tried to put them in. Two were recovered relatively easily, but Harry "Houdini" gave us the run around for three hours. By good fortune he ended up on the Beacon and found his way to the rest of the herd, where he was adopted readily by the others. All three are getting used to the NoFence system and the collars which they must wear. Very soon they will all be combined into one herd.



Since Christmas all our work parties have been focused on the area of secondary woods opposite the golf club's workshop. All the overhanging ash trees along the roadside are showing advanced stage ash dieback. They pose a very real threat to the club's property and personnel, so it was decided to take them down. The landowner, Selina Blow, has agreed to contribute funds to our group when we complete the task. It has not been a straightforward job, but we have nearly finished. There will be a large corner freed of trees and over the next few years, with the correct follow up work and grazing, this should become a grassy glade.

Paul Baxter



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Wick-Flix continues its popular programme of community cinema at The Painswick Centre with the screening of Mr Burton on Friday 13 February.

Friday 13th February
The Painswick Centre



This compelling British drama tells the remarkable true story of a dedicated teacher whose quiet determination and belief in a troubled young pupil changes the course of that young man's life. Set in post-war Britain, Mr Burton explores the enduring impact of mentorship, education and compassion, reminding us how a single person's encouragement can unlock extraordinary potential.

The film is both moving and uplifting, offering moments of warmth, reflection and inspiration. With its strong performances and thoughtful storytelling, Mr Burton is a fitting choice for Wick-Flix, which continues to bring a diverse range of high-quality films to local audiences throughout the year.

The screening will take place at The Painswick Centre, with doors opening at 7.00pm and the film starting at 7.45pm. Wick-Flix events are well known for their relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, making them an enjoyable evening out for film lovers and a great way to spend a winter evening in the community.

Tickets can be booked online in advance via The Painswick Centre website, or purchased on the door on the night, subject to availability.

Wick-Flix is run by volunteers and remains a valued part of Painswick's cultural life, offering the opportunity to enjoy great cinema close to home while supporting a much-loved community venue.

Ceri Chaplin

Pilgrims and Pilgrimages

At the January meeting of the society John Putley, from The Heritage Hub (Gloucestershire Archives), gave a whistle-stop tour of the history of pilgrims and pilgrimages through the ages ending with some particular places of pilgrimage in Gloucestershire.



From starting out with a bit of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* John asked the question of 'why go on pilgrimage?' From a 'simple' historical/theological answer to what happens when we die - Heaven (for Saints), Hell (the condemned) or Purgatory (for sinners not quite ready for heaven!) we were transported through the somewhat dubious world of relics and indulgences. You could get time off in purgatory by the recitation of various prayers, by going on pilgrimage or best of all by going on a crusade. But going on pilgrimage was not for the faint hearted... you had to walk (ideally) and to the best sites in the Holy Land that was a long way on foot (although in time package tours were arranged from Venice!) In due course other pilgrimage sites opened up where magnificent reliquaries might house such notable relics as 'The holy Blood', fragments of 'The True Cross', fingernails, hair even foreskins might be venerated and you would gain your remission from purgatory.

Relics and pilgrimages became big money spinners for the church. The sale of relics, the sale of indulgences (you could pay someone to go on pilgrimage on your behalf) the sale of souvenirs - to begin with small ampullae filled with holy water but later pilgrimage badges - which gave some proof of you having done the pilgrimage.

Gloucestershire had a number of pilgrimage sites, perhaps the most notable being Hailes Abbey where a new apse was built to house the reliquary holding a phial of the True Blood of Christ.

Other sites included St Oswalds Priory Gloucester, St Peter's Abbey Gloucester where there had been miracles recorded at the tomb of Edward II, St Mary's Abbey Tewkesbury, St Kenelm in Winchcombe. As well as these major sites there are also various Holy wells in the vicinity: Tabitha's Well in Painswick, Our Lady's Well Hempstead, Mary Magdalens Well Tetbury, St Antony's Well Cinderford and Red Well in Matson.



Tabitha's well

A vote of thanks was given to Assad of the Premier Stores for his sterling efforts in selling 160 copies of the latest edition of the *Painswick Chronicle*.

Our next meeting is 17th February 7.30 at The Croft School when Jan Whitton from Cranham Local History society will be talking about the Cranham Potteries.

Peter Jackson



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Beacon Subscriptions

Next month with your copy of The Beacon, you will receive an envelope inviting you to subscribe. The subscriptions, along with the income from advertising is the total income The Beacon receives and on which the whole of the production of The Beacon is based. Currently, of the households that receive The Beacon, only one in three of those households subscribe. This led to the critical situation two years ago where our costs were higher than our income and a plea from our chairman was required to boost subscriptions, which in the short term was achieved. I now ask all households in Painswick to consider subscribing and continue supporting The Beacon, this can be done by cheque, cash or Bank Transfer, although our preference is Bank Transfer because last year we paid the bank approaching £100 just for processing cheques and cash, money which of course could be better spent on The Beacon. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Volunteer wanted for the Painswick Beacon

The Painswick Beacon is still looking for a volunteer to help us, particularly with the organisation of subscriptions and potentially with other areas too, depending on skills and interests.

Subscriptions are a vital part of the Beacon's operation, accounting for around half of our total income. Less administration is needed as we move increasingly to payment by bank transfer, but the management of them is still one of our most important functions. If you could help, please contact us by email to subscriptions.beacon@painswick.net or by ringing Jacek Wolowiec on 01452 813295.

Box Adverts in the Painswick Beacon

Do you wish to advertise in the Painswick Beacon during the year April 2026 – March 2027. Requests can now be submitted.

Existing advertisers were contacted by email in mid-January inviting them to renew or amend their requirements. New advertisers are invited to get in touch and a booking form must be completed. The form provides more details including prices. It is available directly from me or from our website www.painswick.beacon.org.uk - click on "how to advertise" from the homepage.

As advertising space is limited, we operate a priority booking period which closes on 14th February. Requests received before that date will be treated as if received on that date. Space is then allocated with priority given to local businesses, existing advertisers and with the aim of achieving a mix of business types. In most of the last few years, requests have exceeded the available space and some requests have had to be turned down. But if space remains or becomes available later, requests are considered on a first come first served basis.

Peter Rowe (01452 813228)
advertising.beacon@painswick.net

Maximum word limits around 250

Recently many Clubs and Societies have been sending in reports well over the 250 limit, often over 340 words, which leaves the editor with no choice but to edit them down in order to fit in other entries.

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Friday Club's Latest Topics: from Veterinary Practice to End-Of-Life Planning



Nobody could claim the Friday Club's topics are dull!

Our most recent speaker, Penny Govett shared her first-hand knowledge of the contemporary art scene in the 1990's, when graduates of Goldsmiths, such as Damien Hirst, Tracey Emin, Sarah Lucas and Jenny Saville, staged their own exhibitions in disused warehouses and East End shops, frustrated that most established galleries and dealers were not prepared to show their work. Tate Modern would not open until 2000, over a decade after dealers and gallery owners such as Jay Jopling and Charles Saatchi supported these emerging artists.

From the late 1980's, Penny organised visits for Patrons of the Tate Art Gallery, whose memberships funded acquisitions, exhibitions, and educational projects. Penny took Patrons to private collections and artist studios around the UK, Europe and further afield. One year, she visited the North Pole where Andy Goldsworthy created four massive snow ring sculptures marking the position of the North Pole. A record Friday Club audience was not disappointed by this thrilling insight into the world of modern art.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 20th February at 2.30 pm in the Town Hall when Vicky Aspinall will talk about her varied career, from training as a veterinary surgeon through to lecturing at Hartpury College, alongside writing a series of well-regarded textbooks for veterinary nurses. The title? 'How on earth did I end up here?' That will be followed on Friday 6th March at 2.30 pm with a talk on 'End-of-Life Planning' given by Jane Burns. Best to know about the practicalities beforehand! Feel free to drop in to any of our meetings that take your fancy.

Finally, please contact me for last-minute tickets to see Gilbert and Sullivan's The Gondoliers at the Everyman Theatre Cheltenham, on Tuesday 24th March at 7.30 pm.

Jane Rowe 813228

Painswick Music Appreciation Group

The weather intervened to defer a DVD concert of Chopin by Daniel Barenboim. This enabled all attention to be paid to the sad loss of Reg Wrathmell who died just before Christmas.



PMAG devoted the remaining January meeting to a selection of music inspired by his lifelong love of the piano and the "desert island discs" he chose for one of his PMAG presentations. Past Chairman Howard Allen insisted that he defer to a later date his own planned talk on Mozart (see below) and give a moving introduction to the afternoon's meeting which was unsurprisingly attended by a strong turnout.

Reg was a talented amateur pianist with an unmatched knowledge of the great performers of the past; Horowitz, Rachmaninoff, Rubinstein and Ogdon bore evidence to this through their recordings of Chopin, Debussy, Schubert, Beethoven and even including a track from the jazz world of Art Tatum which ended the afternoon.

Although Reg's luxury item to take to the desert island was his piano, the music he would ultimately save from the waves is not scored for piano but for a trio of voices together with chorus and large orchestra; Elgar's "Dream of Gerontius", the setting of the words by the high Anglican leader of the Oxford Movement, later to become the Catholic Convert Cardinal John Henry Newman, beatified in 2010 by Pope Benedict and canonised by Pope Francis.

Thank you Reg for your gift of live classical music to Painswick and for your contributions over the years to the PMAG committee and membership past and present. Our condolences go to all your family.

Next meetings 2:30 PM in the Town Hall:-

Thursday February 19th	Mozart's connection to Haydn	Howard Allen
Thursday March 5th	Beaumarchais Operas (Figaro of Seville!)	Craig Dunn

Michael Grey

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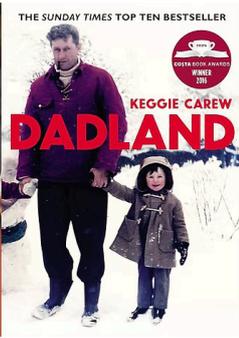
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First Thursday - Spring Season



The author events of First Thursday Painswick continue to go from strength to strength with a fabulous line up of writers for the Spring/Summer season 2026. On March 12th, the Costa prize winning Keggie Carew will come to Painswick to discuss her extraordinary and deeply moving memoir of her father, Dadland. Widely praised by critics, she pieces together his astonishing wartime record behind the lines in France and Burma at the same time as caring for him in his last years as he declines with Alzheimers; Carew's deeply loved book is funny, warm hearted and fascinating. She will be in conversation to discuss memoir, how we remember fathers, and the wartime generation with Painswick author, Madeleine Bunting whose book, The Plot, a biography of my father's acre, also incorporates these themes. (NOTE that this event is on 12th March, the second Thursday of the month).



On May 7th, local Stroud author Alice Jolly returns with her brilliant new novel, The Matchbox Girl. Jolly conjures up the world of Dr Asperger's clinic for children in pre-war Vienna as told by a girl with autism. Extraordinarily inventive, Jolly is almost certain to feature on book prize listings this year. And finally on June 4th, we are delighted to welcome back another local author, Arthur Snell, with his new book on the geopolitics of climate change. Snell, a former diplomat, is a superb analyst of the chaotic international politics we hear about everyday on the news; and last year, he deftly responded questions from the sell out audience. Doors open at 7pm for a glass of wine or beer, event at 7.30pm and stay to meet the author and get your book signed. Look forward to seeing you at this great community initiative. www.firstthursdayspainswick.co.uk



Madeleine Bunting



Dawn over Bulls Cross (left) by Peter Rowe

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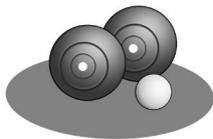
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Painswick Sports

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Falcon Bowling Club

The Painswick Falcon Bowling Club are pleased to say that we will now be playing in 3 Leagues this year—



The Gloucestershire Bowls Sunday League.

The Stroud Valleys Ladies Triple League on Monday evenings.

The South Cotswold Bowls League on Tuesday evenings.

This will give Members good, friendly league bowling which will result in more confident playing.

Our Season opens on April 11th and closes on September 19th, so a nice long playing season.

We welcome new members who will enjoy a warm, friendly and helpful Club where the first 4 trial games are free.

Initial contact is our Membership Secretary who can be contacted 07552 180967.

John Newhill

Painswick Golf report

Ian Broderick has been busy organising social competitions for seniors. Recent results are.... 11th December the Christmas social was won by Martyn Brown, Paul Walsh and Andrew Beard. On the 18th December the Midweek Stableford was won by Gil. On the 15th January the Social Multiplier Stableford was won by Paul Gobey and on the 22nd January the "Medalford" was won by Al Barby.



Regrettably a few weeks ago one of the Greens was badly damaged (see picture) by motor bikes making sharp turns. At this time of the year the repairs will take months to mend and this selfish behaviour just spoils the game for local golfers.



Despite recent heavy rain the course is quite playable and those interested in joining or having a round of golf should go online. www.painswickgolf.com

Painswick Tennis Club

Members of the tennis club committee attended the annual awards ceremony.

The mixed winter leagues produced two awards. One for winning the premier division and the other for the C team winning division 2A.

Congratulations to all the players.



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Historic Crimes in February

1826

Robert Gordon, carpenter and joiner, age 38, 5ft 6ins, hair dark brown, eyes blue grey, complexion pale, large nose particularly at the end, mole on his right cheek, a scar on his left thumb, two moles on his right shoulder, marks of punishment on his back. Reads a little. Charged with stealing in Painswick a shawl and other articles the property of Charles Hawkes. Sentence – one calendar month in the Penitentiary.

1846

Richard Jottham, labourer, age 30, 5ft 11ins, hair brown, eyes dark grey, long visage, common complexion, scar over left eye, goes to church. Charged on the oath of William Wiggall with feloniously stealing from his dwelling house in Cranham a waistcoat and a tea caddy and other articles his property. Guilty – transported 7 years. Previous conviction – six weeks in Horsley House of Correction for stealing an ash pole. (Transportation was usually imposed on those with previous convictions).

1856

Frederick Aldridge, labourer, age 18, 5ft 2ins, hair sandy, eyes grey, visage oval, complexion fresh, moles on lower left arm, freckled face. Charged with stealing certain monies to wit the sum of 3 shillings, the property of William Holder his master. Guilty – six calendar months hard labour in the Penitentiary.

Daniel King charged with stealing 9lbs lead, the property of Mr Short, his employer. He had taken the lead and sold it to a marine store dealer, named Woods, in Painswick for 8d. He pleaded guilty and was recommended to mercy by Mr Short. Committed to Horsley for two months hard labour.

1866

Daniel Gardner was brought up under warrant from Painswick charged with threatening to cut the throat of Edna Arnold, otherwise Gardner, who accordingly prayed for sureties of the peace. Edna Arnold is the wife of a man named Thomas Arnold who is still alive, and to whom she was married about thirty years ago. She soon after separated from him, but married a man named Savory, who died, and three years ago she married Gardner, the defendant in the case. A charge of bigamy was preferred against her at the time but owing to peculiar circumstances in the case it was dismissed by the magistrates. She deposed that defendant held a knife to her and threatened to cut her throat. He was bound over in £20 to keep the peace for three months.

Gloucester Journal 3 February 1866

1886

Henry Loveridge was summoned for allowing his horse to stray. He did not appear. P.C. Wood stated the case. Fined 1/- with 4/- costs, or 7 days.

Thomas Twinning, age 22, 5ft 8ins, hair dark brown, religion church, education imperfect. Cause of commitment manslaughter. Acquitted.

Dee Williams, labourer, age 18, 5ft 3ins, hair brown, religion church, education imperfect, Cause of commitment obscene language. 7 days hard labour.

1906

William Foxwell, labourer of Painswick, was summoned for assaulting Charles Green, also a labourer of Wick Street, Painswick. There was also a cross summons, both men pleading not guilty. Green said he started for work on Monday, when he met defendant. A conversation ensued about a rope that witness had placed around a tree, and defendant said that if witness would not shut his mouth he would hit his brains out with a shovel which he had on his shoulder. Defendant then struck him on the back of the legs, bringing him to the ground. On getting up defendant endeavoured to strike him (witness) on the head, but the blow fell on the shoulder and glanced into the face. Subsequently witness took the shovel from defendant. P.C. Dale gave evidence to the effect that he saw Green after the alleged assault, and found a slight incision on the side of his head, such as might have been made with a shovel. Foxwell said Green had been the assaulting party. The cut on Green's head had been caused while witness was defending himself. After hearing the case the Bench decided to dismiss the case against Green and fixed Foxwell 10/- including costs or in default 7 days.

Gloucestershire Echo 2 February 1906

Carol Maxwell

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PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

S.25/2420/HHOLD Mulberry Lodge (formerly Saddlestones), The Highlands
Erection of a single storey front extension, two storey and single storey rear extension, replacement front dormer windows and erection of new rear dormer window. Erection of a replacement rear porch.

S.25/2285/FUL
Building At Lullingworth
Conversion of garage to residential unit.

S.25/2433/HHOLD
Seagrim's Cottage, Pincot Lane
Erection of a two storey side extension and single storey extension to the main dwellinghouse. Erection of single storey side extension and porch to annexe.

S.25/2439/HHOLD
Bopoto, Slad Road, Slad
Erection of single storey extensions and replacement roof to main dwellinghouse. Extension and alterations to existing garage. Erection of a garden room.

S.25/2387/HHOLD Hillside, Paradise
Erection of a single storey rear extension and first floor side extension.

S.25/2458/LBC Tocknells Court,
Cheltenham Road

Internal works and refurbishment.

S.25/2427/HHOLD Painswick Mill
Cottage, Ticklestone Lane
Erection of replacement fencing.

S.26/0047/FUL Cattle Isolation Unit At
Beech Farm, Beech Lane
Construction of Cattle Isolation Building.

S.26/0041/TCA Dolphin House, Vicar-
age Street
Yew tree - Take crown down by 2 metres.
Trim branches to shape.

CONSENT

S.25/2097/VAR 4 Court Orchard
Variation of condition 2 (approved plans)
from S.23/2522/HHOLD - alteration to
front extension.

S.25/1987/FUL
2 Wordings Mount, Sheepscombe
Erection of a garden store and carport.

S.25/2179/LBC
Edge House, The Green, Edge Lane,
Edge
Alterations and repair of an existing two
storey stone outbuilding (retrospective).

S.25/2206/HHOLD
Beech View, The Park

Erection of a single storey rear extension,
rear dormer extension and alterations to
the landscaping.

S.25/2390/TPO TPO 317/A And 317/B
Hyett Orchard, Hyett Close
Portugeuse Laurel (T483) Reduce crown
back to previous pruning points, reduce
height by 2-3m, remove all foliage
overhanging the car parking spaces.
Sycamore (T484) Reduce crown to
provide 2m clearance on the lamp post/
street light.

S.25/2327/TCA
Ashleigh, Gloucester Street
T.1 - Rowan - remove 1x lower lateral on
southwest boundary back to main stem.
T.2 - Rowan - reduce 1x lower lateral on
southwest boundary by 3m back to
appropriate pruning point. G.2 - Willow
archway - re-pollard extension growth
back to main framework to be maintained
as live screening.

REFUSED

S.25/2153/TPO
Overdale, Slad Road, Slad
TPO 543 - Group of 3 Beech Trees.
Reduce height of two Beech trees by 10m
and one Beech tree by 3m and lopping
one of every 3 /4 branches

Property Report

Beacon Heights (Hamptons, £2.4 million) is perhaps the most striking property to be built in the Painswick area in the last ten years. Perched on the side of the Painswick Beacon, set back above the A46, it is uncompromisingly modern, with no concession to the local Cotswold style. There are 5 bedrooms including a detached guest annexe, and huge glass walls offering views across the valley. This is though just one of 12 properties in Painswick currently advertised on Rightmove at a million pounds or more.

Million pound properties may no longer be so unusual, but they are still the minority and there are many attractive properties at much lower prices. 3 Prospect Terrace (Murrays, £215,000), a one bedroom terraced cottage just off Tibbiwell, is about as different from Beacon Heights as can be imagined in Painswick, but still has great views across the valley. So too does Dozmary Cottage on Vicarage Street, coming soon through Hamptons at £375,000 - a detached stone cottage with three bedrooms, a courtyard garden and off road parking. Very different again is Flat 2, New Street House (Murrays, £250,000), a two bedroom ground floor apartment in the 'new' block of flats at the back of the Town Hall, built almost 50 years ago now.

There are two properties on the Croft, convenient for the Croft Primary School. 5 Hyett Close (Hamptons, £375,000) is an extended end-terrace house with three bedrooms, while 9 Churchill Way (Hamptons, £325,000) also has three bedrooms, but is mid-terrace. And if you're looking for a property with scope for modernisation, 8 Brookhouse Mill is available through Hamptons at £300,000, a price significantly lower than previously advertised.

At Richmond Villages, Apartment 4, a one bedroom Independent Living Apartment is available at £450,000 (apologies for previous error in price), through Murrays or directly from Richmond, and Apartment 3/1, an Assisted Living Apartment is available at £350,000 through Richmond.

7 Gloucester Road, 4 Coldstream Cottages in Sheepscombe, Corinium House in Seven Leaze Lane and Van Barr at Longridge have all recently gone under offer through Hamptons. Jenkins Farmhouse, 4 Prospect Terrace, 4 Stroud Road and Cranham Close in Cranham are also under offer through Murrays, while 5 Berry Close has exchanged and completed.

St Michaels BISTRO

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Evenings: Tue - Sun 18.30 - 22.00

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*T&Cs apply. Visit richmond-villages.
com/special-offers for details.

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

Mondays	Gentle pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538	Painswick Centre 8.45 - 9.45am
	Improvers pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538	Painswick Centre 9.50 - 10.50am
	Beginners/improvers pilates. Info from Heidi 07970 262538	Painswick Centre 10.55 - 11.55am
	Ballyhoo modern dance classes. Julie ballyhoochalford@gmail.com	Painswick Centre from 3.45pm
	Community Choir. Contact sophie@sophiesterckx.co.uk	Painswick Centre 7.00 - 8.30pm
	Short Mat Bowls. All equipment provided. 2.00/session	Town Hall 2.00 - 4.00pm
	Mindful Meditation with Kate. kate-beatty.co.uk/07793 126234	Painswick Centre 12.30 - 1.00pm
	Painswick Singers . Contact Jean Jones 01452 813545.	Richmond 5.00 - 6.00pm
Tuesdays	Paradise Art Studio evening classes. takepart@paradise-house.org.uk	Paradise House 6.30 - 8.30pm
	Zumba with Martina 07891 194396	Painswick Centre 9.45 - 10.45am
	Painswick Art Club £35/term. Contact Joyce Barrus on 01452 812942	Church Rooms 9.30 - 1.00pm
Wednesdays	Rococo Sprites. See www.rococogarden.org.uk	Rococo Garden 9.45 am
	Strength and Balance class for the over 60s. Contact Trish Tenn on 07956 4666617 or tennpatricia@gmail.com	Painswick Centre 10.00 - 11.00am
	Painswick Bridge Club. Contact Peter Sibley on 812126 or Margaret Wilson on 812305	Church Rooms 6.45pm
	Table tennis. Contact David Harris on 07453 027766. £5.00/person/session	Painswick Centre 7.30 - 9.00pm
	Yoga with Kate. www.kate-beatty.co.uk/07793 126234	Painswick Centre 7.30 - 8.45pm
	Classical Pilates Mat Classes Jo on 07968 799741 or info@daleypilates.co.uk	Painswick Centre 10.30 - 11.30am
	Strength and Conditioning Circuits. www.lovelifeladies.co.uk	Painswick Centre 12.30 - 1.30pm
	After school art classes. Term time only. classes@painswickcentre.com .	Painswick Centre 3.45 - 5.15pm
Thursdays	Weds Pop-In. A friendly place to meet for a cuppa, chat and other activities. Sandra Glass 01452 814186	Town Hall 10.00 - 12.00pm
	Morning Market	Painswick Centre 8.15 - 9.45am
Fridays	St Mary's Mums, Contact 07833 727701. Term time only	Church Rooms 9.15 - 10.45am
	Nurturing yoga. Contact Kim on yoginikim@icloud.com	Painswick Centre 9.30 - 11.00am
	Vinyasa Yoga. Contact Kim on yoginikim@cloud.com	Painswick Centre 11.15 - 12.45am
	Taichi and Qigong - Perry Loveday 07970 698741	Painswick Centre 2.00 - 3.00pm
	Dog Training Club. Contact Fiona Chapman on 01452 812462 or fiona.chapman123@btinternet.com	Painswick Rugby Club 9.30 - 12.30pm
	Qi Gong Classic Exercise - jeffdocherty@yahoo.com	Town Hall 9.30 - 10.30am
	Classical Pilates Mat Classes. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or info@daleypilates.co.uk	Town Hall 5.45 - 6.45pm
	Badminton Club. Contact John Barrus - barrusjp@yahoo.co.uk	Painswick Centre 8.00 - 9.30pm
	Takeaway Food Night	Painswick Centre 5.00 - 8.00pm
	Yoga for Backs. Contact Kim on yoginikim@icloud.com	Painswick Centre 9.30 - 11.00am
Sundays	Ballet with Claire Tracey. Contact BalletClaire@outlook.com	Church Rooms 9.30 - 10.30 am
	Painswick Community Hub Café. All welcome	Town Hall 10.00 - 11.30am
	Church Choir Practice. cgsuain@btinternet.com or 01453 822998	St Mary's Church 5.30 - 6.30pm
	Classical Pilates Mat Classes. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or info@daleypilates.co.uk	Church Rooms 11.00 - 12.00pm
	Painswick Baby and Toddler Group - Term time only	Youth Pavillion 9.30 - 11.30am
	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

February

Sat	7	Painswick Beacon published		
		PBCG working group. Contact 07971633242	TBC	9.00am
Sun	8	Holy Communion (BCP)	St Mary's Church	9.30am
	8	Family Worship + Baptism	St Mary's Church	11.00am
Mon	9	Library Book Club	Library	1.30 - 2.30pm
	9	Community Lunch - provided by Croft Primary School	Town Hall	12.00 - 1.15pm
	9	Alpha	Church Rooms	7.00pm
Tues	10	Morning Prayer	St Mary's Church	9.00am
Wed	11	PBCG working group. Contact 07971633242	TBC	9.00am
	11	Gardening Club: Cut Flower Farming - Kate Good	Town Hall	7.00 for 7.30pm
Thurs	12	The Arts Society: John Constable - chocolate box painter or maverick - Alan Read	Painswick Centre	10.15 for 11.00am
Fri	13	Wickflix : Mr Burton	Painswick Centre	7.00 for 7.45pm
Sun	15	Holy Communion	St Mary's Church	11.00am
Mon	16	Community lunch - provided by Falcon Bowls Club	Town Hall	12.00 - 1.15pm
	16	Alpha	Church Rooms	7.00pm
Tues	17	Painswick Local History Society: Cranham Potteries - Jan Whitton	Croft School	7.30pm
	17	Cotteswold Naturalists: The History of Stroud - Ian Mackintosh. Enq 07798 817193	Box Village Hall	2.30pm
	17	Morning Prayer with coffee	St Mary's Church	9.00am
	17	The Well	Church Rooms	7.00pm
Wed	18	Ash Wednesday - Benefice Service + lunch	St Mary's Church	12.00pm
Thurs	19	Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Mozart's connection to Haydn - Howard Allen	Town Hall	2.30pm
	19	Painswick Probus: Histories of Deadliest Deaths! - Angela Dunsby	Painswick Centre	11.00 for 11.30am
Fri	20	Friday Club: How on earth did I end up here? Vicky Aspinall. Enq 813228	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	21	PBCG Working group. Contact 07971633242	TBC	9.00am
Sun	22	Deadline for all Beacon copy		
	22	Beacon Praise	St Mary's Church	11.00am
Mon	23	Community Lunch provided by Churches Together around Painswick	Town Hall	12.00 - 1.15pm
	23	Holy Communion +tea	Church Rooms	2.30pm
	23	Alpha	Church Rooms	7.00pm
Tues	24	Yew Trees WI: Dressing the Georgian Woman - Kate Peake and Angela Rundell	Church Rooms	7.00 for 7.30pm
	24	Morning prayer + coffee	St Mary's Church	9.00am
Wed	25	PBCG Working group	TBC	9.00am
	25	An Introduction to River Cruising - Sarah Robson. RSVP to 01452 813902	Richmond Village	2.00 - 3.00pm
March				
Mon	2	Community Lunch provided by Painswick Bowling Club	Town Hall	12.00 - 1.15pm
Wed	4	Cotteswold Naturalists: Making a living on the River Severn in Minsterworth and Elmore - Simon Draper Enq 690989	Painswick Centre	2.30pm
Thurs	5	Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Beaumarchais operas - Craig Dunn	Town Hall	2.30pm
	5	Painswick Probus: The Stans - a snapshot of the five central Asian countries - Megan Bick	Painswick Centre	11.00 for 11.30pm
Fri	6	Friday Club: End of Life planning - Jane Burns. Enq 813228	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	7	Painswick Beacon published		
	7	PBCG Working group. Contact 07971633242	TBC	9.00am

Personal column

Condolences

It is with great sadness that the family of JOHN LENDON announce his passing on 12th January 2026, aged 84. An active parishioner for over 46 years, happily living and raising 2 daughters at Capp Mill, where he and wife Sue hosted a number of local events. A dedicated Painswickian. He will be greatly missed. A service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Mary's Church at 2 o'clock on Tuesday 10th February 2026 and afterwards at the Painswick Centre.

CHRISTINE (CHRIS) WEST died peacefully at home in Painswick on 19th January 2026, aged 85 years. Beloved wife of the late John West and much-loved mum to Andrew and Penny. A Celebration of Life service will take place at St Mary's Church, Painswick on Monday 9th March at 1.30pm.

Donations via <https://christine-mary-west.muchloved.com> shared between Home-Start Stroud and Longfield.

To the friends and relations of DENNIS FRENCH who died peacefully on December 8th at Moreton Hill Care Centre aged 92. His funeral took place on January 23rd at Gloucester Crematorium. Dennis was a cabinet maker and member of the Guild of Gloucestershire Craftsmen and ran his shop in New Street Painswick for many years.

Thank You

Lettie the lost dog, and her family the Mayos of Harescombe would like to say an enormous thank you to all in Painswick who took Lettie to their hearts, located her, searched for her and cared about her. We were so relieved to get her home. We feel truly blessed to live in such a caring community - thank you.



MINI-ADS

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Receipt books for cash payments. Duplicate with carbon. No longer required. Call Peter. 01452 813228.

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

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

Additional copies of the Beacon

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

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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

NEXT ISSUE

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www.painswickbeacon.org.uk
for current issue and archive, the annual directory and village maps.

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Photographs and advertising art work original at 600dpi in JPEG

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More pictures from the Painswick Panto!



Backstage & Press Boy (Max Hawkesworth), Nanny McWee (Alex Hawkesworth), Snow White (Emme Andrews), Dr Brown Bear (Amy RayCollins), Sleepy (Indra Murray), Queen Aurelia (Maria Townley), Bashful (Annie Townley-Knibbs), Happy (Evie Hawkesworth), Doc (Florrie Draper), Rabbit (Vivien Andrews), Sneezzy (Willow Harris)



Prince Bellini (Tim Knibbs), DJ Jazzy Jester (Andy Proudman)



Magic Mirror (Simon Robey), Queen Aurelia (Maria Townley)



Susie (Alena Townley-Knibbs), Doc (Florrie Draper), Izzy (Amelie Hodgson), Happy (Evie Hawkesworth)



Queen Aurelia (Maria Townley), Magic Mirror (Simon Robey), Nanny McWee (Alex Hawkesworth)



Queen Aurelia (Maria Townley), Snow White (Emme Andrews)

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