

# The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 24 No.11

February 2002

## The end of an era

As demolition workers began the task a few days ago of razing St Mary's Home, villagers had news of the end of another 'institution' - John and Barbara Hulme had finally decided on the sale of Central Stores.

Of course, the fact that John and Barbara were planning to retire was well-known many months ago, but after more than 40 years of serving the Painswick community, both were loath to sell the stores, unless the buyer intended to keep the shop as a grocer's and general store.

"That has proved impossible," John told the Beacon last weekend. "It seems that no-one wants to take on a general store any more.

"It's very sad for us, naturally, because we are fully aware of the effect this will have on the village, but, believe me, we tried very hard and waited a long time to try to get a buyer like that. But it's very important that we retire now. This is a job for younger people."

Barbara and John might stay in the village for a few months while they look for the right house. "I know Barbara would like a garden and I would like a bit of space around me," said John.

Since the sale contracts are not yet signed and exchanged, the Beacon is unable to report on the buyers and their intentions.

And as the view opposite the car park changes, with it goes a century or so of Painswick history. St Mary's Home is coming down. It is the end of an era in

### Meet the BBC's John Cole

The face and voice will be well-known to you. John Cole ("undoubtedly the most famous political broadcaster ever" - The Guardian) will be visiting Painswick on 13th April, and has agreed to talk about his life and experiences. The £15 tickets will be limited in number, so apply early to Ted and Elizabeth Burge, 813177. Buffet supper with a glass of wine at Yew Tree House at 7pm, followed by the talk at the Friends Meeting House. Proceeds go to Christian Aid.



*Demolition workers make a start on the chimney of the old laundry*

many people's eyes, and probably the last piece of visible evidence of the many good deeds of the Wemyss sisters - Harriet Wemyss organised food and accommodation for the first resident, and thus began what ended as St Mary's Home for Elderly People with Learning Disabilities.

The original St Mary's Home for Working Girls (Feeble in Mind and Body) was established in 1890 at Falkland House in Gloucester Street. It subsequently moved to St Mary's Square and by 1906 was at Whitehall (changed to St Mary's) in Stamages Lane where it stayed. The premises in the main had been three old cottages joined together, a fact obscured by the painted rendering we have become so used to. The front of the building was

a separate house and will, as we know, remain.

For many years the residents, usually women, were referred to affectionately as 'the girls'. They were always people in need of physical, social and clinical support. Many Painswickians will recall that for some years until the early 1950s 'the girls' provided a laundry service for the village, thereby contributing towards the upkeep of the home. When they finally moved out in autumn 2000 they were a group of 14 elderly women who had lived together at St Mary's for up to 45 years. In the latter years, theirs was a happy, active and well-cared-for community within the community, a significant feature of Painswick life.

### A46 to close once again

**The A46 at Pitchcombe is to be closed completely again for two weeks from 8th March. Larger excavation than first planned is needed in the £350,000 work to stop the serious subsidence that has been a problem for years.**

**When the road was completely closed for a week late last year, Painswick's shops did feel the effects, so**

**the prospect of a further closure is not welcomed.**

**This might not be the end of it, however. More work is scheduled for the end of March. Painswick Parish Council's proposal that the Highways Authority puts a stop to the heaviest lorries continuing to use the A46 might have helped somewhat.**

**Report from the minutes of the 16th January meeting by Iris McCormick**

**Gloucester Road**

The problem of land slippage on the Gloucester Road was discussed again. The County Council proposal to use paving slabs as a means to control the slippage was turned down by the Parish Council last year. A low wall has been suggested in place of the paving slabs, a solution which will considerably enhance the appearance of the road coming into the village. The low wall would cost £3,500 more than the paving slabs. Terry Parker explained that residents had offered to contribute £500 towards the £3,500 difference in the cost. After some discussion, it was agreed by a small majority that Parish Council would also contribute £500 to the cost of the wall.

**List of Chairmen**

It has been agreed by a majority vote to erect a board listing all the Parish Council Chairmen since 1894. Valerie Dugan, the well-known Painswick calligrapher, has produced a series of drawings which together with framing would cost £400. The Chairman agreed to give his £100 annual allowance towards the cost; £200 has been donated anonymously.

**Street Warden Scheme**

David Hudson reported that he had attended the Community Safety Meeting on 22nd November, and that only five councils had given their support for the Street Warden Scheme. It was decided

to recruit two wardens for a trial in Cam and Dursley district. No funding would be required from Painswick at this stage.

**Residents' Associations**

The role of Residents' Associations was discussed. John Stephenson-Oliver said that the District Council had a policy of encouraging residents' associations. These associations were intended for council tenants and former council tenants as a vehicle to discuss any problems with the District Council. County Councillor Joan Nash, who also attended the meeting, said that the Government and Housing Associations encouraged residents' associations as a way to enhance pride in their housing estates.

**Report from County Cllr Joan Nash**

Joan Nash reported that the Council had received the OFSTED reports on the Local Education Authority and their schools. The schools' report had been generally good. She commented briefly on the joint review of Gloucestershire's Social Services. She also gave details of proposed minor road works in the Painswick area for 2002-2003.

**Hollyhock Lane**

Johnny Johnson reported that two quotations had been received for the work to be done in Hollyhock Lane. One quote was almost half that of the other. He voiced concern that vehicles with power steering would churn up the specified surface on the bend at the top of the lane as the GCC specification was really for a high quality footpath.

It was agreed to ask the firm with the cheaper quote to provide a stronger surface; it was also agreed to approach the residents of the two houses round the top bend for a contribution towards the cost of the extra surfacing since it would be beneficial to their properties.

Delegated authority was given to the F&GP Committee to put the work in hand before the Parish Council's February meeting.

**Quality Parish Councils**

Terry Parker circulated the GAPTC working party report on the 17 questions asked in the Consultation Paper. There were several reservations about the whole rationale behind the scheme. Alan Shearer described it as a bureaucratic nightmare. The Parish working group would meet again to finalise the response.

**Painswick Centre**

John Stephenson-Oliver reported potential conflict between the Painswick Centre trustees and the Charity Commissioners. He reported that the Charity Commissioners draft revised deed has some conflicting

requirements and impractical advice.

**Gyde Almshouses**

Malcolm Watts reported that the Gyde Almshouses trustees were having difficulty filling their houses against the criteria laid down.

They were asking the Charity Commissioners for a minor change to the rules to allow a dependent relative of a Painswick resident to become eligible.

**Children's Roundabout**

Malcolm Watts reported that he had secured a reduction of £1,000 on the children's roundabout to be installed at the Recreation Ground. The equipment will now cost £4,394.

**Community Vibrancy Figures**

Terry Parker drew attention to the fact that Painswick had been classified as 'active' in a recent table given by the Countryside Agency which judged Parishes on a scale from 'sleepy' through 'barely active', 'active' and 'vibrant'.

**Miscellaneous**

The Chairman, Terry Parker, reported that he was unable to contact Inspector McGarry about the proposed mobile phone donation until after the 18th January.

No assistant had yet been found for the Youth Club. Work on the Youth Club's Pavilion building is in hand.



Malcolm Watts, the representative on the Painswick Beacon Conservation Group, reported that English Heritage were giving a talk on the Iron Age fort on Wednesday, 27th February.

A letter from David Drew MP drew attention to a paper proposing changes in council tax on second homes and long-term empty houses. Responses were required by 15th February.

Ann Daniels reported that rats were becoming a problem along Middle Road. John Stephenson-Oliver has offered to speak to the Environmental Department officer responsible for controlling rats.

There was a letter notifying the Council of proposed bus fare increases.

Part two of the Parish Plan should be completed by the end of February.

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# Beat this for a mobile bobby

Readers might well have seen the colourful new Mobile Police Station (pictured below outside the Town Hall) while around the area. It's part of Gloucestershire Constabulary's enhanced policing services to the rural communities.

Last Friday, when the mobile station spent an hour in Painswick, the Beacon caught up with it and the officer in charge, PC Reuben Wyatt.

Inside, the van has a friendly, informal atmosphere, with a sitting area where, for example, schoolchildren can watch videos on road safety, unwelcome strangers or whatever. In an annexe at the back of the vehicle, the office is fully equipped with the latest technology - flat screen PC with infra-red keyboard and mouse, scanner, fax machine, noticeboards, detailed county map and a variety of other useful guides and brochures. The mobile station has its own email address, and later will be able to access the internet. The officer dedicated to manning the van can take crime reports and update files immediately as if he were



*PC Reuben Wyatt at his desk in the mobile station in Victoria Square*

in a headquarters building. "But the real value in this is to be able to take policing to our communities, to develop a trust and a partnership with local communities, and to have a very visual presence," said PC Wyatt.

In conjunction with the local policeman, it acts as a full-blown office locally, while a constable is out on a foot patrol.

PC Wyatt has set out a full programme of his tours of the villages where he at-

tempts to park in the most visual and convenient place possible. For Painswick, this means that in addition to the PIP at the Library, we get the police mobile station here twice a month, on the first Tuesday and the third Friday, usually in the late morning. The next visits to Painswick are on 5th and 22nd February.

If you are about the village on the 5th, pop in and see PC Wyatt. He'll be delighted to show you around.

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## London coach

The next coach outing to London will be on Wednesday 20th March, leaving Stames Lane car park at 8.30am and setting down at Harrods, at about 11.15am and around 11.30am at the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square. Return will be from the National Gallery only at 6.30pm. The fare is £10. Bookings by cash or cheque payable to 'Painswick L & B Outings' should be made with Joan Truman, Little Place, Hollyhock Lane, Painswick GL6 6XH. Enquiries to Joan Truman, 813965, or Pauline Berry, 813227.

## Can you help?

Once again we are appealing for helpers at the Lunch Club. Every Tuesday and Thursday, 15 people sit down to enjoy a cooked lunch and a chat at Ashwell. The food is prepared by a professional cook, but the dining room is arranged, tables laid, the food served and washing up done by volunteers.

We need more people to help on a regular basis, once a month - from 11.45am to about 1pm is all we ask. We will be pleased to give more details if you ring either Audrey Timpson, 812296, or Naomi Maclaurin-Jones, 813320.



## SCHOOL NEWS

### From the Headmaster, Roger Harding:

Children and staff at the Croft are spreading their wings, forging links with schools both locally and internationally. We are currently involved in an arts and music project with Miserden, Cranham and Sheepscombe schools that will culminate in an art and photographic exhibition and music concert at the Rococo Gardens on 15th March.

We have enjoyed the input of professional artists in residence and a music consultant. They are helping groups to produce and publish our own musical CD based on local traditions. The group of four schools is known as The Woolpack Cluster.

The Croft has also developed links

with a school in Dublin and one in Vasteras, Sweden. We hope to be joined by another school in Ancona, Italy and Cranham C of E from September 2002. The children will be exchanging curricular material and are currently developing penpal links.

Staff from Ireland and Sweden will be visiting Painswick from 8th-11th March and will attend a special assembly at the school.

One of the principal educational benefits to the children will be in their enhanced use of information and communication technology. One project, which will run for three years, is funded from Brussels by the European Union.

As part of the Woolpack Cluster project, the children of Class Two visited the Rococo Gardens.

*We went to the Rococo Gardens. This is my list of what I saw:*

Oak leaves  
Pond  
Holly  
A little house  
Roots  
Maze

**Sophie Barnett**

The castle  
A little house  
The pond  
Fallen beech leaves  
The house  
A star floor

**Douglas Fair**

A pond  
A little house  
The red house  
Holly  
Ivy  
Snowdrops

**George Pigott**

Little castle  
A little house  
A pond  
Fallen beech leaves  
A star floor  
The red house

**Adam Christmas**

## Consultations continue on St Mary's music

Last month saw a period of contemplation and consultation at St Mary's Church when three days were set aside for all interested parties to come to church, and under the direction of the new director of music, Charles Jones, singers were put through their paces.

John, our new vicar, saw this as a great opportunity with two fresh minds to consider the way forward with our music.

The choir, which has always formed an important part of our worship, took a break during January. One of their members, together with representatives from all other sections of the church, formed a new committee to seek everyone's views and consider the way forward. Initially, a unison singing group has been meeting in January. This will be followed this month by four-part harmony singing sessions, and junior church music, possibly introducing instrumentalists. Nothing has been ruled in or out. Additionally during February a questionnaire on church music is being given to the congregation, inviting comments and contributions.

We look forward to some exciting music-led services from February onwards. If you have any musical inclinations and would like to take part, please contact Charles, John, either of the Churchwardens, or just leave a message at the Lych Gate office and one of us will contact you.

DaD

**David Ryland, churchwarden**

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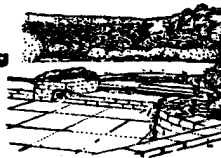
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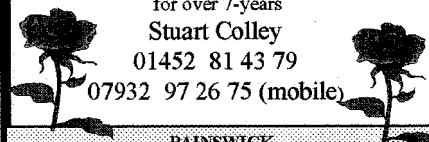
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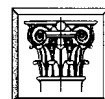
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# Dance away the Wednesday afternoons

Wednesday afternoon tea dances have resumed at the Painswick Centre, and we have widened the scope of the dances to include some ballroom and popular sequence numbers, such as Mayfair Quickstep, Sindy Swing, Saunter Together, Melody Foxtrot and others for your pleasure, plus you will be able to learn some new dances.

So why not come and dance away those winter afternoons at the Centre from 2pm to 4pm. You are assured of a warm welcome, a friendly atmosphere, tea and biscuits, and some gentle sociable exercise at the same time.

If you would like more information, please don't hesitate to call us on 01453 833150.

**Geoff and Joy Codd**

## The Palestinian connection

The Church of Our Lady and Saint Therese has been presented with this statuette of Christ the Good Shepherd, carved from olive wood by a Palestinian Christian living in Bethlehem. The statuette was recently brought from the Holy Land by an Englishwoman who has been living in Bethlehem, where she provided medical assistance to the Christian Arab population. The varnished figure is approximately ten inches in height.

*In conjunction with Arts in Rural Gloucestershire, there's an unusual opportunity to see **Tango Siempre** - "by far the best tango band in the UK" - performing a spectrum of styles that comprise Tango Argentina. At Pitchcombe Village Hall on Friday, 8th March, 7.30pm. Tickets £5 (£3 children) from Deborah Quilter, 813746.*



## POLICE REPORT

### Reported incidents, 13th December 2001 to 14th January

Burglaries: House; Painswick 1. Business; Painswick 1.  
Sheds: None.  
Vehicles: Painswick 3, Cranham 1.  
Other theft: Painswick 1, Sheepscombe 1.  
Damage: Painswick 1.  
Total: 9.

### Items stolen

Radio/CD player, briefcase, purse, food items, Christmas lights, hanging basket and ornamental iron gate.  
Six incidents were reported this month, all of which helped the police. Thank you to all callers.

### Illegal dumping

Anyone who visits rural areas will be

aware of the increased amount of illegal dumping of rubbish that is taking place - fly-tipping, as it is more generally known. This increase has occurred since a change in taxation for landfill was introduced.

Environmental Health staff and the Environment Agency have powers of prevention and enforcement, but in order to prosecute, accurate evidence is imperative. If you see anyone dumping rubbish in this way, please take note of any vehicles involved and preserve any material that is identifiable, such as bills and letterheads.

### Police Information Point (PIP)

Located in Painswick Library  
PC Breakwell will be there on the following dates:

12th February, 10.30am to 11.30am.  
21st February, 10.30am to 11.30am.

**PC Reuben Wyatt**  
for PC John Breakwell and the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator

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## Then... and now!

This is how the back of the Town Hall looked in the early seventies, compared to a photograph taken by the Parish Council chairman, Terry Parker, just over a week ago (below). Some changes can be noted, along with the general tidy-up, but much remains unaltered. The Beacon would like to publish readers' photographs of similar changes that have occurred in the villages in a 'Then and Now' feature. So if you have any good examples, please let the Editor know, or send them in. All prints will be returned, of course.

## WW2 exploits, but an inner journey too

The first volume in a trilogy, *Message In A Bottle*, by John Sharwood-Smith, of Painswick, has just been published. It describes his evolution from Cambridge classics undergraduate in 1939 to bomber pilot in India, flying Wellingtons, Beauforts and Mosquitos, deep in the heart of Burma.

His account of learning to fly, first in Britain, then in America with the US Army Air Corps, is both funny and hair-raising. There are adventures aplenty, and he has a curiosity about the world and people, as well as a self-deprecating sense of humour, that make this book hard to put down. In his early days, he describes himself as "an involuntary airman only too ready to let danger make its first move." In time, flying and danger itself become almost an obsession.

A keen eye and an acute ear make people and places come alive - airfields



in the jungle, leaves taken in Calcutta and Poona, service personnel and ex-pats - but this is also a record of an inner journey of self-discovery, told with touching self-awareness and detachment.

Many of the young men he served with were lost in action: to adapt a phrase from a letter he wrote at the time, they "performed a worthy service amid appalling hardships." And perform them they did, with courage, humour and gallantry.

Copies of the book are available at the Post Office.

June Tufnell

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- if it is copied, file it
- if it is Friday, forget it!

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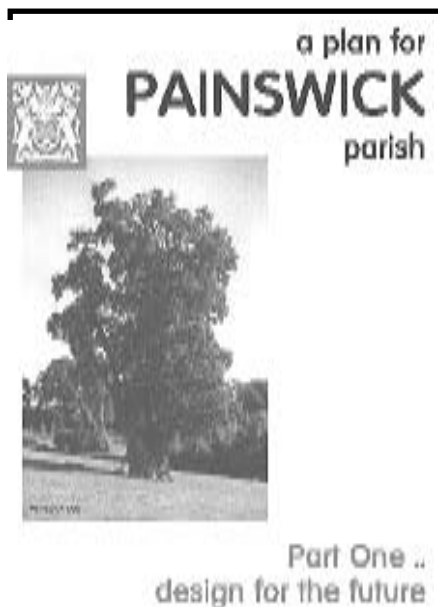
When the Beacon carried information last month about Part One of the Parish Plan being published, we could not know how it might be received. It is with pleasure that we can report fairly brisk sales of this 52-page glossy report about our past, present and the future, not least from the Post Office and Murrays Estate Agency.

A little market research indicates that a few people thought it would probably be pretty dry stuff, and that there was some hesitancy in parting with £2 to read about things they probably knew already; it cost more than twice that much to print. But far from it. Feedback shows that the contents have caught many an eye, as reading reveals insights about all four of our villages that many were not aware of.

Apart from numerous photographs, there are historic references, material about the extent and importance of conservation areas, complete with detailed maps, agriculture and employment. The data extracted from the census returns about population trends since 1495, occupations, household numbers and types, alone are causing many to express surprise and prompt interest.

Above all, there are precise details of the 108 views expressed and recorded when the community workshop was held just 12 months ago, a workshop which involved volunteers from every part of the civic parish. More than 1,000 photographs were taken that day, photographs which spoke volumes about likes and dislikes within our present-day environment.

Bearing in mind that Part One of the report has already been commended by the Parish Council, it is important to note that councillors will shortly be consider-



ing how these views can be converted into realistic solutions.

Many will help to shape the future of our environment and the lives of residents, so it is worth reporting that those who have already read the report are finding it of very real interest. Subjects range from inter-village minibus services to 'quiet lanes', local newsletters to a camping site, library opening hours to creation of a swimming pool, street lighting to village centre parking.

Still not interested?

This might be the first such report in the country, and it is attracting interest from neighbouring parishes and from much further afield. Hence it is relevant to point out that there was a limited print run, and copies will be made available to non-residents later in February.

# Eric de Maré, photographer, architect and back-packer

I first 'met' Eric in 1959. Not personally but through my copy of his Penguin handbook, 'Photography', which ran into seven editions and was *the* pocket guide for generations of amateur photographers more used to darkrooms than digital. Thirty five years later he and his wife, Enid, came to live next door. My well-thumbed copy is now signed!

We were saddened by his sudden death just two days after we had seen him - as we hoped - recovering from a fall, talking about his new book and his grand-daughter's coming wedding in Painswick.

After early years spent travelling all over Europe, long before backpacking was heard of, Eric made his name as an architect, photographer and historian, and in 1997 received the important Royal Designer for Industry award for his architectural photography.

He published 20 books on architecture and history as well as 'Photography' and was an ardent apostle for Social Credit, an economic system practised in Canada in the 'thirties, that relied on public control rather than banks to create purchasing power for citizens.

To the end of his 91 years he was still writing, never lost interest in world affairs as well as the people around him, and was still surprising us all by asking the questions nobody else had thought of. A stimulating companion who will be much missed by Enid, his extended family and his many friends.

John Parfitt

## Music on a Sunday afternoon

Music lovers are warmly invited to Hambutts Mead (Dr and Mrs Feilden) on Sunday, 3rd March at 3pm when Caroline MacBrayne, a rising pianist and recitalist, will give an hour's recital on my Steinway.

Tea will be available after the concert. No tickets are required, but we will be taking a collection for GEAR, the homeless project in Gloucester that provides a night's shelter and a day centre.

It would be helpful if friends who intend to come to this recital would let me know beforehand. Caroline is an accomplished pianist and I think the audience will have a very interesting afternoon.

Diana Feilden

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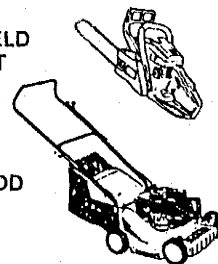
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# Sheepscombe youngsters win places in British ski team



*Ashley, left, and his sister, Fern, during some tough training last summer*

The first week in January saw 14-year-old Ashley Barker and his 11-year-old sister, Fern, from Sheepscombe once again ski racing in Switzerland. After some training in Austria and a warm-up race there, it was a change of country with the hop to Switzerland to take part in the British Alpine Racing Ski Club Championships.

Ashley who was in the top 30 last year improved significantly, taking 5th place in the Slalom, 5th in Giant Slalom, and 7th in the Super G, placing him in the top three boys overall. Not to be outdone, Fern, taking part in the championships for the first time, came back strongly, after crashing out of the Super G, to take a bronze medal

in her age group in the Giant Slalom, and 19th place overall. Spurred on by this, she took both the British and the International gold medals in her age group in the Slalom, when she finished 7th female overall.

The two youngsters now have more to celebrate from these performances when they received the news last week that they are to race for the "Trespass" sponsored British Children's team. Fern travelled to the Czech Republic last Saturday, while her brother, Ashley, waits until the middle of this month to race in Slovenia.

The icing on the cake is that both have been selected to race at Abetone (Pinocchio), Italy in mid-March. This is one of the top international races on the children's calendar, and is often known as the Children's Olympics, with around 40 nations taking part.

Both children have worked extremely hard on fitness and technique to achieve these results and to gain their national selection. They are both looking forward to racing for Britain. Eagle-eyed viewers might have spotted them on Blue Peter last month when they were filmed skiing at the Snozone with the British Children's squad.

# Sleeping villages?

There has been considerable reaction by local communities to the results of a recent Countryside Agency survey.

Parish councils throughout the country had completed a questionnaire about their activities, and this resulted in the agency placing them in one of four categories, Sleeping, Barely Active, Active and Vibrant. Painswick was in the Active category with nearby parishes, Bisley, Brockworth, Cranham, Randwick and Whiteshill declared to be Vibrant.

Upton St Leonards, to the surprise of local residents, was deemed to be Barely Active, prompting Parish Council Chairman David Hunt to ask the agency what criteria they had used in reaching their assessment. Following Cllr Hunt's inquiry, the agency revised Upton's status and uprated the village to the Active category. The Cheltenham-based Countryside Agency has been quick to seek to appease the many parish councils who have been aggrieved by the survey, stating that the categorisation was not meant to be a criticism of the councils' performance.

Many, including the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils, will remain sceptical, notwithstanding the agency's explanation.

# Thanks for a wonderful start

On a beautiful sunny day on Sunday, 23rd December we were fortunate enough to be married in Painswick. Although blessed by perfect blue skies, the day would not have been so perfect without the generosity of many people in Painswick, Longridge and Sheepscombe.

We would like to thank the Rev John Longuet-Higgins, who has been a guiding hand throughout, and conducted a memorable service. More so, all those that put themselves out two days before Christmas, the bell ringers, the organist, the church warden and not to forget the beautiful flowers.

Outside the immediate community of the church, the Royal Oak welcomed a crowd of ushers early morning and the Painswick Hotel played host to our families with care and consideration. Lastly to our neighbours on Longridge, Pat and Frances, who looked after our cottage and even offered a home to my parent's border collie over Christmas.

This is a wonderful community to start our wedded life within - thank you.

**Maurice and Antonia Evlyn-Buften**

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# Horse-riding damages the Beacon Common

I should be grateful if you could find space to bring to the attention of horse riders and the public that the Common is not an open place for the exercising of horses.

A very real problem has arisen over the past 12 months due to increasing numbers of horse riders using the Common as a gallop. The damage to the turf is disgraceful. Almost every part of the Common is being damaged by daily horse riding. Some riders are even riding round in circles on the golf greens.

The Common is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and is so designated by English Nature because of the herb-rich uncultivated limestone grassland. This unique grassland has at least 12 species of orchid, some of them

# Beacon Common

## LETTERS

very scarce. The hill fort is also a national monument protected by English Heritage. Damage caused by horse riders walking along the tops of the banks of the hill fort has caused erosion to increase drastically, ruining the monument.

Horses are only allowed on the tarmac roads that cross the Common and on the bridle path. No other areas are open to horse riders or to mountain bikes. The

bridle path starts at the Gloucester road B4073 at the top of the plantation, where it is sign-posted. The path runs along the course of an old road in a straight line to the end of the Common at the Royal William; there are several way-marks along its course so that it is easy to follow.

Both the Golf Club and English Nature hope that this letter will inform horse riders and abate the nuisance.

**Cedric Nielsen**  
Voluntary Warden for English Nature

## A sparrowhawk, and even Red Kites perhaps

I read with interest the article regarding the "rare falcons in Painswick" in the January edition of The Painswick Beacon, both as a resident of Vicarage Street and an employee of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. This is due to being on the edge of the village, and living next to an orchard that is currently alive with fieldfares, long-tailed tits, a variety of woodpeckers and owls, not to mention foxes, voles, mice, shrews and other small mammals.

My husband noticed a different bird, just before Christmas, which he identified as a sparrow hawk. Our neighbours had observed it on a number of occasions, and there are always buzzards flying around the valley, from their nests in The Trust's nature reserve at Frith Wood. They are often seen being mobbed by smaller birds; they make a very distinctive 'mewing.'

I unfortunately have not witnessed peregrine falcons, but a colleague at The Trust has identified Red Kites in the North Cotswolds and over the motorway, and advised me that their presence is not impossible.

I am delighted that so many Painswickians take such a delight in local wildlife;

this is reflected at the Wildlife Trust where we have 82 members in the village alone (many more in the surrounding areas). And many volunteers have helped the Wildlife Trust to be represented at the Painswick Show for a number of years. Our Stroud Area Group would be delighted if there are people able to help at the show this year.

I would like to remind villagers that they can report their sightings of wildlife to the Gloucestershire Environmental Data Unit (GEDU) on 01453 822761. They will need to give their name, OS grid reference or place of sighting, what species they observed and the time/date.

This enables organisations such as ourselves to monitor wildlife and comment on things such as planning applications, and whether the populations are on the increase or decrease; valuable work, I'm sure your readers will agree.

## 'Calne' should have read 'Carne'

Although we have lived in Dorset since October 1994, we had lived in Cranham for 25 years, having bought Knowle House, Cranham, from Colonel and Mrs Carne in 1969, and they were good friends of ours.

We subscribe to the Beacon, and I noticed the article in last month's issue, mentioning another book about the Gloucestershire Regiment and the Battle of the Imjin River. Maybe it was a typing error, but the colonel's surname has no 'l' in it. It is spelt CARNE. It is a Cornish family name.

**Rosemary Barker**  
Charmouth, Dorset

I would also like to offer any readers of The Painswick Beacon a free Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves Guide (rrp £7.50), if they are interested in joining as a member. Existing members are also welcome to one of these handbooks free of charge. Please contact me at Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust on 01452 383333, or log on to our web-site [www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk](http://www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk) for membership information, remembering to quote where you saw the offer.

**Emma Bradshaw, 814210**  
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

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# Only the rain can stop Painswick

Painswick First Fifteen's unbeaten run since September has continued with victories in a rearranged fixture against North Bristol and, in the league, against Old Bristolians.

North Bristol play in the Western Counties North Division which is two divisions above Painswick who play in Gloucestershire One. Whilst it's true to say that North Bristol are having an indifferent season, lying at the foot of their division, Painswick's success by 24 points to 14 confirms the fact that the Cherry and Whites' position at the top of their division reflects the club's all round strength.

Perversely however, Painswick will in some ways be disappointed with their second league victory of the season against Old Bristolians because it was against the Bristol Grammar School Old Boys side that Painswick should have played in the fifth round of the Tetley Bitter Vase Trophy had they not been disqualified for inadvertently fielding an ineligible player. Before the start of the match, sponsors Electromech (shirts) and Partridge Homes (shorts) presented the Painswick coach, Wayne Lee, with a new club strip.

The club's depth of playing abilities was highlighted in the Painswick Adders'



Painswick Junior Tennis celebrated the success of two of their teams in the Junior League. The Boys' Under 12 and Under 13 teams won their divisions, and were presented with their trophy at the Recrea-

tion Ground on 19th January. Left to right above are: Josh Reed, Tom Mahendra, Mike Goddard, James Barnett, Andy Green, Edward Andrew and William Unwin. Well done to all the players!

Bill Adams Cup victory over Dursley. The cup is played for by teams at the third fifteen level. The heavy rain which fell in the 24 hours before and during last Saturday (26th January) meant that most games in the area could not be played. Painswick's first and second fifteens had fixtures against the Brockworth club.

**Results** [(L) indicates league match]  
 Sat 12 Jan. (L) Painswick 1st XV 20, Old Bristolians 1st XV 14.  
 Minchinhampton 1st XV 34, Painswick Adders 0.  
 Sat 19 Jan. Painswick 1st XV 25, North Bristol 1st XV 14. Chosen Hill 2nd XV 12, Painswick United 7.  
 Bill Adams Cup. Dursley 3rd XV 3, Painswick Adders 22.

Painswick Tennis Club's Spring Social Event will be a Quiz and Supper Evening at the Painswick Centre on Saturday, 16th March at 7.30pm. It is open to members and non-members. Teams of six are invited. Tickets, at £7.50, are available from Ruth Smith on 813693.

## CTAP remember Holocaust and other victims

Painswick's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity began on Sunday 20th January with an evening service at the Church of St James the Great, Cranham. The week ended last Sunday with an afternoon service at the Church of Our Lady and St Therese.

This day, 27th January, in recent years, has been set aside as a time of remembrance for Holocaust victims and the service reflected that theme. CTAP is arranging a series of ecumenical discussion group meetings during Lent. The meetings are held on different days of the week at different times of the day. The weekly meetings will start after Ash Wednesday (13th February) and continue until the week ending 23rd March. The groups are not restricted to members of local churches, with everyone welcome to attend. If you would like more details, please contact Paula Allison on 813711.

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# Painswick 4 ride 'for their lives'

Four committed Painswick family men have banded together to do the gruelling Land's End to John O'Groats cycle ride, in May, in aid of four worthy charities. The common element between them, apart from being in their mid-40s, is that they are all really too busy with work and families to spend a fortnight on this endeavour, not to mention the hours of hard training, but they are all grateful for their own good fortune and want to give something in return.

Dr Jon Unwin is a Gloucester GP. He and his wife Sally have had five children. Their third child, Millie, died from 'Sudden Infant Death Syndrome' (Cot Death) on Christmas Eve 1990, when she was just seven weeks old. Since then, they have been involved in advising parents of newborn children on preventive measures, in raising funds for research into Cot Death, and in giving support to bereaved parents through the Gloucestershire Cot Death Support Group.

Paul Moir and Claire have three children and both work in the family business at the Rococo Garden, managing it on behalf of the Garden Trust. Three months after their marriage in 1979, Paul had Hodgkins Disease - cancer of the lymph nodes - and had 18 months of gruelling treatment in a rather impersonal London hospital. After a period of remission, the disease came back. A further 12 months of debilitating treatment in Cheltenham, where the care and support were fantastic, were necessary before the battle was won. Never having had the opportunity for anything adventurous, now 20 years on, he is fighting fit, eternally grateful and ready to give something back by raising funds for the Cheltenham Cobalt Unit.

John Gardner has chosen to support the James Hopkins Trust which provides practical help, support and respite care for severely disabled young children and their parents. Helen and he have three healthy children all at the Croft School and in appreciation of that, work in various ways for their chosen charity. John is a Director of Softlogic Solutions Ltd which provides IT



Left to right are: Ken Gibson, Paul Moir, Jon Unwin, John Gardner and Robert Goddard

consultancy, network design and installation, and bespoke software development.

Rob Goddard runs the garage business in Painswick and with his wife Karen have three lively boys. Both Karen and he are lifetime members of Scout and Guide movements and lead packs in Painswick. Karen is a Staff Nurse and Rob a retained volunteer member of the Fire & Rescue Service. With all their interests, a choice of charity to support has been difficult, but with 19 years of committed service, Rob feels the Fire Service Benevolent Fund deserves his support.

All four families are ever-present in school and village life, so deserve every support in their great endeavour. Ken Gibson will be doing just that with logistical support during the journey of 1000 miles - without him it would not be possible.

If you would like to support the charities your gift can be forwarded to: Painswick Four, c/o Painswick Rococo Garden, Painswick, Glos. GL6 6TH. Remember

if you pay income or capital gains tax, greater than that reclaimed on your gift, a gift aid declaration can increase the value of your donation by 28p in the £ without any cost to the donor.

The Land's End to John O'Groats run is under the auspices of the Cycling Touring Club.

Jim Hodge

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# Do you fancy helping out with the Beacon?

The Beacon has been a successful parish newspaper for many years, and the committee is keen to recruit new members to the editorial production team. If you are interested, a few explanatory words about how the Beacon is produced each month could be useful.

We meet once a month, usually the Tuesday evening of the week before the Beacon is distributed. All copy should be, and largely is, available then for discussion, with particular attention being given to the less routine material. Some items need following up, while others might need a photograph being taken. Pressure mounts over the next seven days to type up all

copy that is not typed or electronically sent in, pages are designed and advertisement and editorial copy fitted in, taking account of the more time-sensitive pieces such as road closure announcements and planning issues.

All must be completed by midnight on the Tuesday of the week of publication, normally the one that includes the first Saturday of each month.

Focusing much of this work on two or three people, particularly the Editor who takes the brunt of the workload at present, is not the most secure way of ensuring that the Beacon comes out each month without fail. The committee has felt for some while that this is too much to expect of one person, no matter how dedicated and technologically skilled he or she might be, and even with the enthusiastic cadre of helpers trying to lighten the load.

Our objective is to build up a small

team from the committee who would share responsibility for each issue of the Beacon, perhaps by each preparing complete pages, alternating editorships month by month, or quarter by quarter, or some other combination to tackle the overall role. The internet is used already, but could be used much more to help such a process and the rapid exchange of material. This would mean that any one of the team could take a holiday, or even have a severe cold sometimes, and the Beacon would still be produced.

The Diary, the Personal Column and advertising are separate individual responsibilities, as are the roles of subscriptions, financial matters, the vitally important distribution, and the annual quiz.

Business matters, such as policies, equipment needs and budgets etc, are dealt with at separate meetings held about four times a year.

Even with these planned changes, there will continue to be an essential, high commitment by individuals if the enviable standards to which the Beacon has committed itself are to be maintained.

If you like the idea of helping with the Beacon's production, please get in touch with any member of the committee (See Back Page). They can expand on any of the particular roles. We would be very pleased to hear from you, and we can assure anyone who does join us that the experience can be rewarding (there's no pay, of course), as well as being a monthly commitment.

## The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 28 No. 10

January 2002

## Painswick Local History Society

### Pleasure gardens of Cranham

During the 18th and 19th centuries, a popular leisure activity was to visit pleasure gardens to meet friends, stroll along woodland paths and admire the views. Such gardens once existed in Buckholt Woods, beside the Cranham to Birdlip road.

The history of the pleasure gardens of Cranham was recounted by Mrs. Janet Whitton at the January meeting of Painswick Local History Society. In 1821 William Todd, a timber merchant who worked in Cranham, took the lease for land in Buckholt Woods. Paths were made through the woods to a lake at the bottom of the hill, arbours constructed and seats placed at suitable viewpoints.

Cottages with thatched roofs were built in a clearing where there were also buildings to provide additional attractions for visitors - a ballroom, whose walls were lined with moss, a billiards room and an archery tower. There was also a look-out tree to get a panoramic view of the gardens. For the citizens of Gloucester and Cheltenham a visit to the pleasure gardens of Cranham was a pleasant way of whiling away the time between lunch and dinner.

Unfortunately, Mr. Todd was declared bankrupt in 1825 and the estate sold in 1828. The estate then had a succession of owners and changes were made to the cottages and gardens. The two cottages were made into one and became known as Cranham Lodge which, in 1899, was taken over as part of Cranham sanatorium - the subject of Mrs Whitton's previous talk to the Society.

In her informative talk on the pleasure gardens, Mrs. Whitton showed how, through her research into maps, drawings and reports, she had uncovered the history of a once-famous attraction at Cranham.

The next meeting of the Society will be held in the Croft School on Tuesday, 19th February, at 7.30pm. Father Aelred Baker OSB of Prinknash Abbey will give a talk on 'The Coming of the Monks to Prinknash Abbey.'

Gwen Welch

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## Queen's invitation

Guest lists are being drawn up for a very special party this summer to be hosted by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh - but there may still be time to get yourself an invitation.

As part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, a garden party at Buckingham Palace is being arranged for 9th July for people born on the Queen's Accession Day, 6th February 1952. Anyone born on that day can apply for an invitation to this historic event for themselves and a partner or friend.

Applications, accompanied by a copy of the applicant's birth certificate plus details of the accompanying guest, should be sent to the Lord Lieutenant, Henry Elwes, Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2TG.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for people to celebrate their half century with the Queen's own half century of reign," said the Lord Lieutenant.

## World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer is on 1st March, and there will be four services in the Painswick Valley area: 10am Ashwell House, coffee followed by the service at 10.30am; 2.30pm Sheepscombe Methodist Church; 6pm Christ Church, Painswick; 7.30pm St James, Cranham.

## W.I. hears of life in Denmark - all islands and empty roads

When Mrs Frances Lawrence came from Cheltenham in January to speak to Painswick WI about Denmark, she displayed a real love and enthusiasm for that small country.

Just 300 miles across the North Sea from us, Denmark consists of 406 islands, ninety of them inhabited, she said, and connected by road and rail bridges and tunnels. Little ferry boats cater for those with more time to spare. We were shown a slide of the leading members of the Danish Royal Family, all of them six foot tall, and chain smokers.

Frances and her husband frequently stay at a Danish friend's modern farm house. The furniture is modern, though surprisingly, there are many ornaments and pictures around. "Clutter," Frances said. In the village stands a 700-year-old church where her friend's son was confirmed. A family luncheon party had followed, beginning at 1pm. She said: "We rose from the table at 6pm, having spent much of the afternoon singing and toasting".

Out in the countryside, the main roads appeared narrow and deserted by our standards. Car headlamps come on automatically whenever the ignition is switched on. There was an impressive aerial view of the northern tip of Denmark, where the North

Sea meets the Baltic. Further south, we saw the vessel, now preserved, that had been the Danish Royal Yacht in the time of their Princess Alexandra, later wife of our King Edward VII; and in Copenhagen the small, yellow-stone palace where she was born. Finally came an idea we haven't thought of, fortunately: a coffee shop with tables and chairs outside, in November, and a thick, warm rug draped over each chair to keep the customer warm.

Back to the present, Kathleen Gibson has announced that in the last 12 years we have collected more than £2000 in copper coins for the Crack Cancer Campaign.

**Dorothy Binns**

## Lunches raise £269

After the Christmas break, lunches consisting of soup, bread and cheese are under way again on Mondays from 12.15-1.15pm in Christ Church Hall, Gloucester Street. Thanks to the generosity of providers and all who partake, I was able to send a Christmas cheque for £269 to each of our three charities - Christian Aid, Oxfam and Save the Children. Hopefully, the 'Easter Eggs' will be even bigger. Come and join this happy social gathering.

**Joan Truman, Treasurer**

## PROPERTY REPORT at 26th January from Hamptons Painswick agency

Since returning to work after the festive period we feel that the market has definitely turned, and in spite of the predominately downbeat predictions in some of the press there are signs in Painswick and the West Country of a very buoyant year ahead.

January has been extremely busy with new instructions and sales, many emanating from our Open House days. We held one last Saturday at Hillfoot Cottage on Golf Course road - a fine period house with an acre garden, and already the house is under offer. We are also open every Saturday from 12 - 2pm at Painswick Heights, and despite a recent article in The Times where Hamptons were badly misquoted and taken out of context, as seems the wont of the

Press (except The Beacon of course!) but with interest generated from the article, proving that usually any editorial is better than none.

We are happy to report completions on Tabitha's in Vicarage Street, 8 Canton Acre, and Downfield Cottage in Bull's Cross, with many more under offer hoping to exchange contracts shortly.

New Instructions include two new-built homes, one by Partridge Homes in Queens Mead, already with a sale agreed, and the other in Woodborough Close, a quality 4-bed detached house to be built by the summer. We also have two beautifully presented properties, Overmead on

the edge of Painswick with spacious accommodation and magnificent views, and Court Barn, a fine period 3-bed cottage in the village.

Further afield, we are selling a farm at Robinswood and a large detached modern house in Colethrop; and in Slad a lovely 2-bed cottage with great potential to extend and a large garden.

If you are considering selling in the near future, we would be happy to come and discuss the marketing of your property - do please give us a ring on 812354 or call into The Old Chapel, Bisley Street.

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# Roughshod riding in - to the Cen-

The York-based Riding Lights Theatre Company, also known as "Roughshod," is one of the UK's most successful independent theatre groups. Internationally renowned for 24 years of touring productions, Riding Lights opened its own home, the Friargate Theatre, to the public in 2000. "Roughshod" (four of them right) annually reaches a live audience of some 132,000 adults and children, and on Saturday, 9th March the company is coming to Painswick to perform its own production, Science Friction, in the Painswick Centre at 8pm.

The group's current tour, that includes productions in Cheltenham and Stonehouse, has been arranged by the Centre Bookshop in Stroud. Science Friction promises to be a gripping, yet challenging exploration of the suspicion existing between scientists and the Church. The production takes a dramatic, innovative look into this vast area by turning the microscope on one extraordinary story.

It is anticipated that with only 150-160 tickets available at the Painswick Centre, it will be sold out very quickly. However, those who are disappointed can always try one of the larger venues which will be advertised locally.

The Painswick tickets cost £6 (£4 for Students) and can be obtained through the Centre Bookshop Stroud, or the Painswick Booking Office, 814795.

Ian Marsh, 812829



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## **Parking's getting too popular**

We are delighted to inform all our friends and supporters that, since the first stage of refurbishment was completed last year, the usage of The Painswick Centre by local people is steadily increasing. Apart from our regular users i.e. The Gloucester Guild Gallery, Yoga Classes, Badminton, PADFAS, Line Dancing, Bingo, Old Time Dancing, Amateur Dramatics, Skittles, Bowls and now Tap Dancing, we have increasing bookings for both children's and adult parties, reunions, meetings, seminars and lectures etc. We have rooms available at very reasonable prices to meet many different requirements.

Naturally, people who are paying to use the Centre, both hirers and customers, expect parking space to be available, and we therefore undertake to provide them free use of all the unmarked bays. The few bays marked 'reserved' have been made available to local companies, during working hours, for a not inconsiderable fee. This seems a sensible way to use a few spaces during our quieter times, and the income has helped considerably towards our new-found financial viability.

We are very aware of the lack of parking space in the village centre, and have no objection to the quick dash to Londs, or to the bank, when there appears to be no activities underway.

However, some people continue to use the car park excessively, frequently for many hours, sometimes all day and/or all night and often repeatedly. This blocks spaces for events, causes frustration and is obvi-

ously unfair to paying customers.

We are working to develop the Painswick Centre into a vibrant, well-organised facility where many are already enjoying a range of activities in the heart of the village. We look forward to many more of you joining us in 2002.

As a hirer or customer, you will enjoy free parking, but we politely request that at all other times the necessary restrictions are respected. If you would like to know more about parking at the Painswick Centre, including long or short-term hiring, please contact Rose Smith on 812369, who will pass your message on.

**Jackie Herbert**

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## Beauty and colour of orchids

The first meeting of Painswick Horticultural Society in 2002 got off to an excellent start with a good attendance in the afternoon of 9th January.

The talk, given by Mr A Greatwood, was on a specialist subject, orchids, for which his early training for many years in an orchid nursery and his subsequent career in charge of a national collection made him ideally suitable. His highly informative introduction to the growing of this plant, its development and possible problems made it a captivating talk of great value to would-be growers as well as members already experienced in cultivating this exotic flower.

The impressive slides shown added considerably to the afternoon's enjoyment, after which a number of Mr Greatwood's own specimens with their strange beauty and colour could be admired. They were an uplifting sight on a grey January afternoon.

The February meeting on the 13th is again at 2.30pm in the Town Hall on another specialist subject, fuchsias.

**Pauline Lamont**

Just an early notification that the Society's 50th show will be held on Saturday 14th September.

For those who eagerly await details of the handicraft section, the classes are:

A hair slide

A child's knitted polo neck jumper (not Fairisle)

A cushion of any material (not larger than 18" x 18")

A wall-hanging of any design

A painting of a country scene - any media

A church made from papier-mâché

A card suitable for the 50th anniversary of this society

A photograph of sunrise or sunset (non-digital)

A photograph of a flower in close up (non-digital)

Further details can be obtained from Philip

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# Stepping out with the buffaloes and a butterfly

What links a buffalo with a butterfly? The answer, gentle reader, is Stepping Out (9th - 11th May). Allow me to explain.

First, the buffaloes. Last month I reported a herd of stampeding wildebeest in the Painswick Centre. It seems I was mistaken. The Most Organised One (who is, of course, knowledgeable about such things) was quick to inform me that they were not wildebeest but buffaloes. 'Buffaloes' were what The MOO and the rest of the tap dance class were practising in the Painswick Centre when I heard them.

Timorously, I enquired whether it was entirely safe for her to practise on a buffalo. Shouldn't she try first on something smaller: a gerbil or a small pony, perhaps? However, it seems that a 'buffalo' is, in fact, a particular dance step. If I had the courage, I'd probably slip in a crack here about it being harder to get the buffalo to moo than The MOO to buffalo. But I just don't have that sort of courage.

Anyway, all these tap-dancing buffaloes are - as you might have guessed - part of the preparation for our production of Stepping Out. Written by Richard Harris, Stepping Out won the Evening Standard's Best Comedy Award in 1986, and was made into a memorable movie with Liza Minelli and Julie Waters in 1991. It traces the trials and tribulations of a tap class for beginners which meets each week with no grand ambition other than dancing for the fun of it.

Set the challenge of putting on a public show, the class members are gradually forced to take a closer look at themselves, and soon realise that their need for the tap class is far greater than the mere urge to master a shuffle-ball-change-buffalo routine. Our production is set in 1977, the year of the Silver Jubilee, and culminates in a



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## Painswick Players

Silver Jubilee show, starring the trainee tappers.

Auditions for Stepping Out were an exceptionally tricky business, not least because there are no fewer than ten women and just one (brave) male in the cast. Competition was fierce - Liza Minelli wouldn't have stood a chance - but in the end we succeeded, and I am delighted to report that we have a superb cast, including two very talented newcomers.

But how does all this link to the butterfly? Well, some of you will know that Painswick Players started in 1923, when Miss Lucy Hyett produced *As You Like It*. Since they all seemed to (like it, that is), this truly formidable lady went on to produce - single-handedly - some 31 plays over the next 38 years and died in harness early in 1962, just after staging the 1961 Christmas production.

At some point between then and now, a legend or myth grew up that the spirit of Lucy Hyett lives on, and that she appears in the form of a butterfly before productions of which she approves. I am delighted to report that Lucy was spotted fluttering by during the auditions for Stepping Out.

Mind you, I bet she couldn't buffalo!

**Jack Burgess**

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# Launch of the landscape survey



*Some of the group pausing to identify this old gatepost ... or could it be the remains of a milestone or ...?*

A murky morning, but about 20 people turned out on Saturday, 12th January for some instruction and tutoring on how actually to look at the landscape. Painswick Local History Society is undertaking an historic landscape survey of the village and surrounding area. Its success will depend to a large extent on the observations of local people.

Walking in the area is a commonplace for many, but what should we look for and how should we look? These were the ticklish questions the first brave stalwarts threw at Mark Bowden, as they

## Painswick Local History Society

ventured forth from Bulls Cross to investigate lumps, humps and bumps, ridges, hollows, posts, stones and walls, fields, tracks and numerous other features.

There will be more instructive walkabouts aimed at giving participants enough confidence in their observational skills before being let loose with pencils, clipboards and maps to begin their recording.

This is a big venture. For more information, or if you would like to be involved, contact either Mark at 2 Beech Tree Terrace, Edge, or other history society committee members.

## Come to hear about the Hill fort repairs

There will be a meeting on Wednesday, 27th February at 7.30pm in the Lower Town Hall, to hear a talk given by Nick Russell of the Gloucestershire Archaeological Society on the Renovation of Kimsbury Hill Fort, Painswick Beacon. Nick will discuss proposals by English Heritage to repair the much eroded ramparts of this National Monument.

Everyone who cares about our Beacon and who wishes to see its unique features preserved for future generations to enjoy, please come along. You will be most welcome. Remember we have a great heritage on our doorstep. There will be a small charge of £2 for members of the public who wish to attend.

**Duncan McKenzie**

## Painswick Senior Circle

# Sending and receiving

The first meeting of the New Year began with a talk on Another Aspect of Philately by Trevor Radway, who showed us how times have changed since the sending of mail began.

Today, any long distance inland mail apparently goes by air rather than by road to the various mail sorting offices in the UK, and all for the cost of a first or second class stamp paid by the sender. How different from those early days - pre 1840 - when horseback was the transport of the day. Few letters were sent and then mainly by lawyers. One sheet (envelopes had not been invented then) would cost fourpence for 15 miles, and one shilling for up to a distance of 300, paid for by the recipient at journey's end. Mail for despatch was taken to Receiving Houses as Post Offices came much later.

Here in Painswick, The Falcon was the Receiving House. One such letter from Cornelius Winter of Painswick, dated 1805, handed in to the Receiving House and destined for Bath, apparently travelled by a rather circuitous route via Cirencester totalling some 110 miles at a cost to the recipient of some seven pence.

But it was hearing of collectors' items - letters returned by the Post Office marked "damaged by snails" (who apparently like mail boxes), "damaged by fire" or some mail recovered from the Hindenberg disaster and auctioned for £17,000, that made especially interesting listening. A collection of slides, too, showing transport, uniforms and old post boxes, all helped to turn an otherwise miserable afternoon into one of unexpected pleasure.

**Daphne Hudson**

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# The Painswick Beacon

VILLAGE DIARY to SATURDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2002 and FORWARD DATES FOR 2002

## February

Sat 2nd	Painswick Players: "The Wedding of the Year" by Norman Robbins - A rehearsed play reading. Tickets £5 to include a cream tea Tel: 813379/812167	Painswick Centre	3pm
4th	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Wives' Fellowship	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
5th	PCMS: "Where Religion meets Politics" - John Parfitt	Church Rooms	10.30am
	Painswick Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) - Puppies and Beginners Intermediate Advanced Dogs	Christ Church Hall	9.30 - 10.15am 10.15 - 11am 11 - 12 noon
6th	Probus Meeting	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Wives' Fellowship: New Zealand - Janet Jenkins	Christ Church Hall	8pm
7th	Cotswold Care Support Group Meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
8th	W.I. Market - Fridays	Town Hall	10am
	Senior Circle: "Hydro-electricity" - Mike Buttrey	Town Hall	2.30pm
	Open Badminton Nights (some previous playing experience preferred) Fridays	Painswick Centre	8pm
11th	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Catholic Church	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
12th	Mothers' Union: Shrove Tuesday Pre-Lent Lunch	Painswick Golf Club	12.30pm
	Painswick Bird Club: "Flamingos" - Nigel Jarrett, from the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	Town Hall	7.30pm
13th	Horticultural Society: "Fuchsias" - Mr B Nash	Town Hall	2.30pm
14th	Music Appreciation Group Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat 16th	Theatre Club Outing to Malvern	The Falcon	12.30pm
17th	<b>COPY DATE: All items to Mrs Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street</b>		
	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group Scrub Clearing	Small Car Park Upper Plantation	10am
18th	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - W.I. Markets	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
19th	Local History Society: "The Coming of the Monks to Prinknash 1928" - Aelred Baker OSB	Croft School	7.30pm
	Jazz Evening: Local Musicians, no entry charge	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
20th	Probus Meeting	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10am
	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
	Wives' Fellowship: Members Evening	Christ Church Hall	8pm



21st	<b>DIARY DEADLINE: All items to Mrs Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, or Beacon Mailbox in New Street</b>		
	Ian Sharman Exhibition (Until 24th)	Town Hall	Daily
	W.I. Meeting: Cooking for One - Mrs Helen Brown	Town Hall	2.30pm
22nd	Senior Circle: Stitches in Time - Jane Creed	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat 23rd	Antique and Collectors Fair	Falcon Inn	10am - 4pm
25th	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Senior Circle	Christ Church Hall	12.15 - 1.15pm
28th	Music Appreciation Group	Town Hall	7.30pm
<b>March</b>			
<b>Sat 2nd</b>	<b>March Issue of The Painswick Beacon Published</b>		
Sat 9th	Riding Lights Roughshod Theatre Company: Science Friction	Painswick Centre	8pm
Sat 16th	Tennis Club Quiz & Supper	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
20th	Coach to London £10 Tel: 813965/813227	Stamages Car Park	8.30am
23rd	Music Society: Orchestra of the Swan. Tickets, Hywel James 812419	St Mary's Church	3pm
<b>April</b>			
6th	Music Society: Freddy Kempf on piano. Tickets, Hywell James 812419	St Mary's Church	3pm
11th	Painswick & District Conservation Society AGM Speaker: Mr Bruce Hall, Cotswold Canal Trust	Church Rooms	7.30pm
Sat 13th	An Evening with John Cole: Buffet Supper Followed by John Cole's talk	Yew Tree House Friends Meeting House	7pm
15th	Calligraphy for Beginners & Improvers - Introducing/Revising Italic with James Skinner, professional teacher and calligrapher. £36 for all 3 workshops (Also Mondays 22nd & 29th). Details/booking from James - Tel: Gloucester 611614	Church Rooms	10am - 4pm
20th	Music Society: The Lindsays String Quartet	St Mary's Church	3pm
<b>May</b>			
9th	Painswick Players: "Stepping Out" by Richard Harris (Also 10th & 11th)	Painswick Centre	
Sat 25th	Wives' Fellowship Coffee Morning in aid of Friends of Stroud Hospital	Town Hall	10am - 12 noon
<b>June</b>			
27th - 30th	Paul Gray Exhibition	Town Hall	Daily
<b>July</b>			
5th - 12th	Judi Whitton Exhibition	Town Hall	Daily
Sat 13th	Victorian Market Day	Village	All Day
<b>August</b>			
3rd - 11th	Mary Bingle Art Exhibition	Town Hall	Daily
15th - 18th	Mary Hosler Art Exhibition	Town Hall	Daily
<b>September</b>			
Sat 14th	Horticultural Society Annual Show & Exhibition	Painswick Centre	3 - 5pm



# Attractive mix for the concert season

**March 23:** Orchestra of the Swan

**April 6:** Freddy Kempf, piano

**April 20:** The Lindsays String Quartet

**May 4:** The Eimer Trio

Every year I am amazed at the quality of live music we are able to put on in our village - and at rock-bottom prices too. We are now spoilt for choice in the selection of world-class artists, who love coming here. If you considered making a trip to a London concert hall to hear such top performers, you could have bought several season tickets for Painswick Music Society with the money you would have spent and the setting in St Mary's Church is hard to beat! We are indebted to the tremendous support, both from good audiences and generous sponsors, and grateful for the use of our beautiful church.

The Orchestra of the Swan is returning, following its very popular concert in 2000 - an exciting opening to our 57th season. This thriving orchestra, which is based at Stratford, draws its players from well established orchestras such as the CBSO, The London Mozart Players and The Academy of St-Martin-in-the-Fields. David Curtis, their director, is widely regarded as an inspiring, charismatic conductor. Opening with Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* they will also play works by Bach, Tchaikovsky and Vaughan Williams, including two works featuring the oboe.

Freddy Kempf has been described as one of the most sought-after young pianists in the world. Starting aged four and coming to prominence performing a Mozart piano concerto at eight, he became the youngest ever winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year in 1992. Voted the Best Young British Classical Performer in the 2001 Classical Brit Awards, Freddy's busy concert includes works by Bach, Schubert and Ravel.

A big attraction this year will certainly be the Lindsays. Securely established as one of the world's foremost string quartets, their interpretations are rooted in the European tradition of great quartet playing and the intensity, spontaneity and communicative power of the Lindsays' performances have made them favourites with audiences world-wide. The Quartet play on a remarkable set of 17th century instruments made by the legendary Italian instrument makers, Stradivarius, Amati and Ruggieri. We are sure to be delighted by their programme of Haydn, Janacek and Smetana.

Finally we welcome the Eimer Trio, our young artists of the season, who inci-

*Found. Some months ago a child's bracelet in Gloucester Street. It is clearly a precious family heirloom. Tel. 812879.*

## Painswick Music Society



*Richard Weigall, oboe soloist with the Orchestra of the Swan, on 23rd March*

dentially have close local connections. Violinist Matthew Denton, who came from Stroud, performed for us in 2000 with the Newbold Piano Quartet. His wife, Emma, who plays the cello, also grew up locally and has previously entertained us at AGM recitals. Together with the pianist, Nicola Eimer, this piano trio perform extensively throughout the UK and have won many prizes since their formation in 1997. They were recently selected to perform on the Countess of Munster recital scheme and we are indebted to this Trust who provide generous sponsorship of this concert. They will play a programme of Haydn, Bridge and Schubert.

Our ticket prices remain unchanged since last season, and we urge members to renew subscriptions, and newcomers to join or purchase tickets in plenty of time for what will certainly be another popular season. All concerts are on Saturdays at 3pm in St Mary's Church, which provides a special, intimate setting for chamber music. We have excellent staging and lighting and for all concerts with piano we hire superb Steinways. Our tradition of serving tea in the Church Rooms after the concert will continue and there is usually an opportunity to meet the artists.

Tickets: Membership, £24, includes tickets for all four concerts, a saving of £12 compared with the cost of four single tickets at £9 each (students & children only £1). Brochures and details on membership, tickets from: The Treasurer, Hywel James, Canton House, New Street, Painswick GL6 6XH (812419) or the Shetland Shop. **Naomi Dunn**

## MINI-ADS

**Knitting.** A girl, aged 9, wants to learn to knit. Can anyone help please? 814101.

**Flat to let** in Painswick. Ground floor with shared garden and parking space. Two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathroom, cellar, study/3rd bed, gas central heating. 812117 or 814323.

**Domestic ducks** wanted to keep be-reaved and hence lonely drake company. Willing to collect. 812295.

**Having a new kitchen** fitted? We are looking for unwanted but sound quality kitchen units for The Painswick Centre Green Room. For more details and dimensions, telephone Jackie on 813229.

**Table-top cooker** with two hob plates - electric. 812378.

**Saab 900** A reg. for sale. Good runner, MOT required. £150 ono. 814101.

**Two ornamental light fittings** for sale. One antique brass (3 bulb) and adjustable height, one silver-plated (5 bulb). New flexes needed. £15 each or £25 the two. 813444.

**Very old technology** but may interest someone. 3M headlining machine complete with six different headline styles. Also manual typewriter (needs attention). Ex-Beacon equipment no longer used. Free on collection. 812117.

**Tuscany** - 23km from Lucca. Tastefully renovated spacious house to rent above charming spa town of Bagni di Lucca. Two hours Florence. Sleeps 4 adults, 6 children. Call Felicity on 02082.450121.

**Canaries** - One bedroom bungalow on quiet beach-front resort with three pools. Restaurants and shops nearby. From £200pw. Vacancies October onwards. 01452.611873.

**Leather jacket** Lady's, size 12. Beige £25. 812918.

MINI-ADS - non-commercial, maximum of 30 words - are 10p per word with a minimum payment of £1. Maximum of 14 per month. *Beacon* subscribers have 25% discount.

Please send money with mini-ad to Leslie Brotherton, Longhope, Blakewell Mead, Painswick GL6 6UR. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to *The Painswick Beacon*. Receipts are not forwarded unless requested.

**BEACON SERVICE. Within hours of last month's Beacon being delivered, the owner of the wristwatch found outside the Old School House had called the Beacon editor to claim her timepiece, the loss of which had been advertised in the January issue.**

# The Personal Column

## Babies

Congratulations to EMMA and JULIAN ARCHARD on the birth of a daughter, Isabella, on 27th December (a sister for Henry and Benjamin, and a first granddaughter for David and the late Lorna Archard);

to DAVID and JEAN NEWELL on the birth of a granddaughter, Joely, born to Stephen and Jude at Harrogate on 15th January;

to LINDA DALLEY on the birth of her first grandchild, Emily, on 12th January;

also to LOUISE and NICK HOOPER on the birth in Melbourne of their daughter, Emma Kate Morgan, on 16th January (a sister for Darcy James and a first granddaughter for Kay and George Bragg).

## Golden Wedding

Congratulations to MARGARET and PERCY FRANKLIN of 37 Ashwell, who will celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary on 11th February.

## 90th Birthdays

Congratulations to ROSINA RICKETTS who celebrated her ninetieth birthday on 8th January;

and to ARTHUR SWAIN who will be 90 on 20th February.

## 80th Birthday

Congratulations to DOROTHY SAUNDERS who will celebrate her 80th birthday on 17th February. Best wishes from her family and friends.

## Engagement

Congratulations to NICOLA JONES (Nicki Kennedy) of Pitchcombe and JOHN BOWLEY of Worcester whose

engagement was announced recently.

## In Memorium

Judy Stapleton would like to remember the 14 joyful years she spent working with VALERIE FUNNELL in Painswick Library, and the first anniversary of whose death is on 3rd February. Judy is donating some books to the library in remembrance of Val.

## Get Well Soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to SYLVIA TYLER, SUSAN ROBINSON and FRED SEMARK.

## Condolences

Sincere sympathies to the family of IRIS OTTINGEN, CLAUDIA MELVILLE-SMITH and ERIC DE MARÉ who died recently.

also to MARGARET RICHARDS on the death of her father, Howard Singleton, 99, "the oldest swinger in British Competitive Golf."

## Welcome

We would like to welcome Mr and Mrs EDMONDS and family who are moving into Downfield Cottage, Bull's Cross.

## Farewell

PAUL STAMP and family have moved from Rosemary Cottage, St Mary's Street to live at Witcombe, and added a son to the family before Christmas.

## Thank You

BILL and PHYL VARAH wish to thank the many people for their kind messages on their being elected Painswickians of the Year. They have been overwhelmed.

ALICE PLAYLE would like to say a big thank you to all her kind friends for their love and support during her recent

The Surgery Special Equipment Fund Trustees would like to thank ARTHUR SWAIN, his friends and relatives, for the generous donations made to the fund in memory of his wife, LOUIE.

## NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date  
**SATURDAY, 2nd MARCH**

Items for publication to Jillie Speed, The Old Carriage House, Edge, by  
**SUNDAY, 17th FEBRUARY**

Mini Ads to Leslie Brotherton, Longhope, Blakewell Mead, by  
**SUNDAY, 17th FEBRUARY**

Business advert amendments to Liz Fisher, Harebell Cottage, Blakewell Mead, by  
**THURSDAY, 14th FEBRUARY**

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, by  
**THURSDAY, 21st FEBRUARY**

Letters and articles for publication are welcomed on computer diskette ~~painswick@beacon.com~~ **submissions@beacon.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 phone number.

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Asst Editor & Sport: Terry Parker

812191  
Editorial Asst: Jillie Speed 814148  
Personal Column: Rachel Taylor

813402  
Diary: Edwina Buttrey  
812565  
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**We would be most grateful if contributors could adhere to the Beacon deadline for copy, please, particularly with Letters. The date is always shown on the back page of each issue.**

## Seeking local heroes

Do you know anyone who deserves a medal for his or her courage during 2001?

The Gloucestershire Medal for Courage is awarded each year to local people who have shown exceptional courage. Whether they have performed a single act of bravery, or shown moral courage over a long period by coping with illness or a disability, they can be eligible for the award.

If you would like to nominate someone, please write to: The Secretary to the Medal for Courage Committee, Shire Hall, Gloucester, GL1 2TG, or telephone 01452 426896. You will be sent a simple form to complete and return by 9th April.





