

The Painswick Beacon

Sine praeiudicio

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Cabinet decisions

About 90% of the UK already has it. 95% of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly have it. Sheepscombe has it. But Painswick is still waiting.

Superfast fibre broadband is on its way. There's evidence of that in the bright new telecoms cabinets that have started to appear along the A46. There's one (pictured) on Stroud Road, outside the car park, another at the bottom of Pullens Road and two more further up Cheltenham Road. But it's taking a frustratingly long time and still no-one is willing to commit to an implementation date.

The work is being done through the 'Fastershire' project set up by Gloucestershire and Herefordshire councils in September 2013, one of a series of projects to cover areas of the country where commercial providers are unwilling to invest. Fastershire has contracted with BT Openreach to carry out the work.

Sheepscombe has already gone live, but in Painswick it's taken time to agree where other new cabinets should be sited. They don't replace the old cabinets, which will still be needed for telephone lines. Instead they provide additional connections to a Fibre Header Cable running up the A46 and sites have been needed for three more cabinets. Two have been installed in March by the telephone exchange and another one has to be near the top of Tibbiwell. A recent site meeting has agreed a way forward and work to install the cabinet will now be scheduled.

When they're all in, wires need to be cross-connected and the system can go live, but at this stage BT are not offering any completion date. Pessimists have suggested it could even be pushed into 2017, but Rob Lewis, the Painswick Parish Councillor liaising with Fastershire, is more optimistic, thinking in terms of months rather than years.

Still if businesses and households in Painswick are frustrated by the delays, spare a thought for Cranham, which may never get fibre connections. Instead there's a possibility of a shared satellite dish. And a consumer comparison site recently named Miserden as the place with the slowest broadband speeds in the whole of the UK.



(photo courtesy of Stroud Life)

A well deserved honour

A truly special event took place at the Golf Club in Painswick on Wednesday, 16th March. Percy Franklin was awarded the Légion d'Honneur medal for his part in the liberation of France in 1944. This follows the announcement by the French President that the surviving veterans should be thus honoured in recognition of all that they achieved.

Percy, now aged 91, started in the Glosters in 1943 before being transferred to the South Wales Borderers to swell their ranks after their huge losses. In 1944 he, like so many, landed in Normandy, on the Cherbourg peninsula. His unit then moved forward to Caen to take part in the bitter fighting there during which all units suffered very heavy casualties. Like so many comrades, Percy lost friends.

With the German defence beginning to crack under the Allies' relentless advance, Percy's unit moved on to Pont Audemer, west of Rouen. Here, whilst firing at a German armoured car, Percy was wounded by a shell

landing close by. Shrapnel was embedded in his ankle and legs and he was returned to England by hospital ship. Recovery took a long time and some shrapnel remains in his leg to this day.

We should remember that so many did not return and it is indeed timely therefore that the remaining heroic veterans are now being honoured in this way in recognition of and gratitude for all that they did to achieve such long-lasting peace in Europe. Percy is a fine representative of these heroes and certainly deserving of this honour.

The award was made by Lieutenant Colonel Motum, followed by a splendid lunch paid for by the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regimental Association and provided by the Golf Club. This was a proud and dignified occasion, both joyful and momentous and definitely one of great significance.

Carol Maxwell

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS from the meeting held March 16th by Mike Kerton

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.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The meeting was opened by Chairman Cllr Rob Lewis. As there were no questions from members of the public he moved quickly on to the Agenda.

Apologies for absence

The Clerk, Roy Balgobin, advised the meeting that apologies had been received from Cllrs Ian James and Abigail Smith. Cllr Smith arrived shortly before the meeting finished.

Matters arising not on the Agenda

Chairman Rob Lewis set out the current situation regarding the outstanding enforcement issues relating to the Court House. During the subsequent discussions the Council expressed its concern about the length of time it was taking to resolve the outstanding issues. It was agreed that the Chairman would arrange a meeting with the District Councillor, the District Council's Head of Planning and the District Council's Senior Enforcement Officer to discuss and resolve the Council's concerns.

Matters requiring a decision

There were three matters requiring a decision.

- S.16/0213/HHOLD Appleways, Gloucester St. To erect a mono-pitched timber framed/clad art-studio on 'screw piling' to the front of the property. Unanimous agreement to support the application
- S.16/0310/FUL Hammonds Farm, Wick St. Change of use from private dwelling (C3) to 8

bedroom guest house (C1) and internal alterations. Conversion of two outbuildings/stores into a one storey self-contained flat. Unanimous agreement to support the application subject to the following condition: That the self-contained flat shall continue to be incidental to the main property and not allowed to be sold off separately.

- S.16/0381/TPO Roadside Boundary, St Marys Mead. Horse Chestnut - reduce crown to include removal of all re-growth from previous reduction points, cutting back to strong secondary growth. Crown lift up to 5m over road and 3m over grass. Unanimous agreement to support this application.

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Cllr Martin Slinger opened the meeting and as there were no questions from members of the public moved swiftly on to the Agenda.

Apologies for absence

Clerk, Roy Balgobin, advised the meeting that apologies had been received from Cllr Ian James

To consider a co-option to fill the Painswick (Slad Ward) vacancy

The Clerk, Roy Balgobin, advised the meeting that Andrew Smith, a Slad resident wished to be co-opted to the Council to fill the outstanding Slad vacancy. Cllr Steve Morris proposed the co-option which was unanimously approved by the Council. Cllr Smith, who was present at the meeting,

signed the acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

County Councillor's Report

Although County Councillor Jason Bullingham was not present he had submitted a report to the meeting. The County Council had set its budget for 2016/17 and had included extra funding for roads, support for vulnerable children and investment into cycling schemes. However, the Government had announced an additional allocation of £2.4 million to the County. The majority of these additional funds would be spent on roads, with the balance allocated to projects such as to fund free visits for all five year olds to the Skillzone and investment into mental health support for children and young people.

District Councillors' Report

Although both District Councillors were not present at the meeting Cllr Nigel Cooper had submitted a written report. In his report he stated that along with other members of the Council he was continuing his campaign against the withdrawal of the "green bag" system for garden waste. (see article on page 7)

Also, he referred to the fact that the District Council had announced, without consultation, that it would no longer offer free of charge website hosting facility to Parish Councils. Apparently this move was for security reasons and is likely to cost Parish Councils several hundred pounds a year as they are obliged to publish certain information online.

District Council's Recycling Scheme

Councillors considered correspondence

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received (see separate article on page 7).

Community Priorities for Policing

A paper had been circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. The paper set out an offer from the Police to identify its local policing priorities. After discussing the paper the meeting agreed the following priorities:

- Speed enforcement on the north side of Painswick, enforcement in the 20 mph zone, speed enforcement in Edge and Slad.
- A monthly article for the Painswick Beacon concentrating on local policing concerns.
- The introduction of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme for Sheepscombe.

Cllr Rob Lewis proposed that PCSO Colin Drewett be invited to the next meeting of the Council to explain in greater detail the proposed scheme and also policing policies. Chairman Martin Slinger asked that all Cllrs identify specific policing problems in their own areas before the next meeting.

Responsible Financial Officer's Report

The Council agreed payment of the various invoices. The meeting also agreed to a request from Edge Village Hall to allocate £500 from Ward funds for Hall improvements.

Ward Reports

Cllr Ann Daniels advised the meeting that both the Town Hall and the Pavilion

would be available for community events to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations. The District Council had agreed to waive the charges for temporary road closures. The Clerk, Roy Balgobin, stated that as part of the celebrations it was intended to light a beacon on Cud Hill. Cllr Steve Morris reported issues with the footpath at Worgan Farm. He will provide more details to the Clerk in order to pursue its repair.

Cllr Roey Parker asked if the Highways Dept would agree for the Sheepscombe WI to clear a bank to allow better parking. Cllr Abigail Smith suggested that they contact the Cleaning Highway Your Way Scheme.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

One way traffic

Bisley Street and Friday Street

From 24th March, the one-way traffic order in Bisley St. and Friday St. came into effect. It was requested by Painswick County Councillor Jason Bullingham and approved following a consultation period in September last year.

With no alternative route through the village from Vicarage



Street and Bisley Street, blockages to St. Mary's Street will hopefully be a thing of the past!

A rollercoaster ride?

In a special presentation immediately after their March meeting, the Parish Council were told of outline plans to develop a small scale amusement park at Broadham. The plans would involve relocation of both the Rugby and Tennis Clubs, but would provide a substantial financial benefit to both clubs, as well as bringing additional tourism to the town and benefits to local businesses.

Council members expressed concern about traffic and noise, and the effect on local residents. They were assured that the development would not be on the scale of major parks such as Alton Towers, but would be "consistent with the scale and character of the area". Residents in the immediate area, including Richmond Village, would be offered concessionary passes to the attractions. The Beacon was told after the meeting that the developers were still looking at other possibilities. "There can be no certainty it will go ahead, but at this stage in April, Painswick is First On Our List".

PMAG

On 3rd March, Christopher Boodle, organist at Stroud Parish Church, talked about the organ - "King of Instruments" as it has been proudly called by its devotees. He told us how the organ works - the wind, the stops, the action and various facts about organ maintenance, answered many questions and played recordings of attractive music, headed by Bach's Prelude and Fugue in A minor.

Some of us members enjoyed our visit to Colston Hall in Bristol on 11th March listening to the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra playing music by Grieg, Gangar and Mahler, with Henning Kraggerud the brilliant soloist in Sibelius' Violin Concerto.

And on 17th March David Simpson presented the life, times and music of Tchaikovsky, with references to his famous contemporaries, interspersed with lovely recordings of the Romeo and Juliet overture and excerpts from his second Symphony, first Piano Concerto, Violin Concerto, 1812 overture, "Sleeping Beauty" and 6th Symphony.

Ralph Kenber



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DASH - Delivering Aid to Stroud Homeless

Thanks to all the people who continue to contribute their small change to DASH, in the past 6 months we have sent over £330 to Marah, the charity that works with the homeless and vulnerable in Stroud. Their manager writes to say how much our contribution is appreciated.

He says: "Marah currently provides, on average, just over 500 meals a month to the people who attend our Drop-in, which is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. The Drop-in is, however, more than just a place to eat. Our volunteers welcome everyone and provide a non-judgemental atmosphere where people can feel a sense of inclusion and companionship often lacking in their lives. We also provide an advocacy service to our guests, helping with a range of practical issues such as benefits and access to health and support services. One of our clients said "There have been times when without Marah I would have stolen food from shops. With no family and no-one to turn to in times of need, Marah have been a life saver".

So please continue to save your small change (5ps, 2ps and 1ps). Alison Robinson (812286) or Frances Watson (812071) are happy to come and collect it from you. Marah also works closely with the Stroud Food Bank, who make up emergency food parcels for those in need. Presently the Food Bank needs sugar, sponge puddings, potato mash and UHT fruit juice. Any contributions can be placed in the baskets at the back of Painswick and Cranham Churches or in the box at Murrays Estate Agency.

Thank you once again for your generosity.

Alison Robinson

Post Office Customer service at its best

Painswick's Post Office service may be rather limited at present – four hours per week – but that could change. Our new postmaster, Rahul Odedra, is very keen to see a growth in the Post Office presence here. He hopes that with greater customer flow the Post Office will increase the number of hours that he and Seeta, his wife, can open.

Rahul has extensive Post Office experience, having been a branch manager in Birmingham, and the opportunity to run his own business presented itself when the Post Office in Upton-St-Leonards became available. Previously he had been a department supervisor with Hilton Hotels and also happens to be a university qualified PE teacher. The result is that Rahul has wide experience in customer service and this is certainly much in evidence in his friendly manner and excellent communication skills.



He and Seeta have joint responsibility for the business. She spent some years working with students with special needs at Queen Alexandra College, but also has retail experience and has worked in the hospital and care sector. The couple have a baby of 15 months. Seeta, like Rahul, has excellent customer service skills.

Located in the Town Hall on Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30-11.30am the Post Office offers all mail services, cash withdrawals, travel money, payment of bills, banking services and pension withdrawals. Rahul and Seeta would very much like to see an expansion in Painswick and recognise the need to encourage us all to make as much use of the service as possible if it is to thrive and grow. Do support the Post Office in Painswick.

Carol Maxwell



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Africa on our doorstep



Gilly Hill brought the warmth and sunshine of Africa, as well as her abundant enthusiasm, into the Town Hall on the evening of Tuesday March 1st, giving an informative illustrated talk entitled 'Flights of Fancy' on the colourful birds of Zambia.

Local resident as she now is, Gilly lived for many years in Zambia and her own splendid photography revealed the huge numbers and the wide range of species of birds in that country. Martial Eagles, the largest African eagle, Crested Barbets with their distinctive shrill call, and the more familiar Bee-eaters and Stone-chats were just a few of the many to catch our eye, inhabiting diverse environments including savannah, forests, swamps, and Gilly's own beautiful garden.

The AGM followed at which a presentation was made to Malcolm and Joan Cooper who retired from the committee after serving for 17 years since the formation of the Bird Club.

The next Bird Club event is a Field Trip on Monday 4th April to Coombe Hill Canal and Nature Reserve, guided by Mike Smart. The meeting point, at 10.00am, is at the Wharf Car Park off the A38 Gloucester to Tewkesbury road. Everyone is welcome, visitors pay £3. Stout footwear is required for the damp conditions.

Bill Boydell

Painswick welcomes Chamber Philharmonic of Europe

The opening concert of the Painswick Music Society spring season saw the welcome return of the talented ensemble, the Chamber Philharmonic of Europe, and a full house enjoyed a most attractive programme of music played with great musicality, energy and enthusiasm. String players of seven different nationalities were on stage for the opening work, Hugo Wolf's Italian Serenade. They were joined by Russian virtuoso Kirill Gusarov who gave a sparkling performance of Hummel's Trumpet Concerto. The first half ended with a fine performance of Mozart's Divertimento in F, led with verve and drive by Polish violinist Pawel Zuzanski. The second half opened with the cheerful Rondo for violin and orchestra by Franz Schubert in which Zuzanski was called upon to dazzle his audience with a variety of skills and techniques. Carl Nielsen's Little Suite and a beautifully measured and graceful performance of Albinoni's Adagio completed the programme - but not the concert. The enthusiastic audience were treated to no fewer than three encores - two engagingly humorous pieces which showed how well this ensemble engages with and charms its audience and a beautifully phrased and sensitive performance of the 3rd movement of Borodin's D major Quartet.

A fine opening to the season and audiences are looking forward to the excellent Endellion Quartet on the 16th April, the superb young vocal ensemble Voces8 on the 23rd April and the brilliant pianist Benjamin Grosvenor on May 7th.

David Homer

Yew Trees W.I. The life and songs of George Formby



At the February meeting Matthew Sproston brought the life of George Formby alive in a very entertaining way.

George was born in Wigan, Lancashire in 1904 and, after an early career as a stable boy and jockey, he followed his father onto the music hall stage. Two big decisions then changed everything for him. He introduced a ukulele into his performances and his new wife, Beryl, became his professional manager. She guided him to become an outstanding box office success on the stage, in films and in the recording studio in the late 1930s and 1940s. Much of George's popularity was based on his cheeky Lancashire humour with saucy words and knowing winks and the use of double entendre and overly suggestive lyrics. This often led to censorship by the BBC but Queen Mary invited him to sing to her with the unexpurgated versions!

His stage persona was that of a good-natured imbecile but he was a shrewd professional who amassed a considerable fortune. However, George turned down many more lucrative offers so that he could entertain over three million troops during World War 2.

Matthew brought with him two instruments to play and illustrate George's songs. The first a ukulele called a "dancing flea" that was played in the early years and a banjo which was used later on for it produced a louder sound for films. George recorded over 230 songs and, surprisingly, we recognised a number of them enabling us to sing along with Matthew as he played "Mr Wu", "When I'm Cleaning Windows", "Bless 'em All" and of course the love song "Leaning on a Lamp Post".

Altogether the evening was informative, nostalgic and entertaining in equal measure and our spirits were lifted. Thank you, Matthew!

The date of the next meeting is 26th April at 7.30 pm in the Church Rooms when the Spring Event will be a Beetle Drive.

Janet Jenkins

Wednesday Ashwell Group Hands of Friendship Exhibition

Painswick Library from 6th to 18th April will be the venue for this exhibition featuring examples of the creative work of the members of the Ashwell Group.

The group meet on a weekly basis and engage in a variety of activities including sessions of arts and crafts.

The work on display will concentrate mainly on a range of textile crafts as well as studies in pattern and colour. Most of the work will illustrate how each of the members contributes to the finished result, thus giving all participants a sense of achievement and recognition.

Gill Allen

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Players' Seven Ages charity show

A very special 'words and music' afternoon is being performed by the Painswick Players and a host of special guests on Sunday, April 17th. 'The Seven Ages of Woman', a mesmerising mix of prose, poetry, music and songs reflecting the joy and creativity of womanhood, and all composed by women, is to raise funds and awareness for the charity Target Ovarian Cancer.

The special guests include singer Jenna Munroe, cellist Caroline Simpson, guitarist Michael Sheldon, and Painswick musicians flautist and pianist Teresa McIver and pianist Robert Burgess. Starting at 3pm, entry will be free with donation buckets strategically placed! And there will be a bargain refreshment break with tea-and-cake for only £1. It will be at the Church Rooms, at the top right of Painswick car park.

Target Ovarian Cancer works to improve early diagnosis, fund life-saving research and provide much-needed support to women with the disease. To give an idea of the importance of this charity, a woman dies of ovarian cancer every two hours; and currently 63 per cent of women are diagnosed too late, once the cancer has spread, making it more difficult and complex to treat.

The Players are looking for some help preparing and serving the refreshments – if you can help, please contact Swithin Fry on (01452) 813274

Swithin Fry.

Painswick Feast News Musicians wanted!



We are looking for musicians! Are you a soloist or part of a band, group, ensemble? Would you like to play or sing at the Painswick Feast? At the buskers' stage you could come and play, perhaps raise money for a special cause or just have some fun performing to a live crowd. Young and old and everyone in between - all are welcome to apply for the busking stage. Painswick Feast is

on Sunday 25th September from 11am – 5pm. Contact: Stephen Aiano 812738 email. info@painswickfeast.org

Iris McCormick



Painswick Valleys Conservation Society A new look for 'The Painswick' hotel.



The Painswick Valleys Conservation Society will be holding its AGM on Thursday, 28th April, in St Mary's Church Rooms. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30 pm start.

In addition to our members, non members will be very welcome and can join at the door. Membership is unchanged at only £4 single or £6 double for the year and includes refreshments during the interval in the evening.

Many Beacon readers will be aware that Calcot Hotels, owners of Calcot Manor and Barnsley House, now own The Painswick (formerly Cotswold 88) where extensive renovations have been under way for some time. We are therefore extremely fortunate to have as our guest speaker Mr Richard Ball the Executive Chairman of Calcot Hotels who will give us an illustrated talk about the changes and improvements that are in hand. The hotel will also have a new restaurant, and although Tom Kerridge will not be coming to Painswick, it highlights the standards of Calcot Hotels when I point out that he started his career as a chef there.

This will be an exceptional opportunity to have a preview of the changes to this historic and often loved feature of Painswick. Do come and join us for the evening!

Barbara Tait, (Chair of the Painswick Valleys Conservation Society.)

Friends of Sheepscombe School Annual Jumble Sale

The one and only Sheepscombe Jumble Sale from 10.30 to 12.00 on Saturday 23rd April. Light refreshments available. 50p entry. *Amy Johnson*

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Row over end of 'Green Bag' scheme

The introduction of a new garden waste recycling scheme by Stroud District Council sounds like good news. With a one-off fee of £20 for a brown wheelie-bin and an annual charge of £36, garden waste is collected fortnightly from February to November. The new service started earlier this year.



The catch is that not everybody can use the new service. It's only available to houses that can be accessed by the large waste collection lorries, which rules out a lot of the narrower and steeper streets in Painswick. At the same time, the previous scheme of paid-for green bags has been withdrawn, leaving many residents with no service at all.

Robert Arno on Tibbiwell is one resident who feels let down by the new arrangements. "I have a small garden where composting or burning waste is not really an option" he says. "I don't have a car, so getting it to the tip at Horsley is not possible either. What are we supposed to do?"

The Council argues that the previous scheme was unsustainable, with green bags going straight to landfill rather than recycling. But the general recycling scheme provides reusable bags rather than wheelie-bins in areas that are difficult to access. Mr. Arno points out that in other towns and villages a similar system of bags is used for garden waste as well, but so far Stroud is resisting this.

Painswick Parish Council agreed at its last meeting to write to the District Council asking them to consider introducing a 'dumpy bag' collection system. The clerk reported that he had received numerous verbal complaints about the lack of a scheme in various areas.



Painswick Probud The Controversy of Dresden Bombing

On 17th February David Sweet made a welcome return, speaking this time on the controversy of the Dresden bombing conducted in 1945. He presented a factual account and analysis of events, supported by statistics from Allied and German sources and showed

a short film of the raids and their aftermath. Opinions were expressed only in the extensive question and answer session that followed the presentation.

Allied bombing in WW2 initially targeted factories, docks and military installations. Expansion to bombing houses in major German cities with the aim of lowering morale was said to be in response to the German bombing of Rotterdam and major British cities. Dresden was a historic city described as the "Florence on the Elbe". In early 1945 it was home to 642,000 residents plus some 200,000 refugees from eastern Germany and 26,000 prisoners of war. It also had extensive strategically important railway facilities forming a major terminus to the east and some 200 factories engaged in manufacturing for the war effort, including the Zeiss Ikon optical plant. It had been raided on three separate occasions in 1944 with the USAF targeting the railway yards.

We were told that the strategy to expand the bombing campaign was agreed at the Yalta Conference and the command to commence blanket bombing was issued by Sir Charles Portal, Chief of Air Staff for implementation by Sir Arthur Harris, C-in-C Bomber Command, who initially queried the command. "Operation Thunderclap" as it was called was delayed, but a series of five raids, the first two being night raids by the RAF and then three daylight raids by the USAF, commenced on 13th February 1945. The ensuing fire-storm destroyed 90% of the city including 19 hospitals and 24,866 out of 28,400 houses. German records show 21,271 burials with around 25,000 people missing. The exact number is unknown as the refugee population was not properly documented. Despite the massive destruction, the railway resumed operation and a further raid on the marshalling yards by the USAF was conducted on 17th April.

Dresden was not the most heavily bombed German city. Hamburg, Munich, Cologne, Leipzig and Essen were all more heavily bombed and Berlin received more than ten times the tonnage of British and American bombs. The talk concluded with pictures of a rebuilt Dresden with many historic buildings restored to their previous grandeur. A lively discussion involving many members was triggered by the question: "Was it justified?"

Ian Breckels

Jumping for the James Hopkins Trust

Bungee jumping isn't necessarily something that everybody would volunteer to do! However, two Painswick sisters, Alice Bradley (age 16) and Mea Bradley (age 14) will be doing that today (2nd April) to raise money for a charity they feel passionately about. The James Hopkins Trust is a charity which provides specialist nursing respite care for severely disabled, life threatened and life limited young children in Gloucestershire. The trust currently provides 1100 hours of care per month to around 90 families countywide, either within the home or at their centre, Kites Corner, Barnwood. The accommodation wing was opened in May 2015 and is able to provide overnight respite 2 nights per week for 4 children.

As they explain on their justgiving website (www.justgiving.com/alice-mea), their decision to do the jump was "triggered by a realisation that we have so many chances that we take for granted. Many of the children that are helped by the Trust have so little opportunities ahead of them in comparison to what we already have. They overcome challenges daily that are unthinkable to the normal person".

Alice and Mea will be supported today by their family, including their Nan, Jenny Oakley, who has vowed to keep her eyes shut! They are hoping to have raised £1,000 before they have made the tandem bungee jump.

Susie Oakley



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Project St. Mary's Garden design talk

Following the success, both socially and financially, of the Sociable Safari Supper last November we are continuing to raise funds for the improvement of facilities in St Mary's Church. At 10.30 am on Monday 18th April there will be coffee and cakes followed by a talk on "The Principles of Garden Design" by Mark Draper of Graduate Gardeners. He will illustrate this with examples of his prize winning garden designs. Tickets priced £8 can be bought from the Churchwardens or Janet Jenkins on 812724. Do come and join us for a friendly and interesting morning.

Janet Jenkins

Painswick Singers Spring Concert Saturday 9th April

This year's Spring Concert for Painswick Singers falls unusually not on a Good Friday. Instead the concert is on Saturday April 9th in the second week after Easter - This gives the choir the opportunity to sing some more up beat and joyful music.

The two major pieces we have chosen this year come from very different centuries. We will perform a Te Deum by Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1634-1704). This is probably Charpentier's most famous work by virtue of the first movement and then a very small snippet. The minute you hear it you will be saying, "Oh This!" or something similar. As you will hear the opening title music of the Eurovision Song Contest.

Our second work is by Ariel Ramirez who wrote his Misa Criolla using Argentinian dance rhythms in 1963. There are all the movements of the mass from the Kyrie in the rhythm of Vidala Baguala a very sombre feel, through the Joyous Gloria which is marked as a "Carnavalito" to the ending with the Agnus Dei styled in an "estilo pampeano"

Andrew Hopwood is the conductor and we will be welcoming back Christopher Boodle as our accompanist and Pam Smith to add the percussion to the Misa Criolla.

We hope you will come and enjoy a joyful evening with us on what we hope will be a fine early spring evening. The concert is at 7.30 p.m. in St. Mary's Church.

Gordon Owen



On Fire! Friday 15th April

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News from St. Mary's

The days after Easter are always rather an anticlimax after the build up to the greatest of our Christian festivals. The Sunday after Easter used to be known as Low Sunday which I guess picks up on this mood of anticlimax. But it is Spring now, the daffodils are flowering, the days are lengthening, the sun is getting stronger and there is a lot to look forward to. The church moves forward towards Whitsun and the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Our Vicar has launched a prayer initiative in the benefice. Each month a prayer leaflet is issued encouraging us to pray for the church, for the community, for people living in specific areas and for wider issues. These leaflets are available in the church and are free for anyone to take away and use. Coincidentally, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York are launching a prayer initiative for the whole church in May. Our special monthly service for young people entitled "On Fire" will be held in the Church Rooms on Friday 15th April at 7.00pm. Although this service is designed for our youth it is open to all so feel free to join in.

This is the season for Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM's). St Mary's APCM is on Thursday 21st April at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms. This is the meeting when church officers are elected and it is open to all parishioners not just those who are on the Electoral Roll. This year there will be an open forum to discuss the re-ordering of the church interior. This is an important subject, worthy of serious thought, prayer and discussion.

On Sunday 1st May we will be having our annual Rogation Day walk. Rogation is associated with the ancient custom of "beating the bounds" when villagers walked in procession round the parish boundary and the crops were blessed. Our walk this year is on 1st May starting from Painswick church and walking to Pitchcombe. Feel free to join in this Spring event.

David Newell

PROBUS Women

On 14th March an inspirational talk on Gardening for Honey Bees by Alan Wells. His wife, Gillian, displayed a variety of end-products which we enthusiastically pored over. Alan and Gillian have lived at May Hill for 25 years but didn't start keeping bees until 8 years ago. Honey Bees have been around for 130 million years but should they ever become extinct we humans would not follow them. An urban myth he said, but our diets would become exceedingly boring.

Gardening and bees go together and there are things we can all do to attract them. You don't need to keep bees to be a bee keeper. The way in which we plant is vital. Flowers known as 'doubles' look pretty and have their place but, for bees, are pretty useless. Bees are not attracted to 'lone' flowers. They like flowers planted in 'drifts'. Alan suggested next time we visit a garden centre it would be better to purchase 4 trays each of 3 varieties rather than buying 12 trays each of a different plant. One large area of one plant has greater impact not only to our eye but, more importantly, to the bees.

Pom-pom blooms are perfect. Trumpet, Daisy and bowl-shaped blooms. Heathers. Lavender, Thrift, Aster. All fruit trees/bushes. Herbs. Spring bulbs and bulbs for later months. All will attract

Honey Bees. Even weeds have their place! Setting the lawn mower to leave the grass around 2" high so that clover and daisies can peep through would also attract bees. Incredibly a Honey Bee colony would visit up to a million flowers per day.

One last fact. 97% of Honey Bees in a hive are 'worker' bees and all 'workers' are Female! Now! Who'd have thought that!!!!?

Sacred Springs and Holy Wells by Amy Woolcott on 11th April next meeting. 10 for 10.30am. Guests £3.

delia Mason

Beacon Village Quiz Success for "The Diggers"

This year's Beacon Village Quiz attracted entries from 18 teams. As always the quiz was an enjoyable evening with friendly competition between the teams of four. The event was won by the Local History Society who entered under the name The Diggers. The High Flyers and the Fools on the Hill tied for second place. The award for the best mascot went to Dawn Tyson's team "Millers". The mascot was a knitted miller with a bag of flour. Our thanks to Marion Sadler and her team for providing the excellent refreshments. The team support the Stroud Mencap Homes. The full results are set out below.



Right: The winning team from the Local History Society with Master of Ceremonies Richard Aspinall



Joint runners-up The Fools on the Hill (top) and The high flyers (below)

1	The Diggers	Local History Society	94
2=	Fools on the hill	Katherine Dawton and friends	84
2=	The high flyers	Bird club	84
4=	Through the grapevine	Dylan Davies and friends	83
4=	Off the shelf	Painswick Library	83
6	Tired and tested	Tina and friends	82
7	Imperfect pitch	Mike Little and friends	77
8=	3 glasses and a bottle of plonk	Cotswold Mead friends	72
8=	Bookworms	Monthly book group	72
10=	Gloucester Street gurners	Philippa Aiano and friends	70
10=	Quizzicles	Patricia Kenshole and friends	70
12	Millers	Dawn Tyson and friends	69
13	The slashers	Beacon Conservation Group	67
14	The Tibbidwellers	Tibbiwell friends	66
15	Knights of the Round Table	Stroud Mencap Homes	64
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Sports reports

assembled by John Barrus

Golf Club



My enthusiasm for golf has suddenly gone up a notch as recent rain and drizzle has been banished – at least for a few days. It may not be the end of winter, but warm sunshine makes a real difference! If you would like to try Painswick Golf Course, please do. The club welcomes visitors (please play the green fee before starting your round). The club also welcomes visitors (whether golfers or not) in the clubhouse for refreshments or meals. Please check with Mike or Tom Horton (812180) regarding opening times and bookings for meals.

The club held its AGM on 4th March. At each AGM a new Captain is elected for the forthcoming year. This year members were delighted to elect Brendan Nunan. Other business included a report from the treasurer, who indicated that although money was tight, sound financial progress was being maintained.

To celebrate the club's 125th birthday (see last month's edition of the Beacon), the club is hosting a Summer Ball on 1st July, and a Celebratory Golf Open on Saturday 2nd July. The Summer Ball is open to members and the public. All golfers (male and female) with registered handicaps are welcome to participate in the Celebratory Golf Open. Further details about both events are available from the website and from the club (01452 812180). Bookings for the Celebratory Golf Open close on 27th June.

John Courts led the Seniors team for the first time on 17th March. The result of the home match against Minchinhampton Old Course was a win for Painswick. In other Seniors competitions: Brendan Nunan won the February Stableford competition with 43 points; Brendan Nunan and Peter Rowe won an Aggregate Pairs competition with 75 points; John Bentley and Frank Keelan won a Social Foursomes with 38 points; and Phil Taylor won the March Stableford with 38 points. Congratulations to all the winners.

Peter Rowe

Tennis Club



Six mens and five ladies teams have been entered for the this year's Dunlop Gloucestershire Summer League and practices are well under way. Ladies are on Wednesdays and Mens on Fridays both from 7pm. Matches start the last week in April and continue until August. Anyone keen to take part should contact Ruth Smith - 813693 or Nigel Barnett - 813941

Several junior teams covering a wide age range from 8 and under through to 18 and under have been entered into the Aegon National Junior League competition which gives them valuable experience of competition with other clubs. For further information please contact Steve Courts - 814847

Subscription renewals have been sent to all members and are due by the end of April. Anyone interested in joining the club is most welcome to come along to a club evening which are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7pm. Please contact Ruth Smith 813693 if you require further details.

The club has experienced coaches available if you feel you need to improve your game or just boost your confidence - contact Lorraine Ristic 07775 606399 who will be happy to arrange it for you.

Ruth Smith

Falcon Bowls Club



The new season is about to start, which provides an ideal time for potential members to visit the club, and try their hand at bowls. The outdoor season starts with the opening of the green on the 23rd of April at 2.30. Anyone is welcome to attend. The first fixture of the season will be against Pineholt on April 26th at 2pm.

Advance notice - Open Day

An Open day will be held on May 22nd 10.30 - 18.30. On the day people of all ages and abilities will be able to try bowls absolutely FREE. We will provide all equipment needed apart from a pair of flat shoes or trainers. Refreshments will also be available.

Free membership

We are also offering FREE membership this season worth £85 to anyone who's new to the game.

We have a Venture Scouts group whose ages range from 11 - 14 visiting our green in May. Falcon is actively promoting young people to take up bowls and would welcome any proposals from local groups to arrange a visit. The club is also in the process of linking up with Richmond Painswick so their staff and residents can benefit from our superb facilities. The club plans to run a Friday evening umbrella which is designed to attract new bowlers into the game. This will be running most Friday evenings throughout the summer and anyone who'd like to try bowls is welcome to attend.

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Under 7s Rugby Fun Day

On Sunday 13th March Painswick hosted the Gloucestershire Rugby Union Funday at Broadham Fields for the under 7's.

45 teams from all around Gloucestershire took part, each team bringing along a pool of 8 players. The Funday of rugby lasted all day in excellent weather and Jonny May, the Gloucester and England rugby player, made a guest appearance.



The Painswick re-opens

RIP Cotswolds88. Welcome to 'The Painswick'. What many local people still think of as the Painswick Hotel, re-opened its doors in March, now as part of the Calcot Collection, a group of hotels also including the Calcot and Barnsley House.

Internally it's been completely re-styled, with the new owners saying it will 'depart significantly from what will be recalled of the Cotswolds88'. And outside, the much-needed resurfacing at the top of Kemps Lane seems to have been well timed to celebrate its re-opening.

Describing the hotel as a 'restaurant with rooms', Calcot say the comfortable bedrooms will be reasonably priced and 'The Painswick will be compatible with regular, spontaneous visits rather than saving for a big occasion'.

The restaurant will clearly be a major feature of the hotel and Michael Bedford, the new Head Chef, has an impressive record. Previously Head Chef at the Tate Gallery restaurant in London, he moved to Gloucestershire in 2000 and gained a Michelin star for the Trouble House pub in Tetbury, before setting up 'The Chef's Table', also in Tetbury.

A Thank You to Painswick from Nepal

Ever since the devastating earthquakes in Nepal last April, Live to Love International (a humanitarian initiative run 100% on a volunteer basis) has been working to support families in the most remotely affected areas of the Kathmandu Valley. In the first few days after the disaster, Live to Love helpers delivered aid to over 20,000 people in the district of Ramkot and then started a campaign to build 200 new houses for those who had lost their homes in that region.

Last autumn, a group of Live to Love UK volunteers in the Painswick valley initiated a fundraising appeal to support the construction programme and involved local people by holding yoga and mindfulness classes and also by placing small model house foundations in various locations where people could add a brick to the building by making a donation to the appeal. Sponsors could also write a message on the brick to send support and comfort to those affected by the disaster.

To date, over 200 earthquake resistant houses have been completed - housing over 1,000 people. In addition, 5 community halls have been built, giving shelter to over 500 people and these halls are also being used as temporary classrooms. The Painswick Valley appeal has raised £7,283 towards this initiative and the charity is immensely grateful for the generosity and goodwill of the local residents. If you would like to add to the total and contribute then please follow this link www.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/villagetovillage

Kim Brockett



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Memories of 60 years ago ... and 100 years ago

Gyde House Centenary

Gyde House is 100 years old this year and we, the residents, are planning to mark this anniversary.

We would therefore like anyone having a long association with or keen interest in the house to contact us. You are welcome to email us on 100gyde@gmail.com or to phone Anthea Glibbery on 01452 810702 or Judith Cochrane on 01452 814043 by May 1st 2016 please. We look forward to hearing from you.

Judith Cochrane



Painswick boys camping at Tocknell, by kind permission of Mr. Geoffrey Hoyland. [PHOTO: J. F. SOLLARS.]

This photograph appeared in the Gloucestershire Scouts year book for 1953. Does anyone either recognise himself or someone else in it? Do get in touch if you can put names to faces.



Jottings for March

It was in the first week of March that I arrived back in the yard at Edge after lunch and looking across to Jenkins Lane, could see a large group of youngsters. Some of them nearby were fooling about, but farther down, others were screaming and running around. This group is down in the trees, not on the Cotswold Way where they should have been. I could see the cattle in the field were showing signs of distress.

There could have been dire consequences with the cattle surging towards the group. Luckily they took off into the next field. I jumped on to the tractor and headed across the fields, arriving just as the group started to move off. A few, very loud choice words from me brought a member of staff forward who was very apologetic.

Our cattle see walkers on the Cotswold Way and normally just glance up and go back to grazing, or chewing their cud. But this incident really upset them. Even a week later, they watch to see what walkers might do next.

A couple of days later I noticed a black blob, near the cattle - perhaps a new calf. But through binoculars, I see it is a loose dog. It is not our farm dog, Tess, as she is stood next to me. Looking around, I spy a man sat on a log; he is nowhere near the footpath and the cattle only some fifty feet from his dog. Looks like trouble but luckily the dog starts to bark, the man calls it and they move off.

Will the public never be considerate when walking near livestock? In both incidents the cattle could have reacted by charging towards them and move a lot faster than people can.

We bring cows near to the farm buildings when they are due to calf to be able to keep an eye on them. One cow rebelled - she was not going to calf in this field - so we let her go back to her familiar field. Fortunately, she now has a lovely black calf, both doing well.

Martin Slinger

Beacon Subscriptions A reminder

A big thank you to everybody who has sent in subscriptions after the last issue. For those who have not yet got round to it, we are asking for a minimum contribution of £7 per household for all households within the Painswick civil boundary. If you have any questions regarding subscriptions or need another envelope, please feel free to contact me; details are on the rear page. Thank you.

Jacek Wolowiec - Subscriptions



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Letters



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

Maggie Drake of Tibbiwell writes

Have other people found that the price of a 1st class stamp can now vary? It's officially 64p from 29th March, but I have been quoted up to 75p in local shops. In one case prices from 70p to 75p were quoted in a single afternoon!

Leslie Brotherton of Edge Lane writes

Leadership requires having a plan with clarity on 'Where do we want to go?', 'Exactly what do we want to achieve?', and 'How do we get there?'

Although we haven't had manifestos in Painswick, I wonder if those public-spirited enough to stand for election in May will be moved by this suggestion.

Painswick was a national front-runner in having just such a plan in 2002. It evolved over several months from community groupings, urged on (but not front-run) by the Parish Council, identifying matters concerning them; highway safety, receiving Broadband, pedestrian access to various locations, starter homes, planning criteria, aerals, wildlife preservation, etc.. Over 100

recommendations were proudly acted upon by the Council thereafter.

Does anyone share my opinion that our Council would be serving us even better if it sought revision of such a plan during this year? To move from being reactive to pro-active; and trusting the people.

Painswick Community Library

Library Events



Ashwell Group – "Hands of Friendship"

We are pleased to be using the Library space again for an exhibition, featuring examples of the creative work of the members of the Ashwell Group. The work will concentrate on a range of textile crafts as well as studies in pattern and colour. The Exhibition will run from the 6th to the 18th April, during Library hours.

Knit and Natter

As reported in the Beacon last month, the library is also hosting the Knit and Natter group once a month on Monday mornings, 10 – 12. Further details available from Ann 812344, Sue 810878 or Lilian 812456

Reminder the Library is not just books!

Facilities available in the library include an A4 laminator – useful for all those posters that need to go up around the village; copying, printing and scanning; and free wi-fi

New Books this month include:

Adult Non-fiction: Jane Bingham "The Cotswolds. A Cultural History"
Adult Fiction: Jeffrey Archer "Cometh the Hour"; Tracy Chevalier "At the Edge of the Orchard"; Dinah Jefferies "Silk Merchant's Daughter"; Dona Leon "Falling in Love"; Jo Nesbo "Blood on Snow"; Anthony Trollope "Dr Thorne"; John le Carre "The Night Manager"; Haruki Murakami "Norwegian Wood".

Junior Fiction: Phil Barnes "My Teacher's a Robot" YJF; Julian Clary "The Bolds" YJF

Junior Non Fiction: Bernadette Crowley (Ed) "Amazing Birds of Prey" J598.9; Richard Wolf "Greek & Roman Gods and Goddesses" J398.2

As always, the full list is available at the Library counter.

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Croft School News

New head teacher

As many will be aware, Mr Kevin Howie resigned as Head of The Croft at Christmas. The Governors have appointed a new Head, Mrs Rebecca Gore, who is the Headteacher at Oak Hill Primary School, near Tewkesbury. As the notice period for Heads is a full term, Mrs Gore will start at The Croft after Easter.

To take us up to then, the Governors were very pleased to have appointed Mrs Barbara O'Dwyer as the interim Head for the Spring term. Mrs O'Dwyer is an experienced former Head Teacher, and was serving on the Governing body. Her experience and knowledge have been vital this term in ensuring a smooth transition.

We all wish Mrs Gore well for when she starts at The Croft.

Ian Cridland

The Fairtrade Coffee Morning

A Fairtrade Coffee Morning took place at The Croft School on Friday March 4th. Assisted by Years 4 and 5 and school staff, Mrs. McCormick, (who was recovering from an operation), kindly directed operations whilst parents and children came and went throughout the morning.

Many thanks to all parents who produced a wonderful display of cakes, as seen below in the photo, and to all who supported the event.

A special thanks to Daniel Dougherty and team who raised £22.50 with their guess the number of sweets in the jar.

£420 was raised for the local charity Refugee Aid Stroud. If you would like to see more of what they do please see their website. www.refugeeaid.com

Mrs. O'Dwyer

Years 4 and 5 with some of the many cakes



End of term report

As we come to the end of Term 4 we have done such a lot in school. Having survived the 'flu bugs and other horrid viruses the pupils are now looking forward to the end of term events and the summer terms.

The football team have just won the Stroud Schools football tournament with an amazing penalty shoot – out finale.



Above, the winning team: Sammy, Harry, Hugo, Edward, James and Finn.

The netball team won most of their matches as did the regular football squad.

Celebration Assemblies are next week with lots of parents attending. We finish term with the whole school celebrating Easter with an Easter bonnet and sports hat parade in the church.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the school since January. To the 'open the book' team, Pulsar Club, Mr Westbury and all the parents and grandparents who come into school to help hear children read. Thank you.

Mrs O'Dwyer

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Walking the Windrush

On Wednesday, 6th April, we welcome back Dr Theo Stening, who will talk about 'Walking the Windrush', a magnificent Cotswold river which starts at Taddington near Temple Guiting as a 'racy little stream' before being tamed by stone-lined banks through Bourton-on-the-Water. The Windrush valley is rich in historical remains and wildlife. Our meeting starts at the earlier time of 2.00 pm to accommodate the Club's short AGM.



Our Excursion programme begins this month with a 'Behind the Scenes' tour of Oxford's Natural History Museum on Tuesday 19th April where the curators will guide us round their special collections and archives. Then on Tuesday 31st May, we visit Stourhead Park in Wiltshire in the morning followed by an afternoon stop at Hauser and Wirth's contemporary gallery and gardens at Bruton, Somerset (on 31st May), where we will have tea. As usual, coaches depart from Stamages Lane car park. Both trips are proving popular with less than 10 places left in each case. Contact me for booking information (813228).

To mark the 300th anniversary of 'Capability' Brown's birth, the Club is also visiting Croome Park in Worcestershire where Brown transformed an unproductive marshland into a park graced by temples, lakes and follies and a fine collection of trees. On Wednesday 15th June, we will be able to see for ourselves the National Trust's progress in restoring the estate in accordance with the plans of this master of 'English Landscape' design. We will also have time to look round Croome Court, re-modelled by Brown in the Palladian style, and the adjacent Gothic church, from which there are excellent views across the valley towards the Malvern Hills. On the return journey home, we stop at Revills Farmhouse Café for tea. For booking information, contact John Keyte tel. 01453 298732.

Jane Rowe

Painswick Theatre Club

On Saturday 19th March the Painswick Theatre Club saw a 20th anniversary production of Stones in His Pockets at the Everyman Theatre. Set in Southern Ireland the play centres around an American film company seeking the authentic Ireland whilst filming on location. This is not an easy play to watch, being a comedy that includes a suicide. The first act provided much mirth being the antics and musing of two local Irish extras, Charlie and Jake. The two actors play the parts of the other characters, both men and women, by switching bearing and voice. The act ends abruptly with the announcement of the suicide of a local teenager by drowning with stones in his pockets. The second act reflects on failed ambition, the guilt of those that knew the teenager and the callousness of the film company, with only light touches of humour. A difficult subject, portrayed sensitively, we left the theatre challenged and thoughtful, a memorable visit.

The next outing is to Oxford on 23rd April to see The Herbal Bed, a true story of Shakespeare's daughter's encounter with the morals of the time.

Ross Munro

Charity Curry Night for Worldwide Cancer Research

Eleanor Isaac is holding a Charity Curry Night at Sheepscombe Village Hall at 7 pm on 23rd April. Tickets are £17 to include a 3 course meal. There will be a cash bar on the evening. To buy tickets contact eleanor@drdawn.com

Carol Maxwell

A working life on the Severn

At the March meeting of the Society Chris Witts talked of his early life on the working barges now no longer seen on the River Severn. The river's main function now is as a source of our water, a sort of moving reservoir, but until 20 or so years ago it was one of the busiest waterways transporting cargo in the country.



Chris left school in 1960 and started his working life on the Shell Steelmaker, a very modern craft for its time. Established crews were tough as befitting the life on board, not easy for a youngster. He told the story of the major disaster that caused the bridge collapse and the death of five men. The very nature of the Severn with its dramatic tidal movements combined with poor weather conditions constantly made for difficult sailing conditions.

Chris spent the next few years as part of a crew of four, a tough life but one of interdependency and a valuable experience. He described the importance of the Sharpness Canal locally and the real significance of the barges. After some years he joined the Fire Service but after retiring in 1990 he worked on a grain barge, later becoming the skipper. As bigger, faster roads were constructed the movement of what had been a vast range of cargoes via the river came to a halt and by 1998 it had all but finished.

At next month's meeting John Loosley, an excellent speaker, will give a presentation on the poor (of whom there were very many in Painswick) and the effects of the Poor Laws. Tuesday, 19th April, Croft School, 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

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Painswick Gardening Club Passionate About Plants

With the season stomping on and everything romping at such a pace, including the pesky weeds, it's just a short piece from me this month as I need to get back into the beautiful sunshine in a vain attempt to maintain a degree of control!

What a treat of an evening we had with Nathalie Mignotte talking about seasonal colour in the garden. She positively oozed enthusiasm from start to finish with so much practical advice and tips about a vast range of plants for all sizes of gardens I wished that I'd taken a notebook! I, for one, would love to listen to more from this inspiring and knowledgeable plantswoman.

Don't forget that we're back into the 7.30pm talks again now. On 13th April (Church Rooms) Gail Plant (yes, really!) will talk about 'The Scented Garden'. Gail likes to engage with her audience by bringing plants that can be touched and smelt so it promises to be an interesting, hands-on interactive evening. As always, we love to welcome visitors (nominal charge) so come along if the topic appeals.

Are you a business in Painswick? If you would like to get involved and participate in Painswick in Bloom please email us (thepainswickgardeningclub@gmail.com) before Tuesday 12th April.

Members who came to the last couple of meetings will already know that a private group visit has been organised to The Laskett Garden (belonging to Sir Roy Strong) on the afternoon of 26th May at a cost of £12 pp. To help us organise car shares, early expressions of interest in the visit would be welcomed so please email us (as above), speak to a Committee Member or sign up on the board at the April meeting. Your support for this super visit is really valued as Committee Members are considering the potential of organising visits to a couple of other relatively local NGS gardens.

And another reminder to keep Saturday 28th May free as our plant sale in the Church Rooms kicks off at 1pm. Everyone is welcome and we are delighted to be selling plants from Hoo House Nursery in Tewkesbury, Painswick's Shady Plants Nursery and Rococo's Nursery together (hopefully!) with donated surplus seedlings and young plants. After a pleasant perusal and purchase from the plethora of plants, relax and enjoy very reasonably priced tea, coffee and homemade cake in the knowledge that you are helping to support the Club. If you aren't a Member but you have a few seedlings or rooted cuttings that are going spare, we'd love to take them off your hands - please! As I said in my last couple of articles, it would be great to hear from you if you'd like to get involved in some way; it'll be a fun afternoon and many hands.....!

Caroline Bodington (Committee Member)

PROPERTY REPORT for March from Hamptons International

With the daffodils now in full bloom, a hint of warmth in the sun and Easter just around the corner, Spring has finally arrived in Painswick! So far in 2016, the local property market has been very buoyant with our best start to the year since the Credit Crunch hit us back in 2007. The latest report from the Nationwide Building Society supports this view with annual house price growth in February being 4.8%, up slightly on the January figure but still in the 3-5% range that we have seen since last summer. Some of this increase is likely to be attributable to the impending new Stamp Duty levy that will come into play on 1 April 2016 for second homes. This will have had the effect of bringing forward a significant number of purchases which may, in turn, mean we see growth slow down in the coming months.

Besides the Budget, the other hot topic under discussion now is the referendum on Britain's continued membership of the European Union – or "Brexit" as it is known. Nobody actually knows what will happen if Britain leaves the EU, but in the meantime, the uncertainty is unsettling for markets and that in turn can have an impact on the economy, jobs and wages – all of which have a knock-on effect on the housing market. There are risks associated with staying in the EU as well as leaving it which we must all weigh up before the referendum on 23 June.

If you are considering selling your house in 2016, or simply wish to get an update on its value in today's changing market, please

call Hamptons for a free, no-obligation market appraisal based on recent comparable evidence and with the benefit of 140 years of experience in selling and letting properties.

Locally, Hamptons are pleased to continue our support of local events with dates for your diary including the Painswick Playgroup Easter Egg Hunt on 26 March, The Painswick Singers Spring Concert on 9 April and the Painswick Centre AGM on 26 April.

New instructions recently include: Mount Pleasant in Vicarage St., a charming cottage in need of renovation; Cherry Tree Cottage, a beautifully presented 3 bedroom cottage on the Longridge; Bay Tree House, a detached 5 bedroom house in Sheepscombe; Mill Cottage, a 4 bedroom Cottage with garage/annexe in Upton St Leonards; and 2 Vatch Cottage, a charming cottage with planning permission to extend and Vatch Cottage, a substantial stone residence with 3.9 acres, both situated in The Vatch. Recent sales agreed include: Hambutts Mynd, 12A The Croft, Mount Pleasant and 5 Brookhouse Mill in Painswick; Weavers Cottage, Cherry Tree Cottage and Greycot in Sheepscombe; Riflemen in The Vatch; The Green in Edge; Inglenook in Pitchcombe; and Gretel Cottage in Upton St Leonards. Properties now sold include: Pyll House and Cherry Tree Cottage in Sheepscombe, 12A The Croft in Painswick, Northlea House in Gloucester and 1 Hillview Cottages in Great Witcombe.

Guy Tabony, Branch Manager



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APRIL

Sat	2	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 01452 520524	Parking - catbrain quarry road	9.00am to 12noon
Sun	3	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Sung Eucharist	St. Mary's Church Catholic Church St. Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am
Mon	4	Painswick Valley Toddler Group - Mondays (school term time only) Bird Club: Coombe Hill Canal & Meadow Field Trip & Guided Walk: Knit & Natter Group: Tel: 812344 Short Mat Bowls - Mondays (contact 812464) Yoga (Mondays) contact Kim 812623	Pitchcombe Vill. Hall meet at Wharf car park (grid ref: SO 886274) Library Town Hall Sheepscombe Vill. Hall	9.50 to 11.30am 10.00am 10.00am to 12.00noon 10.30am 2.00pm 6.30 to 8.00pm & 8.15 to 9.45pm
		Community Choir Have Your Say' Church Group: every Monday - contact Rev. Roger Leigh 01452 536325.	Painswick Centre Church Rooms	7.00 to 8.30pm 7.30 to 9.30pm
Tue	5	Zumba Gold dance fitness class for Seniors: £6 pp Tuesdays. Tel: 07766 101790 Health Walk (One Hour) - Tuesdays: Enq. 813228 Bingo: Tuesdays	Painswick Centre Town Hall Ashwell House	10.00am 1.45 for 2.00pm 6.30 to 9.00pm
Wed	6	Botanical Illustration classes - Wednesdays - mornings or afternoons. Pre-book:07810 725772 or via website: www.botanic-illustration.co.uk Yoga (Wednesdays) contact Kim 812623 Painswick Toddler Group - held at Painswick Children's Centre: Wednesdays Holy Communion Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club AGM & Lecture - Walking the Windrush - Dr Theo Stenning: Enq. 813228 (note earlier start)	Painswick Golf Club GL6 6TL Sheepscombe Vill. Hall Croft School St. Mary's Church Painswick Centre	9.30am to- 12noon & 1.00 to- 3.30pm 9.30 to 11.00am 10.30am to 12noon 12.00 noon 2.00pm
		Talk by Steve Quinton (Head Gardener) Table Tennis - Wednesdays	Rococo Garden Painswick Centre	6.30pm 7.00 to 9.00pm
Thu	7	Yoga - All Abilities (Thursdays) Cotswold Room 812623 T'ai Chi: Thursdays - Contact 812344 Dog Training Club (Thursdays) Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners - Thursdays- tel. Julie - 01453 752480 Experienced beginners - Thursdays New Pilates Class - Thursdays contact Nicola 07870 953159 or nmarshes@hotmail.com	Painswick Centre Town Hall Church Rooms Town Hall Town Hall Painswick Centre	9.30 to 11.00am 9.30am 9.30 to 12.00noon 12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm
Fri	8	Country Market: Coffee Available Friday Club: Piping - Iain Wilcox	Town Hall Town Hall	9.30 to 11.00am 2.30pm
Sat	9	Painswick Singers Concert: Misa Criolla by Ramirez & Charpentier's Te Deum; Enq 621151	St. Mary's Church	7.30pm
Sun	10	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Informal Holy Communion	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am
Mon	11	Probus Women: Sacred Springs and Holy Wells - Amy Woolacott	Church Rooms	10.00am
Tue	12	Make & Cake Group Cupcakes: Support group for helpers of homebound through illness: Tel 813326	Youth & Community Pavilion P. Centre Green Room	10.00am to 12 noon 2.00 to 4.30pm
Wed	13	Probus: AGM Holy Communion Gardening Club: The Scented Garden - Gail Plant Parish Council Meeting	Painswick Centre St Mary's Church Church Rooms Town Hall	10.00am 12.00noon 7.30pm 7.30pm
Thu	14	Music Appreciation Group: We need to talk about Alex - Robert Nichols Joint meeting - Bird Club & Gloucestershire Naturalists' Soc.: Tales of Remarkable Birds - Dominic Couzens	Town Hall Town Hall	2.30pm 7.30pm



Fri	15	On Fire: Music, Prayer, Praise, Participation & Pizza for Youth & Adult	Church Rooms	7.00 to 8.30pm
Sat	16	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 01452 520524	Parking - catbrain quarry road	9.00am to 12noon
Sun	17	Painswick Music Society Concert: Endellion Quartet Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Sung Eucharist Painswick Players: Seven Ages of Woman	St. Mary's Church St Mary's Church Catholic Church St Mary's Church Church Rooms	3.00pm 8.00am 8.30am 9.30am 3.00pm
Mon	18	Project St. Mary's: Principles of Garden Design - Mark Draper. Coffee & Cakes	Church Rooms	10.30am
Tue	19	Cotteswold Naturalist's' Field Club Coach Trip to Oxford Natural history Museum. Enq. 813228 Local History Society: The Poor Laws (providing for the poor) - John Loosley	Stamages Car Park Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	20	Evening Prayer	St Mary's Church	6.00pm
Fri	22	Friday Club: Pen & Polishing (Mitford Housekeeper) - Diana Alexander	Richmond	2.30pm
Sat	23	Copy Date for May Beacon Theatre Club Outing to Oxford - The Herbal Bed St. George's Day Conservative Ploughman's Lunch: Tel 812085	Stamages Car Park Boundaries Edge, Cranham	10.30am 12.00noon to 2.30pm
		Painswick Music Society Concert: Voces8 vocal ensemble Cotswold Male Voice Choir: St. George's Day Concert: Tickets £8 - Tel: 07710130579	St. Mary's Church Painswick Centre	3.00pm 7.30 to 9.30pm
Sun	24	Holy Communion (BCP) Mass Painswick Praise	St Mary's Church Catholic Church St Mary's Church	8.00am 8.30am 9.30am
Tue	26	Yew Trees W.I.: Spring Event Painswick Centre AGM	Church Rooms P. Centre, Cots. Room	7.30pm 7.00pm
Wed	27	Probus: The role of the County Council - Peter Bungard, Chief Executive, Glos. County Council	Painswick Centre	10.00am
Thu	28	Music Appreciation Group: Mozart - Peter Jenkins Painswick Valleys Conservation Society AGM	Town Hall Church Rooms	7.30pm 7.30pm
Sat	30	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 01452 520524	Parking - catbrain quarry road	9.00am to 12noon

MAY

Thu	5	Music Appreciation Group concert outing to Symphony Hall, Birmingham	Stamages Car Park	4.00pm
Fri	6	Friday Club: Steam Trains - Peter Berry	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	7	May Issue of The Painswick Beacon published Painswick Music Society Concert: Benjamin Grosvenor (Piano)	St. Mary's Church	3.00pm
Sun	8	Painswick Beacon clear-up: meet at car park near Catbrain Quarry	Painswick Beacon	2.00pm
Mon	9	Bird Club: Cotswold Water Park Field Trip & Guided Walk. Tel. 812951	meet at Neigh Bridge Car Park	9.30am

Entries for the Village Diary should be sent direct to **Eddie Buttrey at: mikeandeddie@thebuttreys.com**

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PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

S.16/0286/HHOLD CARTERS COTTAGE, Hammonds Farm
Proposed demolition of existing outbuilding, construction of two storey courtyard extension, new garage block and alterations to existing porch.

S.16/0310/FUL HAMMONDS FARM, Wick Street
Change of use from private dwelling (C3) to 8 bedroom guest house (C1) and internal alterations. Conversion of two outbuildings/stores into a one storey self-contained flat.

S.16/0381/TPO ST MARYS MEAD, Roadside Boundary.
Horse Chestnut – Reduce crown to include removal of all re-growth from previous reduction points, cutting back to strong secondary growth. Crown lift up to 5m over road and 3 m over grass.

S.16/0213/HHOLD APPLEWAYS, Gloucester Street
To erect a mono-pitched timber framed/ clad art-studio on 'screw piling' to the front of the property.

S.16/0464/FUL DOWN FARM, Slad
Change of use of barn to guest accommodation and holiday let for occupation in conjunction with race horse training business.

S.160383/VAR DROVERS CORNER, Longridge, Sheepscombe
Extensions and alterations to existing house.

S.16/0533/COU MEADOW BANK, Kings Mill Lane
Change of use from C2 (Mental Health Residential Care Home) to C3 (Residential dwelling).

S.16/0549/HHOLD & S.16/0550/LBC COURT HOUSE, Hale Lane
Proposed Summer pavilion, new hedge screening, new Cotswold stone walling to rear formal garden.

S.16/0531/HHOLD HIGHCROFT, Longridge, Sheepscombe
Roof alterations to front and rear with extension to sitting room at front.

CONSENT

S.16/0001/HHOLD SPRING ACRE, Lower Washwell Lane
Two storey rear extension.

S.16/2865/HHOLD YEW TREE COURT, Far End, Sheepscombe
Elevational improvement works with one new window & balustrade replacement.

S.16/2792/HHOLD BROWNSHILL COURT, Wick Street
Works to ground floor & amendments to layout - see application for details.

S.16/2951/LBC ST MICHAELS RESTAURANT & BB, Victoria Street
Replacement of the existing south elevation windows. The proposal seeks to reinstate the traditional aesthetic found on the front elevation – related application S.14/2573/LBC

S.16/0029/HHOLD 29 ASHWELL
Proposed front porch and rear single storey extension.

S.15/2814/HHOLD DUMBLEDORE, Beacon Close
An attached garage to the side of the house. (In a revised location to previous application).

S.16/0069/HHOLD MEAD END HOUSE, Cotswold Mead
Double storey domestic extension.

S.16/0021/HHOLD ALPENFIELD, Far End, Sheepscombe
New plant room and external wood store with roof over supported on existing retaining walls.

S.16/0084/LBC AMESBURY, 3 Vicarage Street
Removal of a 1920's internal brick partition wall separating a corridor and the utility room in order to create a dining room.

S.16/2597/HHOLD COLMAR, Slad Road, Slad
Proposed extension and refurbishment of existing dwelling following approved planning application S.15/1166/FUL

S.16/0119/LBC HOLCOMBE HOUSE
New rooflights to barn.

S.16/0130/TCA ROSE COTTAGE, Damsells Mills Lane, Sheepscombe
T1 Sycamore Sapplings – Cut down and treat to kill. T2 Sycamore – Remove.

S.15/1162/FUL LAND PARCEL TO NORTH OF HILL FARM
Erection of an agricultural building.

S.15/0710/FUL & S.15/0711/LBC NORTH WEST STABLE, Brownshill Court
Convert disused stable building into groom's accommodation with reinstated store building.

S.15/2746/LBC & S.15/2745/HHOLD ROSEBANK COTTAGES, Slad Road, Slad
Demolition of 1960s lean-to to allow construction of single storey extension. Conversion to lean-to to relocate wc.

WITHDRAWN

S.15/2684/FUL HAMMONDS FARM, Wick Street.
Alteration and adaption of agricultural buildings to enclose a biomass boiler.

MINI-ADS

Husqvarna Hover Mower. 16 ins. Cut. Honda GCV 160 engine, 4 stroke. Serviced. Used six times. 18 Months old. Cost, new, was £500. Price £150 as new. Painswick 690583

Small Schreiber wardrobe for sale: 76 cm wide, 166 cm tall and 52 cm deep. £5. Buyer collects. 812942

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Babysitting and Gardening. 18-year-old experienced in gardening and babysitting available in the Painswick area - DBS checked with references available. Please contact sebhewett@gmail.com for details and availability.

A Cosy Cottage for Two. Self catering Holiday cottage available in Newport, Pembrokeshire. www.dyfedcottage.com

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Painswick Centre AGM

There is a change of date for the Annual General Meeting of the Trustees of the Painswick Centre to 26th April at 7pm. There will be an opportunity to look around the building and a complimentary drink and chance to talk with the Trustees and Centre Manager following the meeting.

The Personal Column

Congratulations

To JOAN WOOD of Gyde Road, Painswick, who will be celebrating her 99th birthday on April 7th. All her family and friends wish her a very happy birthday. Joan delivered copies of the Beacon for many years until last year.

To LORD DICKINSON of The Stables, Gloucester Road, Painswick on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Thank You

From Elisabet Coronado and Manuel Parrilla to MICHAEL OAKLEY AND SIMONE HAMILTON for all their help with learning a new language, transportation, finding a job and so many things. "Just thank you for being you".

Condolences

To the family and friends of JOSEPHINE MATCHETT of Churchill Way, Painswick who died peacefully at home on March 13th aged 82.

To the family and friends of PADDY COLVER who died peacefully on February 11th at Scarlet House Care Home in Stroud. Before moving there Paddy lived for many years in Painswick.

To the friends of LEONARD CHITTENDEN of Tibbiwell, Painswick who died in a London hospital on March 8th aged 74. He had lived in Painswick for about 17 years and was an active member of the Painswick and District Conservation Society.



Sagar Deshmukh of Painswick Pharmacy with his wife Radhika. The couple were married in Mumbai on 28th February and are now back in Painswick.

NEXT ISSUE

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for current issue and archive, our history and aims, the annual directory, village maps and the current weather forecast

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You could help Vicky Aspinall, if you would relay information about those you know and for whom a mention in the Personal Column would be appreciated.

Closure of Edge Lane

Edge Lane (the section through Edge Village) will be closed from 12th to 14th April to allow for repairs to a water pipe.

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