

The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 24 No. 5

August 2001

Pride of place goes to Richard and Lucy

The names of Year 6 pupils, Lucy Moir and Richard Goddard, will live on long after they left the Croft School. For they both had the honour of being the first names engraved on the 'Cow' Shield, presented by the school for the first time for their "Contribution to the Life of the School."

Roger Harding, the headmaster, found the shield when clearing some cupboards on his arrival. It had never been presented, despite having been given to the school in 1987. It is called the 'Cow' shield because it was bought from the fund established from selling a village cow used during the First World War by the Child Welfare Clinic to assure mothers of fresh milk for youngsters.

The shield was presented to Lucy and Richard, right, at the School-leavers' Service in St Mary's Church on 23rd July by Moira Worthington, who served for many years on the welfare committee.



Further move on the nursing home

As the Beacon went to press, it was learnt that after having an outline plan for a nursing home complex and up to 20 associated dwellings approved, the ten affordable homes removed, and a change made to the Local Plan, on a submission by Barbara Tait, removing the 'up to,' Richmond Health Care have lodged an objection at this pre-enquiry stage of the local plan, seeking deletion of the '20' altogether.

Aside from any delays, this move will inevitably alarm those villagers concerned about the density of development.

See also a letter on Page 9.

NEW VICAR NAMED

The new vicar of St Mary's Church is the Rev. John Longuet-Higgins, aged 39, who is presently a team vicar in Huddersfield.

The Rev. Longuet-Higgins is married to Diane, and they have three children, Philip, aged 12, Joanna 10, and Matthew five. They will live in the vicarage vacated by the Rev. Bob Miles in Orchard Mead, and the family hope to be in Painswick for the start of the next school term, though this is not definite.

This is the Rev. John's third benefice: before going to Huddersfield, he worked in Oxfordshire. The new vicar's induction service at St Mary's is planned for early November.

What's in a name...plenty!

Painswick Electoral Division includes the villages of Cranham, Edge, Painswick, Pitchcombe, Randwick, Randwick Cashes Green, Ruscombe, Sheepscombe, Slad, Upton St Leonards and Whiteshill.

Understandably, Painswick has no problem with the name, Painswick Ward, but many people in other villages were confused about the election of a councillor for Painswick, Joan Nash has told the Beacon. She says it has been suggested that a more inclusive name should be given to the ward. Since all the villages are in Stroud District, the suggestions of Stroud Rural or Stroud North come to mind, Mrs Nash adds. What ideas have Beacon readers? Please let us know or send your suggestions to Joan Nash at Holcombe Farm, Painswick.

Terry elected Hon. Alderman



At a specially convened meeting at Shire Hall on 25th July, Terry Parker was awarded the title of Honorary Alderman.

The resolution read: "The title... be conferred in recognition of the eminent services rendered by him to the Gloucestershire County Council as a past member of the Council and past Political Leader during a period of 12 years and that he may thereafter exercise such rights and privileges as the Council may from time to time determine should be granted to Honorary Aldermen."

Terry was one of four to receive the title.

Your views are vital

The Painswick village design statement, *Painswick 2001 - Design For The Future*, is at first draft, and the nine-person group set up to collate all the suggestions and photographs into a coherent report, seek comment on their efforts, together with any further input that villagers would like to make. The report will be available at Painswick Library from next Tuesday, 7th August, until 21st August.

Ideas and observations from younger people would be particularly valuable. Please turn to Page 4 for details.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Council meeting of 18th July, reported by Iris McCormick

September Road closures

There are major road works scheduled for the autumn along the road between Edge and Pitchcombe. The District Council, who are responsible for the repairs, have written to the Parish Council to say that the road will be closed completely for a period of time in September.

In view of this news the Parish Council is concerned about the potential build up of traffic on the A46 during the road works, as traffic would find an alternative route along this road.

It was also noted that there were problems with road repairs and temporary traffic lights on the A46 around Coopers Hill due to mudslides.

After some discussion, the Parish Council decided to write to the County Council to suggest a ban on all heavy lorries on the road before the work begins, so as not to worsen the damage, and while work is in progress.

Mobile Police unit for rural areas

The Parish Council has decided to donate £100 to support a scheme to provide police services in rural areas. The scheme will provide a fully equipped police van, that will act as a mobile police station. It will visit outlying villages such as Sheepscombe, Slad and Cranham who are currently without a police presence.

Pitchcombe stays in ward

There was strong opposition to the proposed changes to ward boundaries. It had been suggested that Pitchcombe, part of Whitchill and Randwick, would join up as a new ward called Over Stroud.

However, opposition from residents in Pitchcombe has meant that Pitchcombe is to remain part of the Painswick ward.

The Golden Jubilee

Following discussions about next year's Golden Jubilee Celebrations, a working party has been set up to help to plan the celebrations. The working party currently comprises Ann Daniels, David Hudson, Alan Shearer and John Stephenson-Oliver. They would be delighted to hear from anyone who would be able to contribute to the organisation. The Victorian Market Committee has offered its services.

Affordable Housing

It was clear from the presentation by Stroud District Council prior to last month's Parish Council meeting that a need for affordable housing in the village had been established.

Following the submission by District councillor Barbara Tait and subsequent revised plan for the Broadham site, the opportunity to build affordable units within the nursing home development has been lost.

The Parish Council is keen to find other sites in the village that would meet the necessary criteria to qualify as a site for affordable housing. The most difficult criterion is to find a piece of suitable land.

The housing association will only provide the means to build the houses but will not contribute to the purchase of land. So the problem lies in finding a suitable plot in the village.

One of the advantages for potential affordable housing projects is that the building site can fall outside the planned

development area for a village. This kind of land has little development value except as farm or amenity land.

Cllr Parker pointed out that there was strip of land adjacent to the footpath leading from the surgery at Hoyland House to the A46.

This pathway forms part of the boundary dividing the development area of the village and the non-development area. Gyde House Trust owns this land. Cllr Parker suggested that the Trust might be willing to sell the land for the benefit of poorer families.

It was agreed to write to the trustees with a proposal to buy a piece of land bordering the path between the surgery and the A46 for affordable houses.

Miscellaneous

The proliferation of signboards around the Gyde Home entrance and advertising Painswick Heights prompted further discussion at the Council.

There is to be a new public notice board at the exit of Stamages Lane car park. The fence, that is currently used as an unofficial poster site, is to have a large notice board, courtesy of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is to ask residents for their views on the use of money from the St Mary's Home development that has been allocated for outdoor amenities.

There will be no Parish Council meeting in August.

Jack recounts his life story

Engineer and retired local businessman Jack Stonhill never intended to be an author, but thought he would like to record his life's "wanderings," as he calls it, in an autobiographical book called *The Chicago Piano*.

Mr Stonhill, who lives at Cranham Corner, describes his early years in the services, time spent in development engineering for motorway bridge balustrades and the PVC coating of wiring, to the setting-up and rapid expansion of Jason Tool Hire, the well-known Gloucestershire business.

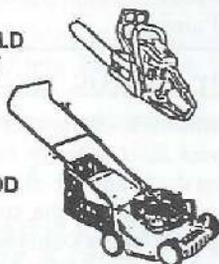
The book is available in both Painswick and Cranham post offices, with pictures of some wonderful old cars that Mr Stonhill has repaired and maintained lovingly.

In closing, the author says: "Whether my words will be of any interest I don't know; it was never intended to be a best seller, just an expression of my thoughts, and what has happened to me in the twentieth century."

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Feast at the Fiery Beacon

Banquet, feast, waygoose (yes, really), junket or beano. Any one of these would describe the new summer exhibition that opens on 7th August at the Fiery Beacon Gallery.

Favourite Painswick artists Joyce and Ken Oliver, together with Tetbury's Gerald Cox and Falfield's Joy Moorhead are all on top form with their colourful and vibrant paintings. Textile artists from Brighton and Scotland offer cushions and bags in organza, calico and felt, and from Bath, Carol Waller sends sumptuous silk scarves.

Fruit, vegetables and flowers decorate Jill Fisher's domestic ware, while Janet Edmondson has fine, white porcelain bowls on show.

Glassmakers abound: Bob Crooks and Stuart Fletcher are both inspired by colour, as is Themis Mikellides with his unique mirrors. New to the gallery are Kevin Wallhead's esoteric glass panels, incorporating copper leaf and wire.

Between showers, the garden beckons, where Joyce Playle and Christine Hall each show life-sized gentle beasts in resin or fibreglass, whereas David England carves his stylish figures in Portland stone. Two striking ceramic heads from Jan Taylor and, in a new guise as garden craftsman, Maurice Long offers three steel figures.

The exhibition runs from 7th August until 1st September. Opening times: Tuesday to Saturday, 11am-5pm. Sunday afternoon 2pm- 5pm.

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POLICE REPORT



Toddlers at the playgroup thoroughly enjoyed a visit from Painswick's new bobby, PC John Breakwell, especially being able to wear a hat or a helmet. John made the playgroup one of his first calls after he started his duties here.

House burglaries at zero

Incidents between 14th June and 12th July, 2001

House burglaries, none; business premises, none; sheds, none; vehicles, Painswick 8, Sheepscombe 1, Cranham 1. Other, Painswick 2. Total 12.

Items stolen from vehicles: Petrol, mobile phone, bags and contents, one motor vehicle.

Items stolen from other places: BBQ, garden furniture.

Seven incidents were reported to the police.

Security recommendations

It is pleasing to note that there have been no house burglaries this month, and no thefts from garden sheds. However, please be mindful that items of value in the garden are just as vulnerable when a thief is about.

PC John Breakwell and the Neighbourhood Watch coordinators

HERE'S HOW TO REPORT AN INCIDENT TO THE POLICE

PRIORITY 1

Urgent attention needed. Dial 999 (For example, if you see someone breaking into a property)

PRIORITY 2

Warrants prompt attention. Dial 01242 521321 (For example, anyone behaving suspiciously)

PRIORITY 3

Information useful to the Police. Dial 01453 882224

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Your views are urgently needed

Most readers will recall the articles we published, mostly back in October and November last year, and again in January. In February, we reported and publicly thanked the 15 teams who had taken well over 1,000 photographs of features of interest to them throughout the civil parish. That gigantic effort, together with other input and our own research, has formed the basis of a document now drafted.

The moment has arrived for us to seek any further public comment on the rough draft of the document under the title, *Painswick 2001 - design for the future*.

This is an important stage, not least because it is expected to influence the policies of the Parish Council and others over the next ten years or so, and because it is also intended to form supplementary planning guidance for the District Council.

The opportunity for public comment extends from Tuesday, 7th August until Tuesday, 21st August inclusive, when the first draft will be on display at Painswick Library. Alongside will be comment slips, but we will welcome other observations directly to our Team Administrator - in all cases as long as the name and address of the correspondent is given.

For those not aware of the significance, and of the limitations of this exercise, we feel it important to publish some reminders. We are indebted also to contacts in Edge, Slad and Sheepscombe for 'putting the word about.'

* In 1990, a Village Appraisal was published, the end of a process in which over 800 of nearly 1300 electors in all villages in the civil parish participated by returning questionnaires about how people

VILLAGE DESIGN

From Anne Smith for the Design Team

"viewed issues affecting the future" of our communities.

* That was followed by a Blueprint Working Party, set up by the Parish Council to "set out the Parish Council's policies on a range of issues which affect the wider community."

* Earlier, in 1979, the District Council had formally adopted a Local Plan for Painswick (just the village itself, excluding the other three villages), a document that has proved valuable on many matters. That local plan was exceptional for a village, and Painswick has valued its existence. Not only is that Painswick Local Plan out of date, but the District Council has virtually completed revising its own District Plan.

* The Government asked the Countryside Agency (CA) to urge communities to prepare a Village Design Statement (VDS) as a "useful tool for managing long-term change". They recognised that village communities have a unique knowledge and appreciation of local character and distinctiveness in their own area. Village Design Statements were also seen as linked directly to formal planning and could influence planning applications and decisions.

* Most people who live in the countryside are reluctant to see new development change their environment. But the countryside must change if it is to stay alive - farmers need new buildings, villages need affordable housing for young families, and so on.

Fundamental to the preparation of a VDS is the opportunity for all to participate, and this has been encouraged wholeheartedly through these columns and otherwise.

The Parish Council decided last year to create a nine-person Design Team, as suggested by the CA, formed equally from its own number, the Blueprint Working Party and the Conservation Society. The team was encouraged to draw together relevant material; set up a consultative exercise across the following few months; and produce a single inclusive document acceptable to the District Council and others as a point of reference upon matters affecting Painswick and the three smaller villages; viz. views upon any aspects that could make this an even better place to live.

Importantly, the team determined not to confine its work to Painswick, nor to limit matters to be considered.

Just as the team was getting into its stride, the Government, again through the

CA, launched the concept of Parish Plans. These were to build still further upon VDSs and their predecessors - this was exactly along the lines of our intentions. We put it to the CA that what we were already undertaking met their new criteria exactly. They agreed and approved a grant to enable this report to be (as it now happens) one of the first two to be published - the target being the turn of this year or very early next.

If we have one disappointment it is that we have no input from young people, many of whom will live or return here in the future. There is still time to receive observations about things they like, where they live, and shortcomings they see in their environment. Would some parents help us, and themselves, by encouraging their children - whatever their age - to drop us a line, please?

The remaining stages are: To produce a second draft, taking into account any new public comment, to be examined by the District Council to ensure that nothing conflicts with its policies; the Parish Council formally to consider the document, including any further modifications post-District Council; and hopefully re-present it to the District Council for them to adopt the document and such of its contents as may be pertinent for supplementary planning guidance.

The Design Team will then publish the document for sale to anyone interested.

We have been anxious to record 'the qualities and characteristics of the villages appreciated and valued by local people,' and harness local knowledge and appreciation of features distinctive to Painswick, Slad, Sheepscombe and Edge villages.

The Design Team members are or have included Leslie Brotherton, Ann Daniels, David Hudson, Gus Gaugain, Keith Hardwidge, David Hudson, Johnny Johnston, Carolyn Luke, Terry Parker, Douglas Robinson, Martin Slinger and Anne Smith. Leslie Brotherton, is the

Continued on Page 5

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From previous page

Village design needs

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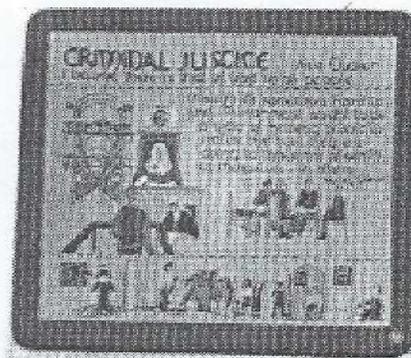
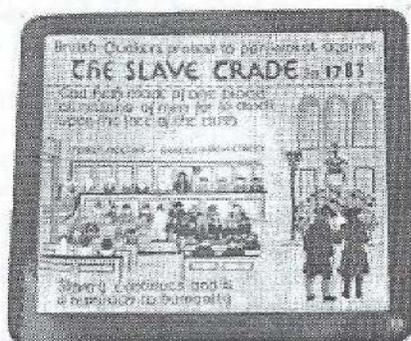
Shaping the future! Do you care? Your villages and countryside need your remaining comments, so please visit the library in the fortnight we have set aside.

The draft runs to about 40 pages, including some photographs and tables. Such is the cost of copying that we regret more cannot be made available. That said, Carolyn Luke, Johnny Johnston and I will have copies specifically to help anyone from Edge, Sheepscombe or Slad who has difficulty getting to Painswick.

Lastly, it is very relevant, and even though it is repetitious, to remind everyone that:

- * views expressed may affect the future;
- * the finished document will provide a useful tool for managing long-term change;
- * this is truly an opportunity for local people to make a positive contribution to the design of new development;
- * the aim is to describe the qualities and characteristics of the villages that are appreciated and valued by local people;
- * village communities have a special and unique knowledge and appreciation of local character and distinctiveness;
- * most people who live in the countryside are reluctant to see development change their environment; but the countryside must change if it is to stay alive.

History celebrated in these simple Quaker tapestries



A sample of some of the tapestries on show at the Friends' meeting house

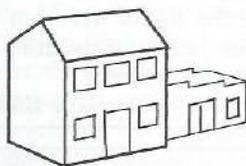
If you didn't manage to see the display of some of the Quaker tapestry at their Meeting House in Vicarage Street at the end of July, you missed an exceptional treat.

Above is just a taste of some of the exquisite work that has been done since the embroiderers began the project in 1981 in Taunton. The tapestries tell the story of the Quaker movement since its founding by George Fox in 1652, and

more than 4,000 men and women from 15 countries have been involved, not only in the embroidery but research too, to produce this amazing story-telling on panels, roughly 2ft square. More than 120 coloured wools are used on the panels which all have a simple, muted background to enhance the figures and text.

The exhibition was held in aid of Hope for Children.

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Amina Chatwin is a researcher and author of several books on ironwork in Britain, including Modern British Blacksmiths – possibly the definitive work on that subject.

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Fascinating but tiring five days in historical York

On Monday, 25th June, Y5 and Y6 set off on a five-hour journey to York. Mrs Griffiths, Mr Gibbs, Mrs Ratcliffe, Mrs Skinner and Mr Tucker came with us on this trip. When we arrived at the Youth Hostel we sorted out the rooms and then spent an hour unpacking. When we had finished we went for a walk around the city walls. When we got back we had a tea of chips and sausage, with chocolate cake for afters. At about 6.30pm we went out for rounders.

(Hannah Bolton)

On Tuesday, we went to the Yorkshire Museum, the Minster and Waterworld. The Yorkshire Museum was very interesting. There was an exhibition called Fangs, which had lots of snakes, spiders and insects. The Minster was fascinating. It was so huge! The Rose Window was so big.

(Katherine Hyland)

Then we went to Waterworld. There were three slides, the Rapids, the Edge and the Torpedo Tube. The Edge was the best. Then we went to the main pool. I liked the Lazy River. The river was a circuit with a current.

(William Allen)

The following day, we visited another museum which was the York Castle Museum. That was excellent, and full of information. It was positioned near to Cliffords Tower which is situated on a tall hill. Next we had a bit of a change, as we went to the cinema to see 'Evolution' and that was great fun.

The last whole day we had in York was a busy one. We went to the Archaeological Research Centre where you did lots of different activities to do with archaeological evidence. We also paid a visit to the Jorvik Viking Centre, where you go around in small cars and it shows you what a Viking city would actually look

like, including the smells! Later in the afternoon we all went to the National Railway Museum where there was a variety of large trains.

When Friday arrived everyone was extremely tired. At 9.20am we left the Youth Hostel. Another five hours until we got back to the school at a quarter past two and everyone was wanting to go back to their beds. The York trip had been a great success.

(Harriet Bentley)

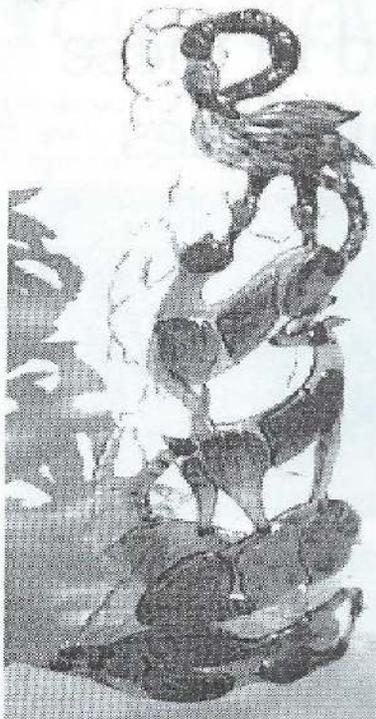
The Mornings

Every one was relatively similar, a continual knock from the teacher until someone could be bothered to open the door, grabbing your stuff and pelting for the shower, desperate to be first; if successful, take it and talk for ages after; if unsuccessful, grumble then stand outside for ages. Once everyone is showered the whole of the 'room crew' chatter for ages, only to stop when a teacher walks in to march them to breakfast.

The Evenings

We usually got to the hostel after games at 9.30 or 9.45pm. Next, everyone got their pyjamas on and stuffed some secret sweets into their mouths. Then we'd talk for ages. A little later on, a teacher would burst in and demand the lights be switched off, so after some groaning and a quick swipe of a toothbrush, a few more sweets in the mouth, the lights were out and everyone lay in their beds awaiting the treacherous cherry-knockers!

(Charlotte Bolton)



Animal grace & myth captured in glass

Not the result of a wild party, but an exhibition of glass work to be held in the Orangery later this month. Between 25th August and 1st September, the Rococo Garden Trust is hosting the first solo exhibition by local glass artist, Amanda Lawrence. What makes this debut even more appropriate is that Amanda is Lord Dickinson's daughter-in-law.

Amanda works in many different areas of glass, and will be displaying a range from kiln-formed, through stained glass panels to engraved sculpted pieces. She has recently gained a first class degree in glass design from the University of Wolverhampton, which confirms the depth of her talent.

Her work is inspired by the vibrancy, grace and fragility of animals, and some of the myths that surround them.

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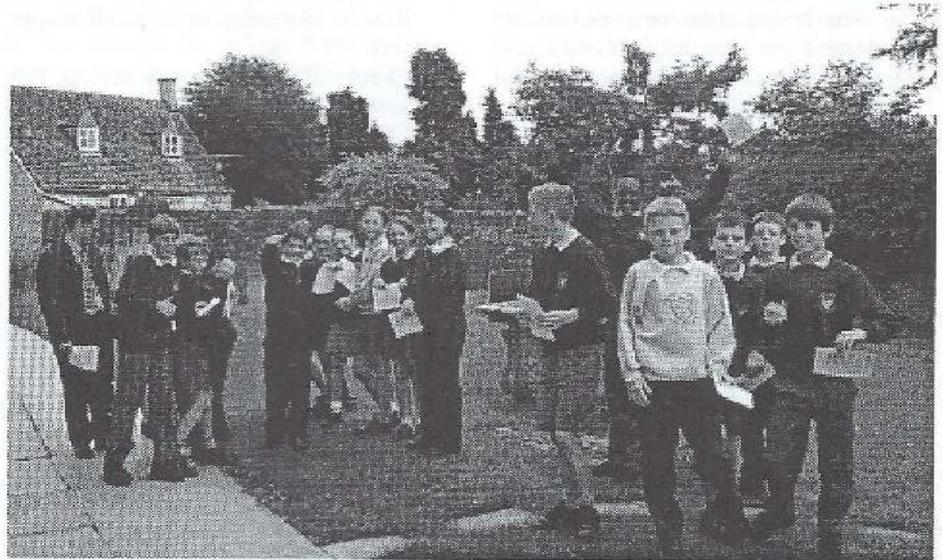
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Pupils, teachers and some parents arrive for the service, and right, the Year 6 leavers outside the church, await their turn to be seated. The Rev Brian Torode officiated.

School-leavers' service at St Mary's Church for first time

...one more step along the world I go
From the old things to the new
Keep me travelling along with You...



OFSTED praise

The standards that Croft School pupils attain are well above the national average, says the OFSTED inspectors' recent report, and the leadership provided by the head, Roger Harding, is described as very good.

Among many aspects praised, following the May inspection, were the quality of teaching, the pupils' hard work and behaviour, the broad range of class work, and swimming lessons provided in the school's own pool. Mr Harding said: "I am very pleased with the inspectors' praise, and by the judgment that pupils join us at four rated good, but leave us at eleven rated very good. Well done, everybody!"

Margaret Hodge, chair of governors, said: "We have much to celebrate, thanks to the achievements of all concerned."

The long day-trip to Wimbledon

We left school at 8.45am. Mr Tucker's car had a very eventful trip with Greg and Thomas listening to very loud music and making the car shake.

At the service station, a police car showed us the way to the Park and Ride. We went through Richmond Park and Andrew thought the deer were tree stumps. We got to Wimbledon at about 12 noon. We went and sat on the hill and watched disabled tennis on the big screen in the rain.

After we had lunch, Mr Tucker and all the children went to a place called 'The Kids' Zone, leaving Mrs Griffiths and Mrs Follows to look after the bags and watch the big screen. At the zone, once you had logged in, you could play on PS2s, play tennis or see how fast your serve was. Once we got back to the bags, we went to Court One. After a while the children went

into the gangway and played football with Greg's giant tennis ball, which Lucy managed to kick over the barriers to the gangway below, and a man threw it back and got it stuck, so Lucy had to climb and get it.

Finally the rain stopped and we saw 25 minutes of the Men's doubles final, then it rained again, and we decided to come home. We started the journey home at 7.30pm and it took three hours. After a marvellous day out at Wimbledon, we saw 25 minutes of tennis and we sat down for 13 and a half hours.

Experienced by Greg, Lucy, Thomas, Mitchell, Richard, Andrew and James



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Cricketers slip back

Painswick's First Eleven did not have the best of fortune in July, and there was considerable disappointment last Saturday (28th July) when, playing against old rivals Birdlip, they were dismissed for a total of 70. The visitors passed the home team's score for the loss of one wicket.

The previous week, following a run of victories, Painswick travelled to the Arcadians to be all out for a total of 86 runs. The home side were put under considerable pressure by Painswick and lost six wickets before reaching the visitors' score. July was not all gloom, however, as Painswick achieved a convincing victory over the Slaughters, dismissing the visitors for 102, with an excellent spell of sustained accurate bowling.

Last Sunday, Painswick travelled to the Gloucester City Club for the first time in many years. In a closely fought match, Painswick eventually lost by two wickets, with Ian Hogg scoring an excellent 65 runs and Simon Base taking four wickets for 49 runs.

Both clubs agreed that it had been a very good game and attempts are being made to repeat the fixture in future seasons.

The Second Eleven had an excellent victory last Saturday when they dismissed Dymock for 80 runs and passed the home side's total for the loss of three wickets. Jerry Kerry took five wickets for 32 runs in a fine spell of fast bowling.

Results (Saturday matches all league games)

Tue 3 July. Brasted Chart & Invicta 193 Painswick 195-4 (Alastair Bressington 102, E.Bressington 46).

Wed 4 July. (Midweek league). Painswick 125 (A.Wise 48) Chalford 114.

Sat 7 July. All matches rained off.

Wed 11 July. Painswick 115 Frampton on Severn 73.

Sat 14 July. Painswick 1st XI 144-7 Slaughters 1st XI 102.

Sat 21 July. Painswick 1st XI 86 Arcadians 1st XI 88-6.

Painswick 2nd XI 88 Arcadians 2nd XI 89-7.

Fine start to Cricket Week

Painswick's annual cricket week got off to a fine start last Sunday, with the Six-a-Side tournament in which seven teams competed. This was the fourth occasion the event has taken place and certainly was the most successful so far. On a gloriously sunny day, play started at 10.45 am and ended at 8.30 pm with some 200 people there. The exceptional weather meant that the bar was particularly busy, much to the club treasurer's delight.

Normal cricket rules apply; each player, other than the wicket-keeper, has to bowl one over. The matches, therefore, consist of five overs per team. The semi-finals featured Birdlip against Painswick and Waterfront Financial Services against Sir Thomas Rich's former pupils. Sir Thomas Rich's had a convincing victory to reach the final, but the host team's game against Birdlip was more tense. The visitors reached 70 runs, the highest of the tournament, with Painswick needing 17 for victory off the final over and six off the last ball. Russell Hopkins, undefeated with a fine 52, could only manage to hit two runs, and Birdlip deservedly went into the final.

In the final, Birdlip had little difficulty in passing Sir Thomas Rich's total of 53, and so became the tournament winners. Accepting the shield, the Birdlip captain thanked Painswick for organising the day, saying that with little Sunday cricket being played at local level, this type of event was much appreciated by players.

The only sorry note was the shattered windscreen of one lady's car, and the broken wing mirror of another. That said, with so many sixes being hit, the damage could have been worse.



Jane and David take the cup

Winners of the successful annual tournament at Painswick Badminton club were David Linsell and Jane Titshall (on the left of our photograph) who, in an exciting final, managed to beat Kay Collins and Brian Kirkman (right).

The new season starts on Monday, 3rd September and Thursday, 6th September. Junior Badminton, as usual, will begin slightly later in the month. Friday evening sessions will be held again this season, and members and anyone of a reasonable standard who is interested in joining the club, can come along. They start on 28th September, at 8pm in the Painswick Centre, and continue until 7th December.

Enquiries to Judith Courts on 813716.

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PAINSWICK PAPERS

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Traffic calming needed urgently

I have sent the following letter to Joan Nash and the Parish Council because I feel it is time to act to reduce traffic speed and flow, and to create a better environment in Painswick.

The fact that few accidents happen to pedestrians around the Painswick roads at the moment is an absolute miracle. Our family asks that the following points be considered promptly and properly by the council:

1. There are no marked crossings in Painswick at all. There are no crossings across the main A46 Cheltenham to Stroud road, which splits the village in two.
2. The traffic comes storming down the A46 from the Cheltenham direction at speeds well above the limit.
3. Into the village from Gloucester Road traffic often comes in far too fast. At night, Gloucester Road and Pullens Road be-

LETTERS

come a race track. From 5.30pm to 6.30am there is a constant stream of traffic, sometimes screaming down the road.

4. The pavement along Pullens Road down to Upper Washwell is very narrow. Often cars mount the pavement, not even bothering to slow down. Some are out of control and hit the kerb.

5. All through the village there are narrow pavements. The traffic speed of 30mph is far too fast, especially as there is a high usage of the A46 and Pullens Road by large trucks.

6. The traffic flow is very intimidating and causes most people to be fearful when walking about the busy areas of Painswick.

As an intermediate measure, could the

council consider urgently putting in: Speed restriction ramps in Pullens Road and Gloucester Road.

Pedestrian crossings in Gloucester Road, Pullens Road and on the A46.

The A46 needs crossings in at least two places: one in the centre of the village, opposite the church, and the other near the beginning of Pullens Road.

We feel that the usual argument about waiting until someone is killed before any measures are put in place, put out by the relevant department, could raise the issue of criminal negligence because no satisfactory safeguards were originally put in place.

We, as a family, wish to live in a safe Painswick, rather than one with traffic running amok, making walking and living in the area a constant worry of being injured by road vehicles.

John Rhodes, Pullens Road

Thanks for support

I would like to thank all who voted for me on 7th June. I am pleased to have been elected as your County Councillor. I will do my best to ensure that Painswick Ward is fairly treated within the County Council budget.

Joan Nash, Holcombe Farm

CORRECTION

Last month's Beacon contained a letter from Terry Parker, thanking those who voted for him. The letter should have read '12 years of representing Painswick Division,' not 'two years'. Sincere apologies.

Milestone for the nursing home plan

On 10th July, the District Council granted outline planning approval to the application made by Richmond Health Care (RHC) to create a nursing home complex and (indicatively) 20 associated dwellings on the Stroud Road site. For us, this is not the end of the exercise to which we have been committed these past few years, but it is a turning point from which it is hoped that those who have given the project such support may look forward to realisation of the scheme.

Some 31 conditions were attached by

SDC to that approval and, even now, these have to be most carefully assessed before RHC can move towards a detailed application. Within whatever constraints are mutually agreed between them and SDC we are assured, and can pass this on to residents, that design detail will be fully available for public scrutiny and comment in due course.

No timetable is possible until these conditions, unilaterally imposed, are resolved. Meanwhile, we want to express our thanks to the scores of residents who have made their support well known. Getting to this point has not been easy, but we have been left in no doubt as to what the wishes of the majority have been.

Tony Bradley, Leslie Brotherton, Philip Oakley and Norman Rampton

Not too late to claim your £50

Had enough of power cuts? Are we doing enough about it? One cannot help but wonder whether living just about anywhere else bar Painswick would be better for an assured supply than a system dependent upon the Dudbridge switchgear. Some of us remember the spending of upwards of £250,000, replacing overhead cables to Painswick from Stroud several years ago. That was supposed to assure better supplies, but it does not seem to have achieved that.

Whenever there is a power cut and you want some idea of when it will be restored, telephone 08457 331331. This number has, incidentally, been updated since the Beacon Directory was last published.

Since the village has experienced cuts exceeding 18 hours twice in the past year or so, do remember that apart from any claim on household insurance for such as spoilt freezer food, the GPU Power Distribution (previously MEB) pay out £50 per household, when requested, if the cut exceeds 18 hours. All you need do is write to The Manager, Network Customer Service, GPU Power Distribution, Blackpole Road, Worcester WR4 9TB, quoting your customer reference number.

If more residents affected by these cuts were to claim their £50, then perhaps the suppliers would anticipate such jumbo pay-outs and invest more in the quality of the service. Start now. It is not too late for the cuts on 7th July.

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The magic of Edge Fete

Once again, Edge Fete attracted its customary crowd of people, enjoying the stalls, skittle alley, coconut shy, drinks, teas and the silver band on a warm but at times cloudy evening.

The fancy dress theme, the Adventures of Harry Potter, drew lots of youngsters, and some adults, to the competition for best-dressed. But it can all be a bit tiring after an hour or so for a young fella' like me...



Wizards, witches, goblins and mysterious animals patiently (?) await the judging

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VICTORIAN MARKET DAY

Scenes from the Victorian Market on 14th July, opened by Fagin (John Ball), and the Artful Dodger (Gifford Morris), accompanied by Bill Sykes (Lee Alliss), Nancy (Joyce Alliss), Lauren

and Rosie (Nancy's grandchildren) and Bullseye (Kennel name Winston). Despite the changeable weather, visitors flocked in all day, giving most stalls and shops some brisk trading.



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An Aladdin's cave of artefacts

For its 68th year, the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen is holding its exhibition at the Painswick Centre.

The Guild patron, Mrs Carolyn Elwes, opened the exhibition on 28th July, and it continues daily until 27th August. Opening hours are 10am until 6pm.

This year, the organisers have the pleasure of being in a newly-decorated hall, following the refurbishment and improvements.

There are beautiful pieces of various materials and designs from many well-known Guild members, though new members continue to join, bringing fresh creative interest to the exhibition. This year, they are Hazel Goad (feltmaker), Brian Griffiths (cabinetmaker), and Nicola Thomson (knitted textiles).

The Beacon's pictures here give just an overview of the richness and range of the exhibits.

In addition to being the information point, the shop is displaying some work by non-exhibiting members, available for sale. The entrance fee is £1.50 for everyone, except children, whose entry is free.



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Children's art at the Rec.

If your youngster has an artistic bent, or you just want something interesting for him or her to do this summer, then Claire Nayegon might have just the answer. She started a children's art club in the pavilion on the Recreation Ground on Monday, 30th July, and it continues every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the summer.

Also involved with Claire are some parents of children from the Croft School. So if you have a child that would like to go along, or you are a teenager wanting to know more, please call Claire on 812178, or be there at 12 noon on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday for an informal chat. Anyone is welcome.

Age groups are separated by days and the emphasis is on having fun and feeling

good about any art you produce, says Claire. The cost is £2.50 for a two-hour session, and there will be a public exhibition of all the young people's work on Saturday, 1st September from 10am to 2pm in the pavilion.

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Probus wives to meet

When Probus Club next meets on 29th August, the members' wives are all invited to a coffee morning, hosted by Sylvia Tyler and Elizabeth Ward, at Knapp Corner House at 10.30am.

From The Beacon 20 Years Ago

The 'Royal Revels' Committee Chairman, Mr Richard Dent, could hardly believe the success of the event to celebrate the wedding of their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales. He told The Beacon that he had been "flabbergasted" by the size of the crowd gathered to watch the procession. The entries for the parade and fancy dress reflected great credit on the individuals concerned and, said Mr Dent, "enabled the 'Revels' to get off to a tremendous start."

Editorial note: The 'Royal Revels' event was held on 1st August at the Recreation Field, in celebration of the wedding of their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales, that had taken place on 29th July, 1981 in St Paul's Cathedral.

Crack Cancer thanks

The coffee morning held on 4th July in the Town Hall, as part of the Crack Cancer Coffee Chain, was extremely successful, and raised £340. This was a wonderful effort, and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the success by either helping, attending or donating cash or goods. On behalf of the Cobalt Unit, thank you all very much.

Barbara Thorley

Painswick's Alpha course postponed until next year

For the past three years, there has been an Alpha Course run in Painswick in the autumn, with numbers growing each year and well over 100 local people now having completed the course.

To put this in perspective, more than two million people from all over the world have completed the course since 1995, in churches, homes, schools, universities and prisons.

Alpha is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed non-threatening setting over ten thought-provoking weekly sessions, with a day or weekend away.

Everybody here has, as far as we can tell, found it low-key, friendly and fun - and it is supported by all the main Christian denominations.

As readers will be aware, both the Anglican churches and Christ Church are currently without Vicar or Minister and because of the extra effort this requires, it has been decided that it is sensible to postpone this year's Alpha until early 2002.

If you are one of those who has expressed the wish to join in Alpha next time, there are to be courses run in Brimscombe and Cheltenham (and possibly others in Stroud), so do contact

us if you don't want to wait. For those who are not sure what Alpha may involve, there is a marvellous opportunity to find out. Sir David Frost is hosting a 13-week series on ITV, starting on 29th July, which will follow the experiences of 10 Alpha course guests in London, in a fly-on-the-wall style, similar to *Castaway* and *Big Brother*.

When David Frost finished filming the interviews with the participants at the end of the course, he was apparently heard to remark: "That was brilliant TV!" It remains to be seen what reactions they had to the course, but the programmes should provide a good insight into what Alpha is about.

Unfortunately, the programmes are being broadcast at 10.45pm, and so it may mean setting the video recorder if you have an early start on Mondays. But do try to watch.

Ian and Frankie Marsh 812829
John and Caroline Milne 812625

Senior Circle has organised an outing to Weston-super-Mare on 22nd August, leaving the Falcon at 10am. The fare is £6. As the club does not meet in August, anyone who is interested in going on the trip should get in touch with John McCabe on 813125.

PROPERTY REPORT - this month from Hamptons Painswick agency

The outlook for the housing market is far from clear, with conflicting surveys and forecasts now emerging almost every week. Will prices rise or fall? The experts seem unable to agree. All this conflicting information is creating a quandary with buyers, and coupled with the usual holiday lull at this time of year, we are experiencing fewer viewers about, and properties are remaining on the market a little longer than in the early part of this year.

However, we are happy to be offering the following properties and hope it won't be too long before we can put "sold" on

the boards. In the village, we are offering Clematis, a 4-bedroomed detached house built just over 10 years ago; Butt Green House; Woods Mill in New Street, a converted woollen mill with spacious accommodation; Stoneleigh in Gloucester Street which is now under offer, and two fine period houses, one in Vicarage Street and one in Edge Lane.

In Cranham, a property with three acres in a unique and secluded position, and similarly a period house on the edge of Haresfield Beacon with paddocks and stabling.

Recent completions include: The Old

House in Cranham; Brooklands, Maple Cottage and Marylands in Sheepscombe; and Flax Cottage in Painswick. Gyde Lodge has now been sold and the showhouse relocated to the main building. A special opening is planned for the weekend 4th and 5th August, from 11am to 6pm, with strawberries and champagne. If you are interested in looking at these apartments, do come along.

We have now sold three properties at Painswick Heights and only four remain.

For details on any of our properties or any other information, please do give us a ring on 01452 812354

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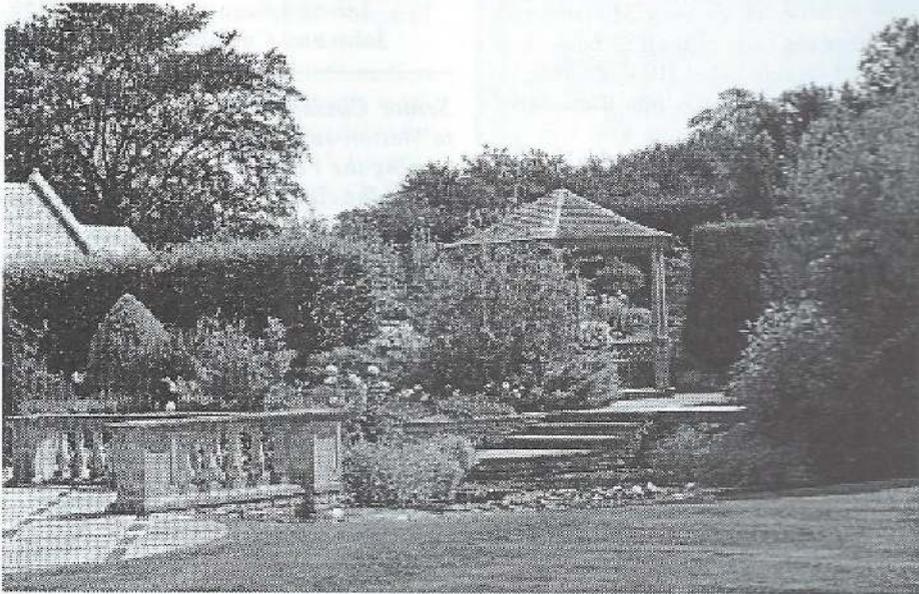
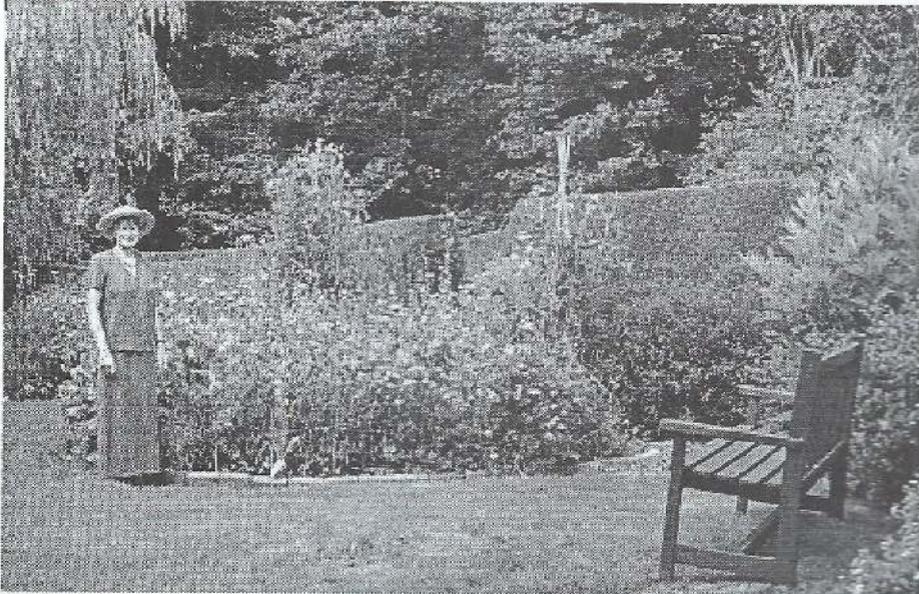
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Last Sunday saw five gardens in Painswick open to visitors from 2pm to 6pm in aid of the British Red Cross.

The Beacon photographer went to a couple of them before the gardens opened to give readers a flavour of what they could have seen if they didn't manage to visit.

Top is Naomi Dunn in part of the organic garden that she and her husband, Craig, tend at Byeways, in Stepping Stone Lane.

Above is a view of the patio, pond and gazebo at the Sheep House, home of Laurence and Lindsay Gardiner, where teas were served later in the afternoon.

The other gardens that opened were Wayland, belonging to Mr and Mrs J.W.Allen, and Wood Ridings, home of Mr and Mrs J.E.Stuart, both in Cotswold Mead, and Stepping Stone Cottage, owned by Mrs Barbara Dunn.

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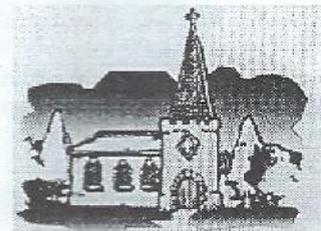
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Painswick Players caught groping in the gloom

Painswick Players have given us a lot of laughs over the years (for the right reasons!), but I doubt if anything has been funnier than last month's performance of Peter Shaffer's *Black Comedy*. It was a delightful mixture – a hilarious farce with some memorable one-liners, enhanced by spot-on direction and casting that allowed the actors to enjoy themselves thoroughly and communicate their ease to an appreciative audience.

The plot centred on the frenetic and doom-laden attempts of young sculptor Brindsley Miller to win over his prospective father-in-law, the daunting Colonel Melkett. The key role of Brindsley was played by a newcomer to the Players – Michael Jackson. It was an impressive debut – a fine portrayal of stuttering, stumbling incoherence. By the end of the chaotic evening a desperate fixed grin settled on his countenance, worthy of Tony Blair at a WI conference. Very convincing.

Convincing, too, were Jean Burgess, who played Brindsley's bimbo fiancée, Carol, in a suitably Monroe-esque fashion, Kevin Parker, who looked completely at ease as the pompous Melkett (not that Kevin is at all pompous, of course), and Ann Yates, who brought several nice touches to the role of the prim neighbour, Miss Furnival (prim, that is, until she inadvertently discovered the pleasures of alcohol).

There were also pleasing cameo

performances from Benedict Kolczynski and Tony Gibson. Presumably exercising their prerogative, co-directors Jack Burgess and Lesley Wolowiec awarded themselves the best parts! Jack's over-the-top portrayal of Brindsley's neighbour, Harold, was a hoot. Announcing his arrival from the rain with the unforgettable line "I feel damp to my panties," he proceeded to give a camp performance worthy of Dick Emery, Frankie Howerd and Kenneth Williams rolled into one. So at home did Jack appear in his alter ego that I began to fear for Jean's future sanity.

As for Lesley, she equally indulged herself as Brindsley's ex, Clea, who wreaked havoc by choosing this of all nights to put in a reappearance. Alternately sexy and vindictive (and excellent in both modes), she grabbed the limelight and revelled in it. One of the best bits for this degenerate reviewer was when she enticed Brindsley to an amorous rapprochement in the bedroom while the rest of the cast stumbled about in the darkness below.

Ah yes, the darkness. A key feature of the play was that much of the action took place in the dark as a result of an embarrassing power failure (how very Painswick) in Brindsley's flat. The play used a classic Japanese device whereby the periods of supposed darkness were seen fully lit, and vice-versa. This made demands on both the cast, who coped well with the pretence of groping about in the gloom for long periods, and the technical team, who handled the exacting task adroitly, with no hint of a hiccup (though I kept wondering what they'd do if Kevin's cigarette lighter failed to work). Indeed, the production and staging were overall of a high standard, especially the attractive multi-tier set in which the stark black and white décor seemed most appropriate.

So, full marks to all for a fine production. It was a great evening and I'm still laughing.

Alan Bamber

Will it be evolution or revolution at Annual Grumble and Moan?

It's all over. *Black Comedy* has finally and comically been blacked out for the last time. The last Buddha has fallen to its shattering end. The ingenious three-storey set is once more just a pile of wood and canvas.

In short, the summer production is now just a memory. As for how good it was, I think I'll leave the verdict to Painswick's answer to Bernard Levin, whose review appears here.

So, what's next? Well, this is where the real theatre begins! Because, once more it's time for the Annual Grumble and Moan, aka the Painswick Players AGM. Already, dramatic rumours of revolution are sweeping through the ranks of PPs.

Significantly, sources close to Michael Portillo have refused to deny that a leadership challenge is being considered. Committee members have been spotted in nervous huddles, trying to work out a believable cover story as to how the entire PP stock of cheap Hungarian red was consumed at committee meetings.

Among other burning questions for debate at the AGM is the autumn production, already scheduled for 29th, 30th November and 1st December. Should it be a farce? Should it be a thriller? Or should it, as favoured by our team of techies, be *Jurassic Park*? What other monstrously dramatic plans are afoot in Painswick? Why not come along to the AGM at 8 pm on Tuesday, 4th September in the Green Room at the Painswick Centre and join in?

Jack Burgess

<http://www.geocities.com/painswickdramaticsociety>

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More to it than just mellow stone

Anthony Fisher asks, in the July issue, what materials can be used (in new buildings) that will mellow to the colour of older buildings in this area. He presumes that the sources of the stone used for older buildings are now worked out. I hesitate to answer this question, not least because I am far from being an expert on stone of any description or provenance, but here are a few points that may get nearer to an answer, together with some comments on related issues.

He will know that mellowing or weathering of stone is a longish process and directly linked to its type and source. I understand new stone is available, if sometimes from some distance and not automatically matching older Painswick houses, and this may look new for some time. Sometimes a builder can buy second-hand stone and use it in new buildings, often achieving a pleasingly mellow effect from day one. Since real stone is increasingly expensive, architects often specify reproduction or artificial varieties and sometimes these give a good colour match with textures comparable to old stone.

However, Anthony Fisher's letter actually raises wider issues and, perhaps unwittingly, goes to the heart of much that

Painswick and District Conservation Society

the Painswick Conservation Society stands for. I have to suggest to him that the problems of what he describes as "wrong" developments have more to do with other factors than merely non-matching stone colour, important though it is.

These factors are at work at all stages when trying to get the "right" look with new buildings in an old environment; they include architectural specifications, planning consent, the builder's search for the specified materials, the construction work itself (even the wrong mortar can have dramatic effects), and not least, the degree of compliance enforced by the local authority.

Two cases in point: firstly it has not been for nothing that the Conservation Society has been so insistent about detail in the recent full planning application for the St Mary's Home site. While we believe that some of our submissions had effect, we do not forget the way in which other issues on this site, raised by both ourselves

and by the Parish Council, were wrongly attributed or ignored or simply overruled in the course of established but arguably unsatisfactory planning procedures.

The final result is still to be seen and much may change, but Mr Fisher could yet see some answers to his questions on this particular site.

Secondly, the development of the Squash Club looks like being an enduring example of how to end up with a "wrong" development. Now pretentiously named Painswick Heights, it has examples of failures in all the stages I refer to here, not least that of compliance. If these were not enough in the end product, the architect is on record as stating that "the development fits in comfortably with the surrounding buildings" - a remark that is almost beyond belief.

Perhaps none of the above will fully answer Mr Fisher's points but, linked with attempts to improve the appearances of new buildings in Painswick, may I add that a Village Design Statement group is working very hard and on a demanding schedule to prepare a document which, when authorised in all the right places, should carry considerable weight in existing design and planning processes.

Also, following representation by the Conservation Society, it is expected that in future a member of the Parish Council will be allowed to address Stroud District Council planners directly when they are hearing "significant" applications.

The more that residents constructively contribute to the design and conservation aspects of the planning process, and ensure their views are taken into account in Ebley Mill, the more likely it will be that they achieve an agreeable result.

Douglas Robinson, Chairman

The WI garden meeting...

...or was it? Opening our July meeting, President Barbara Thorley said how disappointing it was not to be in Shirley Owen's garden, as everyone had hoped. It was damp and windy outside: once more we were in the old Town Hall.

Having been asked to try to wear something blue, members had responded well: almost everyone had managed it. There were outfits in every conceivable shade from powder blue to indigo. Several blue hats, too, were being given an airing.

During the business part of the meeting, it was gratifying to hear that our coffee morning in aid of the Cobalt Unit had raised £340. The competition for a hand-made fan was won by Audrey Watts.

There was a raffle with good prizes, and another competition to guess the weight of a large, square fruit cake. This turned out to be almost four and a quarter pounds.

Helen Briggs organised a flower game whereby everyone had a slip of paper with pairs of letters on it. The trick was to combine the letters with others appearing round the room and produce flower names quickly. Nina Harris and Margaret Richards both completed the job in the fastest time - not a second between them!

Tea followed, and a delicious spread it was, with lots of generously filled sandwiches and a splendid selection of home-made cakes and biscuits.

Dorothy Binns

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The Painswick Beacon

VILLAGE DIARY to SATURDAY 1 SEPTEMBER AND FORWARD DATES FOR 2001

August

Sat 4th	Art Exhibition - Robert Ball (Until 5 August)	Town Hall	Daily
	Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen Summer Exhibition: Admission £1.50. (Daily until 27 August)	Painswick Centre	10am - 6pm Daily 11am - 5pm Sundays
6th	Lansdown Art Club Exhibition (Until 12 August) Admission Free - (Donations to Cotswold Care Hospice)	Town Hall	2 - 8pm, Mon. 6th 10am-5.30pm, 7th - 12th August
	Children's art classes. Contact Claire Nayegon, 812178	Recreation Pavilion	12noon
7th	"To the painted banquet..." New Summer exhibition To 1st September	Fiery Beacon	11am - 5pm Tues to Sat 2pm - 5pm Sun
	Painswick Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) - Puppies and Beginners Intermediate Advanced Dogs	Christ Church Hall	9.30 - 10.15am 10.15 - 11am 11 - 12 noon
	Painswick Village Design draft - for public comment Until 21st August	Painswick Library	Usual hours
10th	W.I. Market: Fridays	Town Hall	10am
Sat 11th	Charity Coffee Morning: Bring & Buy, Cakes, etc	Town Hall	10am - 12 noon
15th	Horticultural Society Outing: RHS Garden, Rosemoor, Grt. Torrington, Devon		8.30am depart 7pm return
19th	COPY DATE: All items to Mrs Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street		
21st	Creative Coterie Art Exhibition and Sale of Members' Work (Until 27th August) Free Admission - donations to Willow Trust	Library Room	10am - 6pm daily
	Jazz Evening: Local Musicians, no entry charge	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
22nd	Senior Circle Day Outing to Weston-Super-Mare	The Falcon	10am Return 6pm
23rd	DIARY DEADLINE: All items to Mrs Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street		
25th	Rococo Garden Trust solo exhibition of glassware by Amanda Lawrence To 1st September	The Orangery	Daily
27th	August Bank Holiday Coffee Morning in aid of CMS/USPG	Church Rooms	10.30am-12.30pm
September			
Sat 1st	September Issue of The Painswick Beacon published		
2nd	Tennis Club unveiling of the Valerie Funnell Memorial Bench - All welcome	Broadham Courts	1pm



3rd	Badminton Club season opens	Painswick Centre	8pm
4th	Painswick Players - Annual General Meeting All welcome	Painswick Centre	8pm
5th	Theatre Club Outing to Bath	The Falcon	5.30pm
6th	Cotswold Care Support Group meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
7th	Senior Circle: Crime Prevention - Gary Powers	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat 8th	Horticultural Society Annual Show & Exhibition	Painswick Centre	3 - 5pm
12th	Conservation Society open evening: Ornamental Regency ironwork Illustrated talk by author Amina Chatwin. Tickets (incl coffee) from the Patchwork Mouse	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat 15th	Paradise House Open Day	Paradise	2 - 4pm
24th	Calligraphy for Beginners/Improvers £36 for 3 Workshops Details: Tel. 01452 611614 (Also 1st & 8th October)	Church Rooms	10am - 4pm daily
28th/29th	"At Last!!! The Millennium Review" - Painswick Players	Painswick Centre	8pm daily

October

1st	Calligraphy for Beginners/Improvers £36 for 3 Workshops Details: Tel. 01452 611614	Church Rooms	10am - 4pm daily
8th	Calligraphy for Beginners/Improvers £36 for 3 Workshops Details: Tel. 01452 611614	Church Rooms	10am - 4pm daily

November

Sat 10th	Charity Coffee Morning: Bring & Buy, Cakes, etc	Town Hall	10am - 12 noon
Sat 17th	Woollen Sale	Town Hall	
	Tennis Club: 40th Anniversary Dinner Dance: Tickets £30 from Sept.	Broadham Rugby Club	7-7.30pm-1am
29th/30th & 1st Dec	Farcical Christmas Production by Painswick Players - to be announced	Painswick Centre	Daily
Sat 8th	Sue Ryder Coffee Morning	Town Hall	9.45am - 12 noon

Cricket Fixtures [(L) indicates league match]

Sat 4 Aug. (L)1st XI v Cheltenham Saracens 1st XI (Away). 2nd XI v Huntley (Home).

Sun 5 Aug. Painswick XI v Fairford XI (Away).

Wed 8 Aug. (Midweek league)Painswick v Stonehouse.

Sat 11 Aug. (L)1st XI v Tetbury (Home). (L)2nd XI v Gloucester Civil Service 2nd XI (Away).

Sat 18 Aug. (L)1st XI v Charfield 1st XI (Away). (L)2nd XI v Old Richians 2nd XI (Home).

Sun 19 Aug. Painswick XI v Bream XI (Home).

Sat 25 Aug. (L)Painswick 1st XI v Cotswold 1st XI (Away).(L)Painswick 2nd XI v Westbury on Severn (Home).

Sat 1 Sep. Painswick XI v St Stephens (Cheltenham)XI.



Linguist and story-teller extraordinaire

The gift of story-telling has declined somewhat these days. I suppose it's due to TV, radio and the internet, but whatever the reason, it is always a delight when a natural story-teller emerges, especially when he might have stepped out of the R L Stephenson mould. In Benedict Kolczynski, the Senior Circle found just such a one.

That he would become a linguist now seems, after his talk, to have been ordained. Born in Durban of a Polish father (RAF) and an Anglo-South African mother, he spent his early years surrounded by competing languages - Polish, Afrikaans and Zulu (the language at home was English) - while travel in Europe in his pre-school years further sharpened this influence. Then it was England, Marlborough and Oxford. Inspired teachers consolidated his love of Polish and Rus-

Painswick Senior Circle

sian. Travel to Cold War Russia in a post-graduate student group was, as he said, "an amazing experience." Warm hospitality greeted them on arrival and student hosts from distant republics smothered them with attention. Despite all this, Benedict had time to observe that the collected works of Leonid Brezhnev remained unsold on bookshop shelves.

A farewell concert at the end of the month-long visit enchanted their hosts, with such English heritage treasures as Albert and The Lion, set dancing and a solo demonstration of Morris dancing where the performer, who had not brought his bells along, utilised bottle tops as a more than satisfactory substitute, that is,

until his trousers split. From the Russians came Shakespeare, music and an unlikely extract from *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and another from the same play at the social that followed, when a semi-comatose host slipped gracefully under the table.

A desire to re-establish contact with his Polish family overrode the offer of a job at GCHQ that would have prevented this, and so it became teaching at Cheltenham College, freelance translating of technical papers and interpreting.

Tourist guiding would take another talk, while Benedict's involvement with Cheltenham's twinning with the Black Sea resort of Solchi would take another two. I have not mentioned his work with children, or his interest in the performing art of music. But here we must leave Benedict, for his tale is by no means finished, nor his adventures at an end.

Patrick Daly

The fascination of Westonbirt

The welcome return on 15th June of John Workman brought us up to date with the latest developments at Westonbirt where he is a very active trustee. Still owned by the Forestry Commission, it relies on its trustees and the Friends of Westonbirt (a group that he himself set up), now 11,000 strong. Admissions now cover the costs.

Fifteen years ago, it became the Research Division of the Forestry Commission and today there is a large area set aside for this important work. The Visitor Centre, built 20 years ago, is still as popular as ever, and its computer is there for anyone who wants to find where a particular tree or shrub is situated.

The new Oak Hall, built for lectures etc and costing some £300,000, raised by public support, was recently opened by Prince Charles, and a new restaurant seating 120 people, with a flat turfed roof, should be ready by next Easter. The eight powered invalid chairs, that enable the disabled to venture further into the woods, are much appreciated - thanks again to the

Friends. Now officially titled "National Arboretum" with 18,000 trees and open every day of the year, Westonbirt has, on average, 13,000 visitors a day throughout the year and is the most visited place in Gloucestershire, having overtaken Slimbridge. Each season brings its own attraction, and we were able to see slides of some of the glorious colours that make it such a popular place, which Senior Circle plan to visit in the near future.

Daphne Hudson

FOLLOWING the June talk on Medievalism and Public School Architecture, a group of 23 Senior Circle members visited Cheltenham Ladies' College. We were guided by the archivist, Mrs Johnston, who showed us college's collection of fine art and artefacts. Among the highlights was a set of ten oils by Burne-Jones for the windows of Christchurch, Oxford, the Britomart Windows by the pre-Raphaelite Frederick Shields, and a collection of original manuscripts donated by John Ruskin.

The trip was organised by the former headmistress, Margaret Hampshire, whose imposing portrait looked down on us from the Lower Hall, as we had tea and biscuits with the staff.

Peter Clarkson

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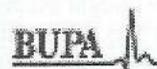
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The Personal Column

Babies

Congratulations to WENDY (nee Graesser) and JAMES HART on the birth of their first child, Oliver Charles, on 3rd July, first grandchild for Libby and Simon, and first grandchild for Joy Shaw;

Also to HARRIET and GEOFF BAILEY on the birth of their son, George, on 18th July (a first grandchild for Linden Holland and a third great grandchild for Jane Hugo);

To NICOLA and GARY BUNCE on the birth of their second son, James, on 21st July (a brother for Scott and a second grandchild for Jane and Alan Titshall);

And to DIANE and KURT RAVENHILL, whose daughter, Lydia Jade, was born on 26th June.

Engagement

Naomi and Craig Dunn are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, ELISABETH, to JONATHAN LINEKER whose family home is in Woodbridge, Suffolk. The couple met while studying at Durham University.

Weddings

Congratulations to EMILY LENDON and DAVID REES whose wedding took place at St Mary's Church, Painswick, on 21st July;

Also to WENDY PARSONS, daughter of Mrs E. Rohrbeck and Mr T Parsons, and ROBIN WEEKS who married on 27th July in Stroud. Wendy's brother, Paul, and his wife, Theresa, travelled from Puerto Rico to attend.

And to ELLIE DIVITO and STEPHEN BISHOP, who married at St Mary's on 28th July.

Welcome

We would like to welcome Mrs PERKINS who has come to live at No 2 Hambutts Cottages; Mr and Mrs FRANKLIN, the new owners of Coombe Downs, Pitchcombe; TRICIA JUKES and DAVID HOWARD who have come to live at Marylands, Sheepscombe; Mr and Mrs CARRINGTON who have bought Maple Cottage, The Park; Mr and Mrs CLARKE who have moved into The Lodge, Gyde

House; and Mr and Mrs RADFORD, the new owners of Highgrove House.

And a special welcome to DOROTHY DIXON from Toronto, who has been in Painswick for the 30th year, as a guest of JOY TAYLOR.

Change of house

YVONNE COWAN has moved from Flax Cottage, Vicarage Street, to Gloucester Road.

Get Well Soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to PHYLLIS LEACH, SALLY TRENFIELD, JOYCELYN WARREN, DICK PURDY, HUGH COLBY and to PHILIP WALKER (Anne Smith's son-in-law), recovering from a Mont Blanc fall.

Condolences

Sincere sympathies to the family and friends of KARIN JOHNSTON, EILEEN DENLEY, WILFRED HOLLINRAKE and MIRIAM ALCOCK who have died recently.

Thank You

ADELE DENLEY would like to thank all neighbours and friends for their support and lifts to the hospital during her mother's illness, and subsequent death. Eileen much appreciated all the messages, cards, flowers and 'little treats' sent to her.

To traders, bands and entertainers who made the Victorian Market Day so successful. Particular thanks go to ALL the children (and their parents) who dressed up so beautifully and entered the spirit of the day. Victorian Market Day survives only with the support of and help from organisers and townfolk alike, and we do look forward to seeing you in 2002.

Sylvia Marden

Examination success

JOHN and PAM BAILEY were delighted to attend the Open University graduation ceremony for their daughter, SUSAN BAGULEY, who gained a BSc Honours in psychology after six years of study.

The Beacon welcomes for publication any other college, university or professional examination successes.

NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date
SATURDAY 1st SEPTEMBER

Items for publication to Jillie Speed*, The Old Carriage House, Edge, by
SUNDAY, 19th AUGUST

Mini Ads to Leslie Brotherton, Longhope, Blakewell Mead, by
SUNDAY 19th AUGUST

Business adverts: Contact Liz Fisher, Harebell Cottage, Blakewell Mead, by
THURSDAY 16th AUGUST

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, by
THURSDAY 23rd AUGUST

Letters and articles for publication are welcomed on computer diskette (returned after use) or by email to: painswickbeacon@supanet.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 contact phone number.

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