

# The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 24 No. 1

April 2001

## A chink of hope for walkers as Foot and Mouth outbreak grips the county

Foot and Mouth is a viral disease that affects cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and all other ruminating animals. It is highly infectious and spreads rapidly. It has the potential to cause massive problems to the farming community if it is not controlled. On 28th February, Gloucestershire County Council began the closure of all footpaths and bridleways in the countryside, including those over agricultural land, woodland and common land. Failure to comply with the order would attract a maximum fine of £5,000.

The action was taken following the decision to give emergency powers to local authorities as a result of the outbreak of the disease in the South East that occurred on 20th February. On 7th March, the County Council obtained the agreement of Painswick Manorship to close Painswick Beacon, Sheepscrope Common, Rudge Hill, Bulls Cross and Juniper Hill to the public. The County Council printed 10,000 closure notices for attaching to rights-of-way signposts.

Painswick Parish Council closed the Plantation to be consistent with the Manorship's decision. The county remained free of the disease until 10th March when the first outbreak was confirmed. Parishioners were, and continue to be, very aware of the seriousness of the situation and have kept away from the commons. Parish Councillors were asked to explain why walkers were banned from the commons



**Eighteen-month-old Angus McCormick disinfecting his wellies before going in to see the family's Jacob sheep at the Park**

while golfers were allowed to continue playing on Painswick Beacon. The Painswick Manorship posted a notice of explanation to the effect that, although the Beacon was in the ownership of the Manorship, it had no authority to prevent golfers from playing.

The Golf Club told the Parish Council that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had advised them that there was no requirement at that time for the course to be closed. The club took precautionary measures to minimise the risk of transmitting the disease, including the

placing of disinfectant strips at various places on the course.

The good news for walkers and dog owners is that Painswick Beacon is planned to be re-opened from this weekend (6th April). Please see local notices for confirmation. However, for the time being, dogs will have to be kept on leads and under strict control at all times.

The outbreak of the disease has had many consequences. One outcome has been postponement of the County Council elections from Thursday, 3rd May until Thursday, 7th June. The Government had been expected to call a General Election to coincide with the County Council elections, so 7th June is the probable new date. Another local casualty is the cancellation of the annual cheese rolling at Coopers Hill.

**Terry Parker**

## Site visit on St Mary's Home plan

Stroud District development control members who visited the St Mary's Home site, following the 13th March decision that an inspection was needed, are "generally in favour" of the Severn NHS Trust plan for the proposed townhouses.

That's the recommendation that will go to their full committee on 10th April. However, the committee will also take account of the reservations made by Painswick Parish councillors about density, building materials, and particularly the planned A46 road access, where there was strong objection to the Highway Authority's agreement to that access. Painswick and

District Conservation Society has made equally substantial comment (*See Letter, Page 9*).

After rejection of their 'Nursing Home and 37 Dwellings' plan, Richmond Village Care Centre have submitted a revised outline plan for Broad Ham field. This latest revision accepts the development area defined by SDC planners, as well as the 23 constraints put on the developer when SDC members were "minded not to object" last year. Then, Richmond's managing director would not accept the constraints or the smaller area. The next hearing is likely to be in June (*Letters, Page 9*).

**This month has been exceptionally heavy for Beacon copy, and it has been necessary, unfortunately, to omit several articles that were planned for this issue, including the first of the Weather charts from the Croft School pupils. I am sorry if this causes any difficulties, but be assured that the omissions will get first consideration for the May publication. - The Editor**



## PARISH-COUNCIL NEWS

### Council meeting on 21st March, 2001

Reported by Tony Crook

At the planning session before the main council meeting, Malcolm Watts, the new sub-committee chair, reported that a number of letters from residents in Butts Green had prompted another look at the Painswick House grounds application. Residents were objecting to the planting programme alongside the new access to the House.

District Council had advised that little could be done about the new owners' tree plans since no permission was needed to plant on their land. After discussion, it was resolved to write to the owners of Painswick House, saying that the council was mindful of the Butts Green owners' views and asking Painswick House owners to take these into account. Council also agreed to register its concerns and those of Butts Green residents with the District Council "whether they can do anything about it or not." John Stephenson-Oliver was also worried about the increased traffic in this rural cul-de-sac when the new access was in full use.

Although there were some reservations, the design of the new Painswick House gatehouse was acceptable to the sub-committee. However, the District Council would oppose the application because it was outside the village development envelope. Council resolved to reject the application for the gatehouse for the above reason, but added a footnote that the gates themselves were acceptable.

On the Washwell Farm application, Coun. Watts reported that the combined application for holiday accommodation and a new balcony had been withdrawn, with a new submission for the balcony at the back of the house. Council supported the application but wanted to make clear

to the District Council that this agreement did not cover the holiday accommodation aspect.

There was nothing to report from the site meeting over the St. Mary's Home application, except that conditions would be put on any developer over building materials.

### Police report

The main meeting began with a police report from Acting Inspector Stone and PC Gary Power: only seven crimes had been logged for the month in Painswick parish, compared to 167 in the larger area and 2,724 in the county, indicating that fear of crime was more of a worry than the actual numbers, said Insp. Stone. Painswick was doing better than Stroud in detection rates. There had been no detrimental effect from losing the village police station, and the number of crimes in Painswick was going down.

In reply to a question from Coun. Stephenson-Oliver, PC Power said there had been no responses to the PIP (Police Information Point) at the library, and no messages had been left there for him. Councillors' concerns about parking on double yellow lines were noted, but Insp. Stone said it was impossible to police the infringements because of a shortage of both police and traffic wardens. This might be corrected in future if a parish special constable were employed. He made the same point when questioned by the chairman about village vandalism.

### Resignation and co-option

Terry Parker, the council chairman, read out the resignation letter from Keith Hardwidge, saying that he had received it with regret, since council suffered if it did not have a diversity of views. A letter of thanks for Keith's services would be sent.

Three villagers had applied to fill the place vacated by Mrs Jennifer Crook. Coun Parker advised members that they could fill both vacancies if they wished, but councillors felt they should fill one vacancy at a time. On a vote in private, Mr Alan Shearer was co-opted.

### Foot and Mouth outbreak

Concern was voiced by members over the confusion caused by the county council banning walking on footpaths on Painswick Beacon, so people could go there as long as they did not use footpaths. The anomaly of the golf club still allowing play while the public was banned from using the common was also causing confusion. Coun Ann Daniels pointed out that Painswick was in an infected area, not a restricted area. Coun David Hudson felt that anything that could be done to control the outbreak should be done, and council should ask the golf club to close.

It was resolved to write to the club again, and ask them to rethink their position.

### Finance

The Parish Clerk, Peter Grant, reported that some money remained in the accounts for allocation to projects. Coun. Daniels said she was concerned about the condition of the recreation field pavilion that Council had a responsibility to maintain. Coun. Stephenson-Oliver sought some further grant towards creating a toilet for the disabled at Painswick Centre, though this was not an immediate requirement.

Council decided to set aside £3,000 for repairs to the Town Hall roof, and to earmark £2,000 for repairs to the pavilion, the latter to be subject to recommendations from a sub-group of David Hudson, Malcolm Watts and Martin Slinger. The £1,000 allocated earlier in the year to the Painswick Centre was agreed.

### Miscellaneous

A technical objection to the Cotswold Way National Trail path at Jenkins Farm was approved.

English Nature had written to the owner of Red Stables, Yokehouse Lane, about the fencing off of land designated as being of Special Scientific Interest. She had been instructed to remove the posts and netting fence.

Councillors decided to enter Painswick in this year's Bledisloe Cup Best Kept Village competition. Slad might enter but Sheepscombe declined.

A "home" for the new Painswick Banner, seen for the first time at last year's Clipping ceremony, would probably be found in the Town Hall.

Gloucestershire County Council had advised the parish that the preferred new political structure at County Hall would consist of a Leader and Cabinet.

Stroud District Council had written to the parish, advising that the CPRE was asking for a strategy to identify all contaminated land in the parish. Members felt that the criteria were not clear enough for them to act upon, and they needed sight of the whole document.

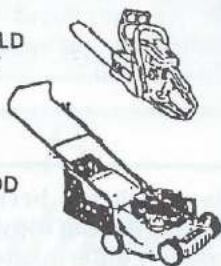
Malcolm Watts agreed to look over the four-year Gloucestershire School Organisation Plan.

A meeting to discuss salt bin locations for next winter was agreed.

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## New line-dancing and yoga classes at the Painswick Centre

Two new classes start this month at the Painswick Centre: First, we are delighted to welcome Mr Girish Patel from Stroud. He was one of the team who developed the worldwide Dru Yoga Diploma and has offered to run a Dru Yoga course in Painswick. Dru Yoga is a synthesis of ancient and modern techniques, using traditional postures and creative flowing movements. It provides powerful and effective methods for self-development.

This initial six-week course is suitable for men and women of all ages and abilities. It will be held in the Cotswold Room, starting on Tuesday, 24th April at 11.30am. Each session will last about 1½ hours. If you wish to attend and/or would like more information, please contact Girish Patel on 01453 759006 or 01453 756413. Places will be limited, so please book early.

Secondly, we are delighted to announce that following the success of the Sunday evening Line Dancing Class, we are starting a second Beginners Group for those that find Sunday evenings difficult.

This will again be led by Julie Coles (01453 752480) and will be held in the Main Hall. The 10-week course starts on Thursday, 26th April at 1.30 pm. Each session costs £3, and lasts about one hour. Simply come along on the day, wearing comfortable shoes, preferably not trainers. For both events, remember there is only limited parking space at The Painswick Centre, so please use Stamages Lane car park, if possible.

Jackie Herbert

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Margaret and Charles Thorne Say, with the new manager, their daughter Michelle, her husband, David, and children Tom and Becky at Ashwell House

## A homecoming for Michelle

Next Monday, 9th April, when the new Scheme Manager, Michelle Elliott, takes over at Ashwell House, it will be very much a homecoming. For Michelle is taking over from her mother, Margaret Thorne Say, who has been warden and scheme manager there for 27 years.

Michelle grew up at Ashwell House, went to school at the Croft, and now returns with her own family, Tom who is eleven, and Becky, six. Michelle's hus-

band, David, will be taking on the handyman duties from Margaret's husband, Charles, who is home this week from King's College Hospital, London, where he had a heart triple bypass operation. Charles and Margaret, Painswickians of the Year a couple of years ago, are staying in the village they love, and have moved to Gyde Road.

All the Elliott family are staunch members of the Salvation Army in Gloucester, and David and his son, Tom, play instruments in the band; David the euphonium and Tom the tenor horn. Tom is going to Archway School and Becky hopes to get into her mother's old school, the Croft, in September.

Residents of Ashwell House are looking forward to having some young children around the place again, and for one resident, Miss Eileen Sullivan, it will have a particular poignancy - she was Michelle's French tutor almost 30 years ago.

### Familiar face about the place?

If, over the coming week, you think you may have seen Carol Smillie in Londis, or sworn you'd spotted Handy Andy in The Falcon, you may not be mistaken. Two houses in Painswick will be receiving makeovers, by courtesy of BBC's Changing Rooms. Anna Ryder Richardson and Oliver Heath, two of the programme's interior designers, will be helping the two families involved to transform rooms in each other's houses. The results will be shown later in the year.

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## Paul A. Morris

City & Guilds

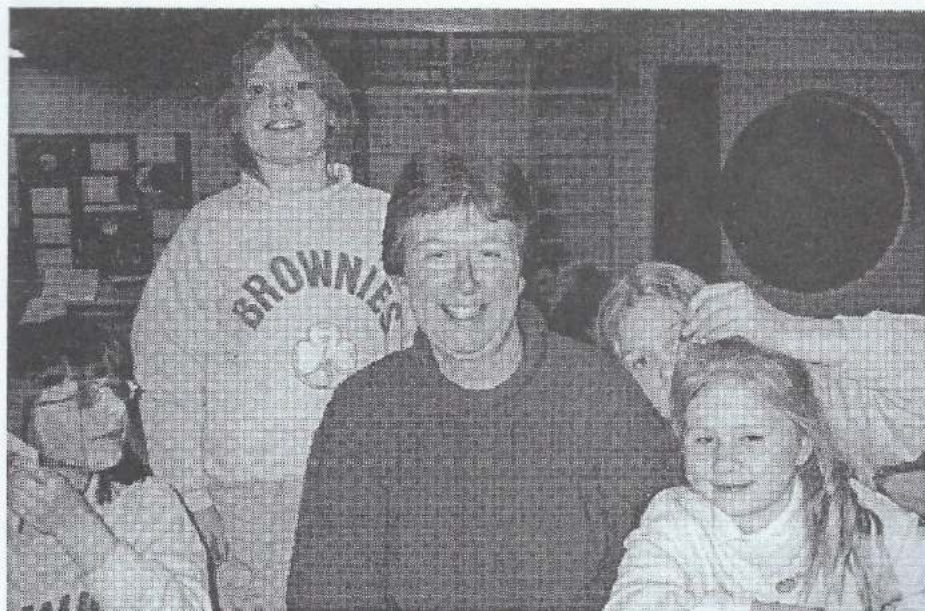
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## New Tawny Owl for the Brownies

Michelle Hurford from Upton St Leonards has taken up the position of Tawny Owl with the Cranham and Painswick Brownie pack. An art teacher by profession, with a special interest in handicrafts, Michelle is ideally qualified for her role with the Brownies. She works at The Beaufort

School in Gloucester but her big love is the outdoor life. She spends many week-ends walking in the countryside (foot and mouth permitting!), pursuing her interest in nature and wildlife.

Above is Michelle with the Brownie pack making gifts for Mother's Day.

## Helen and Anne's Coffee Morning

Held in the Town Hall on 24th March the total raised was a fantastic £504.25. Proceeds to the Stroke Association, Our Lady & St Therèse and Father Franco in Papua. Many many thanks to all who gave cakes, preserves, plants, raffle prizes, donations and help. The usual happy atmosphere prevailed and thanks to our regulars who turned out on the day. Raffle prizes were won by: A. Watson, F. Holliday, K. French, C. Churchill, P. Grant, H. Briggs, S. Robinson, R. Taylor, C. Kinlock-Jones and W. Brooks.

Helen Baker and Anne Leoni

## Furniture sale at the Painswick Centre

The Painswick Centre has acquired a selection of top quality office furniture and will be selling this, plus other items of surplus furniture, to raise funds towards the refurbishment of The Painswick Centre on Saturday, 21st April in The Cotswold Room at The Painswick Centre between 10.30 am and 2.30 pm.

Items include: Executive swivel chairs, upholstered armchairs, office/reception seating, office divider screens, chairs, tables, various desks, coffee tables, and metal storage cabinets. There will also be some assorted general items of second hand furniture. Most are in first class condition, some brand new. All will be sold at well below their retail value.

Please note that all items purchased must be removed on the day of the sale.

Next month there will be a report on the Millennium Appeal and the June launch of the 'Supporting Wall.'

## Design Team seeks young people's comments

If a young person in your home does not usually read the Beacon, please pass at least this article on to him or her. We would like their help - and it doesn't require much effort and certainly no more expense than a postage stamp.

Those of us drawing together information about the four local villages, and the land between them, would much appreciate the comments and suggestions of the up-coming generation; anyone aged under, say, 20.

The comments could be limited to a postcard, or a side of A4 paper, and could be of the greatest value.

What do young people like about where they live, about their immediate environment and the one beyond their own home location?

What do they dislike? And what do they suggest, within reason, should be uppermost in the minds of those who can influence the future? These could be influential in our devising the report, Painswick 2001 - design for the future.

Views on these subjects, and any others, will be welcomed by our Administrator at Longhope, Blakewell Mead, Painswick, GL6 6UR before the end of April, please.

Anne Smith,  
Design Team Leader

## PAINSWICK ELECTRICAL SERVICES

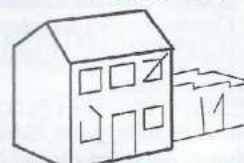
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## Member to be co-opted

Since no notices calling for an election have been received for the casual vacancy on Painswick Parish Council caused by Keith Hardwidge's resignation, the place will be filled by co-option. If anyone is interested, applications must reach the Parish Clerk within seven days of the next meeting (18th April).



# W.I. scoop the Beacon Quiz AGAIN

A round of applause (or should it be a slow handclap?) for those indomitable ladies at the WI. For the second successive year Painswick WI won the Beacon's Annual Village Quiz, narrowly emerging as the winners after a closely fought contest at the Painswick Centre on 17th March. In second place, just one percentage point behind, were Painswick Local History Society, and third – also very close – were Painswick Bird Club.

In all, twenty teams battled it out, and the Painswick Centre was heaving with the massed ranks of the local intelligentsia! (GCHQ was on high security alert) The first round, appropriately, went to the Butchers Arms, showing plenty of bottle. Then Slad United and St Mary's Church took it in turns to take the lead.

Slad had their noses back in front at the halfway point but shortly afterwards the WI made their big move and were never to be caught. The History Society made a late burst on the rails, cunningly reserving their joker for the last round, but had to settle for a close second. In fact, if they'd played their joker on their best round, they would have won!

Our shield was presented to the winners, and prizes went to the first three teams. A prize was also on offer for dressing up for the occasion or bringing a suitable prop or mascot. The fact that few teams did this (perhaps we did not publicise this feature very well) did not detract from the ingenuity shown by the winners - The Gaugain Quartet - or by the Bird Club whose amusing parrot mobile was rewarded by a further special prize from the editor.

It is always fascinating to see how the teams fare with certain questions and once again there were surprises. Who would have expected so many Painswick residents to show impressive knowledge of the 60s pop group 'Shirelles'? Or,



The winners take the Shield: Joycelyn Warren, Margaret Richardson, Jane Otway and Nina Harris, with the Beacon editor, Tony Crook

conversely, such sad ignorance of British cities? Asked to name the three towns that were granted city status by the Queen last year, the teams gave no fewer than 25 different answers. Fair enough if they missed out on the news of the actual recipients (Wolverhampton, Inverness and Brighton), but surely everyone should have known that Manchester, Sheffield, Leicester, Worcester, Exeter and Nottingham were fully-fledged cities already, shouldn't they? Another question that seemed to catch out nearly everyone was the explanation of the name Canary Islands. Given a choice of four possible answers, most teams opted for a 15th century Spanish governor called José Canaria. Complete fiction of course. (The correct answer? If you don't know and weren't at the quiz you'll have to look this one up!)

But these were minor aberrations. The overall standard was once again impressive, with only two of the twenty teams failing (narrowly) to obtain more than half the marks available, the top three exceeding 70%, and eight teams bettering 60%. Well done, Painswick. But maybe the regulars are getting wise to our little foibles, for instance by revising their nursery rhymes beforehand.

The full list of teams competing was: The Stonechats, Painswick Horticultural Society, Slad United, Gaugain Quartet, Painswick Short Mat Bowling Club,

Painswick Music Society, Painswick Music Appreciation Group, PADFAS, The Butchers Arms, Painswick Bird Club, Painswick WI, Painswick Badminton Club, The Blakewell Four, St Mary's Church, The Catholic Church, Painswick Bellringers, Painswick Tennis Club, The Senior Circle and Slad B.

Thanks for coming – we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did, and we hope to see you all again next year.

Alan Bamber

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## CROFT SCHOOL NEWS

### Letter from Gary Tucker

As my time as Acting Head at the Croft School comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about the last two terms. Being an Acting Head is never easy. As the name implies, part of the problem is actually being seen as the Head, rather than someone who is actually 'acting' the part. Luckily for me, parents and staff have been tremendously supportive and treated me as they would any other fool who would take Headship as a career move.

The school has continued to grow and prosper, and the wonderful school created by Mr Hodges and Mr Jones has made my job a great deal easier. Parents who send their children to the Croft are fortunate in having a school that really caters for all the differing needs that children have. All members of staff are dedicated to their job and will always seek to do what is right for the individual child. They deserve a special and very public thank-you from me for their hard work over the last two terms. In particular, I would like to say a big 'Thank You' to Mrs Angela Follows for teaching Class 5 and for doing all the re-



### Dressing up for World Books Day

Croft School children had a day of great fun and excitement when they dressed up last month as characters from books for World Books Day, with many outfits showing some real ingenuity from parents.

Unfortunately there's no room to publish photographs of all of the impressive costumes, but they were a credit all round.

Just to give you a flavour of what could be seen on the day, our picture shows Freddie Unwin as roguish Toad, a demure Amy Cox as Little Red Riding Hood and fierce William Allan as William Wallace.

ally 'important bits'. I would also like to thank all parents who have supported the school in so many ways. This school benefits from having parents who care enough about their children's education to support fund-raising and offer help whenever it is needed.

Finally, a big thank-you to all the children who have kept me sane when the paperwork has seemed insurmountable. Their good humour and positive attitude to learning is a credit to their parents, their

teachers and to the community of Painswick. Well done, kids!

As I now slink off to the Terrapin building and resume a normal life as that wonderful thing called a teacher (there is no finer occupation), it is just left for me to say that I hope you all have a very peaceful Easter.

By the way, if anyone has Tesco Computers-for-Kids vouchers, the Croft is collecting them, so please hand them in to the school or to any of its pupils.

## Announcing The War of the Worlds

*Seen through the eyes of some Class 5 pupils, and unedited*

This is an announcement from her majesty the queen. Aliens have landed on Puddlesfield common, London and many more spacecrafts have been sighted sailing thought the sky. The government have decided to act quickly. They shall try to communicate with the aliens.

For the safety of the pubic (sic) the government would recommend everyone to stay indoors at all times.

The wireless will broadcast an update every hour. Please listen for more information.

(Hannah and Susan)

The martian started to haul it's huge slimy bulk towards the Deputation, there was a blinding flash of red light - and the Deputation were no more than ashes blowing in the wind. The camouflaged army sprang

into action. Their leaders had feared something like this would happen so they had come prepared. The missiles fired; they struck home. Alas the martian continued moving towards them, leaving a snail trail in its wake, the bullets were no good!

(Katherine Hyland)

The Martians rose up, miles above the deputation their long luminous tentacles holding them up. The flags gave yet another signal and the Martians lowered themselves down inside the pit. The deputation followed. It seemed like forever until they returned. Carefully they climbed up the edge of the pit. Smiling they raised the white flag yet again.

(Hannah Bolton)

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# Wells - stories of glass tops, lighting and gurgles under the stocks...

Stroud Water Company brought mains water to Painswick shortly after the First World War. Nevertheless, the Post Office, for example, used its well water until the 1980s, and Painswick Lodge and the cottages nearby still use well water. Springs, of course, are older than wells. The Washwell spring fed a tributary of the Painswick stream and even drove a small mill in 1820; St Tabitha's spring provided "a good supply running to waste, except to those living around near Gas House".

At one time, the spring at Spoonbed Hill, thrown out by the upper lias clay was considered as a possible source of supply to the village but it was found that drainage from the cottages nearby had been into the fissures in the rocks and it was "feared that the water would be polluted".

Peggy Perrins, Joyce Tranter and John Griffiths with their long memories have been very helpful, as have some 50 of today's Painswickians who have told us about their wells. This help clearly shows the obvious in that most houses built before the mains came had a well and usually a pump. There are also examples of wells and pumps used for watering cattle in a field.

The reports we have been given included several wells that had been made into features with glass tops, lighting,

plants and even fish. One lady was astounded to hear that the chair she had sat on for 60 years was on the lid of a well. Many wells are inside houses; one under the wall that now divides the Lamp House from the Town Hall. A well in Vicarage Street, now capped, is just outside the house and gives its position away by melting the snow in a circle.

Even from our small sample, it is clear that many houses had wells both inside and outside the house. Intriguingly, one house had this situation and the one outside was "in a shed converted into a loo" - the mind boggles! We have had many reports of the depths of wells and the fact that their water level goes up and down, in one case sufficiently "up" to flood the cellar. Interestingly at Sheepscombe, in its narrow valley, the wells vary in depth from about thirty feet on the north side to over 100 feet on the south side.

If you stand in Kemps Lane where it is joined by the narrow Hale Lane and listen, you will hear water running continually beneath a cover in the road. You will be standing over a stone masonry conduit that runs down Hale Lane and

continues down to Randall's Field where it caused a problem when the houses were being built there.

Derek Hodges told us that in his churchwarden days he was once in St Mary's when he met a woman who was a dowser. This lady reported two flows of water with a confluence below the high altar. Derek said he was not surprised as the chancel was damp! Since the altar is so close to the top of Hale Lane it seems probable that the outflow led to the Hale Lane section of the conduit. Even more excitingly, this would pass very close to the present position of the stocks.

Now, we have been told by an unimpeachable source, Jim Hoyland, that an acquaintance of his claimed that as the miscreant sat locked in the stocks he could listen to the gurgling from the underworld and reflect upon his future.

Quite apart from this charming tale, there are many guesses but no proof of the source of the waters in question, so before imagination goes into orbit we badly need a water diviner. Any volunteers?

Helen and Wynne Roberts

## PROPERTY REPORT FOR APRIL - this month from Hampton's Painswick agency

As with the whole country, our hearts and sympathies go out to all the troubled farmers and businesses affected by the foot and mouth disease. Unfortunately this is also having a knock-on effect on the housing market, with viewings unusually down for this time of year.

However, we do have a busy time ahead of us. A Press launch has taken place at the development of seven town houses at Painswick Heights, remembered locally as the Squash Club. Lawrence Dallaglio, the England and British Lions Rugby international star, was the guest of honour opening the site, and all seven town houses including the fully furnished

show home, are now available to view by appointment. The public open weekend is 6th, 7th and 8th April.

Gyde House is also being launched in early April and the Sales Centre will be fully operational from Friday, 13th April onwards, and will be open thereafter 11am - 6pm every Thursday to Monday. The Lodge house is furnished to portray the quality of the development and it is hoped that four of the homes at Gyde will be ready for viewing at this time.

Recent exchanges include: In Painswick; Hillview in Butt Green, Cambrai on the Cheltenham Road, Flat 2 New Street House, Broadway Heights

(formerly Caresbreck in Kingsmill Lane), St. Anne's in Gloucester Street, Lilac Cottage in The Park, and near Miserden - Miserden Lodge.

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## Johnny Johnston and daughter Fiona present new strips to Rugby Club youth team

*Crisp new cherry and white shirts for the Rugby Club Juniors, seen here with Fiona and Johnny outside the clubhouse, a gift on behalf of the Falcon and the Butchers Arms. Left to right are: Leo Brabbins, Josh Arden, Jack Reed, Tom Pigott, Richard Tate, Joe Tate, Dominic Grey, Jamie Morgan and Max Royle. But who's that looking on from the top of the steps?*

## Foot and Mouth hits league games

There is a close relationship between the Rugby and farming communities in Gloucestershire, not least because many farmers are associated with the game. Painswick players were therefore very understanding when both matches against Dursley had to be called off at the Dursley club's request last Saturday, because of the Foot and Mouth outbreak.

Postponement of the first fifteen's match means that they now have three league games to rearrange. The matches to be played are against top-of-the-division rivals Tewkesbury, who have been involved in the national Tetley Bitter Vase competition, Dursley and Old Elizabethans. The match against the Bristol side was abandoned by the referee a few minutes into the second half when Peter Gyde broke a leg. Old Elizabethans were leading by 7 points to 5 when the accident occurred.

The Painswick sides have been having

mixed fortunes in the Combination Cup. The first fifteen had a convincing victory over Stroud Gothamites in the Senior Combination Cup when they scored 12 points without reply. They now play either Cirencester or Dursley in the final at the end of April. Painswick United lost to Cirencester 2nd XV in the Junior Cup, but last Sunday Painswick's 3rd XV won their semi-final cup match against Cirencester by 25 points to 12. Coach Wayne Lee told the Beacon how pleased he had been with the players' commitment this season and, in particular, the performances by younger members.

**Results** [(L)denotes league match]  
Sat 3 Mar. Painswick United 40 Dowty 1st XV3.

Sat 10 Mar. Painswick 1st XV 90 Smiths 1st XV 7. Smiths 2nd XV 0 Painswick United 34.

Sat 17 Mar. (L)Old Elizabethans 1st XV 7 Painswick 1st XV 5 (match abandoned). Bredon 2nd XV 34 Painswick United 5.

Sat 24 Mar. Combination Cup. Painswick 1st XV 12 Stroud Gothamites 0.

Sat 31 Mar. Matches against Dursley postponed.

Sun 1 Apr. Cup competition. Painswick Adders 25 Cirencester 3rd XV 12.

## Nick gets national call

Nick Marsh, the Oxford Blue who plays for Bracknell and whose parents live in The Highlands, was honoured with an invitation to join the England Rugby Sevens party in Hong Kong last weekend. England lost in the quarter final to Fiji. Fiji went down to New Zealand in the final.

*Lawrence comes to Painswick*  
England's outstanding flanker, Lawrence Dallaglio, was in Painswick last Friday at the official opening of the Painswick Heights development.

## Spring wine-tasting for the tennis club

The Tennis Club held an enjoyable Spring Social event at the Painswick Centre last month. The evening began with a wine-tasting (17 wines in all) which put everyone in a relaxed mood! There was a break for supper, then the evening continued with some novelty horse-racing - Richard Horder's model horses on runners proving hard work on the arms of 'riders.'

## Over-60s go national

Painswick Lawn Tennis Club has again entered the Men's Over 60 national tournament and recently played Cirencester in the first round. The team, which comprises two pairs, won by 8 sets to 1 and now go to Devon to play either Exeter or Seaton. The Painswick team was Peter Bolton/Terry Parker and Ron Barney/Bill Lambell.

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# Letters to the Editor

GIVEN the turmoil around two major planning applications current in Painswick, I am keen to clarify what is going on (as far as it involves the Painswick and District Conservation Society) and our committee's position. Here are summaries of letters to the Head of Planning at Stroud District Council:

## *Care Village on Broad Ham Fields*

This project initially had our committee's support when it was being publicised in 1999, if not earlier, as a development on a modest scale. Since then, there have been various revisions and it has become a complicated application with changing numbers of living units within changing site areas.

As submitted to the SDC Planning Committee on 13th March, the Society's committee felt that there were too many units proposed. The absence of any site plan increased our concern about the density that could result, and at our meeting on 7th March it was agreed by a clear majority to change our position and support the planning officer's recommendation to refuse.

Our letter made two other points: First, we consider that such a sensitive site within an AONB should require a full planning application (with appropriate details) before being allowed to proceed and, secondly, we continue to believe in the concept of a local, community based nursing facility, so it is a matter of regret that the St Mary's Home site has only become available since the Care Village project was initiated on Broad Ham Fields.

## *St Mary's Home site*

The Conservation Society consistently objected to proposals to develop this site, first made as a full planning application, on the grounds of the siting of the buildings, their incompatibility with the local environment and the traffic issues that result. This position appeared to have clear support at a public meeting in Painswick, and it was subsequently endorsed by the Parish Council. Letters of objection were written to the District Council.

We then learned that the planning officer recommended that permission should not be refused – a position that we believe is in clear contradiction of SDC policies. We have therefore written again to question this position with a point-by-point correction to a number of her assertions, also saying that in our view there were sufficient grounds to justify a site visit by the District Council's planning committee. Currently we are pleased that a motion to this effect was proposed by Mrs Barbara Tait and accepted by the planning committee, thus postponing a decision.

**Douglas Robinson**  
Chairman, Painswick & District  
Conservation Society

MANY residents of Painswick who have consistently supported the proposal for a care centre and associated care housing on the Stroud Road site have already been in touch and shared my disappointment that our outline planning application was refused in March. That application began its journey in December 1999.

I can assure all those who have supported the proposal that I will continue to do my utmost to develop the care village facility in Painswick. The depth and breadth of the care village concept and all that it can offer will now be limited by an arbitrary line drawn by the planners without consideration to the form and shape of the site. This facility, needed by so many, will now have to be limited. Inevitably, with the reduced area there will be fewer people able to benefit, and with fewer people services could be more expensive.

I have now submitted a new application that confines any development within a block area that has been generated by the planning officers. My intention is to press on with the development within this area.

**Keith Cockell**  
Richmond Village Care Centre Ltd  
Nantwich, Cheshire

## A remarkable change of mind!

Only ten days after Stroud District Council rejected their latest planning application, I learn that Richmond Village Care submitted yet another outline application, this time conforming to the conditions suggested last year by SDC. These included restrictions on which part of the Stroud Road site could be developed, among many others. According to Mr Cockell, the managing director of Richmond Village Care, at the time and repeated since, these restrictions made developing the site a financially unviable proposition. What has brought about this remarkable change of mind?

The professional planning officers of SDC made very clear their opposition to Mr Cockell's 'heavy density' plan at the planning meeting on 13th March, and few people in Painswick have expressed a strong favourable interest in, or support for, a nursing home, let alone a complete Care Village. Yet it appears that Mr Cockell assumes he has every right to impose his wishes on a village 100 miles from where his home and business interests are based. Would he take kindly to a business consortium from Painswick trying to bulldoze through planning permission for a large development on a sensitive site on his doorstep?

Now that the St Mary's Home site is available for sale and redevelopment, it would seem that if Mr Cockell was interested in simply providing the people of Painswick with a nursing home, this site would be the obvious and easiest place to build one. He would no longer have to be concerned with building ancillary housing units and other facilities in order to make the nursing wing an economic proposition (his justification for the 37 housing units he originally proposed), nor would he have to comply with the 23 conditions laid down by Stroud District Council.

Let us not lose sight of the fact that the original remit of the 'Group of Four' residents was to look into the feasibility of, and need for, a nursing home, and not to promote a Care Village, as they have done and continue to do with such fervour.

Should we assume therefore, in the light of this latest application, that Richmond Village Care is interested in pursuing its intention to develop the site in Painswick so determinedly for purely altruistic reasons, or on account of the huge potential profits at stake, if and when planning permission is granted?

**Maggie Drake**

More letters overleaf on Page 10

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# More letters to the Editor, and replies

At the recent Parish Council meeting concerning the planning application for the care village at Stroud Road, it was very noticeable that the chairman and another leading member of the council effectively debarred themselves from voting on this important issue. For those not familiar with these matters, it was because one was our county councillor (the County Council own the land in question), and the other was one of our district councillors (District had to decide the application), even though he was not a member of the Development Control Committee. The result at the Parish Council was a 4/4 tied vote, with no casting vote being permitted for the chairman. It should also be remembered that the Parish Council were already two members short through recent resignations, thus resulting in a total of four missing votes or one third of the council.

On to the District Council Development Control meeting for the final decision: Yet again, the public was informed that no fewer than three of its District members would not vote - or speak - because they were also county councillors! In the event, the application was refused by 5/4 on the casting vote of the deputy chairman of the committee.

In each case, the outcome could have been quite different if those members who wear other 'hats' had been able to vote. Even worse for the so-called democratic process was that none of them spoke to give an opinion, one way or the other, about the proposal. So much for the right to free speech. The voting public is entitled to ask of what value are such 'two-hatted' members when it comes to the crucial decision-making process in matters of such importance to so many? Whatever your opinion on the outcome of this or other equally important application, this unsatisfactory state of affairs cannot be considered to truly or fairly represent our much vaunted local democratic process at either Parish or District level.

To make it clear, my letter is dealing with the principle of fair representation of issues for the voting public. It is not directed at the individuals concerned at a

personal level, nor at a specific political party, since all three main parties had representatives affected at Parish or District level.

**Norman Rampton**  
**The Highlands**

## The law is clear

I write in response to Norman Rampton's letter in which he expresses his concern about the voting restrictions placed on councillors who wear "hats for many other Councils," a matter brought into the public arena by the recent debate on the care village.

In many ways I share his unease. Followers of Parish Council debate will know that I view councillors' other hat as Trustees of the Recreation Field as being a conflict of interest; a view, I must add, not shared by my colleagues on the Parish Council.

The law is clear. It requires councillors at all levels to disclose both direct and indirect pecuniary interests on any matter coming before the Council, a committee or sub committee. It prohibits one's vote and in certain circumstances may also require one to withdraw from the meeting while the matter is being discussed.

The problem is deciding how deep this ruling should go: should it be applied rigidly or is there some room for interpretation? I understand that Terry Parker is Chair of the Finance Committee of Gloucestershire County Council who own the land upon which the Care Village would have been built. While I am sure that Terry will deal with this matter himself, in my view he, as a County Councillor, could be seen to have a pecuniary interest, as the proceeds from the sale of the field would be a factor in financial planning of the County. I am less certain about the position of those councillors on the Development Control Committee of the Stroud District Council who are also County councillors. I have asked them to question the advice they have been given: to me the pecuniary link seems, at best, fragile.

As the other "leading member of the

Parish Council" Mr. Rampton referred to (thank you for that), my position as Leader of the District Council led me to confidential information that not only could I not divulge but also would have influenced my vote. I took advice and based on that advice and my own interpretation of the situation chose not to vote. On reflection I believe that I was correct.

Finally, may I refer to the primary purpose of Mr. Rampton's letter; that is the fair representation of issues for the voting public. Conflict of interest is not common and in most cases where it occurs is not a significant factor. The matter of the Care Village was unusual and like most things unusual tests the system to the limit. I am obliged to observe that if more people were prepared to become involved in helping the community by putting themselves forward for Council work the fewer multi-hatted councillors we would have and consequently less conflict of interest.

**John Stephenson-Oliver**

## Interest in the assets

I have considerable sympathy with Norman Rampton's concerns about elected members' conflicts of interest when they are members of different authorities. That said, I have been a county councillor for twelve years and can recall very few occasions when I have had to declare an interest at the Parish Council because of my position at Shire Hall.

I have made various public statements about my support for the care village outside of Parish Council meetings. The reason that I did not reaffirm that support at the meeting was because I had been advised that by so doing I could be regarded as having an interest in seeking to influence the Parish Council's recommendation to Stroud District Council. I should stress that the land is owned by the County Council who would gain a considerable capital receipt from its sale.

**Terry Parker**

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# Tributes to Dorothy Cox...

At Dorothy Cox's memorial service last month, the Comedy and Tragedy masks were printed on the Order of Service. What a fitting tribute to her life-long love of drama.

Born in 1909, and brought up in Cardiff, Dorothy worked in London for some years and there was able to indulge her love of the theatre; she built up an extensive collection of programmes from West End shows.

Marriage to Geoffrey Cox brought Dorothy to Gloucester. She was a tireless member of the Gloucester Hospital library service, and took great pride in her long service medal. Needless to say, she became a talented and valuable member of the GODS, and her ability as an actress was such that she could indeed play both tragedy and comedy.

When, in the early 1960s, Geoff, with retirement in view, suggested a move to Painswick, Dorothy agreed with some reluctance. She could not think what they would find to do. She would soon find out.

Immediately, the Coxes became involved in village life - especially at St Mary's Church and, of course, in the County Players, where they both gave memorable performances and were regarded with great affection.

Sadly, Geoff died in 1981 but Dorothy, trooper that she was, carried on making a full life for herself, undeterred by two hip operations. Among her many interests in Painswick were W.I., Senior Circle, Christian Aid, W.I. Market, and she was a member of the Theatre Club. Dorothy continued to appear on the stage until she was well into her 80s and, behind the scenes, advised, encouraged and supported a new generation of Players.

A true Christian in every sense of the word, she contributed greatly to the life of St Mary's Church, as did Geoff in his time. Dorothy will be missed by her



*Dorothy Cox in traditional garb at a Victorian Market day in Painswick*

friends, spanning several generations. Her love of young people took her on a weekly visit to the children at Croft School, and her memory will live in their young minds for many years to come.

**Pauline Foreman & Andrew Leach**

## ...and Ronnie Hull

The deaths of Dorothy Cox and Ronnie Hull have robbed Senior Circle of two of its staunchest and longest-serving supporters, and serve it wholeheartedly they did in their individual and unique ways.

In Ronnie, we had an honorary treasurer who, with her attention to detail, leadership and financial acumen, established the Circle's financial well-being and enabled it to meet its responsibilities of providing a forum where Painswick's retired elderly could meet socially and exchange and receive information on current social welfare matters. Her infectious energy in raising funds was unerringly successful, and the business experience she gained with her beloved husband, Leslie, she gave willingly to the Circle and the village.

But Ronnie's talents did not end here. She possessed a roguish sense of humour, sharpened by wartime years spent in the WRNS, that was the delight of all. Her vivacity lightened the moments when things, as they can, became fraught, and she was in all meanings of the saying, a good companion.

The inaugural meeting of Painswick Old People's Welfare Committee held at 8pm in the Town Hall on 5th December 1955 would, I venture to think, regard the high hopes expressed then to have been well and truly met by these two remarkable ladies.

**Patrick Daly**

## to Mervyn Ward

The village church was filled to overflowing, the newly-opened car park likewise for Mervyn's funeral and the Thanksgiving on 15th December. Tributes were paid by Michael Little, Derek Hodges and the Rev. Canon Geoffrey Bird. Each opened a window on Mervyn's life.

Michael told of his coming to the village, where he and Peggy had their house built in Lurks Lane, and where they celebrated 50 years of married life in July, and we all called in to share their day. He also spoke about Mervyn's long service in the village; chairman of the village hall, active in coordinating all events, fetes, Christmas and Harvest lunches and working parties.

Derek gave a personal tribute to Mervyn's valued friendship during his own time of sorrow, shared with Peggy who taught on Derek's staff, and their shared love of cricket and drama.

Canon Bird spoke of the third dimension in Mervyn's life, the spiritual one: his many years of being churchwarden, his deep-seated faith, reached after much thought and questioning, a faith that sustained him through the difficult days. The mystery of suffering remains; Mervyn brought to it indomitable courage and hope.

We each have our particular memory of Mervyn, of joy, laughter, of being available at any time to cheer, help and advise. With Peggy, his beloved wife by his side (not forgetting Daisy), Mervyn lived his life to the full and by so doing our own lives have been enriched.

**Mary Morse**

*This article was written by Mary Morse for the last issue of the Beacon. Unfortunately, it did not appear because of an editorial oversight.*

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# Inspiring night out with the Slavs

No wonder the concert outing to Bristol on 1st March had been a sell-out for weeks ahead: the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, conducted with great spirit by Yakov Kreizberg, gave us a splendid treat of Slav music in the Colston Hall. First, "A Night on the Bare Mountain," the demonic portrayal of a witches' sabbath by Moussorgsky, in the version filtered through Rimsky-Korsakov's unfailingly brilliant re-orchestration.

Dvorak's elegiac Cello Concerto followed Brahms who, on first hearing it, had exclaimed: "Why on earth didn't I know that one could write a cello concerto like this? If I had only known, I would have written one long ago!" The soloist was the American Lynn Herrel, a chamber musician, recitalist, conductor and teacher into the bargain. And last but not least, a

## Music Appreciation Society

concert performance of "Petrushka," by Rimsky-Korsakov's heir, Igor Stravinsky, his most colourful ballet score. Re-written in 1947, 36 years after its first premiere, it made many of us long to see the ballet.

On 15th March, Leslie Brotherton opened the proceedings with a moving tribute to our long-standing member and lecturer, Walter Goodman, in whose memory he played an excerpt from Beethoven's Archduke Trio, one of Walter's favourites.

Andy Brotherton, Leslie's son, has been playing the guitar since aged 11, when his father gave him his first one. (This cost £18 - today you could pay up

to £10,000, depending on resonance). On his return visit, Andy again impressed us with his professional skill on four different instruments, and we were fascinated to learn about their differences. In addition, we heard recordings made by inspirational figures like James Taylor, John MacLaughlin, Sonny Lawrence and Willie Johnson, a 13-year-old family friend, fearlessly playing a piece for us after only two lessons, and to finish, one of Andy's own compositions - composed after reading an article in the Geographical Magazine!

To end our season: "Desert Island Discs" held on 29th March, and on 12th April, "Finale" - wine and nibbles and don't forget to bring your own favourite recording.

Ralph Kenber

## Country rambles with Selwyn

Painswick WI members were glad to welcome Mrs Janet Bollington as speaker at their March meeting. Some months ago she had spoken to us about the Donkey Sanctuary in Devonshire. This time, Corgis and Rambling through the Cotswolds, was her subject. Janet, formerly living at Pitchcombe and President of Edge WI, now lives at Minsterworth and is a member of their WI.

Her Pembrokeshire corgi, Selwyn, might really have been called the star of the show; he appeared in almost every one of the slides. Janet is a tutor at the WI's Denman College in Oxfordshire, where she takes students out on countryside courses, "to see things," as she puts it. In spring 2001, though, all one can do is walk down the middle of the road, she mused

sadly. Some courses had to be cancelled.

Little Selwyn can easily manage ten miles a day and his walks with Janet take them both to some of Gloucestershire's beauty spots: an enormous barley field near Tewkesbury; a bridleway near the Devil's Chimney on Leckhampton Hill; snowdrops in bloom around Edge Church; a secluded lane near Woodchester through a double avenue of trees said to be a thousand years old (they certainly looked it!); stone clapper bridges - some dating from the Middle Ages; Cirencester Park, where Selwyn was seen investigating a badger sett. "One day a badger will pop out and frighten him to death," said his mistress. The saddest part of our meeting had been remembering we were without Dorothy Cox, a well-loved member.

There were gifts for Beth McDonald and Pauline Foreman, both celebrating important birthdays in March. A selection of beautifully knitted gloves, socks and hats was on sale in aid of the Macmillan Nurses' Fund, most of them quickly snapped up. Finally, for gardeners, there was news of a demonstration at WI House in Gloucester on 3rd May, entitled Know your Weeds.

Dorothy Binns

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## Conservators in waiting

As almost everyone is aware, the Foot and Mouth epizootic has led to the curtailment of most countryside pursuits recently. Because of this, it has not been possible to organise any outings for the Painswick and District Conservation Society as yet. However, I expect the position to improve very soon.

Dawn Mallinson

## One hundred years ago

The 'Queen of the Cotswolds' is proposing to commemorate our late Queen in a practical commonsense fashion: Pig Street has been renamed Victoria Street, the square in front of the coffee tavern is to be known as Victoria Square, and a large nine-burner lamp is to be erected in the square, to be called Victoria Lamp.

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# Two ladies of Sheepscombe

Elizabeth Skinner introduced us to two ladies from Sheepscombe, giving us a fascinating insight into the lives of Georgiana (1792-1879) and Sophia (1795-1847) Ford. They were daughters of Sir Francis Ford, who not only owned Shugborough Hall, Staffs, but was a plantation owner in the West Indies. How these two respectable, upper middle class ladies developed connections with a number of political and religious fringe activists was to unfold.

Both sisters were rather unfortunate in their marriages. Georgiana married Mr Welch of Ebworth Park, but found herself deserted when he ran off with his mistress

## Painswick Local History Society

to Paris. Sophia was left a young widow, having married the much older Col. Chichester of Arlington Court, Devon. Sophia came to live with her sister, who at least had been able to remain in the marital home at Ebworth. How would these two independent ladies living in a secluded country estate pass their time?

The two sisters became involved with the Alcott Foundation, a concordists community at Ham Common, Surrey,

where members lived a communal life based on strict vegetarianism and no alcohol or stimulants. These concordists' ideals might most easily be described as a form of communism/socialism. Their associates included Richard Carlisle, who had been imprisoned for subversion, and George Holyoake, who opposed the Slave trade. The two sisters were certainly rebelling against their conventional upbringing sufficiently to be disinherited by their mother.

The sisters' support for such causes may have been influenced by the conditions of the local population. Sheepscombe had a number of cloth mills at its peak, but many of the mills in the area were closing by the beginning of the second quarter of the 19th century, creating much hardship. The established Church did little for the poor and the sisters must have seen hope in the new idealism.

Unfortunately, the sisters' activities were brought to a premature end when Sophie died of TB in 1847 at their cottage in Richmond, Surrey. Georgiana returned to Ebworth where she lived to the good age of 87. She appears to have relinquished her former unconventional lifestyle, but continued to make charitable donations to local causes. Ebworth Park passed to her nephew before being sold to the Workman family. Sadly the house fell into decay and little remains; the out-buildings now house English Nature and National Trust offices.

Carolyn Luke

## The draw of churches

The title of the talk, The Draw of churches, proved a draw for members of the Painswick Local History Society who faced high winds and driving snow to attend the March meeting. Having braved the elements, they were treated to a highly entertaining talk by Mr. Alywin Sampson, who was making a welcome return visit to the Society.

The title of his talk reflected two of his interests: drawing and the history of parish churches. His drawings of a wide variety of churches showed them in their village or town settings, sometimes dominating the landscape, as in Ross-on-Wye, or screened by adjacent buildings, as Cirencester church is from certain viewpoints. Churches with unusual features were shown, including Berkeley church, where the tower is detached from the church because, it is said, the inhabitants of Berkeley Castle did not want to be overlooked.

Mr. Sampson is also interested in church associations with well-known people. Gustav Holst was organist at Wyck Rissington and conducted the local choir at Bourton-on-the-Water; Sir James Horlicks, of malted milk drink fame, is buried in Cowley churchyard. Mr. Sampson had drawings of some of the

memorials found in churchyards. He explained that few pre-dated the 16th century, as in mediaeval times graves were re-used, so no memorials were erected. To encourage the wool trade, bodies had to be buried 'in the wool' - a woollen shroud and not a coffin.

The different styles of church architecture were clearly illustrated by Mr. Sampson's drawings and his audience was given tips on how to recognise the styles and so impress friends with their knowledge.

Throughout his talk, Mr. Sampson recounted many interesting anecdotes. In mediaeval times, church walls were plastered and decorated with bright murals. In Victorian times, it became the fashion to scrape this plaster from church walls to reveal the stonework. This was done in Tewkesbury Abbey. The practice was not universally approved however, and the 'Anti-scrape Society' was formed. At the beginning of his talk, Mr. Sampson explained how much he enjoyed looking at churches and discovering their history, an enjoyment clearly conveyed in his absorbing and fascinating talk.

The next meeting of the Society will be in the Croft School on Tuesday, 17th April. This will be the research evening, when members will talk about research they have undertaken.

Gwen Welch

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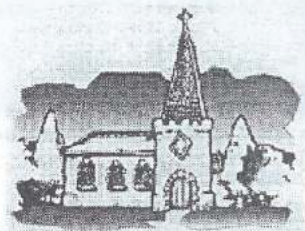
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# Too funny for the POFACE-d

It seemed a good idea at the time: a troupe of tap-dancing sheep to open our planned Millennium Review. However, we thought without foot and mouth. Now MAFF has insisted on culling the sheep, as well as the rest of the cast, to be on the safe side. This is, of course, a great shame: some of those sheep had real talent! Anyway, the upshot was (and is) that we have to postpone the planned Millennium Review.

Actually, that's not strictly true.

What really happened was that the Millennium Review fell foul of the new European Comedy Directive, which is aimed at tackling a growing number of cases of splitting sides, following exposure to dangerously funny material. After a visit from the office for the Prevention of Overtly Foolish Antics and Comic Excesses (POFACE), it was decided that the Millennium Review was indeed too

funny to be risked on an unprotected audience. Reluctantly, therefore, we have had to burn all the material and postpone the review until such time as a reliable vaccine can be developed.

Oh, all right then, the truth. The truth is that we ran into a few technical problems with the review, notably regarding music, which meant that the production would not be 100% ready in time for the planned performance dates: 5th, 6th and 7th April. Rather than put on a sub-standard show, we have decided to postpone At Last! The Millennium Review until the autumn. Then, at last, the Millennium will be well and truly reviewed. Our apologies all round.

The silver lining is that we will now be able to start rehearsals for our June production (Black Comedy by Peter Shaffer) a couple of weeks earlier than

planned. Black Comedy is a brilliant comedy, based on a (literally) brilliant dramatic idea: when the lights are on, it's dark on-stage and when they're off, it's light. If you see what I mean.

Anyway, shortly after the play opens, there is a power cut and we watch a most disorganised young sculptor desperately trying to impress an eccentric millionaire art collector, whilst entertaining his prospective and less than enthusiastic father-in-law and preventing an uninvited old (but not very old) flame from meeting his ever-trusting fiancée. All in the dark. With a flat full of antique furniture, 'borrowed' from an absent and unsuspecting neighbour. Who returns unexpectedly. Which means that all the furniture must be returned surreptitiously. Still in the dark. Even though the neighbour is still sitting on some of it. And then the eccentric millionaire art collector turns out to be a central European service engineer from the electricity company. It's about this time that the Buddha's head comes off...

Confused? You won't be if you come and see it at the Painswick Centre, 28th, 29th and 30th June. Or better still, get involved! Although auditions started last Wednesday there might be a role for you - we're looking for eight budding actors. Age: mid-twenties (or younger) to mid-sixties (or older). Sex: optional. Or if you'd just like to find out what goes on back-stage, come along anyway.

Finally. On 31st May, 1st and 2nd June, our very own Gill Cox is directing what appears to be most of the population of Cranham in a 'theatrical experience with surprises' (her words) of George Eliot's *Silas Marner*, adapted by Geoffrey Beevers, in Cranham Village Hall. Painswick Players are saddling up and riding over en masse to Cranham for the 2nd June performance. Given the cast of thousands and the size of Cranham Village Hall, seats will be at a premium. So call Gill on 01452 814367 to be sure of a ticket.

Jack Burgess

## Vital feeding in gardens



Inclement weather and competition from other events resulted in a smaller than usual number enjoying the meeting on 20th March. It began with a polished exposition on Garden Birds and Their Songs/Calls by Maurice and Kathy Bullen. They first drew attention to the welcome use of wild bird numbers as a performance indicator, instigated by the Dept. of the Environment. However, they quoted the worrying decline of many once common birds, much of which has resulted from the change in farming practices. The value of gardens in maintaining the number and range of bird species is therefore

becoming greater. After showing and describing many of our main garden birds (often with recording of their song), the speakers suggested how we could encourage them. Methods included a supply of food from flowering plants, including trees and shrubs with their nectar, seed and insect population, provision of water (a puddle to a pool), cover for shelter and nesting provided by trees and shrubs and, of course, nesting boxes. The importance of providing extra food was emphasised, especially high-energy fatty foods such as bacon rinds, fat balls and grain.

The AGM followed and was kept brief. The past year and the new year were summarized. The mix of speakers and field trips seemed to be acceptable to the club. The audited accounts indicated that the club was on a sound footing and the annual subscription was kept at £8. Malcolm Watts resigned from the chair and this post remains vacant. A rotation of committee members will fulfil the duties for the time being. The rest of the committee was reappointed.

Finally, Joy Elworthy led the audience in expressing its thanks to Malcolm for his hard work and enthusiasm since the initial idea of the PBC was born (or hatched?). The next meeting will be at the Town Hall on Tuesday, 24th April at 7.30pm. The talk on Owls will be given by Chris Sperring MBE from the Hawk and Owl Trust at Bristol.

Malcolm Cooper

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# The history of the tythings

'Tything' is not a word used in everyday conversation and does not appear in some modern dictionaries, even in its modern form, 'tithing.' It was, however, an important element in local history, as explained to the Senior Circle by Carolyn Luke in her talk, 'The Tythings of Bisley.'

Carolyn is a member of the Stroudend Tithing Educational Trust which is undertaking research into the history of the development of the landscape in the Stroudend Tithing, the area bordering each side of the Painswick stream from the outskirts of Stroud up to Painswick. A tithing was an administrative area in the system of local government introduced in Saxon times. The kingdom was divided into counties, hundreds and tithings. The main purpose of a tithing was the maintenance of law and order, and to this end three men from the tithing went every three weeks to the Hundred court that was presided over by the local lord or his representative.

The Bisley Hundred was divided into four tithings: Edge, Sheepscombe, Spoonbed and Stroudend. At the time of the Domesday survey, the population of the Bisley Hundred was between 200 and 300; the land was predominately wooded, the remaining areas being arable. Settlements were connected by packhorse trails, some of which are still used as bridleways

## Senior Circle

and footpaths today.

The introduction of sheep farming to the Cotswolds brought both wealth to the area and changes to the landscape, reducing the wooded areas and producing flower-rich common land as seen on Painswick Beacon and Edge Common. With plenty of streams to provide water power and a suitable climate, Stroud became the centre of the wool-processing industries. The mills built along the Painswick stream must have had considerable impact on the landscape, changing it from a rural to an industrial scene.

In the mid-18th century, the prosper-

ous clothiers used their wealth to extend their houses or build new ones. The Pauling family, the most successful in the Stroudend tithing, built on a 15th century farmhouse to make it into a large mansion, Brownhill Court, set in landscaped gardens. The Paulings also owned Sheephouse, another 15th century farmhouse extended in the 18th century.

In her interesting and informative talk, Carolyn showed the extent of the research undertaken by the Stroudend Tithing Educational Trust into the history of the local landscape, research that it is hoped will protect the Painswick Valley in the future from extensive or inappropriate development.

Gwen Welch

## Born to s-t-r---e----t-----ch!

Oh! how I wish we'd had a camcorder at the Senior Circle meeting on 23rd February when Anne Williams, of the Cottage Clinic in Vicarage Street, offered the men of our audience a chance to look like Lawrence Dallaglio, and we ladies plenty of tips on how to keep our bodies working properly.

With some questionable props that later proved not to be as some imagined, she illustrated how sitting and walking correctly eases the aches and pains of later years. Arms up, bottoms down, back in - June Crane produced a wonderful pelvic twist as good as any to be seen in the Holiday programme about Turkey. It all comes down to looking after one's spine, and how well it is supported when sitting in a chair. It would seem that we should do more washing, as hanging out is excellent therapy. It's the stretching that counts - we were born to stretch and we don't do enough of it. Walking in the house, balancing a walking stick on one's finger, achieves the right posture. Longer strides too, instead of shuffling, save tripping over.

Feeling fitter already? Then what about a long flight to somewhere exotic? But heed Anne's advice: Keep getting up from your seat, even if you annoy your neighbour. Pump the blood into your calves by clenching your feet and pulling up those legs. All this, of course, whilst imbibing a few drinks and plenty of mineral water. Drop a tissue and, while you have your shoes off, retrieve it between your toes - excellent for those fallen arches. Bend not from the back but let the knees take the strain.

I do wonder the effect of all this on the cabin staff if travelling on a Jumbo jet with 350 other passengers! We would certainly save ourselves from a DVT but the stress on the charming hostesses could be disastrous.

Daphne Hudson

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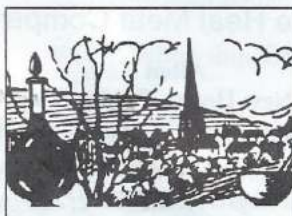
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# Munster Trust sponsor the piano duet next

Painswick Music Society is again popular, with many new subscribers to the concert season. Our opening concert - reviewed below - was very well attended. The acclaimed clarinettist, Emma Johnson, will perform for us on 7th April and we have two further superb concerts to look forward to.

Philip Moore and Simon Crawford-Phillips, have played as a piano duo since 1995. They have since performed at London's Wigmore Hall and Purcell Room, given many recitals throughout the UK, and won awards both at home and abroad. Last year they were selected to take part in the Countess of Munster Trust Recital Scheme and their concert on 21st April will be sponsored by the Trust. In a Radio Three review, Sandy Burnett described their concert as "a memorable performance, full of stylish playing, from young players at the start of what I hope will be a long and distinguished career." Their programme includes works by Mozart, Debussy, Stravinsky and Schubert.

Oboist Nicholas Daniel is making a second visit to the Society on 5th May, this time as Director of the Haffner Wind Ensemble of London. The Gramophone magazine review of their performance said: "The Ensemble is very impressive indeed, both individually as personalities and as a team, matching timbres expertly. Their playing is full of spontaneity and conveyed enjoyment." We look forward

## Painswick Music Society

to their varied programme, which includes Beethoven and Mozart.

Tickets for both these concerts are on sale from the Shetland Shop and Hywel James, tel 812419 and, subject to availability, on the door. All concerts are in St Mary's Church at 3pm, followed by delicious tea in the Church Rooms when there is usually an opportunity to meet the artists.

Naomi Dunn

## Sorrel's terrific start

The Sorrel Quartet came to St. Mary's Church with an interesting and varied programme to start the 2001 Painswick Music Club season.

We began with one of the fathers of the string quartet, Haydn. His op 33 in C was an ideal piece to get everybody warmed up before the day's major item, a stunning tour de force that was certainly new to many of us.

Shostakovich, well-known for Soviet-inspired martial music, visited the bombed city of Dresden in 1960 and, on seeing the ruins, was inspired to write his 8th quartet in memory of the victims of Fascism and war. Despite its unusual construction, this work made an enormous impression, even on those of us who find modern music difficult. Sometimes it was like so much programme music, with chords imitating falling bombs and sometimes like so much atmospheric film music - we could almost see the cameras panning back and forth over the silent ruins. The quartet rendered it with terrific force, bravura and total involvement. Not one for the faint-hearted and well-received by the large audience.

Finally, the op 44 quartet in D, written by Mendelssohn shortly after his marriage. In contrast with the Shostakovich, this was a straight piece of music in classical style, driven along at a cracking pace in the two outer movements, but without losing any of the details of the work, and distinguished by much attention to detail. The players' visible enthusiasm was clearly shared by the audience. This was a fine start to the season.

The Sorrel Quartet will be returning to Gloucester on 21st August for the Three Choirs Festival - strongly recommended.

John Parfitt

## Behind the scenes at Chelsea

Many of us have been fortunate to visit the Chelsea Flower Show. If not, television gives us a good insight into this magnificent spectacle.

At the March meeting of Painswick Horticultural Society, Mr Roger Turner, whose expertise includes garden design, gave us an illustrated talk into one aspect of the show, creating a garden. It all started with a chance, late entry into a competition in The Sunday Times, which he won.

His talk took us through the planning, construction and planting, starting in February and finishing with a hectic last three weeks bringing all aspects together. These efforts took place some years ago, but he brought us up-to-date with recent shows.

Question time brought many queries that showed the interest of all attending.

The next talk on Wednesday 11th April at 7.30pm is by Mr Paul Moir, updating us on the latest at the Rococo Gardens.

Stan Miles

## Coach outing to The King and I

A few seats are still available on the coach to Bath on Wednesday 25th April. It will leave Stamages Lane car park at 10am and return from Avon Street coach park, Bath at 5pm. The fare is £5. It will be possible to go to the matinee performance of 'The King and I' at the Theatre Royal.

Bookings for the coach (cash and cheques payable to 'Painswick L & B Outings') should be made with Joan Truman, Little Place, Hollyhock Lane, Painswick GL6 6XH. Enquiries to Pauline Berry (813227) or Joan Truman (813965).

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# The Painswick Beacon

VILLAGE DIARY to SATURDAY 5 MAY 2001 AND FORWARD DATES TO AUGUST

<b>April</b>			
Sat 7th	Cotswold Care Hospice Coffee Morning	Town Hall	10am
	Painswick Music Society Concert: Emma Johnson, Clarinet; John Lenehan, Piano.	St Mary's Church	3pm
8th	Easter Bazaar: A Cornucopia of Treasures Antique and Modern; Wearable, Ornamental, Functional	Town Hall	11am - 4pm
10th	Painswick Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) - Puppies and Beginners Intermediate Advanced Dogs	Christ Church Hall	9.30 - 10.15am 10.15 - 11am 11 - 12 noon
11th	Painswick Probus Club: AGM	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Horticultural Society: Developments at the Rococo Gardens - Paul Moir	Town Hall	7.30pm
12th	Music Appreciation Group: "Finale" - Members' Choice	Town Hall	7.30pm
13th	The Painswick Singers: Schubert's Mass in G	St Mary's Church	7.30pm
17th	Local History Society: Research Evening	Croft School	7.30pm
	Jazz Evening: Local Musicians, no entry charge	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
18th	Theatre Club Outing to Malvern	The Falcon	12.30pm
	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
19th	W.I.: India - A Talk by Peter Berry	Town Hall	2.30pm
20th	Senior Circle: An Invitation to the International Space Station - Hugh Kenshole	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat 21st	Painswick Music Society Concert: Piano Duo - Philip Moore and Simon Crawford-Phillips	St Mary's Church	3pm
	Furniture Sale for refurbishment funds	Painswick Centre	10.30am-2.30pm
22nd	<b>COPY DATE: All items to Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, or Beacon Mailbox in New St.</b>		
23rd	Calligraphy Day Workshops Beginners/Improvers (Class Full)	Church Rooms	10am - 4pm
24th	Painswick Bird Club: Chris Sperring MBE will talk about Owls	Town Hall	7.30pm
	Dru Yoga course starts	Painswick Centre	11.30am
25th	Coach to Bath Tel: 813965/813227	Stamages Car Park	10am
	Painswick Probus Club: Gloucester Wagon Works - Derrick turner	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Conversational French Classes (Advanced) - Wednesdays	Library Room	9.30 - 11am
	Conversational Italian Classes (Intermediate) - Wednesdays	" "	11.30am - 1pm
	Wives' Fellowship, Opening Service - Father David	Catholic Church	8pm
26th	<b>DIARY DEADLINE: All items to Mrs Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street</b>		
	Line Dancing, Beginners class	Painswick Centre	1.30pm





Sat 28th	Coffee Morning in aid of Additional Curates Society	Church Rooms	10am - 12noon
	Charity Coffee Morning: Bring & Buy, Cakes, etc.	Town Hall	10am - 12noon
30th	Calligraphy Day Workshops Beginners/Improvers (Class Full)	Church Rooms	10am - 4pm
<b>May</b> 3rd	Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
	Painswick & District Conservation Society AGM Guest speaker following AGM - Mrs Catherine McCarthy, Preventive Conservator for historic houses of the National Trust	Church Rooms	7.15 for 7.30pm
4th	Senior Circle: Ironbridge - Richard Harris	Town Hall	2.30pm
<b>Sat 5th</b>	<b>May Issue of The Painswick Beacon Published</b>		
	Painswick Music Society: The Haffner Wind Ensemble of London	St Mary's Church	3pm
8th	Horticultural Society outing to Forde Abbey, Chard		9am depart
16th	Senior Circle Outing to Moreton-in-Marsh Candle Factory; also Tea with Loughborough W.I.	The Falcon	1.30pm
17th	Theatre Club Outing to Malvern		Evening
Sat 19th	Horticultural Society: Chairman's Spring Social Event to Hodges Barn, The Chipping Croft and Cherrington, Glos	3pm depart	10.15pm return
23rd	Annual Paris meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
26th	Art Exhibition - Lillian Hoskins (Until 3 June)	Town Hall	Daily
<b>June</b> Sat 2nd	Plant Sale and Open Garden, The Cottage, Pitchcombe		
6th	Horticultural Society Outing: Coughton Court, Alcester (NT)		10.30am depart
Sat 23rd	Theatre Club Outing to Bath		Matinee
27th	Horticultural Society Outing: Hatfield House, Hatfield, Herts		9am depart
28th	Art Exhibition - Joyce Bell & Mary Hosler (Until 1 July)	Town Hall	Daily
<b>July</b> 7th	Edge Fete	Edge Village Green	5pm
14th	Pitchcombe Village Fete	Pitchcombe House	
26th	Horticultural Society Outing: Snowhill Manor, Broadway (NT)		12 noon depart
27th	Art Exhibition - Robert Ball (Until 5 August)	Town Hall	Daily
<b>August</b> 6th	Art Exhibition - Mary Bingle (Until 12 August)	Town Hall	Daily
Sat 11th	Charity Coffee Morning: Bring & Buy, Cakes, and etc	Town Hall	10am - 12 noon
15th	Horticultural Society Outing: RHS Garden, Rosemoor, Grt. Torrington, Devon	8.30am depart	7pm return
<b>September</b> Sat 8th	Horticultural Society Annual Show & Exhibition	Painswick Centre	3 - 5pm
<b>November</b> Sat 10th	Charity Coffee Morning: Bring & Buy, Cakes, etc	Town Hall	10am - 12 noon
Sat 17th	Woollen Sale	Town Hall	





# Go-ahead for Census



Census enumerators Jean Sheppard, Cedric Nielsen and Chris Garrett, with Cassie and Jenny, ready for the off

Although at the time of writing, the Foot and Mouth epizootic is causing great concern throughout the country, Census 2001 will go ahead and from 9th to 27th April, Beacon readers will see familiar, friendly faces around the area, delivering census forms to every household. Each form will have an explanatory leaflet and a pre-paid return envelope.

The completed form should be returned as soon as possible after delivery since the information is 'As at 29th April.'

Much preparation has been going on behind the scenes. Stroud District has a total of just over 100 enumerators, including reserves, and everyone has been training for this vast project, the aim of which is inclusivity. We want everyone's voice to be counted so we capture an accurate profile of the population, in order that meaningful planning can be done.

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The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is sensitive to the issues surrounding the Foot and Mouth outbreak, and does not wish to jeopardise the way of life for farmers and rural populations. Census-takers will not contravene any regulations regarding movement and contact recommended by the Ministry of Food and Fisheries, and the Head of Census will adjust the process of capturing census data according to the situation.

Having received several enquiries about the census, I would like to reassure readers that the specific information provided is locked away for 100 years.

No other government department has access to this information and everyone involved in the census signs a confidentiality agreement that is rigorously enforced. It is appropriate to remind readers, especially as a General Election is impending, that the census has the support of all political parties and many interest groups, such as those helping people with disabilities.

Stroud Police Station have been issued with a list of all local census personnel, together with a sample of a census identify badge. Enumerators should conduct all business on your doorstep in less than five minutes; **they do not need to enter people's homes.** Enumerators will wear an identity badge that includes over the corner of each photograph, a hologram logo 'Count Me In.' They will also carry a bright yellow bag with the 'Count Me In' graphics boldly displayed.

It is amazing how society has changed since the last census ten years ago. In parts of Stroud district, the landscape has also changed dramatically, with new housing and commercial developments. Our society needs the support of all its citizens to make the census a success and I would like to thank all Beacon readers in advance for their co-operation. **Roy Welbourn**

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# The Personal Column

## Babies

Congratulations to HELEN and CARL NOCK on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Emily, on 14th March (a first grandchild for Jean and Ken Farlow; also to CLARE and ROBERT RICHARDS on the birth of a daughter on 2nd March, Kezia Campling, to be called Kate (a sister for Jac) and a first granddaughter for Margaret and the late Rev. Peter Richards - a girl for the family after three sons and three grandsons; and congratulations to HENRIETTA and John DEWAR on the birth of their third daughter, Miranda, on 7th March in Brisbane (a fourth granddaughter for Kit and Diana Barclay); also to TERESA and FRASER SHEARER on the birth of a son, Frederick Oliver, on 5th March, and on 2nd February, a daughter for CAROLINE and DAVID SHEARER, Francesca Georgina Mary, the first grandchildren for Susan and Alan Shearer.

## 90th Birthday

GLADYS COOK, Diane Mearns' mother, will be 90 on 20th April. Many congratulations.

## 50th anniversary

Many congratulations also to MARGOT and GORDON GARDNER who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 24th March.

## Wedding

DAVID ALLISON, elder son of Paula Allison (Dr P Lees) of 8 Churchill Way, married LISA MORRIS at St George's Church, Ticknall, Derbyshire, on 3rd March.

## Engagement

Congratulations to HANNAH GEORGE and BEN ZINKIN who announced their engagement on 5th March.

## Hail and farewell

CHARLES and MARGARET THORNE SAY are moving to 15 Gyde Road on Margaret's retirement after 27 years as Scheme Manager of Ashwell House, and

welcome home to MICHELLE ELLIOTT and husband DAVID, with their children, Tom and Becky, who are moving into Ashwell house as Michelle takes over her mother's role as Scheme Manager (*Story on Page 3*),

and to Swallows' Nest, Stepping Stone Lane, have come MARY and PAUL SPARKS, whose daughter, Laura, is a radiographer at Nottingham, and son, William, is at university.

TONY PLEAS has moved into No 1 Butt Green, HUGH POLLOCK has bought Cambrai in Cheltenham Road, and HOWARD TURNER has moved to Gloucester;

Since welcoming PAM and DAVID HUGHES to Tithe Cottage, Vicarage Street, in last October's Beacon, we have learnt that they lived at Kirrin Cottage, The Park, from 1968 to 1971. They have three children, Jonathan and Adam born in 1969 and 1971, while daughter Emma was born in 1976 after they left Painswick. Pam and David would be glad to hear from anyone who remembers them. Tel 814003.

## Condolences

Our sincere sympathy to friends and family of DOROTHY COX, WALTER GOODMAN and JOHN GODDARD (late of Queens Mead) who died recently. And those of LORNA ARCHARD.

## Get Well Soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to BERNIE CHILD, NIGEL WALKLETT, MAGGIE SLADER, CHARLES THORNE SAY (back from hospital after heart surgery), GEOFF INGRAM, now at home, and GRAHAM ANDREWS who is back in hospital.

## Thank you

The family of DOROTHY COX would like to thank the many friends who attended Dorothy's service of thanksgiving and made it such a happy occasion; and the family of Col. AVERY BURDETT would like to thank the village for the many kindnesses shown them at the time of Dulcie's and Avery's illnesses, followed by Avery's death.

## NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date  
**SATURDAY 5th MAY**

Items for publication to Jillie Speed\*,  
The Old Carriage House, Edge, by  
**SUNDAY 22nd APRIL**

Mini Ads to Leslie Brotherton,  
Longhope, Blakewell Mead, by  
**SUNDAY 22nd APRIL**

Business adverts: Contact Liz Fisher,  
Harebell Cottage, Blakewell Mead, by  
**THURSDAY 19th APRIL**

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey,  
14 The Croft, by  
**THURSDAY 26th APRIL**

Letters and articles for publication are welcomed on computer diskette (returned after use) or by email to:

**Painswick.Beacon@dial.pipex.com**

Items to be published, and other mail for the Beacon Committee, can also be placed in the **Beacon Post Box** in New Street (next to the telephone kiosk). Please provide your name, address and a contact telephone number.

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