

The Painswick Beacon

Volume 46 Number 10

January 2024



Christmas lights in the Rococo Garden. See page 11

The pictures above are accredited to Tony Perks and also Simon Pizzezy (Stroud News)



Frost on Edge Common in early December



Painswickian of the year 2023 is Joan Warner.

Report on page 5

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS from the meetings held on 13th December

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Present: Cllr Andy Cash (Chairman)
Cllr James Cross Cllr Ann Daniels
Cllr Sandra Hunkin Cllr Rosie Nash
Cllr Roey Parker Cllr Martin Slinger
Also in attendance: Cllr Abigail Smith
District Cllr Gary Luff

Apologies were received from Cllrs
Adrian Gyde and Ian Massey.

Matters requiring a decision:

- S.23/1866/HHOLD Bunch Of Grapes, Cheltenham Road (Revised Plans) Alterations to side elevation roof. The Committee agreed to make no comments.
- S.23/2253/LBC Kings Mill House, Kings Mill Lane Repairs to existing first floor level window, ground floor fireplace, first floor fireplace. The Committee agreed to Support this application
- S.23/2274/HHOLD Relocation of existing entrance piers and installation of new entrance gate. Fielden, Slad Road, Slad 304 The Committee agreed to Support this application, subject to support from the District Councils Conservation Officer.
- S.23/2308/FUL Land At Briarfield House, Stroud Road Erection of 1no. self build dwelling, ancillary operations and associated works. Resubmission of S.22/2099/FUL. The Committee agreed to Support this application.
- S.23/2327/HHOLD Farm View House, Longridge, Sheepscombe Erection of a single storey rear and side extension & associated landscaping works. The Committee agreed to Support this application.
- S.23/2284/COU Court House, Hale Lane Change of use of existing outbuilding from ancillary building to private residence to holiday accommodation. This application has been withdrawn.

Date of the next Planning Committee meeting – Wednesday 3rd January 2024 in the Town Hall at 7.00 pm

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Present: Cllr Martin Slinger Chairman
Cllr Andy Cash Cllr James Cross Cllr Ann Daniels Cllr Sandra Hunkin Cllr Rosie Nash Cllr Roey Parker Cllr Abigail Smith Also Present: County Cllr Sue Williams District Cllr Gary Luff

The Council observed a period of silence to remember Cllr Rob Lewis

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Adrian Gyde and Ian Massey.

County Council report

87.9 Million Pothole Funding Announced for Gloucestershire . The council will receive £2.8m this financial year, £2.8m next year and additional funds totalling £87.9 over ten years.

The council have also launched Fix My Street - a new, easier and more efficient way for residents, businesses and organisations in Gloucestershire to report and get updates on those issues .I have found this map much easier to use and see if a problem has already been reported .

Fix My Street is available on the county council's website and you can save the page to your home screen on any device. Or alternatively, download the app from Apple's App Store or Google Play. Gloucestershire County Council is responsible for almost 6,000km of roads and each one is routinely inspected. However, issues can develop quickly and residents can help by reporting problems online. Once reported, a safety inspector will make an assessment of the work needed and whether a repair needs to be completed. Works are prioritised based on the urgency of the situation, for example, a problem on a busy road may be resolved within 24 hours. The council aim to repair all significant potholes (more than 4cm deep and 30cm wide) within 28 days.

District Council report

District Cllr Gary Luff submitted a report to the meeting including...

Local plan review. Stroud District Council is working with local partners to provide information to the Planning Inspectors, for the examination of the draft Local Plan for Stroud district.

Chairman's report.

The Chairman invited Philip Taylor to give an update on the Friendship agreement and activities with Slavutych

To adopt a biodiversity policy for the Parish Council .

The Council unanimously agreed to adopt the Biodiversity Policy and agreed that the Working Group will now scope out a Management / Action Plan.

To confirm the recommendations made by the finance and personnel committee.

a. No increase to the Town Hall and Pavilion Rental Fees. The Council approved the recommendation.

b. No increase to the Painswick Cemetery Fees. The Council approved the recommendation.

c. To confirm the recommended grants. The Council approved the following grants:

Stroud Citizens Advice	£400
County Air Ambulance	£100
Painswick Friday Club	£100
Sheepscombe Lunch	£100
Painswick Beacon Conservation	£400
First Thursday Painswick Cic	£200
Total	£1300

Accounts

a. To Approve the Accounts for Payment as per the list circulated prior to the meeting. The Council approved the accounts as presented.

b. To adopt the Budget as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee The Council unanimously agreed to adopt the budget for Financial Year 2024/2025

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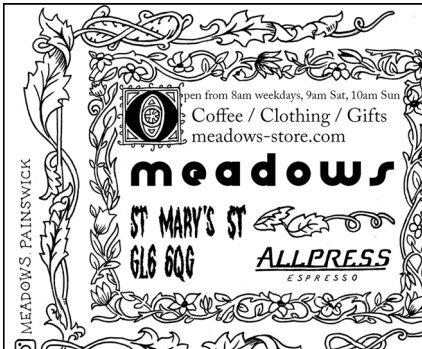


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c. To approve the precept for 2024/25 as recommended by the Finance and Personnel Committee. The Council unanimously agreed to set the Precept at £136,300 for Financial Year 2024/2025, this being an increase of £6.63 for a Band D property per annum.

d. To consider and approve a quotation for replacement blinds for the Parish Office The Council approved the quote from Lakeside Blinds at a cost £930.

e. To consider and approve a quotation to Register all of the Council / Trusts Land with the Land Registry. The Council approved the quote from Land & Property Registration (LPR)

Ward reports

Blocked Drain, Jenkins Lane. Cllr Martin Slinger reported a blocked drain along Jenkins Lane, County Councillor Sue Williams agreed to have it inspected. Water running over A46 by Broadham. Cllr Abigail Smith reported water running onto the A46 near Broadham, the County Cllr agreed to investigate this concern.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th January 2024, at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Box Adverts in the Painswick Beacon

Do you wish to advertise in the Painswick Beacon?

Now is the time to book your box adverts (which appear at the bottom of many pages in the Beacon) for the year April 2024 – March 2025. A standard size box advert in one month will cost £19.60 with discounts of 30% if booked for all twelve months.

The process requires advertisers to indicate their requirements by mid-February. Space is then allocated giving priority to local businesses regular advertisers and looking to have a mix of business types. In the last few years, requests exceeded available space and some had to be turned down. But if space remains or becomes available later, then requests after the mid-February deadline can be successful.

Existing advertisers will be contacted by email inviting them to renew or amend their requirements. New advertisers are invited to get in touch. A booking form must be completed. The booking form provides more details including prices. It is available directly from me or from our website www.painswick.beacon.org.uk - to find it, please click on "how to advertise".

Peter Rowe Beacon Advertising advertising.beacon@painswick.net

Parish Council Reports

As a result of other commitments, the Painswick Beacon is currently unable to send a reporter to Parish Council meetings on a regular basis. The report alongside is therefore based on the minutes of the meeting as recorded by the Parish Clerk. The full minutes are available online at <https://www.painswick-pc.gov.uk/minutes-parish-council-meetings>

We would welcome any offers to help with reporting of the Parish Council's activities, which is an important part of our democracy. Contact beacon@painswick.net if you think you may be able to help with this, or other aspects of the Beacon's reporting.

Article confirmation

All contributions to the Beacon will be confirmed at least by the closing date. Occasionally there are email communication problems so if you have sent an article in but not received a reply please resend to the email address of that month's Beacon editor as well as the Beacon address.

Disclaimer

The Beacon does its best to verify information published, but does not take any responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of information provided by other contributors. Paid advertising is accepted in good faith and we disclaim all liability for goods and services on offer.

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New Worship Pattern being introduced at St Mary's from January 2024

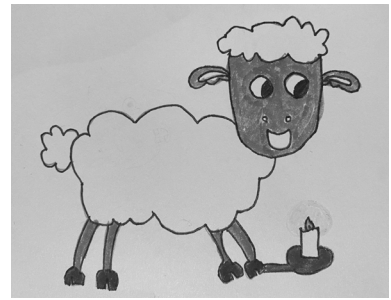


At Painswick all of our usual 10am services will now begin at 11am on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays each month, and this will now include a new 'Beacon Family Worship' service on the 2nd Sunday to replace the old more traditional service of Holy Communion. Refreshments will also be served there on arrival rather than after the services, which will ensure those people who would like to get home after the service quickly to make lunch can still socialise with their friends at church. Reverend Sarah explains: "No one likes to miss out on catching up with friends! Besides, when you welcome someone into your home you usually offer them a cup of tea or something to drink to be hospitable - as part of that welcome. We are going to try out

doing the same at St Mary's."

On the right is a picture of Sherlock - our curious sheep who is a new symbol being used across the benefice to indicate that the service/activity being advertised is designed to be particularly accessible to people of all ages. Sherlock was illustrated by one of our young churchgoers from Painswick.

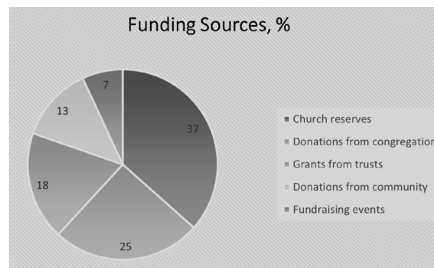
From February, a monthly midweek communion service will also be introduced.



In January CTAP is holding its week of Prayer for Christian Unity, commencing on Sunday 21st with an Ecumenical Service led by Rector Sarah Haslam at Our Lady and St Therese Church at 3pm .

St Mary's Re-Roofing Completed

After 15 months of planning, 16 months of fundraising and 5 months to carry out the work, St. Mary's re-roofing project has been completed! The church is water-tight, warmer and sports a beautiful roof new that, with occasional maintenance, should last well over 100 years.



Re-roofing of the nave, chancel and north slope of the vicar's vestry was completed at the beginning of October with a total cost of just over £273,000. There were still some minor snagging issues to resolve and the "small" problem of an £18,000 shortfall in funding. To the rescue came the promises auction which surpassed all expectations and raised a staggering total of £17,445. This, along with some recent donations, finally closed the funding gap. Of the total raised, 37% came from church reserves, 25% from donations from the congregation, 18% from grant-giving Trusts, 13% from the local community and 7% from fundraising events.

Although work has, to all intents and purposes, finished, thank you letters still need to go out to a number of individual donors and reports written for the various trusts that have supported the project: the Benefact Trust, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, the Julia and Hans Rausing Trust, the Langtree Trust, the Lasletts Hinton Charity, the National Churches Trust and the Wolfson Foundation.

The church is extremely grateful to the generosity of all who have contributed to the success of the project and particularly to the support received from the local community. Thank you so much.

Rev. Sarah Haslam, Rector and Lindsay Gardiner, Dylan Davies, Churchwardens

On Tuesday 23rd we are welcoming Tom Herbert to the Church Rooms at 3.30pm to talk to us about "The Long Table," followed by tea. The Long Table was founded by Tom and Will Mansell in 2018 out of a shared concern that our society was failing to manage food supplies equitably, while one third of all food grown and produced is never eaten. They set up a new kind of Community Interest Company, with the aim of making "Locally sourced and lovingly prepared food available to everyone". We look forward very much to hearing about their journey.

Our third event is an Agape meal at St Michael's restaurant on Monday, 29th January at 7pm, a lovely opportunity to share favourite stories, poems and music and to enjoy a tasty buffet meal together. To reserve a place please contact Terry Parker on 01452 812191.

Do come and join us at any of these events- everyone is welcome.

Frances Watson

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Painswickian of the Year

When Joan Warner was given the news that she has been voted Painswickian of the Year for 2023 she was somewhat taken aback and definitely incredulous. Despite assurances that it was real she, in her characteristically quiet manner, kept saying “but I haven’t done much.” This is certainly not the view held by many in Painswick.

Joan first came to live in Painswick in 1977. Prior to that she had trained and qualified as a laboratory technician specialising in bacteriology at St Bartholomews Hospital in London, a 5 year process. She married Richard Wells in 1967 and in that year they moved to Gloucestershire, first to Brimscombe, then Slad. Joan worked at Gloucester Royal Hospital and Richard in a solicitor’s office in Stroud eventually running his own solicitors business in Cheltenham. Daughter Helen was born in 1974 and son Michael in 1977.

Painswick Mill was the family home and Joan certainly kept herself very busy. With two young children she nevertheless continued to work as a lab technician in a special unit at the hospital, albeit part-time in a job-share capacity, but also “I juggled B&B,” she says, and she played tennis and squash and attended art classes. And of course there was the garden to manage! Joan and Richard felt fortunate to live in such a lovely dwelling and, she says, “we wanted to share so we let the village use our tennis court.” This was just one of many magnanimous gestures.



Perhaps the first big village event for which Joan and Richard were responsible took root in 1984 when Fred Seamark approached them to ask if they would be willing to organise in their garden a celebration of the 50th anniversary of Gyde Orphanage being taken over by the NCH. The party was a great success and the following year Joan and Richard decided to develop the idea into a ball with the money raised in aid of the Cobalt Unit. Altogether they organised ten wonderful balls in their house and gardens until 2001 and which many Painswickians still recall with joy. A different charity was chosen for each occasion and altogether over £60,000 was raised – a no mean feat.


Sadly Richard died in 2005. Joan decided to hold art classes in the coach house with Mark Kelland as tutor and also some long weekend tuition sessions with well-known artists. “It was hard work,” she says, “and fun, but made no money!” Later in 2010 she married Philip Warner but he too died only 10 months after the marriage. Undaunted, Joan has nonetheless quietly and relentlessly worked for the good of others in Painswick and beyond. She has, for example, long been involved in helping with the food banks from before Covid, undertaking all the early publicity.

When PSALMS, now called Sportily, was first created in Painswick Joan was on the committee and organised two ceilidhs to raise funds. She has willingly provided accommodation for the young people involved, about a dozen over the years, mainly trainees from elsewhere. This, she explains, has not always been easy, some with a variety of needs and problems. A challenge definitely, but one which Joan regards as necessary and worthwhile. She also converted the top of her garage for the trainees to use as an office. The churchyard garden is another area where Joan is very instrumental in providing a service from which we all benefit. The garden had been tended by Cliff. Some time after he died Joan realised that the garden “was getting into a terrible state” so she decided to do something about it. She assembled a band of ladies to help and has been working on it ever since. She is however, very concerned that much more help is now needed and, in her usual quiet manner, asks desperately for more volunteers to help maintain this area, important and attractive for visitors and residents alike.

And Joan’s most recent community involvement? The grand auction in November to raise funds for the church roof project was in fact Joan’s idea. Quietly and determinedly she recruited a team. She acknowledges that it was an enormous responsibility and, in her words, “could have gone wrong”. The result however was a resounding success.

Joan Warner has over many years worked tirelessly, quietly and totally unselfishly for the good of others and Painswick and Painswickians have definitely been the beneficiaries of her many endeavours. She is without doubt truly deserving of the title Painswickian of the Year.

Carol Maxwell

painswick osteopaths 

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Since the new trustees took up the mantle of running the Painswick Centre, things have moved forward. The Centre is now on a firm financial footing and 2024 looks like it will be a busy year. In the latter months of 2023, the Beacon Hall has been completely redecorated by volunteers from around Painswick. In addition, the studios are now completely full and the Arts Cafe continues to provide refreshments for visitors and residents of Painswick alike.

In November, we were grateful to be joined by Tweedy the clown who entertained well over 120 children and adults alike to raise money for the centre and Wick-Flix returned in September and November with two films including a sell-out screening of The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry with a guest appearance by the author ahead of the film.

The weekly Thursday morning market (8:15 = 9:45am) is always a hive of activity with local traders plying their wares including bakers (SALT Bakehouse), cheese (Armadeli and Liz's goats cheese), coffee (The Box Coffee and Golden Sheep Coffee), fresh eggs and meat (Wick Street Farm and Bisley Lane Farm), flowers (Whistler Blooms) and homemade delicacies (Kairobi ghee and A Wild Garden). There is also Jamaican and Italian home cooked food (Mama's family food) and vegan delicacies (Vegan Vacanza). Why not come along and support the local traders.

The Centre continues to host a weekly food evening on Thursday nights with traders including Simpson's Fish and Chips, Maasai Kitchen and Hungry Monkey. There are also occasional pop-up pizzas on Tuesday's - keep an eye on the Painswick Centre Facebook page for more information.

The Trustees are continuing to identify funding for further re-decoration of the rooms at the Centre. If you are interested in renting any of the rooms, then the rates and contact details are on the Painswick Centre website <https://www.painswickcentre.com/>. There are rooms available for hire which can accommodate between 20-200 people or why not enjoy a couple of hours bowling at the skittle alley.

Finally, the centre continues to host a number of local activities and societies including pilates, a community choir, meditation, table tennis, yoga, tai chi, badminton and aikido. For more information, see the listings section of the Beacon or take a look at the Painswick Centre website where there is also a survey seeking the views of residents about the future use of the centre so please take a moment to add your views.

Ceri Chaplin

Wick-Flix January film

Wick-Flix returns on Friday 12th January 2024 with the Painswick premier of Barbie. Suspend your initial impressions of what this film will be like. Barbie has had critical acclaim and been described as 'one of the best films of the year in cinematographic terms, probably the best comedy that we have seen in a long time, and extraordinarily entertaining.' So, come along and spend a couple of enjoyable hours. Don't forget to wear something pink and bring along a donation to Breast Cancer research.

Later in the year, our February film will be 'A Haunting in Venice' and in March we'll be showing the true story, feel good film of Bob the cat in 'A Street Cat Named Bob'.

Wick-Flix Sponsorship

We're very grateful for our sponsors of Wick-Flix who help us to make Wick-Flix happen and we're always looking out for new sponsors. Alongside our Gold sponsor, we have also had Silver sponsors and we're now launching a Bronze sponsor level. The sponsor packages are:

For Silver sponsors:

- Up to 3 pre-film slides advertising on the big screen
- Slides scrolling during the interval
- An opportunity to do a promotional evening before the film once per year
- 2 'golden tickets' once per year allowing you and a guest to attend Wick-Flix
- Cost: £55/film

For Bronze sponsors:

- A promotional slide during the interval and at the end of the film
- Cost £15/film

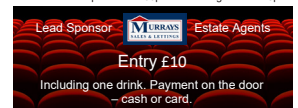
If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a sponsor then please contact Ceri Chaplin (ceri.chaplin@hotmail.co.uk)



Friday 12th January
The Painswick Centre



Doors and bar open from 7.00pm. Screening starts 7.45pm



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Painswick Surgery Patient Group (PPG)

News from the Painswick Practice:

Dr Evans reports that with secondary care (hospitals etc) under extreme pressure they are returning patients who have been referred to them back to primary care (GPs). Whilst our Practice has double the staff-per-patient numbers of some other practices, this means responsibility for the recent 6% increase in wage bills has to cover twice as many staff. This at a time when there is no extra winter funding (see below) puts yet more pressure on the Practice

The eConsult online booking system is seen as a 'life-saver' by the Practice as it improves their efficiency so much. With around 45 requests each morning being initially sorted by the receptionist many do not have to go to a doctor. The duty doctor then triages the remainder, assessing priorities. The eConsult system provides better information for deciding priorities so the message to young and old is 'use it!' if you can.

Communications

Some patients find themselves unable to take phone calls whilst at work waiting for an appointment. The Practice has explained that the duty doctor who triages patient requests, despite handling dozens of these in a morning, makes three attempts by text and phone to leave messages and most days this means all but one or two of the urgent cases are successfully contacted. However, if all this fails, it is up to the patient to renew contact.

The NHS App (for smartphones & tablets)

After a period with little or no data available to access in the NHS app you should now be finding that much more is steadily becoming available to you in your historic health record. This app is also the best place for you to request repeat prescriptions as they go through to the Surgery very promptly (click on 'Medicines').

And now some news about the wider NHS:

Going abroad? On the withdrawal of the UK from the EU the EHIC card, which gave us the free treatment locals were entitled to in the relevant EU country, was withdrawn from us. However the newer GHIC (Global Health Insurance Card) is now available offering similar benefits. More information from <https://www.gov.uk/global-health-insurance-card>.

No Extra Winter Funding for GP Surgeries Despite statistics from the ONS winter survey 2022-23 showing that half a million more people – 18.3 million in total - tried to get a GP appointment in mid- to late February compared to earlier winters, General Practice will not receive any funding from the Government's newly announced £200m pot aimed at easing NHS winter. The Chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners comments, 'If we're to prevent a health crisis this winter, we must make sure Primary Care is not overlooked . . . We're the first port of call for patients with winter illnesses.'

And finally . .

Good to Know . . . Painswick Pharmacy tells us that from the 31st of January 2024 our local Painswick Pharmacy will offer increased services under the Pharmacy First (Common Ailments Service) an initiative by NHS England. Pharmacists are highly trained healthcare professionals who understand medicines and their potential risks and will be able to hold consultations with patients and treat common ailments such as sinusitis, sore throat, earache, infected insect bites, impetigo, shingles, and uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women. Where appropriate they will be able to supply antibiotics and some prescription-only medicines. The usual NHS costs and exemptions will apply. Consultations can be given to patients who self-refer to the pharmacy (eg walk-ins) as well as those referred by NHS 111, GPs and others. Dependent on negotiations it is possible that community pharmacists could access medication, clinical investigation and observation information held in your GP records and add updates to them after your pharmacy consultation. In consultation with the pharmacy the Patient Participation Group will provide future updates when known.

A much longer, more informative email version of PPG news is sent to anyone joining the mailing list by emailing painswickppg@gmail.com

David Perry, PPG Chair

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The Knights Templar

On Thursday 30 Nov 2023 Painswick Probus Club welcomed Gil McHattie who is an expert on The Knights Templar and the author of books on related subjects.

The Knights Templar, was formed in 1118 AD, and grew into a large organization of devout Christians during the medieval era. Its mission was to protect European travellers visiting sites in the Holy Land, and perform other military operations. In their distinctive white mantles with a red cross, they were among the most skilled fighting units of the Crusades, and gained recognition by the Pope.

A wealthy, powerful and mysterious order that has fascinated historians and the public for centuries, tales of the Knights Templar, their financial and banking acumen, their military prowess and their work on behalf of Christianity during the Crusades, still circulate throughout modern culture.

The Order was also known for its austere code of conduct. Members swore an oath of poverty, chastity and obedience. At their zenith the Templars controlled a sizeable fleet of ships, owned Cyprus, and served as a primary bank and lending institution to Europe's monarchs and nobles. However, by the late 12th century, Muslim armies had retaken Jerusalem and turned the tide of the Crusades. European support for the military campaigns in the Holy Land declined.

The Knights Templar lost its last foothold in the region and established a base of operations in Paris. There, King Philip IV of France resolved to bring down the Order, perhaps because the Templars had denied the indebted ruler additional loans.

Under pressure from King Philip IV, Pope Clement V reluctantly dissolved the Knights Templar in 1312. Some believe that King Philip and King Edward II of England seized most of the Knights Templar's wealth.

While most historians agree that the Knights Templar fully disbanded 700 years ago, there are some people who believe that the order went underground and remains in existence in some form to this day.

Other news from the Club:

A short AGM was held on 16th Nov when significant changes to the Club's constitution were considered but decisions were deferred due to lack of time.

The Christmas dinner event on 6th Dec was held at the Painswick Centre and attended by 47 members and guests; Mike Steed was at last able to complete his final task as President and handover the chain of office to Michael Houghton. The dinner was a triumph for the Centre which was subtly illuminated and decorated for the season. Birch (from Stroud) provided an excellent on-site catering package.

The Club is looking forward to resuming its programme of talks on alternate Thursdays (mostly) at the Centre in January. Anyone who wishes to find out more about membership can use the Club's website or just turn up to a meeting as advertised in the village diary. The next meeting will be held on 11th Jan 2024 at 1000 for 1030.

Henry Hall

A Foodie New Year Resolution for 2024

As we move into the new year, what will you be thinking of for your New Year's resolutions? I'd like to suggest three possibilities: supporting skilled local jobs; eating healthier, local food; and taking action on the climate crisis. There's an easy and delicious way of achieving all three of these good things by joining your local community farm.

Stroud Community Agriculture has been going for more than 20 years and we now provide seasonal organic vegetables to nearly 250 families in the Stroud valleys. We have three growing sites, one at Hawkwood and at Oakbrook, both just out of Stroud and another at Brentlands, adjacent to Days Cottage Orchard near Brookthorpe.

In return for a monthly subscription, we can go to the Hawkwood farm and collect our 'share' of that week's produce—a delicious variety of local vegetables. Beautiful orange squash and green beans in the summer and autumn, home-grown salads all year round, and potatoes, onions and carrots guaranteed every week.

We are very much a community farm rather than a box scheme. Members are encouraged to join us on the farm for volunteer days and join in a range of seasonal festivals including a festive bonfire, advent fair, summer camp, Harvest Festival and singing carols to the cows on Christmas Eve. We are a cooperative and we share the risk that farming and growing always brings. So what we pay goes directly to our growers with no money going out to middle men. And of course you can be sure that what you find on your plate has come from local fields with minimal carbon emissions.

If this sounds like a great way to start your new year you'll be delighted to hear that we have a limited number of shares available just now. To find out more please contact membership@stroudcommunityagriculture.org

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Raise The Roof Wycliffe Choral Society

Handel: Messiah St Mary's Church

On Saturday 9th December an audience of more than 100 at St Mary's were treated to a performance of Handel's Messiah by Wycliffe Choral Society. The organ of St Mary's provided the accompaniment rather than the 8 or 9 wind and string instruments of the original 1741 score.

From the Overture it was apparent that organ playing of the highest order was in store for the afternoon. This was immediately followed by Peter Holmes delivering the opening two movements in a clear and controlled tenor which continued to delight his many local friends throughout the performance.

Gaye Boggon brought a lovely contrast with her pleasing Contralto and Gerard Walshe in bringing balance and gravitas with his fine bass confirmed the high quality of the soloists.

Perhaps the outstanding soloist was Seb Burtenshaw-Snellgrove. With their controlled and faultless soprano rising into the highest reaches of St Mary's, the essence of this most angelic music was achieved apparently effortlessly.

Glorious as the solo arias are, the test of The Messiah is in the Choral writing. Wycliffe Chorus demonstrated how they have developed into one of our regions' premier choirs. Power, fine diction and great control under the direction of Chris Swain was allied to a lovely sound throughout the performance. 'For unto us a child is born' and the final wonderful Amen particularly live in the memory as well as the whole congregation standing for the Hallelujah chorus in the tradition of George 2nd.

In the closing passages of Part 3, the trumpet shone brightly thanks to David Smith's clear rendition adding the necessary colour within Handel's score.

As alluded to above, the accompaniment was provided by St Mary's organ and this proved an outstanding success. James MacDowall-Scott, the Music Director at All Saints, Pittville, showed how a fine organ in the hands of an accomplished professional organist is a wonderful choice in an appropriate setting such as St Mary's. Another great success for Christopher Swain and Wycliffe Choral Society and a welcome support for the Raise the Roof Fund for St Mary's.

The Choir are performing again at Wycliffe College Chapel on Sunday 12th May at 7.30pm. New Members always welcome at rehearsals at Wycliffe Prep School from Tuesday 9th January at 7.30pm.

David Cutler



Schubert, AGM and party time

Franz Schubert, courtesy of Howard Allen, brought delight to a well attended meeting, the last presentation of 2023. Howard gave us the peerless melodious song cycles with piano accompaniment by surely the greatest composer in this medium. The main numbers were drawn from "Maid of the Mill" and "Winters Journey" the former performed by relatively new baritone Andre Schuen and the latter by England's Ian Bostridge with star pianist Thomas Ades demonstrating that the accompanist in Schubert is as important as the singer. We also heard the late German tenor Peter Schreier with Andras Schiff (another world famous pianist) in 4 numbers from "Swan Song". A lovely afternoon.

Finally on December 14th there was a good turn out for the AGM. Chaired by Joyce Barrus it reported a continuing healthy membership and strong financial position.

A few appropriate pieces of music chosen by members were played but the highlights were a quiz presented by Reg Wrathmell and convincingly won by Cathy Quant with just a little assistance from her team mate Duncan Richardson! and a splendid buffet prepared by Ann Williams including mulled wine from the back of the cupboard!

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

January 4th Smetana and Dvorak two composers of the Czech nationalist revival

January 18th Rachmaninov and Rodrigo -DVD concert - Dennis Morgan

February 1st Gluck and Berlioz - baroque to romantic opera- Duncan Richardson

Michael Grey

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New road layout at Broadham

Look at what it cost!

Gary Luff (Our District Council Councillor) requested some additional information from Gloucestershire Highways under the Freedom of Information Act...

Can you please advise the total cost of the traffic management (i.e. traffic lights and cones) at this site since it has been in operation for approximately 2 years .

Answer : From 1st March 2022 to week ending 20th October 2023 is £25,523.14.

Could you also advise the cost of the works to alter the road layout at this point.

Answer: Works have started on site but are not yet complete. At this stage we can only state our estimated completion costs of £20,505.35.

If the final layout had been agreed at the start then not only would Painswick residents not have suffered the inconvenience over this period but most of the cost for the lights could have been better spent elsewhere.

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.

Views on the Speed Cameras

Abigail Smith, Chair of Traffic Committee, Painswick Parish Council writes....

Whilst I was not amused by the tone of the December Beacon article on the speed awareness Vehicle Recording Cameras, I am very open to hearing local opinions and addressing concerns. I have endeavoured to do this throughout the long process that began in summer 2022.

We are still working on getting the cameras fully operational with the police. Once we reach that stage, I will submit a comprehensive article for publication in the Beacon. I hope that this will be in time for the February edition.

Graham Lilley of Edge writes.....

It is said that the UK is already the most watched country in Europe having more cameras per head of population watching our movements than anywhere else.

I was surprised therefore to read in the Beacon that the Parish Council have taken it upon themselves to add to this burden by installing several covert cameras, in the parish purchased from public funds, and it is not clear on what authority they have given themselves the power to do so. They are not after all an authority normally tasked with upholding the Law. Who for instance will review the recordings and who will decide whether someone is a persistent offender who should be reported to the proper authorities?

It is in everybody's interest that the Law should be upheld but surely only by an authorised agency of the Law - which normally discourages covert recordings be they visual or audio. On what basis therefore have the PC presumed to purchase and instal these cameras without consultation?

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Painswick Rococo Garden

New Year's greetings to you from all at Rococo. We are past the shortest day and spring isn't far off. The first hardy bulbs are pushing their way up and our team of staff and volunteers are readying the Garden for one of our busiest times in the whole year... yes snowdrop blooming isn't far off! This is one of my favourite times of the year, full of promise and new energy.

We reopen on Saturday 20th January and are then open daily until the start of March, prepared to welcome thousands of people into Painswick and the Garden. Our snowdrops are widely considered one of the best displays in the country, with over five million blooms putting on a dazzling display to charm away the winter blues. The gardeners tell me that the first green shoots are showing but peak blooming will of course depend on weather. To walk in the snowdrop grove is a magical experience not to be missed. Keep an eye on our website and social media for updates. And as in recent years, advance booking is essential via our website.

It goes without saying that our wonderful Cafe will be open serving lots of delicious warming and fortifying food and drink to keep you warm. Look out for our much-praised hot chocolate in particular which is especially popular on cold days. My top tip is to come later in the afternoon (between 2 and 4pm) for a quieter visit.

Our popular Christmas tree recycling partnership with Longfield Hospice continues this New Year. If you've not yet booked your collection, you have just a few days to do so – until Tuesday 9th January. All the Christmas tree chippings from around the county will be brought to the Garden to make gorgeous-smelling soft bark mulch for our paths. You can book a collection date for your tree via longfield.org.uk.

The Rococo Garden changed its opening hours last month and hosted a set of gorgeous willow-sculptured fairy-tale characters, lit up by night. The handmade sculptures included dancing fairies, mischievous boggarts and magical unicorns and enjoyed a winter outing to the Garden after featuring in its very popular summer trails in 2022 and 2023

Tim Toghill Volunteer

Friday Club

Club Members enjoyed an excellent Christmas lunch at the Egypt Mill Restaurant. After pulling crackers they laughed at the "jokes" that were read out to them. (see photo back page)



The Club has a full and exciting programme for 2024. We start on the 5th January with a visit to the Everyman in Cheltenham to enjoy watching Tweedy as the "Pantomime Dame" in Mother Goose. Then on the 19th Mike and Toni Lamber will test our memories of times gone by with a very enjoyable Quiz. The majority of the questions are asked via a "screen" which will allow plenty of time for thought.

Later in the year we have various outings arranged including visits to the Guide Dogs National Centre near Leamington Spa and a Boat Trip on the Gloucester-Sharpness Canal. Plus a range of interesting talks which will raise many questions, particularly the one entitled "Tudor swearing, sex and loos! As NOT seen on TV!!

Interested? Come and join us. A great start to 2024! We meet 2.30pm on alternative Friday afternoons in the lower room at the Town Hall. Membership is for the over 50's. Refreshments and lively stimulating conversations are always provided after Meetings! Annual Membership is £20, payable in January plus £2 per Meeting to cover the cost of refreshments. Visitors are warmly welcomed to our Meetings. The visitor charge is £4. We look forward to MEETING YOU on the 19th January 2024!

Mike Kerton

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News from the Library.

New opening hours from January 2024

We are extending our opening hours on a Wednesday afternoon to 6.30pm, to allow working people and school students more time to access the Library.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have made this possible.

The full New Hours are:

Monday	2.30pm – 4.30pm
Wednesday	10.30am – 12.30pm and 2.30pm – 6.30 pm
Friday	10.30am – 12.30pm and 2.30pm – 4.30pm
Saturday	10.30 am – 12.30 pm

We have recently added some new children's books to stock, and here are some examples. Please look on the website for the full list. www.painswickcommunitylibrary.org.uk :

The Girls - Lauren Ace
 The Whale Who Wanted More - Rachel Bright
 Hooray For Fish - Lucy Cousins
 The Singing Mermaid - Julia Donaldson
 Hello Frog - Sophie Ledsema
 The Colour Monster - Anna Llenas
 Ruby's Worry - Tom Percival
 Kind - Axel Scheffler
 Bluey - My Dad Is Awesome
 Hey Duggee: The Train Badge

Ian Cridland

Library book club

The January meeting of the Library book club will be on Monday 15th January from 1.30- 2.30pm. The book to be discussed is Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead by Olga Tokarczuk. We welcome new members, so please do come and join us. For further information email painswick.library.bookclub@gmail.com

Pat Andrew

Some historic January crimes

Jan. 1824 Isaac Estcourt, weaver, 37, 5ft.4ins., hair light brown, eyes light grey, complexion fresh, scar on bridge of nose which has formerly been broken, long face, wide mouth, marks of punishment on his back, mole on left shoulder, scar on right shin, cannot read. Charged on suspicion of having feloniously stolen from Samuel Aldridge a cotton pocket handkerchief. Remanded

Jan. 1874 Edward Hudson summoned for passing through Pitchcombe tollgate without paying a toll. Defence was that the carriage had been through Wick Street Gate which cleared this one. Mr F.H.Croome said it was his trap and he who was driving not Mr Hudson. As the toll had been paid at Wick Street the magistrate dismissed the case. Gloucester Journal

Jan. 1884 John Harris and John Williams (alias Patrick McCarthy) were charged with stealing a handkerchief, two pounds of sprats and two plaice from the New Inn, Painswick, the property of Samuel Trow, value 1/5, on Saturday night. Remanded. Stroud Journal

Jan.1904 Edward Gyde, labourer, fined 14/- for drunkenness. Gloucestershire Echo

Harry Fisher, drunk in St Mary Street, fined 2/6 Gloucester Citizen

David Alder, drunk in Bell Street, fined 2/6 Gloucester Citizen

George Hanks, labourer, drunk, fined 7/6 Stroud News

Charles Brinkworth, drunk in Bell Street, fined 5/- Gloucester Citizen

Ethel Turner, domestic servant, charged with having obtained goods by false pretences in Painswick. She was identified by Elizabeth Doidge as the person who came to the shop and obtained one pair of slippers, two aprons, two reels of cotton, two caps, one scarf, two pocket handkerchiefs, needles and hair pins and a week later a fur boa and an umbrella, with intent to defraud. She said that Mrs Webb [for whom she worked] said they [Mr and Mrs Doidge] had been kind enough to let servants have things before. She promised to pay for the goods at the end of the month. Later she said her uncle named Trotman, who was very rich, would pay for the goods she owed for. She owed 15s 8d. On remanding the prisoner Mr Apperly said this was a serious charge against her. Stroud News

Carol Maxwell

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Painswick Gardening Club

We enjoyed a busy two days in December! Firstly our Wreath making morning was a great success with Ione teaching and inspiring us to create some wonderful wreaths. (Picture on the back page). With the different and varied greenery, together with ribbons, dried fruit and fir cones plus a glass of mulled wine and mince pies, we were all very pleased with the excellent results.

We also held our Festive Fun Christmas Party! Santa was in charge of the quizzes and games, enthusiastically played in teams of 5 with questions related to Christmas and gardening. Prizes for everyone and a very enjoyable evening.

Our first meeting in 2024 will be on Wednesday 10th January when Maggi Brown, who was formerly associated with the leading organic charity Garden Organic, will be talking on Back to Basics Soil Management. A further date for the diary is Wednesday 14th February. Rob Gould, the Cotswold Forager, will be with us to talk about his work as an amateur forager.

Do come along to the Town Hall for refreshments from 7pm with the talks starting at 7.30 pm. Visitors are always welcome at a fee of £5.

Philippa Miller

Jottings - Rooks

These very intelligent black birds fly around in flocks and can live for 6 years or more. They nest in high trees in groups we call rookeries, large numbers of nests close together. They pair mostly for life, called pairbonds, and lay from 3 to 4 eggs. At times they make so much noise that it can cause noise problems with people living nearby. They feed on invertebrates and bugs in the soil and can damage farm crops where the crop has just burst out of the soil. They pull them up to get at any bugs and at harvest time they may flatten corn crops to get at the corn for food.



When food is short rooks can travel up to twenty miles looking for enough and still be home before dark. A group of rooks is called a parliament or clamour. I have seen a couple of these at work. You suddenly see a group of rooks huddled together in a bunch making a lot of noise and in the middle is usually one or two rooks being mobbed because they have broken some rook law of some kind: Taken twigs from another nest or even pinched another's mate. The offending bird may be left beaten up and in rather a bad way.

Rook pie is an old recipe where fledgling rooks were collected up before they left the nests and cooked in a pie.

Back in the 1950's Painswick had a festival where Carnival floats were made up and taken from Stamages Lane (before the car park existed) up to the Recreation Ground. There they were judged for the best turned out: Our mothers made a big covering of white bed sheets, sown together, to cover a farm trailer and us five or six boys sat on the trailer with our heads out through holes. We wore cardboard head masks to look like rooks in a rook pie.

Martin Slinger

Police report

Reported crime statistics for Painswick taken from the Gloucestershire Constabulary web site



October	
Friday St	Public order *3 Violence
St Mary's St	ASB
George Ct	Theft
Blakewell Mead	Criminal damage
Stamages La.	Burglary
September	
Hyatt Close	Public order Violence*2 ASB
The Croft	Theft Other criminal acts
August	
Hambutts Drive	Theft
Canton Acre	Theft Violence
July	
Hyatt orchard	ASB
Pullens Rd	Vehicle crime

Notes

ASB= Anti-Social Behaviour
Violence includes sexual assault
Locations given mean "in the vicinity of"

Anne-Marie Randall
PHOTOGRAPHY

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Review of 2023.

Another year seems to have flown by and there is plenty to report. Natural England have finally secured a lease on the more ecologically important areas of the Beacon. This will not affect how we continue to manage the site, but will provide us with a steady annual income, removing the worry of raising funds to support our efforts.

Work parties have been well attended, totalling 814 hours of work during the year, not including committee time or cattle management. Much of the time has been spent revisiting areas cleared some years ago to cut back regrowth.

- The bridle way from the Holcombe lay by continues to be opened out to create a sunny ride and the adjacent woods have had cherry and spindle saplings transplanted and hazel branches layered to enrich the biodiversity.
- More junipers have been transplanted from the original seed scrape to new locations, further enhancing the population of junipers on the Beacon
- We joined volunteers from Upton St Leonards to help clear scrub on Cud Hill.
- The wildlife corridor at Madams Wood continues to be opened up and grazed and is starting to create a connection between the Beacon, Cud Hill and Huddinknoll.
- A major new area is being cleared at the Royal William end of the site, with many diseased ash being removed. With the right attention, over the next few years, this should become an important area of grassland.
- The Dexters passed their TB test this autumn and were put back on the Beacon in mid July. It was a good growing season and they have had plenty to eat. So far there are no signs of them losing any of their summer weight. The plan is to keep them on the site all year, grazing the newly cleared areas in the spring/summer to keep down the regrowth.
- Regular grazing is starting to produce better showings of flowers as the rank grasses are reduced. This year we hope to quantify this by introducing regular vegetation surveys. If you would like to help with this please contact me for details.
- The last work party in March was celebrated with a very sociable picnic around the fire and the one before Christmas was brightened up with mulled wine and homemade festive fare.

Now is the time for New Year resolutions. Why not make yours to come and help with the conservation effort? There is a growing awareness to the importance of improving our country side and sites like the Beacon will act as “arks” from which species can re-colonise surrounding areas. There has never been a better time to get involved; Meet new friends, get good exercise and feel proud to be involved in such a worthwhile cause.

Paul Baxter 07971 633 242



W.I. report

Elizabeth Woolls’ easy manner and enthusiasm for her subject instantly captured her audiences’ attention when she came to Yew Trees WI’s November

meeting to talk about Woodchester Wines. Its amazing success is due to a phenomenal amount of hard work, determination and courage. When Fiona and Niall Shiner returned to live in Amberley after 18 years in Hong Kong, Fiona decided to plant some vines. A bold decision in 2007 as most English vineyards were in the southeast but Fiona’s daring paid off. This family run business now has 58 acres of vines over 3 sites, a winery and press area and produces over 100,000 bottles of still and sparkling wine a year, and has won many prestigious awards.

St Michael’s bistro was the venue for a very jolly Christmas lunch enjoyed by members in early December. More jollity was had at our December meeting when members were all asked to bring a childhood photo, below which they wrote two statements about themselves one of which was true and one false. There were many puzzled faces and a lot of laughter as we tried in vain to identify each other. Who would believe that one of our members had danced with Michael Jackson – yes it is true! Mulled wine and refreshments, including the annual gift of almonds kindly sent from Spain by Christopher Piper-Short, all added to the festive feel.

January heralds the start of our new programme which looks as varied and interesting as always and starts with Kate Peake talking on “Views from the Cotswold Way”. Ladies why not come and join us at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms on Tuesday, 23rd. A warm welcome awaits you.

Celia Lougher 812624

Theatre Trip to Cardiff

Yew Trees WI has reserved seats for a visit to the Wales Millennium Centre (WMC) to see a matinee performance of the play ‘Nye’, on 30th May 2024. This collaboration between the National Theatre and the WMC, is directed by Rufus Norris and stars Michael Sheen in the title role:

‘Confronted with death, Nye’s deepest memories lead him on a mind-bending journey back through his life; from childhood to mining underground, Parliament and fights with Churchill in an epic Welsh fantasia.’

Tickets cost £50 and the cost of return coach travel from Stamages car park will cost £30. We have some spare seats and invite non-members to join us for a good day out, with time to enjoy lunch in one of the many Cardiff Bay restaurants. Contact 813228 for more details.

Jane Rowe

A family search

We have received a request for help to trace possible related family members living locally in Painswick. Hornes Garage was a very prominent business in New Street for many years from 1934 onwards, owned and managed by Daniel Horne. Andrew Horne is researching his family history and believes he is probably related to Daniel Horne via his paternal grandfather. He is keen therefore to discover if there are any extended family members currently living in Painswick.

If you are related, or if you know of someone locally who is, Andrew would be pleased to hear from you. His email address is andrew@horne.org.uk.

Carol Maxwell

Foodbank

A quick round up of last year: in 2023, the stock donated by Painswick and the surrounding villages in our collections totalled 1,054.36 kilos. Perhaps not surprisingly, December was the Stroud Foodbank's busiest month ever with over 1200 emergency parcels and around 700 hampers issued in the run up to Christmas. At the time of writing, over 9,000 emergency parcels have been distributed to those in need in the Stroud area. THANK YOU for your contribution to this huge undertaking!

Our next collection will on Wednesday 10th January. Volunteers will be in the Stamages Lane car park from 10am - 12 noon. Please may we ask for some of the following: tinned ham, corned beef, Fray Bentos pies, tinned tomatoes, rice, tinned potatoes, instant mash, jam, peanut butter, tinned rice pudding, tinned custard, tinned fruit, nuts, biscuits, toiletries, nappies size 4 - 7 and laundry liquid.

As always, if you prefer to make a bank donation, you can do so using the following details:

Stroud District Foodbank CIO Sort code: 09-01-29 Account: 21994911

Thankyou! The Foodbank Team Mobile: 07950 651228

Thank you from your Good Will Team.

As the sparkly season of Good Will fades into memory and we face the dark months of midwinter, there remains a glow of gratitude to all who made Painswick's annual Good Will event of 2023 one of the best ever. Our thanks go firstly to the event sponsors. Murrays Estate Agents are the principal of the Good Will, their help with funding and with publicising the evening, through their strong social media channels, is invaluable. The event also receives sponsorship from The Elgar Family, Goddard's Garage, Meadows, Price Davis Accounting and Core lighting. It is no exaggeration to say that the event would not happen without this generous sponsorship.

The village is as one in bringing the Good Will evening together, and our thanks go out to everyone involved. St Mary's bell ringers set a festive atmosphere in the early evening as the bells rang out across the valley. With thanks for our new Vicar Sarah Haslam who coordinated events in St Mary's, where it was a delight to hear the voices of children from The Croft School with thanks to their teacher Mr Wright. Also thanks to the Thames Valley Singers who joined the children in Christmas song. All around the village local businesses opened their doors to visitors with a warm welcome. Special thanks to those who were part of the festive map trail- these included Murrays Estate Agents, The Painswick Hotel, Hamptons, The Arts Café, The Art Studios, Longfield, The Painswick Pooch, Meadows, St Michaels and Painswick Library.

We are most grateful to Father Christmas for dropping into Painswick at his busiest time of year. Thanks too to Stroud Morris Dancers who made their first appearance at our Good Will evening, everyone greatly enjoyed their performance. Apollo and Dumbledore of Tibbiwell Alpacas would like to thank everyone who came to say hello and to give them some love, they were very happy to be part of Painswick's Good Will evening. The Painswick Centre was the site of a beautiful Christmas Tree provided by Exedra Nursery and with thanks to Nick Hallard, whose help was greatly appreciated in setting the scene at the centre. The Centre Trustees work very hard to make sure that things run smoothly, there really is no end to their activities behind the scenes and we are so grateful to them.

The Good Will team would like to offer particular thanks to everyone who brought donations of food items that have now been passed onto Family Haven in Gloucester and to children who brought gifts to give to Father Christmas, which have been given to the Salvation Army who will distribute them to children in need this Christmas time. The nominated charity this year was The Painswick Centre, and we are delighted to announce that a total of over £3,100 was raised during the evening. Thank you to everyone who supported the evening through buying raffle tickets and to the generously donated raffle prizes! Big thanks to those who took on the difficult jobs of monitoring road closures and generally making sure all was well throughout the evening.

The Good Will evening is by the community and for the community and each year it has gone from strength to strength. An enormous amount of organisation goes into producing the event and the team that bring it together all work in a voluntary capacity. Enormous thanks to Anne-Marie Randall who leads the event and to the team of tireless volunteers who work with her, these include Ros Ion, Amanda Porter, Jenny Evans, Susie Andrews, Becks Hemus, Annalie Chamberlain-Webber, Vicky Moore... and I am grateful to be part of such a brilliant team of women!

Sandie Randle

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Painswick Community Support

Community Lunches

What a great start to the winter's Community Lunches with 40 attendees at the first lunch in November hosted by the Monday Walkers! A big thank you to them and to all the various clubs/societies and community groups who ably hosted the remaining lunches which have all been really well supported.

We look forward to 8 more lunches in the New Year starting on January 8th hosted by the Catholic Church and finishing on February 26th with The Croft School Year 6 class! We look forward to your continued support and are most grateful to the hosts for all their efforts. More details on posters around the village and in the Beacon Village Diary.

Wednesday Pop- In

The Weds Pop- In run by Sandra Glass and helpers restarts in the Town Hall on Jan 3rd 10-12. Do call in to chat over a drink. Meet up with others. Perhaps play a game, knit for charity, build a jigsaw or try new activities/ skills. All welcome.

A "Cheeky Cream Tea" at The Painswick

In early December, we were pleased to show our gratitude to all our Friday Hub volunteers who make the popular Friday Hub happen every week at the Town Hall through donating homemade cakes, serving coffee and tea and washing up. They were treated to a "Cheeky Cream Tea" at The Painswick which was much enjoyed by all who were able to come.

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.

Painswick Community Support Committee Delyth, Abigail, Louise & Hannah

Painswick residents launch new Stroud Gallery

We are lucky to have new residents Nicholas and Galia Wells join our growing creative community here in Painswick.

Nicholas and Galia have not only moved home but also relocated their Gallery Aleph Contemporary from London to Stroud.

Nicholas's interest in art comes from his academic background in art history, conservation and antiques

The name Aleph Contemporary comes from Jorge Luis Borges's strange tale, The Aleph, in which everything in the universe can be seen in a tiny sphere, simultaneously and without distortion or overlapping.

This reflects the gallery's commitment to the importance of dialogue, invention, and the value of experiencing and understanding art today. Nicholas's vision is to present contemporary art to a local and global audience of discerning art collectors with trust, integrity and fair play to both artists and clients alike.

Focused on presenting works by academically trained contemporary artists, Nicholas has selected local Painswickian artist, Jane Garbett for the inaugural exhibition. The resultant 'Life Lines' is a thoughtful show of abstract paintings in oils exploring colour and ideas of human endeavour and frailty.

The gallery is in an interesting location by Stroud Railway Station opposite the newly restored hotel formerly known as The Imperial

The show runs until 31st January
open Friday / Saturday 10-4pm and by appointment 0793 5976923.

For more information www.alephcontemporary.com www.janegarbett.co.uk



Nicholas Wells and Jane Garbett

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New Year Activities and 2024 Subscriptions, now due.

The next CNFC meeting will be held on Tuesday 16th January at 2.30pm in Box Village Hall. We will hear about 'Tales of a Country Auctioneer' from Philip Taubenheim, who has spent a long career in the world of antiques, following in the steps of his parents, Burford book dealers.

CNFC's private visit to Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust for an 'Evening with Wild Swans & Supper' on Friday 2nd February has proved popular with 50 members and guests already booked. For last minute places, priced at £35 including the two-course meal, please contact Jane Rowe on 813228.

For the first time in 12 years, we need to increase the price of Club membership, to meet the rising cost of speaker's fees and travel expenses, hall hire, printing and postage, plus the services of our freelance admin assistant. The increase was unanimously agreed by members at a recent Special General Meeting. From January 1st, 2024, individual members pay £25 per year, and two people at the same address £40. The charge for meetings remains the same at £2 for members and £5 for visitors. We believe this is still excellent value with two talks most winter months, and priority for interesting excursions and walks in the pipeline. Excursions, guided walks, and social events are self-financing as are one-off publications. For more information about membership please contact Clare Woodman by email to CNFCMembershipSec@outlook.com or drop into a meeting.

48 members of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club enjoyed a delicious Christmas Lunch at Egypt Mill, Nailsworth on Wednesday 20th December. Everyone applauded Denise Magauran for organising such a joyous occasion, ably assisted by her helpers Diana and John Elbert, Peter Cornish and Jane Rowe. This event brought to a happy conclusion an excellent year of exploration of the county of Gloucestershire, the Cotswolds and further afield.

Jane Rowe

New year, new resolutions

With the festive season over it's time to think about new directions – as well of course continuing or resuming former activities. Painswick has a real abundance of interesting clubs, societies and activities to suit a range of interests for everyone. Starting within the next few weeks one of these will see developments of a very beneficial nature to everyone.

Kim Brockett is known to many for her expertise and teaching skills in the subject of yoga. She is about to start a new meditation and yogic breath work class at the Painswick Centre. The sessions, lasting 35-40 minutes, will be on Monday afternoons and all are welcome.

Kim explains that there are multiple benefits to be gained from these classes, essentially reduction of stress, enhancement of focus, a sense of inner peace and greater emotional well-being. Regular practice leads to better sleep and improved cognitive function. Having herself practised this form of meditation, called Shamata, for over 20 years, Kim can testify to its great benefits. The yogic breath work, called Pranayama, improves respiratory function and calms the nervous system. Regular practice boosts energy and leads to overall physical and mental well-being.

If you would like to know more about these forthcoming classes, an excellent way to start the year, you can contact Kim by email yoginikim@icloud.com or tel.07973 504593, or she can be followed on instagram @yogikimyoga. Meanwhile, all her previous regular classes will continue as usual – see the Beacon diary.

And also ...

Starting in January in the Painswick Centre is a brand new art class which is designed to suit anyone and everyone. Clare Wimperis explains that the aim is to enable participants to discover their own individual 'way to enjoy making art and the confidence to work at home.'

Clare has until recently been teaching various workshops in the National Parks of Pembrokeshire as well as a programme for schools there and a class for the National Park Visitor Centre in St Davids. Now in Painswick she is pleased to announce the start of her new classes. 'I love to see people try something new and discover their unique style and ability to be creative,' she says.

Essentially about experimenting, mark making and trying new mediums, the sessions are fun and very sociable. Clare also points out that the classes are both for those with experience and also for those with none at all. On Mondays from 10.00 until 12.00 the classes start on 22nd January. Booking is necessary and Clare can be contacted by email clarewimperis@gmail.com or tel. 07824 630558.

And don't forget ...

There will be two opportunities to discover the many benefits of Nordic Walking – a sociable whole body workout – with taster sessions on 26th January and 23rd February with Ione Woodger. These will both be based at the Rococo Garden. With coffee and cake afterwards, what a lovely way to try something new, and definitely beneficial, for the new year. To find out more and to make a booking contact Ione by email ionehwoodger@gmail.com

Carol Maxwell

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Painswick Sports

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Painswick Rugby Club

Home fixtures for January.
Saturday 13th v Minchinhampton
Saturday 20th v Matson II

Sturday 27th v Ross-on-Wye

Contacts

Seniors - Secretary Chris Coombs. Email: chriscoombs98@yahoo.com Tel: 07879 445433

Juniors - Tom Russell. Email: team_ginge@yahoo.com Tel: 07789 761248



Painswick Golf Club

Like many courses, the wet windy wintry weather makes playing Painswick golf course a different challenge from dry sunny summer days. The ball lands with a dull thud and doesn't run so far. It takes a while, at least for your reporter, to get to grips with the new conditions! But unlike many other courses, Painswick is rarely flooded as it is located on relatively high well-drained ground.

Each year a new seniors captain is elected to lead the section. This year, the section welcomed Ian Broderick as its captain. The administrative workload sorting out teams for matches with other clubs is quite time-consuming, and he will be making more use of technology to assist.

The seniors section has held a number of social competitions that run in parallel with the two main winter competitions which are now half way through. The recent Christmas bowmaker was won by Nigel Barnett, Martin Brown and Andy Varden with an excellent 96 stableford points. Two players, Ian Broderick and Martin Brown scored 40 points in the December mid-week stableford; Ian emerged the winner as he had the better score on the last nine holes.

Visiting golfers are welcome to play at Painswick Golf Club. If you wish to try our unique course, please call 01452 812615 or visit the website www.painswickgolf.com to book a tee time.



Peter Rowe

Painswick Football Club

A very successful season so far.

In the Stroud and District football league....

The first team is 2nd to Tetbury out of 13 teams in division 1.

The second team is top of division 5 (N) and the third team 3rd in division 6.

Currently training is done on the Recreation Ground and some of the matches.

Anyone interested in information on the Club look on their web site painswickfootball.co.uk or Facebook .





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Downton House Garden Opening for snowdrops

Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th February 2024 10.30am-3pm



The garden at Downton House, Painswick (entrance in Hollyhock Lane) is opening on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th February as part of the National Garden Scheme's Snowdrop Festival.

Downton House garden opened for Snowdrops for the first time last year and many of you came to support us. The weather was exceptional for February and visitors admired the snowdrops, which looked their best in the bright sunshine, while enjoying the constant supply of coffee, hot chocolate and cake provided by Lucy John and her Horsebox. All in all, we raised over £1,700 which went towards Gloucestershire NGS's record-breaking total of £161,580.40 – 22.1% higher than 2022's figure.

All the money raised by garden openings for the NGS, which this year totalled almost £3.5 million, is distributed among nursing charities including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie and the Carers' Trust. It is such an excellent cause so please come and support us in February. Lucy and her Horsebox will be here again – another good reason to visit the garden.

Downton House garden and its snowdrops will be featured in the January issues of Country Living and Cotswold Life.

Jane Kilpatrick

Jewellery making workshop In aid of Ukraine

If you have spotted a particularly beautifully adorned lady around Painswick recently, it could be one of the attendees of Yvonne Rawson's jewellery making workshop held in late November. Yvonne is experienced in making jewellery and provided attendees with instructions, the necessary tools and a veritable treasure trove of beads to choose from. We all had great fun designing earrings and necklaces to our own taste, and admiring those of others. All went home very pleased with their results, feeling we had learnt a new skill and with jewellery we were proud of in our pockets (or hanging from our ears). £85 was raised and sent to Ukraine to help provide warm clothes for those from Slavutych being sent to the front.

Wish that you had known about it? A second workshop is planned for Saturday 3rd February at 2pm, to be held at Landmoor, Stroud Rd, Painswick. Suggested donation of £15 a head, again in aid of Ukraine. Contact Yvonne on 01452 813 978 or yvonnerawson01@gmail.com to book.



Pippa Dickenson



An evil trade, a profitable trade

The slave trade? In Gloucestershire? Surely not. Oh yes indeed, and there's even a Painswick connection. At the forthcoming meeting of Painswick Local History Society, Tony Conder will give a presentation on the extent of the influence of the trade on Gloucester and the county, and some of the local characters involved.

Croft School, Tuesday 16th January, 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Carol Maxwell

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PLANNING MATTERS

Information received from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

S.23/2442/TCA School House, Stroud Road

T1 - Leylandii tree - reduced by 4m.

S.23/2474/TCA Verlands, Vicarage Street
T1. Wellingtonia - reduce in height by approx a third.

S.23/2378/TCA Court House, Hale Lane
(T1) Lime trees to be re pollarded back to previous points. (T2) group of Lawson Cypress to be removed due to lack of light and re planting with higher value trees and shrubs. To keep the 3 Italian Cypress within the trees. (T3) Purple plum to be removed due to the large split in the union at the base. (T4) Goat willow to be re pollarded back to previous points (T5) Apple tree to be thinned and pruned to allow more crop. Yearly tree maintenance.

S.23/2414/LBC Horsepools House, Sevenleaze Lane, Edge
Window alterations & replacement.

S.23/2308/FUL Land At Briarfield House, Stroud Road

Erection of 1no. self build dwelling, ancillary operations and associated works. Resubmission of S.22/2099/FUL.

S.23/2327/HHOLD Farm View House, Longridge, Sheepscombe

Erection of a single storey rear and side extension & associated landscaping works.

S.23/2327/HHOLD Farm View House, Longridge, Sheepscombe

Erection of a single storey rear and side extension & associated landscaping works.

S.23/2284/COU Court House, Hale Lane
Change of use of existing outbuilding from ancillary building to private residence to holiday accommodation.

S.23/2395/HHOLD Mandalay, The Highlands

Erection of enclosed porch at north entrance, timber cladding to existing garage and new wooden pergola.

CONSENT

S.23/1468/HHOLD Horsepools House, Sevenleaze Lane, Edge

Removal of garage and erection of single

storey extension with glazed canopy.

S.23/1469/LBC Horsepools

House, Sevenleaze Lane, Edge

Internal alterations, erection of extension and canopy

S.23/1474/LBC West Hayes, Far End, Sheepscombe

Replacement of 5 wooden windows and replacement of 1 Critall window.

S.23/1866/HHOLD Bunch Of Grapes, Cheltenham Road

Alterations to side elevation roof.

S.23/1828/LBC Jenkins Barn, Jenkins Lane, Edge

Erection of a lean-to greenhouse.

S.23/1827/HHOLD Jenkins Barn, Jenkins Lane, Edge

Erection of a lean-to greenhouse.

S.23/2040/HHOLD Fieldways, Longridge, Sheepscombe

Erection of a single storey front extension, replacement fenestration.

S.23/2037/LBC Tophams, Friday Street

Installation of replacement windows and doors

WITHDRAWN

S.23/2284/COU Court House, Hale Lane

Change of use of existing outbuilding from ancillary building to private residence to holiday accommodation.

S.23/2077/FUL Cardynham House, Tibbiwell Lane

Change of use from Class C3 & Class E to Class C3.

REFUSED

S.23/2117/HHOLD Bulls Forge, Bulls Cross, Sheepscombe

Erection of first floor / roof extension, the reconstruction of garage with the addition of a first-floor studio and the construction of a side covered link structure. (Resubmission of S.23/0887/HHOLD).

Property Report

Just before Christmas may not be the most popular time to offer your house for sale, so new properties are thin on the ground at present, but there are indications of several properties coming to the market in the New Year.

For over 55s though, there is already an opportunity to move to a top floor apartment at Hyett Orchard (Hamptons, £200,000), and for those of any age who can afford somewhere almost fifteen times the price, there is the stunning six-bedroom Jenkins Farmhouse on Jenkins Lane with a 4 bay garage, 1 bed annexe and 4 acres of land (Murrays £2.95 million).

At Richmond Village, suite 3 on Meadow Deck is a one bedroom Assisted Living apartment overlooking open meadows (Hamptons, £435,000) and in Butt Green, Dormer Cottage has easy access to open countryside as well as to The Croft School (Hamptons, £450,000),

Two commercial properties are newly available, one very centrally, at 3 New Street where Town & Country are now based (Murrays, £230,000) and the other, Cherry Tree Glamping at The Camp, with a café and 4 lodges, caravan and tent pitches, spread over 5.6 acres of land (Murrays, £995,000).

From early in January, Murrays will be offering Ludloes on Gloucester Street, another 6 bed house, combining modern and period living at £1.4 million, with the possibility of another 3 bed cottage by separate negotiation. And Hamptons will have 'a charming detached cottage hidden from view in Painswick', 'an elegant period townhouse in the heart of Painswick' and 'a detached modern house on the slopes of Painswick Beacon'. Keep an eye on their website for more information.

Roseleigh on Cheltenham Road, Russell House on Victoria Street, 1 Hillview Cottage on Gloucester Street and Tall Trees in Cotswold Mead have all recently gone under offer through Hamptons, as have all of Nos. 1 to 4 Prospect Terrace on Tibbiwell, through Murrays. Contracts have been exchanged on Long Close, Greenhouse Lane and the sale of Halfpenny Cottage on Tibbiwell has completed.

Our local estate agents look forward to helping with your property needs and to playing a full and active part in the community in 2024.



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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 (primary grade modern). Info from Julie ballyhoochalford@gmail.com	Painswick Centre	from 3.45pm	
	Community Choir. Contact sophie@sophiesterckx.co.uk	Painswick Centre	7.00 - 8.30pm	
	Short Mat Bowls. All equipment provided. 2.00/session	Town Hall	2.00 - 4.00pm	
	Mindful Meditation with Kate. www.kate-beatty.co.uk/07793126234	Painswick Centre	12.30 - 1.00pm	
	Painswick Singers . Contact Jean Jones 01452 813545.	Richmond	7.30pm	
	Painswick Bootcamp. Details contact Becca Meadows 01452 451505 or info@beccameadowsnutrition.co.uk	Broadham Field Rugby Pitch	7.30 - 8.30pm	
	Tuesdays	Drawing classes. Info from Susan Skester skester@outlook.com	Painswick Centre	9.30 - 12.00pm
Zumba with Martina 07891 194396		Painswick Centre	9.45 - 10.45am	
Painswick Art Club		Church Rooms	9.30 - 1.00pm	
Rococo Sprites. See www.rococogarden.org.uk		Rococo Garden	9.45 am	
Wednesdays	Strength and Balance class for the over 60s. Contact Trish Tenn on 07956 4666617 or tennpatricia@gmail.com	Painswick Centre	10.00 - 11.00am	
	Painswick Bridge Club. Contact Peter Sibley on 812126 or Margaret Wilson on 812305	Church Rooms	7.00pm	
	Table tennis. Contact David Harris on 07453 027766.	Painswick Centre	7.30 - 9.00pm	
	Yoga with Kate. www.kate-beatty.co.uk/07793126234	Painswick Centre	7.30 - 8.45pm	
	Classical Pilates Mat Classes with free taster. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or josephinedaley@me.com	The Pavillion	10.30 - 11.30am	
	Strength and Conditioning Circuits. www.lovelifeladies.co.uk	Painswick Centre	12.30 - 1.30pm	
	St Mary's Mums - for mums, bumps, babies and toddlers. Contact 07833 727701	Church Rooms	9.15 - 10.45 am	
	After school art classes. Email classes@painswickcentre.com . Term time only	Painswick Centre	3.45 - 5.15pm	
	Weds Pop-in. Varied activities to share or join in. All welcome. Contact Sandra on 07816975112	Town Hall	10.00 - 12.00pm	
	Thursdays	Morning Market	Painswick Centre	8.30 - 9.30am
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	
Tai chi. Contact Joe on 07960 753782		Painswick Centre	1.30 - 2.30pm	
Dog Training Club. Contact Fiona Chapman on 01452 812462 or fiona.chapman123@btinternet.com		Painswick Rugby Club	10.00 - 12.00pm	
Qi Gong Classic Exercise - contact Jeff Docherty on jeffdocherty@yahoo.com		Town Hall	9.30 - 10.30am	
Classical Pilates Mat Classes. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or josephinedaley@me.com		Town Hall	5.45 - 6.45pm	
Takeaway Food Night		Painswick Centre	5.00 - 8.00pm	
Fridays		Yoga for Backs. Contact Kim on yoginikim@icloud.com	Painswick Centre and simultaneous zoom	9.30 - 11.00am
		Ballet with Claire Tracey. Contact BalletClaire@outlook.com	Church Rooms	9.30 - 10.30 am
	Painswick Community Hub Café: serving tea, coffee and homemade cakes. All welcome	Town Hall	10.00 - 11.30am	
	Church Choir Practice. Contact Chris Swain cgsvain@btinternet.com or 01453 822998	St Mary's Church	5.30 - 6.30pm	
	Classical Pilates Mat Classes. Contact Jo on 07968 799741 or josephinedaley@me.com .	Church Rooms	11.00 - 12.00pm	
	Tea, cake & watercolours art course starts April 14th for 6 weeks	Painswick Centre	2.00pm	

Regular Village Activities continued.

Sundays	Painswick Baby and Toddler Group - Term time only	Youth Pavillion	9.30 - 11.30am
	Mass	Catholic Church	8.30am
	Quaker Meeting for Worship	Meeting House	10.30am
	Aikido www.gloucestershireaikido.club .	Painswick Centre	8.30 - 11.00am

Village Diary

Please let Vicky Aspinall know your club and society dates for the diary on cvasp.26@gmail.com

January

Sat	6	Painswick Beacon published		
Sun	7	Benefice Communion - Epiphany	St Marys Church	11.00am
Mon	8	Painswick Community Lunch: provided by Church of our Lady and St. Therese	Town Hall	12.00 - 1.15pm
Wed	10	Gardening Club: Soil Management - Maggi Brown	Town Hall	7.00 for 7.30pm
Thurs	11	Probus: Life and Times of Basil Butler	Painswick Centre	10.30 for 11.00
Sun	14	Family Worship	St Marys Church	11.00am
Mon	15	Painswick Community Lunch: provided by the Beacon Conservation Group	Town Hall	12.00 - 1.15pm
	15	Library Book Club	Library	1.30 - 2.30pm
Tues	16	Cotteswold Naturalists: Tales of a Country Auctioneer - Philip Taubenheim. Enq 07767014957	Box Village Hall	2.30pm
	16	History Club: Gloucestershire and the slave trade - Tony Conder	Croft School	7.30pm
Thurs	18	Stroud and District Philatelic Society	Church Rooms	7.30pm
	18	Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Rachmaninov Symphony no. 2 - Dennis Morgan	Town Hall	2.30pm
	18	Probus and Yew Trees WI: Annual Skittles Match	Painswick Centre	7.00 for 7.30pm
Fri	19	Friday Club: Quiz - Mike and Toni Lambert. Enq 812344	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	20	Rococo Garden opens for the start of the season. See website for details on Rococogarden.org.uk	Rococo Garden	10.00am
Sun	21	Deadline for Beacon copy		
	21	Holy Communion	St Marys Church	11.00am
Mon	22	Painswick Community Lunch: provided by St Mary's Church	Town Hall	12.00 - 1.15pm
Tues	23	Yew Trees WI: Views from the Cotswold Way- Kate Peake	Church Rooms	7.00 for 7.30pm
Thurs	25	Probus: The BAC lightening - What was wrong with it? -	Painswick Centre	10.30 - for 11.00pm
Fri	26	Nordic Walking Taster - learn to use Nordic walking poles. Followed by coffee and cake. £8 each. Book in advance	Rococo Garden	9.30am
Sun	28	Beacon Praise	St Marys Church	11.00am
Mon	29	Painswick Community Lunch: provided by Yew Trees WI	Town Hall	12.00 - 1.15pm

February

Thurs	1	Stroud and District Philatelic Society	Church Rooms	2.30pm
	1	Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Gluck and Berlioz - Duncan Robinson	Town Hall	2.30pm
Fri	2	Cotteswold Naturalists: Evening with Wild Swans and supper. Prebook 813228	WWT Slimbridge	3.30pm
	2	Friday club: The Von Trapp Family - Paul Murphy. Enq 812344	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	4	Painswick Beacon published		



Personal Column

Best Wishes

PAM BAILEY now at Collingtree, Northampton wishes all her friends in Painswick, a very Happy New Year.

Condolences

To the family and friends of STEWART PRICE who passed away on December 6th at the age of 80 surrounded by his family. Stewart and Jennifer enjoyed their many years in Painswick, with Stewart pursuing his lifelong musical interests at PMAG and Stroud Choral and his competitive spirit at Painswick Golf and Bridge clubs. He was also a highly valued volunteer at Citizens Advice. A funeral service was held at St Peter & St Paul's Church on 18th December.

To the family and friends of ROB LEWIS who passed away on 29th November. Rob Lewis a friend and colleague to all of us on the Parish Council and to all his customers with his Taxi going out all hours for them, he joined the Council in 2010 and was all so the Chairman of the Planning Committee, which he did to his best looking at plans on his computer and in the day speaking to SDC to put before us at the meetings for us to discuss, he was not afraid of putting his views forward.

A friend to us all he will be sorely missed.
Martin Slinger Chair Painswick Parish Council

"In loving memory of ROB (ROBERT) LEWIS, who peacefully departed on 29 November 2023 after a devastating diagnosis and a sudden decline in his health. Rob a cherished stepfather to Louis, adored father-in-law to Laura, and beloved grandfather to Isabella, left an indelible mark on the Painswickian community.

A prominent figure, he dedicated his time tirelessly, whether serving the community through Approche Private Hire or contributing to the Parish Council planning committee. Known for his loving and caring nature, Rob went above and beyond for those under his care and anyone seeking his help.

As we mourn his loss, let us remember the warmth and generosity he shared with everyone around him. The heartwarming messages received are a testament to the love and impact he had on countless lives. In celebrating Rob's memory, we express gratitude for the love he gave and the positive influence he had on the community." (from Louis, Laura & Isabella Roche)

MINI-ADS

Live-in Carer / Companion. I have some availability to assist in live-in care / companionship. Reliable, Trustworthy, excellent references. DBS clearance, own vehicle. Part time / shared rota. Please call Helen 07867 978558.

Coming available soon (February/March) to rent a three bedroom cottage in Painswick. Preferably a long term let. For more information please contact 07824 601280 or 07788 412823

Mini-Ads

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

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

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

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

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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NEXT ISSUE

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for current issue and archive, the annual directory and village maps.

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Beacon post box - New Street

All copy must include author, address and contact telephone number. Photographs and advertising art work original at 600dpi in JPEG

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Pictured above

The Friday Club Christmas lunch
The winners of the Gardening Club wreath making competition
Caroling around Painswick
The Hub volunteers Christmas treat at The Painswick

*We wish our
readers a very
happy New Year*