

The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 25 No.11

February 2003

750th Charter Anniversary

Representatives of a number of local organisations have been meeting to prepare a programme of events for the 750th anniversary of the granting of Painswick's Market Charter. The events are being held in the months of April and July.

On Tuesday 8th April, the anniversary day of the Charter's signing, there is to be a Service of Celebration in the Parish Church of St Mary's.

On the Saturday of that week there will be a dance at the Painswick Centre.



The events being held in the week 7th-12th July will include a "Painswick through 750 years" exhibition in the Town Hall and culminate with a Street Market on the Saturday. Full details of all the events will be published in due course.

Clubs and societies with an interest in, but not already involved with the anniversary celebrations, should contact David Archard on 812103. Carol Maxwell for the History Society is coordinating the exhibition. If you personally or your organisation has material which would be suitable for inclusion in the exhibition, Carol will be pleased to receive a call on 813387. The next meeting of the participating organisations is to be held in the Town Hall on Thursday 13th February at 7.30pm.

The Beacon intends to keep readers informed of this major event in the life, and history, of our community, and shares the hope that many will be involved or be participating. (See vocal item on page 3.)

eWorld opportunity

BT Broadband – the next 'big thing' in Internet telecommunications – still hasn't arrived in Painswick, but we are halfway there! Broadband, which uses your phone line to give cheap, high-speed, 'always on' access to the Internet and lets you listen to music and video broadcasts, has already reached Gloucester.

However the £300,000 upgrade necessary to the local Painswick exchange will not be done unless we can prove that there is a demand for it from about 160 potential customers. According to a BT spokesperson, so far 83 BT customers from the area served by the Painswick exchange have registered their interest.

So the challenge is for about 80 on-line Beacon readers to register their interest with BT Broadband (0800 800 060 or <http://bt.com/btbroadband>) and we will launch Painswick into this brave new eWorld. What are you waiting for? Let's go get 'em!

Overjoyed on Juniper

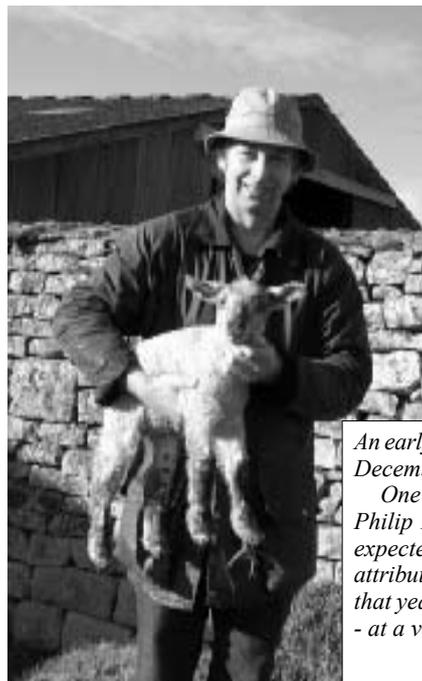
The Cotswold AONB Partnership's Caring for the Cotswolds project has taken off to a flying start, with £120,000 worth of grants being awarded to limestone grassland restoration in the Cotswolds. Awards have been granted, 50% by the Heritage Lottery Fund and with matching funding from the Countryside Agency. Landowners and conservation groups receiving awards have been asked to make contributions or volunteer time.

Painswick Beacon is to benefit from the grant by the purchase of some grassland management equipment for use by the Painswick Beacon Conservation Group. Contractors will also be carrying out some tree work to open up the grassland areas of the beacon and protect some of the Juniper bushes growing by the golf course.

Juniper Hill, Rudge Hill and Huddinknoll Hill have also been approved for scrub and ash control to be carried out in February and March. Joy Elworthy, one of many who are delighted by this news, and who lives close to Juniper Hill, told the Beacon that she was "overjoyed that many rare butterflies and flowers might have a chance to survive after these works have been carried out". English Nature has already carried out considerable works on Bull Cross.

The aim of the Caring for the Cotswolds project is to find ways of sustainably managing the commons for the future, to enable these wildlife habitats to survive and thrive.

For those interested in finding out more about the importance of limestone grassland and the Caring for the Cotswold Project, Painswick Beacon Conservation Group have invited Jenny Phelps, Project Officer for the Grasslands from the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership, to talk in Painswick Town Hall on Thursday February 20th at 7.30 pm.



Spring coming early?

An early lamb, one of thirteen which were born in December and January, at Highfold Farm.

One cold day towards the end of last year, Philip Berry was surprised to find that an unexpected lamb had been dropped, and can only attribute this to the fact that he kept back a few of that year's ram lambs for breeding and that one - at a very early age - must have 'performed'.

Is there a moral somewhere?

Inside, this month, **vocal opportunity** for the Charter, **bank and cash** preservation in New Street, **St.Mary's report**, the **museum idea** explained, a tougher **wordsearch**, Thailand **floating Santa**, improvements for the **youth club**, the top class **programme of concerts** to come, a **table-top cooker**, all-time **subscriber** record, and **Fiery** closure.



PLANNING COMMITTEE

Painswick Court

The committee deplored the piecemeal approach applied to the numerous planning applications associated with Painswick Court. Ann Daniels drew attention to the fact that the original application included workshops, which would have attracted workers into the countryside, but none were mentioned in the latest publicity literature. It was agreed that the Parish Council's principal objective was to limit development to the present scale and that it should seek restoration of workshops to the site and make representations to the District Council accordingly.

Shutway Quarry

The committee noted that the owner had been taken to court by the District Council, and fined. The latest planning appeal had been turned down by the Inspector.

Friday Street property

Somerset Moore had written to advise the Council that he intended to render the external wall of his property and had ascertained that no planning regulation was necessary. He hoped to use a colour sympathetic to that existing on the adjoining property.

Gyde House - grounds

The committee noted that no response had as yet been received from Wilson Connelly regarding their intentions in relation to the recently planted hedge parallel to Gyde Road. (The Beacon has been advised that the Council has since received a letter from Wilson Connelly to clarify that the hedge is there to define the boundary between the Gyde Hose Association land and the remainder of the land that continues to be in their ownership.) The District Council had

asserted that the mere planting of a hedge within a conservation area did not require planning consent.

PARISH COUNCIL

Grassland conservation

News was received that the proposals for grant towards the expenditure of about £7000 for grassland preservation and improvement had been agreed, with particular attention to Huddinknoll and Juniper Hills. Further discussion will be required with the Cotswold AONB Partnership as the Council was reluctant to accept responsibility for the full cost of upkeep and replacement of equipment acquired.

Recreation Field

The Council received some information regarding field shelters suitable for such as the Recreation Field and members will examine this in the coming weeks. John Workman had been invited to examine the mutilated Jubilee tree and, taking his advice into account, Messrs. Slinger and Watts will take appropriate action.

Youth Club

Councillors were anxious to support the voluntary efforts of the leaders and young people at the Recreation Field youth club, and considered allocation of funding towards repairs and modest interior decorative improvements to the premises. £1000 was set aside for such efforts and Malcolm Watts and Martin Slinger were appointed to examine costed proposals from the club and authorise expenditure within this sum where they were satisfied with the suggestions.

Cemetery

Martin Slinger reported that the remaining capacity of the cemetery was, based upon current allocation of plots, about 15 years for burials and 40 years for interment of ashes.

Painswick official web site

In response to an invitation from the District Council for inclusion of a 500-word section about Painswick on their web site the Chairman tabled a draft and it was agreed that this be forwarded together with three photographs.

The offer from The Painswick Beacon to assist in the preparation of an official site for Painswick was welcomed and agreed that they be requested to draft proposals for consideration at an early date. There being provision for regular updating was regarded as essential, and that inclusion of such as the Directory of organisations could only be desirable.

Museum and Information Link

The letter on this subject, received too late for consideration at the last meeting, was considered, and closer scrutiny of the viability agreed.

A working group comprising David and

Angela Hudson, Malcolm Watts, a representative of the History Society, David Archard and Leslie Brotherton was appointed to study the proposals and report back. *(See report elsewhere in this issue.)*

750th Charter Anniversary

The Chairman, Terry Parker, reported progress regarding this anniversary, and that a further meeting with organisers including Beverly Gorton and David Archard would be held on 23rd January. The Vicar was actively preparing arrangements for a civic service to be held in St. Mary's Church on the actual anniversary day, Tuesday 8th April, with distinguished guests and involvement of children from local schools. As this was in celebration of a civic matter the Council will be directly involved in the invitation list and agreed to invite as many as possible to a reception in the Town Hall after the service.

Edge Village notice board

The Edge Village Hall management committee had drawn attention to the deterioration of the main village notice board located at the 5-ways road junction. The Council agreed to refer the allocation of funds to the F&GP Committee.

Illegal on-street parking

The Council had written to the Chief Constable supportive of police action taken against illegal on-street parking, and had received a reply written on his behalf; this had referred the Council's observations to the Divisional Superintendent for the Cotswolds and Stroud Division for his information.

There was concern that the policy issues raised had been dealt with in a seemingly offhand manner and that the status of the Council in making representations had not been recognised. A further letter will be sent.

Vandalism

With the extent of vandalism (*highlighted in the Beacon last month*) increasingly causing concern it was decided that the seven councillors from the Painswick Ward should seek to meet with the police officers responsible for this area to discuss action which might be taken to counter the prevailing situation.



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Bird(er)s in Winter

Our first trip of the New Year, on 14th January, was to the Keynes Water Park. This is part of the Cotswold Water Park - now more extensive than the Norfolk Broads.

Ali Swainson - on the right in our photograph - the Head Ranger, was our enthusiastic and informative guide. We visited several lakes and our expectations were realised. Vast rafts of ducks and gulls were observed through binoculars and telescope, as well as some of the Park's rarer specialities, including goosander and smew. Overhead, large flocks of lapwing and golden plover wheeled in the winter sky.

Our guide was a huge source of information on birds that winter in the Water Park. His account of the feeding habits of coots was fascinating. There are deep-diving birds; and as they emerge on the water surface with their beaks full of vegetation, surface feeding gulls and ducks are often waiting to join in the meal. Rather unfair on the coots, but a good example of how different species get on together.

A visit to the very attractive and well appointed Park Centre concluded what was a most enjoyable morning. We all felt that another guided walk should be sooner rather than later.

The next meeting of the Bird Club is in the Town Hall at 7.30pm on 6th February. Michael Barrett will give an illustrated talk on the vital work of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Rescue Centre at Hartpury. Readers of the Beacon may recall that last year Club members took a collared dove, rescued from a cat, to the Centre. Everyone is welcome to join us at such meetings.



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Singers needed for Charter Celebration

Painswick is one of the historic wool towns in the Cotswolds and was granted a market town charter in 1253. To mark this anniversary the churches in the benefice together with the Parish Council are planning to hold a choral celebration in Painswick Church on Tuesday 8th April at 7.30pm.

We invite members of local choirs and anyone with singing experience who are quick learners to join us. We hope for a choir of fifty singers to be directed by Sybil Cox.

Two choral pieces have been selected - The heavens are telling from The Creation by Haydn and John Rutter's The Lord bless you and keep you; supported by well known hymns.



We would also like to meet any musicians who can play the recorder to be part of a charter signing tableau during the service. To find out more come along to the first meeting and rehearsal on Wednesday 12 March at 7.30pm in Painswick Church.

All rehearsals will be on
Wednesdays - 12, 19, 26

March, 2 April with a final rehearsal on
Monday 7 April.

If you would like more information phone
Graham Luker in Painswick 812385 after
6.30pm please.

Do come and join us to make this an
enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Graham Luker

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March 29 **Natalie Clein, Cello with Charles Owen, piano**
April 12 **The Zephyr Ensemble of London**
April 26 **Susan Gritton, soprano, Eugene Asti, piano and Joy Farrall, clarinet**
May 10 **Quatuor Danel**

Once again we are completely spoilt with a season of concerts that brings top-class musicians to the village. We continue to break records with ticket sales and membership each year - so book now for one or all concerts.

We start with the talented 1994 BBC Young Musician winner, Natalie Clein, who now is in demand world-wide. This cellist has been described as having 'a striking stage presence: radiant natural and expressive'. Her accompanist, Charles Owen, is from 'the best school of British pianism - bright, unaffected and sensitive'. Their excellent programme includes works by Schumann, Schubert and Chopin.

The Zephyr Ensemble of London are our young artists. This award-winning wind quintet have appeared throughout the UK making their Wigmore Hall debut last year and we are grateful for the sponsorship of The Tillet Trust for this concert. They have performed for Her Majesty The Queen and played at Prince Charles 50th Birthday celebrations. Their varied programme includes works by Arnold, Rossini and Barber.

Our third concert is a very special one. We will welcome the distinguished soprano, Susan Gritton who is a Company Principal of the English National Opera and appears regularly at Covent Garden. Joining her, will be one of Britain's most successful clarinetists, Joy Farrall, who has played for us previously with the Haffner Wind Ensemble. Joy has performed many new works. We are therefore delighted that Joy and Susan will be performing a newly commissioned song cycle. These are poems written by the late Society member, Roland Pepper who lived in Painswick, which have been set to music by the local composer, John Sanders. Their superb accompanist will be Eugene Asti who has performed with many leading artists. The programme will also include Schubert's beautiful song "The Shepherd on the Rock".

The masterful French ensemble, Quatuor Danel, will perform in May. This well-established string quartet performs throughout Europe and has gained top prizes in international competitions. We look forward to hearing some wonderful works by Haydn, Debussy and Beethoven.

Tickets remain at modest prices. 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 3.00pm in St. Mary's Church, which provides a special yet intimate setting for chamber music. We have excellent staging and lighting and where we require a piano we hire superb concert grands. 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, £25, includes tickets for all four concerts, a saving of £15 compared with the cost of four single tickets at £10 each (students & children only £1). Brochures and details on membership and tickets from The Treasurer, Hywel James, Canton House, New Street Painswick GL6 6XH tel. 812419 or the Shetland Shop, Painswick.

Naomi Dunn



Recital in aid of GEAR

Caroline McBrayne the Pianist, who is quite well known to many Painswickians, has agreed to give another Recital on Sunday 16th March at 3.00pm. (Please take your seats not later than 2.45pm)

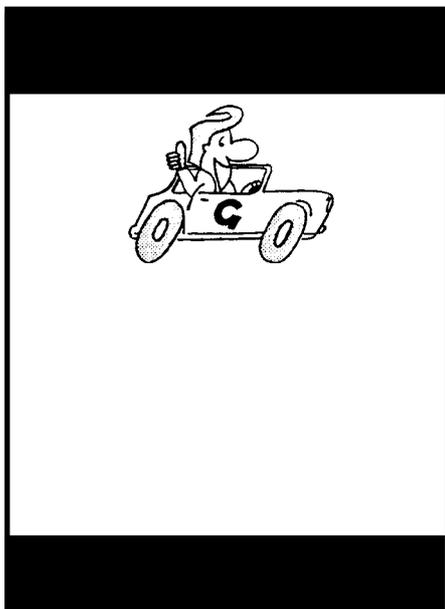
We are delighted that Caroline is coming once more to play my Steinway. There will be tea provided and there will be a box for donations to GEAR project.

I do hope that many music lovers will be able to come and join us at 1 Hambutts Mead, Painswick.

Diana Feilden

Concert for Reggie Merryweather

A short concert to celebrate his life will be given by the Capella Singers in Gloucester Cathedral, following Evensong, at 4.30 pm on Sunday 30th March.



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Museum and Information Link

A letter from resident Angela Hudson to the Parish Council last year urged that a museum in Painswick, with emphasis upon the impact wool had upon our history, would be an asset and that its creation might be associated with the 750th Anniversary of the Charter.

More recently another resident suggested how a small museum might be created in Painswick - picking up the idea that it emphasise the sheep and trading in wool round Painswick and the Cotswolds. The idea of a museum has been raised more than once over the years, at Parish Meetings and elsewhere, sometimes associated with the idea that it would add to the attractions of this part of the Cotswolds for tourists.

The detailed proposal was received by the Parish Council, and a working party has just been appointed (*see Parish News*) to examine it in order to assess its apparent viability; this before it might be taken to the stage at which it might be discussed with all potential agencies which would need to be involved. As this is the stage at which further suggestions might be helpful to such a Council working party, the Beacon is drawing attention to the principal parts of the proposal.

The proposal starts by asserting that although there is a long tradition of independence of voluntary organisations in Painswick, a 'free standing' museum is unlikely to come about; it goes on to suggest that if it could be achieved as part of a scheme with which it was integrated with other local aspirations it might come about more readily - indeed quite quickly. Further, by its being integrated with the resolution and/or advancement of other services these would be more likely to

MUSEUM - and village archive

Upper meeting room of the library
- volunteer staffing, material mostly locally gathered

MUSEUM - store and workroom

Upper kitchen area of the library
- to assemble and prepare exhibits, secure store for archive material - hard or electronic

VILLAGE information LINK

Area currently journal and computing within library.
- supervision point of entry to museum when open, information 'bank' upon any local matter; dedicated computer terminal, box office for local events, support local 'web' site, (possibly) incorporate present voluntary Tourist Information Office

PARISH COUNCIL communication link

Within VILLAGE information LINK
- access to Council documentation and/or information in hard copy or electronic, especially valuable when Council office closed, base for the Beacon

COTSWOLD TRAIL information point

Mid-trail primary information point for the National Trail
- within INFORMATION LINK
- base for education courses, information, servicing the Trail

LIBRARY book SERVICES

Continue but in slightly contracted area in current floor plan

LIBRARY meetings

Area adjacent to INFORMATION LINK
- available for small groups where environment suited to activity such as committees, including such as History Society and Painswick Beacon

CAR PARKING

Designate upper level of Stamages car park as 'short stay' up to one hour before 5.00pm
- to support adjacent enhanced services, no charge (as elsewhere in village), extinguish on-road parking

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attract significant funding from several sources.

The separate elements of the proposal are summarised in the 'boxes' set out here, each an aspiration in its own right, but together forming the full scheme.

So, what seem to be the disadvantages of these ideas? Well, the only one that comes to mind is that the room above the library would be lost to meetings. It could be argued that this would be off-set by use of the library itself (as happens elsewhere in the county) for such as committees, and there is an under-use of the four other meeting rooms in the village.

Advantages? Premises entirely in the ownership of the County Council could be more extensively used, the future of the library be more assured and take-up of books etc. likely to increase because of the additional 'traffic' through the premises, as has been said already - an added tourist all-weather attraction, a long-sought focus for our esteemed History Society, a powerful information point with diverse material and available for far more hours than of the council office, and more.

If we want a Post Office

Villages larger than ours are experiencing life after having a Post Office.

And this begs the question as to whether closure could happen here?

We have experienced the closing down of retail services, and been disconcerted when these take place. In the last year or so we have 'lost' a greengrocer and florist and the long-established one of two grocery outlets. Rumours preceded each, as it did with many others before them, but their complete withdrawal of services came suddenly and irreversibly none the less. The times in which we live in a rural settlement such as ours do bring changes, but some are within our grasp and able to frustrate - if that is our wish.

Can we be relaxed about the idea of closure of the Post Office? We think not.

So, the Beacon decided to make some enquiries of Annie Littler about the reality of the situation rural offices such as hers are experiencing; above all, we wanted to put on the record what residents can do to minimise - indeed remove - the most acute difficulty such services have experienced in many years.

There are two distinct parts to the services provided to us all here in New Street - the services of the Post Office itself, and the stationery, cards and confectionery. Stationery and cards and so on yield their profit upon every transaction, yes; but what they do not do is provide sufficient income to keep the shop open without the associated postal office.

What tends to be forgotten is that every transaction in the Post Office also brings with it a modest payment to the postmistress, Annie. Annie does not work for the Post Office, this is a private enterprise. So, whether the transaction is for one stamp or renewal of a television licence, each brings its reward to the Littlers. It is the extent of the number of these transactions that matters, and one type of transaction in particular in the coming few months - pensions and other benefits.

From April this year, just two months from now, the way in which pensions and benefits are paid will be beginning to change. During the following year or two claimants will receive an invitation to select which option they prefer, but meanwhile they should do nothing; importantly, all should hold on to their order books until they hear directly from the Government Departments concerned. The amount of money will not change at all, but it will only be paid directly into bank accounts. Of course, if that is the arrangement you have now, there will be no change. **But, if you have chosen to collect cash from across the Post Office counter that can still be arranged.** There will be three ways in which this can happen, and the choice will lie with the claimant; while all require having a bank account, the reality about getting one's money need not change. As the present 'claim book' nears the end of its pay-out period everyone will receive an invitation to decide which of these options they prefer:

1. The pension or benefit being paid into a **current account**, available with all the major banks and building societies. With most of these a cheque backed up by the bank's cheque guarantee card will enable claimants to obtain their cash at the Post Office; and there need be no charges at all.

2. A **basic bank account**, one which has no frills such as overdraft facilities, can also be used in exactly the same way. With these a cheque is not part of the transaction of withdrawing cash at the Post Office, only the account card of that bank will be needed - in fact this is easier and certainly less bulky than the books of vouchers used at present.

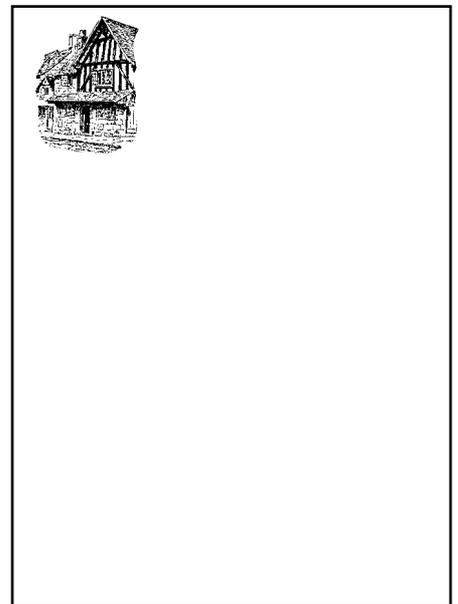
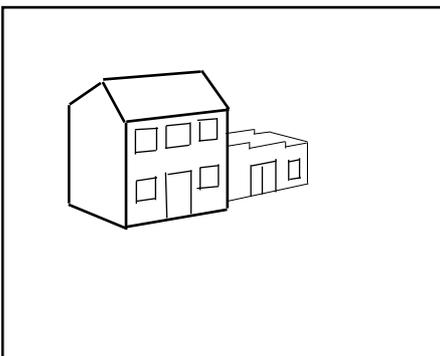
The basic accounts of Abbey National, Alliance and Leicester, HBOS, HSBC, Clydesdale, Northern, Yorkshire, NatWest, Ulster, Co-operative Banks, and the Nationwide Building Society can all be used, as well as those already offering this service Barclays, LloydsTSB, Cahoot, Smile and First Direct; no less than sixteen choices.

3. A **Post Office card account**, a completely new account which can be opened at the same time as existing claim books are withdrawn. These accounts have been specially designed to receive payments from Government departments such as pensions, tax credits and benefits and will offer a free-of-charge way of withdrawing cash at a Post Office. Unlike the typical current account or basic bank account, the new Post Office card account cannot be used for paying money in - it is only for withdrawing money credited to the account by Government departments; no interest is credited for balances held, and a statement of account will be sent to account holders every three months. The customer can withdraw what money they need at that time, there being no requirement to draw all that has been credited to the account in one go. There will, as ever, be other rules relating to these new accounts, but they are not onerous - and the operation of them is free.

Earlier in this article we mentioned that there is a mark-up for every transaction, and that applies to pensions and benefits as well. If the number of such transactions remains as at present, or increases, our Post Office will almost certainly remain open for years to come.

For those already with benefits paid into their bank, why not use the Post Office to pay in or draw out cash? That too will help.

**Use it
- or lose it.**



Stroud Choral Society Concert for the Family Haven

The Christmas Carol Concert held on 14th December 2002 for THE FAMILY HAVEN at St. Mary's was a great success. Revd.. John Longuet-Higgins and also The Honorary President of The Family Haven, Mrs. Anne Cadbury, welcomed a near capacity audience and thanked the choir, conductor, organist and readers for giving their time and skills in putting on this concert.

Sixty members of Stroud Choral society, conducted by Edward Garrard, sang part of Handel's 'Messiah' and a range of interesting and diverse carols. The audience sang well known carols with great confidence as they had the backing of the choir. The guest organist, Christopher Boodle, accompanied the singing and also played two spirited solos on the theme of sleigh rides.

Interspersed with the music were prose and poetry by Laurie Lee, A.A.Milne and John Betjeman read by representatives of the Family Haven and The Chairman and Secretary of The Friends of Stroud Choral Society, Ralph Kenber and Helen Briggs. Finally Anthony Robinson, Chairman of The Family Haven, read from Chapter 2 of the Gospel according to St. Luke and reminded us all of the true meaning of Christmas.

In all a total of over £2,750 was raised to support the vital work of The Family Haven in caring for young families in distress with children under five. Also the concert brought together members of the village, choir and the supporters of The Family Haven and proved an uplifting experience for all those involved. Thank you all for your support.

*Janet Jenkins
Vice Chair of The Family Haven*

Painswick Senior Circle in February

The Senior Circle have some surprises coming up in February.

The first is a change in the programme that brings in Jane Otway on 14th February with her subject; 'Lets Start at Gloucester Docks'. She will be talking about the Thames - Severn connection and what of the old commercial canal system is being used for recreational purposes.

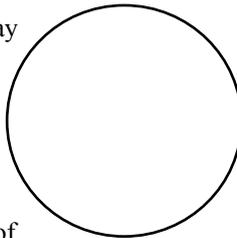
The second is in Philip Oalkey finding something new to say about 'A Christmas Cracker'. The subject of Christmas crackers conjures up fancy hats and corny riddles and, with memories of the past season now fading fast, you might think this is no time to look back. Leave that for the History Society you might think.. But why not consider the events of earlier years, who knows what?.

The presentation by Philip will look back at the events of some forty-five years ago at Christmas and Christmas crackers in a personal and slightly unusual way.

Intrigued?

You will be when you come to the Senior Circle on 14th and 28th February.

Maurice F Maggs



A reunion not to be missed

If you were at Painswick School, or lived in Painswick, or were a resident of Gyde Home, or a member of staff there during the 1940's and 1950's then this reunion is for you. (And that's a lot of people.) It is hoped that as many 'old boys and girls' as possible will be present at this grand but very informal occasion to be held on Saturday 15th March, in the function room at the Falcon Hotel.

On show will be several hundred old photographs of the school and the village, which always provides a wonderful talking point, and there will be people on hand to help make the connections.

You are very welcome to come along on the day. There is no set programme or formality and you can call in at any time. If there is someone in particular with whom you would like to meet up contact either Brian Jubb tel. 01179.616145 or email b.jubb@virgin.net, or Judy Mills (nee Mansell) tel. 01453.872500, or Sandra Tuckal (nee Mansell) tel. 01453.886846. Alternatively, contact Carol Maxwell telephone 813387 or leave a message in the Beacon post box. Brian and the organising committee will make every effort on your behalf. Likewise, if you have photographs which may be of interest on the day they can be copied and enlarged for the display, so please make contact.

The occasion is open to anyone, not just 40s and 50s folk. People will be travelling considerable distances for this very special occasion so it is a date well worth noting in your diary. Do come along.

Carol Maxwell

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A Graduate of the British Horological Institute.

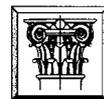


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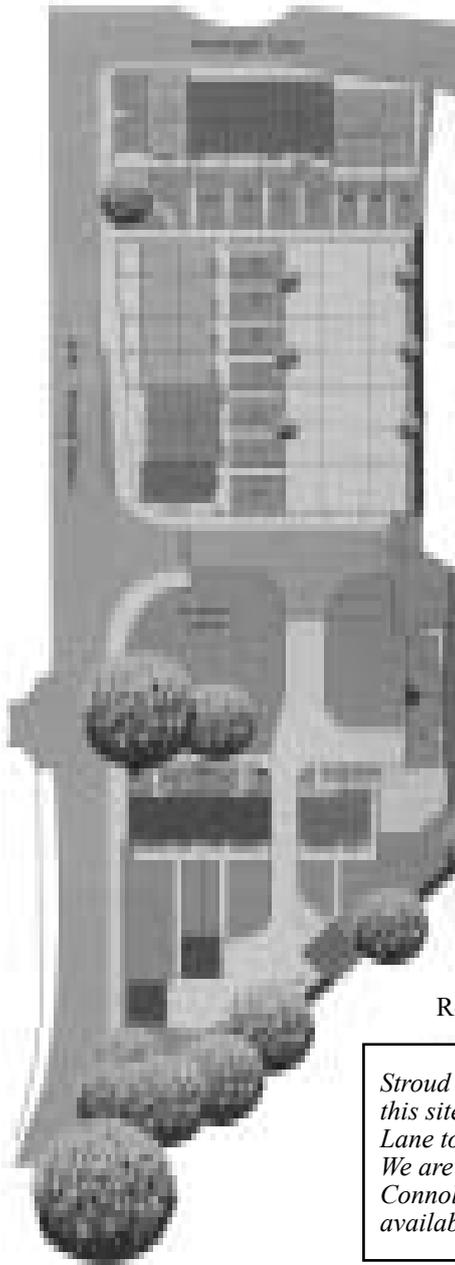
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Development progress on the St.Mary's site



There having been some seeming inactivity on this site in recent weeks, the Beacon decided to investigate. Where better to start than with the sales advisors in their own office; Glenys Anderson and Maddie Ferguson were there when we called, but Chrissie Champion is the third member of the team.

The Christmas pause, coupled with the pretty grim weather, is now behind the building contractors and as can be seen activity is now fairly intense. Sixteen 'mews cottages' and 'villas' are under construction with a mix of 3, 4 and 5 bedrooms. We were told that prospective purchaser enquiries of the sales office are picking up, with some sales either agreed or almost so; at upwards of £297,500 for the cottages, with the villas not yet priced. Additionally, three units of social housing in the north-east corner of the site facing into Stamages Lane will be two-bedroomed; these will become available on a shared equity basis. St.Mary's House itself will probably be the final property to be occupied, with five bedrooms. All the 'cottages' will have three internal levels, and hard standing for the parking of cars. Every property will have its own turfed and fenced private garden.

There was some excitement among the sales staff that the first physical completion is expected in early April, just eight or so weeks from now.

The 30mph speed limit extension and traffic calming down towards Broadham Field is expected at an early date, and the Beacon was informed that the site agent is only awaiting detailed instructions to put the work in hand. There is some public interest in this,

not least because of some expectation that such was to have been in place prior to commencement of site works. Upon enquiry the Beacon has been told that the

District Council's Compliance Officer is, at the time of writing this report, investigating these and associated matters. We have received reports of

hazard conditions arising from large vehicles occasionally parking on Stroud Road, at the entrance to the site, while they off-load materials.

The difficulty for motorists is particularly acute when southbound traffic needs to pass by using the northbound carriageway; in this circumstance

there is little or no opportunity to avoid any northbound vehicle which may round the Lullingworth bend at more than (say) 20mph. As another of the plan-

ning conditions, relating to highway safety, was that 'the estate road be completed prior to commencement of building operations', this to receive constructirs and

construction traffic, the Beacon has been informed by the police that they are actively investigating the matter of on-road parking in this location.

Upon completion of building and site work the first section of the estate road, from Stroud Road, will be adopted by the County Council. Preservation orders apply to many trees on the

site, and the upkeep of the limited amount of communal land will be the responsibility of a management committee.

The incidence of markings in Stamages Lane, initiated by Wilson Connolly the developers to identify the location of existing

services, led us to enquire whether these were in anticipation of drainage from the site. Paul Cambridge of Severn Trent Water

told the Beacon that they have been brought into producing a scheme for removal of both foul and surface water from the site. Mr. Cambridge anticipates that the foul water will pass into

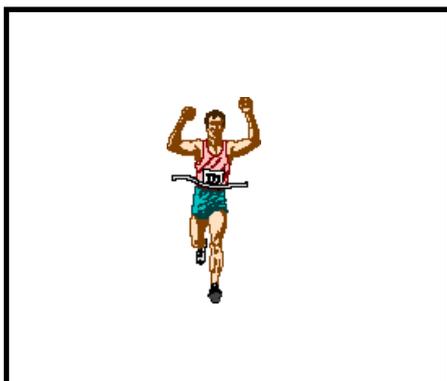
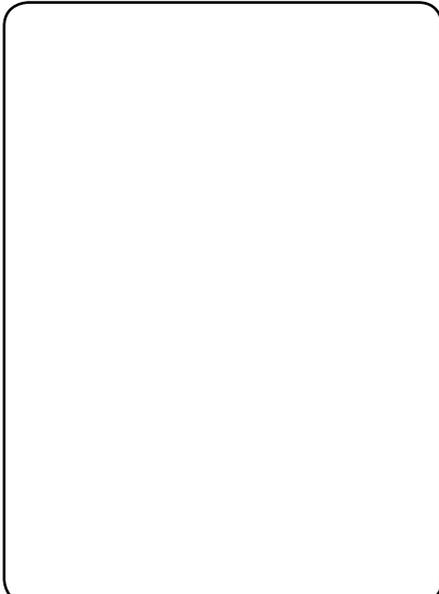
an existing and adequate drain within Stamages Lane, but the resolution of a scheme for disposal of surface water is not

expected for many weeks yet. A 'radar' survey of existing services has been undertaken by Severn Trent, and this will be followed by trial holes, mostly in roadways, to survey

below-ground conditions to receive a surface water drainage system. It seems that three alternative schemes are under active consideration but a decision upon which will be most

acceptable is two or three months away; and that before work can be put in hand.

Stroud Road lies to the left of this site plan, with Stamages Lane to the top. We are obliged to Wilson Connolly for making the plan available.



Painswick Playgroup

A Happy New Year to everyone from Painswick Playgroup.

A big thank you goes to all the very generous shopkeepers and businesses who contributed prizes for the Playgroup raffle and to everyone who bought tickets. There were approximately 25 prizes which helped considerably towards the fundraising. Thank you for your support.

The first week back at Playgroup, after the Christmas break, saw the construction of the new Adventure Climbing Frame. The children have already tested it and it has been given a big thumbs up!

A big thank you goes to The Gyde Trust who made this financially possible and to everyone else who contributed. However, we are still short of £1,000, so fund-raising events will be taking place soon to raise the shortfall!

The official opening of the Adventure Climbing Frame has been arranged for Friday 14th February. Everyone welcome. Please arrive at 12 noon prompt, the cutting of the ribbon will take place at 12.15pm. Light refreshments will be available. Hope you can come!

The Adventure Climbing Frame has arrived just at the right time, because unfortunately during the Christmas break, the shed belonging to the Playgroup was broken into. A temporary door has been fixed to the shed, but at present we are unable to get to any bikes or scooters for the children. The shed has seen better days and does need replacing, so if anyone out there has a spare shed in very good condition and would like to see it go to a good home then please get in touch with Beaty Bell at the Playgroup on Gloucester 813316.

On a more positive note, this term the children will be focusing on learning their numbers and looking forward to doing lots of 'spring' activities. Our photograph shows children with Playgroup staff.



Sandra Chandler Playgroup Assistant

Spring flowers - and quilting

Members arriving on a dull afternoon for the first meeting of a new year were cheered to see Pat Walker's basket of spring flowers on the Presidents table, more good news followed. The classes for "Exercising your Memory" are fully booked and visits have been arranged to Woodchester Piano Works in February and the Old Court House, Whitchurch in April. The Group Rally will be held in Painswick in June.

It was decided to have a coffee morning to discuss the replies to the questionnaire on the W.I. Meetings, which 80% of members have so far returned.

Our speaker was June Badger on 'Quilting across the Pond'. She showed slides of her trips to America to visit quilting shows and shops. Included were some very interesting shots of life in



Amish country where the people use neither electricity nor motor vehicles. We also saw and handled some of her own work before enjoying tea served by Shirley Burley and Lena Hope.

Margaret Richards

Christmas Jollifications

The Christmas meeting in 2002 as in previous years was a welcome drink with delicious homemade mince pies and a Quiz concocted by Gus Gaugain which tested one's knowledge (and the depth of one's ignorance!) of garden trees, shrubs and plants to the full. The results may have shown that perhaps drinks should be served later, next year, rather than before and during!

January saw our first meeting of the year 2003 at 2.30 pm (an arrangement welcome in February too) and we were treated to an unusual talk given by Mrs R Salisbury from Worcester entitled 'What's in a name?' The meaning of the intriguing title was soon evident as

the speaker dealt with a large variety of shrubs and flowers mainly, explaining in an academic way the role played by the name to show origin and preferred habitat, and often denoting the difference between the various members of the same genus.

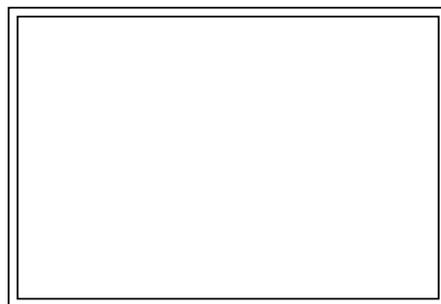
All in all, this was a demanding but fascinating presentation by a speaker who had obviously a deep knowledge of plants and could present her material very successfully with the support of appropriate slides.

Exhibitors are asked to note an important change of date - the Annual Show and Exhibition this year will be a week earlier than published, on Saturday 6th September.

Pauline Lamont Secretary

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LETTERS

Dog poo

I work as a teaching assistant at the Croft School and at our last staff meeting was thrilled to hear of yet another win for our talented cup winning football team. However, I was angry and upset to learn that before every home game, the school pitch has to be cleared of dog mess!

Considering the severity of the diseases contracted through contact with dog faeces, could I ask people not to exercise their dogs or let them stray into the school grounds. There are plenty of other areas in the village to walk dogs.

Our children deserve to be able to play in safety, especially in their own school environment.

Mrs Pam Collins

[A word, or two, from Pat

Dear Editor

Your coverage of the Senior Circle's AGM and my retirement as chairman was most generous and I would like to trespass further on your space and time to thank all who made my tenure so happy and for me so memorable.

Firstly, to your readers who~ when they gave voice, said how much they enjoyed the monthly reports and to you and the editorial staff who were such a great help in getting these into print. And also to the Parish Council, Peter Grant and the Town Hall who did much to help our meetings along and make them trouble-free.

Secondly, to the circle's parish wide membership who supported the coffee mornings and outings so handsomely and especially to that enthusiastic core who, no matter the weather, turned out for the Friday afternoon meetings. Such

staunch support from them and the indefatigable committee kept all four wheels on the wagon. They and the individual acts of kindness and encouragement I deeply appreciated.

Thirdly, I must mention our speakers. Their willingness and ready acceptance of the invitation to speak was quite overwhelming and I know, only too well, how much time and trouble they took in researching their subjects.

Finally, to those, unknown to me, who contributed so generously to a farewell gift of garden centre vouchers I say a heartfelt thank you.

These last years have been a significant part of my life and I am grateful for this privilege. And to you, Sir, I thank you for your friendship and remain Yours faithfully

Patrick Daly

The decline and revival of Stroud's canals

The past history, present state and future plans for Stroud's canals were vividly described by Mr. Bruce Hall to the large audience at the January meeting of the Painswick Local History Society. Mr. Hall is the Chairman of the Cotswold Canals Trust and has been closely involved in the restoration work on the Stroudwater canal and in the proposed restoration of the Thames-Severn canal. The Gloucester-Sharpness canal and the Stroud canals were built in the late 18th century for the transport of coal from the Forest of Dean to power the newly-installed steam engines in the mills and factories in the area. Transport by canal became uneconomic after the railways were built. The Stroudwater and Thames and Severn canals were eventually closed to navigation and fell into disrepair. In 1972 a society was formed to protect and restore the canals; this society became the Cotswold Canals Trust.

Some of the many obstacles faced by members of the Trust in their restoration work were shown on Mr. Hall's slides and clearly conveyed that canal restoration work can be a back-breaking and very muddy leisure activity. There is now practical help and

financial aid from several public and private organisations and it is hoped that Stroud's canals will be open for navigation again in about 10 years' time. The many questions put to Mr. Hall after his talk indicated the interest in Stroud's canals generated by his enthusiasm

Painswick Local History Society

for and knowledge of these parts of Stroud's industrial heritage.

The next meeting of the Society will be held at the Croft School on Tuesday, 18th February, at 7.30pm. Sue Ilman, Chairman of the Gloucestershire Garden and Landscape Trust, will give talk about a variety of gardens in Gloucestershire and the research work of the Trust.

Gwen Welch

Our latest Painswickian

May I thank everyone most sincerely for their messages of congratulations to me on being chosen as "Painswickian of the Year". I have been overwhelmed by your love and support as well as the kind words written about me in the January Beacon, which has made me feel a very special lady.

It has always given me great pleasure to be an active member of the community, and I have made many friends. I do hope to continue to contribute in any way that is needed for many years to come. And last but not least, a sincere thank you to the Beacon Committee and its readers for giving me this honour.

Joyce Tranter

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Lucy Hyett: The Lost Years. Don't Dress for Dinner!

The big news this month is that *Don't dress for dinner*, our outrageously farcical next production (8th to 10th May), has been cast. The shock news is that I didn't get a part! Aware of the outrage and sheer disbelief that this would cause amongst all decent Beacon-reading folk, I challenged director Lesley Wolowiec on the subject.

"Why," I demanded, "are my loyal public to be denied?"

"You're too old, you're bald, you don't learn your lines and you can't act!" Leslie is nothing if not direct.

I gaped in astonishment and stoutly prepared to defend myself.

"And you're overweight!" She concluded whilst I was still in mid-gape.

"But apart from that...?" I ventured.

Eventually, after much discussion, she saw the error of her ways and I was appointed Assistant Director. I'm not quite sure what this entails but it certainly sounds really important. When I related all this to The Most Organised One (who – by the way – did get a part), her only comment was, "Oh, so you've got the job of making coffee at rehearsals." Obviously a case of sour grapes.

Apart from the MOO, the other female parts are to be played by Susanna Davis and Leslie Wolowiec. The men are: Mike Jackson, Alistair Anderson and Tony Gibson, all of whom are (apparently) younger, more hirsute and slimmer than me. And they learn their lines. And they can act. Alistair, incidentally, returns to us after many lost years of appearing in Cotswold Playhouse productions. Nice to see that he's finally made the big time!

On the subject of lost years. In preparing for Painswick Players 80th anniversary celebrations, we have been trying to reconstruct the archives. There appears to be a large black hole with respect of the Lucy Hyett years (1923 – 1961). Has anyone out there got any memorabilia of these lost years? Photos, programmes, posters, reviews or just plain tittle tattle – please give me a call (01452-812167) if you can help.

Finally. A stop-press scoop! Jan Campbell, our dramatic chairperson, has just become engaged to the lovely Keith Young. They expect to marry later this year. We all wish them much happiness and a good long run.

Jack Burgess Painswick Players

Painswick Library.

PC John Breakwell will be unable to attend during February.

Mobile Police Station

Program of visits: February 4 & 21
9.45am Brookthorpe Village Hall
10.10am Edge Bus Stop near Telephone kiosk
10.25am Pitchcombe House
10.40am Wick Street
10.50am Painswick Town Hall
12.00noon Cranham Scout Hut
12.45pm Sheepscombe Village Hall
February 3 & 13
1.45pm Harescombe Village Hall

POLICE REPORT

Reported Incidents

14th December to 13th of January

Burglaries house: Harescombe: 1

Business premises: Painswick: 1.

Sheds: Painswick: 1, Harescombe: 1.

Vehicles: Painswick: 1, Cranham: 1,

Other: Painswick: Damage to tree and theft of two push bikes.

Total: 8

Items stolen

Lawn mowers, chain saw, car number plates, video recorder and push bikes.

Reported incidents

Four incidents were reported, three of which were useful to the Police.

Many thanks.

This will be the last report by myself as I have been given a different post at Stroud Police station.

A new Painswick Officer should be appointed soon.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the help and support you have given me during my time at Painswick and wish you all the very best for the future.

PC John Breakwell

Police Information Point. Situated at

Copy - format and datelines

The Beacon experienced some difficulties this month where copy came in after the dateline of 18th January.

We have been asked what happens when copy has been received. Once all the copy received, and we assume this to be so by the dateline, it is assembled and examined. We have a number of tasks to perform at this early stage, including - in quite a number of instances - needing to refer back if some information provided is in any way unclear.

The immediate next stage is for copy to be transferred into the empty pages set up to receive it.

Of course, articles and photographs are of differing length and we then need to move them around to fill pages in as attractive a format as we can. So, as with jelly, the layout begins to 'set' a matter of hours after the deadline date.

Hence our difficulty if copy arrives late.

We are always grateful to contributors who are able to let us have copy pre-typed; this because where it is very clear we are able to 'scan' it directly into the page. If those who let us have lengthy items longhand can help us by enticing a friend or neighbour to type it, we would be most appreciative. Receiving it by E-mail is perfect, because we are (even more) likely to prevent errors creeping in!

We are always most anxious to include whatever we receive. However, once that dateline has passed we hope that contributors will appreciate that the space which may have been theirs

may be lost.

Datelines are always printed on the rear cover.



Rugby

The Bristol side, Barton Hill, came to Broadham on 18th January to play Painswick's first fifteen in a Gloucestershire League Premier Division game. Before the match began, players and officials stood in silence in memory of Glyn Cunningham who had been a staunch Painswick supporter for many years and was the father-in-law of Painswick first fifteen player, Russell Sturmey. The Beacon extends its condolences to Glyn's family. Painswick were aware that Barton Hill would prove a difficult side to overcome as, prior to the game, the visitors were lying second in the division, having won 10 out of 12 of their league matches this season. Although Painswick did not play badly, on the day the Bristol team were the more constructive outfit and deserved their victory by 24 points to nil.

Last Saturday Painswick travelled to Patchway to play North Bristol in the re-arranged fixture originally scheduled for 4th January but postponed because of a waterlogged pitch. This was a game which Painswick might have expected to win but North Bristol played well and, at the final whistle, were ahead by 18 points to 10. Results [(L) indicates league match]
 Sat 18 Jan. (L) Painswick 1st XV 0 Barton Hill 24. Painswick United 5 Old Patesians 4th XV 54.
 Sat 25 Jan. (L) North Bristol 1st XV 18 Painswick 1st XV 10. Cainscross 2nd XV 10
 Painswick United 10.

Cricket

Painswick Cricket Club will be holding its annual meeting at the Broadham Clubhouse on Monday 3rd February starting at 7.30pm.

This is an important meeting and all players and officials are urged to attend. Potential new members will be welcome. Junior cricket will be an agenda item.

Andrew Wise
 Club
 Secretary

Ladies Hockey

Painswick ladies were entertained by Cheltenham Civil Service in a post-Christmas friendly match at Pates School on Saturday 11th January. The match proved to have an exciting conclusion as, with just a few



Joan Griffiths, Ladies Tennis Club Captain who, as reported last month, with Joan Wells, is joining the Inca Trail Challenge in Peru in May.

minutes remaining, Sophie Hinds took the ball out of defence and into the home side's 'D' before netting the winner. Player of the Match was Sarah Vocking.

On Saturday 18 January Painswick again travelled to Cheltenham where the venue was the Balcarras School for a league match against Cheltenham 3rds. The home side were at full strength and played constructive hockey to emerge victorious by 4 goals to one. Karen Davis scored Painswick's goal with Emma Watkins adjudged Player of the Match.

Falcon Bowls Club

The Christmas and New Year celebrations are now behind us and on 4th January (an early 12th night) we rounded everything off with a splendid social evening in the clubhouse which had been specially decorated by our men's captain, Jim Muirhead, and was attended by some 50 members. Everyone brought an item of food which was admirably coordinated by Jim's wife Jean.

Earlier that day we had been in action at MidGlos indoor bowling club. The men had been drawn against the Cheltenham Bowling Club in the men's knockout, and later in the day our ladies had been drawn against Sir Thomas Richs' ladies. I am pleased to say that the ladies won their match and go forward to meet Moreton in Marsh in the next round. As for the gents, well with a club the size of Cheltenham it was always going to be a struggle, and I'm afraid we came second, but did not disgrace ourselves.

The indoor two rink interclub league started on 12th January and we were drawn against Woodlawns. An exciting match which went right to the wire. The rink skipped by Brian Eley drew 12 all and the second skipped by Graham Walters was ahead by 2 shots on the last end, when both skips left the head to bowl. The Woodlawns skip ran into the lead with a lucky "wick"

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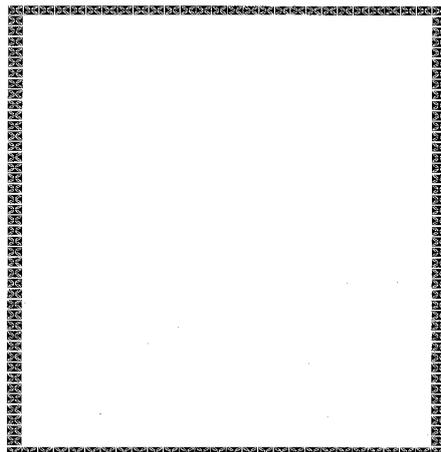



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and the ball stopped as shot. We still had a chance if he didn't draw another. Our skip attempted a blocking wood but it still left the opposition with a clear draw, which failed. Falcon won by one shot. A situation not conducive to your scribe's blood pressure.

Sunday 19th January saw us drawn against Cirencester. The date coincided with our club outing to watch the championship bowls which was held at Potters Leisure Centre near Yarmouth. Not a good time to be without some of our better players and against a side a Cirencester side out for revenge after our win against them a few months earlier. However we did manage to win on one rink and came away with two points.

I am pleased to add that a rink of Falcon ladies, skipped by Myra Savage (our ladies captain) beat a very strong ladies rink in the MidGlos indoor ladies fours competition to get through to the semi-final, and that three of them have got to the semi-final of the club triples. We wish them luck.

David Ryland

Ski News!

As the snow begins to fall in the Painswick Valley, Sheepscombe skiers Fern and Ashley Barker are hoping they might get to ski locally rather than travelling so far afield; nice to dream.

Both have returned from New Year races in Austria where they took part in the British Alpine Racing Club Championships. Fern excelled by finishing 1st in Slalom and 2nd in Giant Slalom in a hastily re-arranged venue due to the poor snow conditions throughout Europe. This was enough to secure her the overall title for her age group.

The day after her return she received news that she had been re-selected to the British Children's Ski Team to race in the Czech Republic in January. She was also told that she would be sent to the premier event in the world of children's racing, the Children's World Cup event at Topolino, Italy in February. Over 40 nations send teams to this event, recognised as being the toughest children's race in the world.

Fifteen year old Ashley, finished in the

top 20 in the under 18 age group in both the Slalom and Giant Slalom, one of the best results for an English boy in his age group but not quite good enough for a podium place.

The most exciting news for both is that they have been selected to represent England Schools at the biennial World Championships in Austria this March. This will be Ashley's second World Championship having been selected two years ago while Fern has been selected at the earliest possible age. They are two of only twenty children, ten boys and ten girls to be selected from the whole of England.

Keen Internet watchers can keep up with progress via the web. Ashley can be found on the FIS site at www.fis-ski.com, where all the racers holding a full race licence are shown. Yes he is there along with world cup stars like Stefan Eberharter and Alan Baxter. Click on "alpine" and then "competitor biographies", then type in his name. Fern is as last year featured on the British Children's ski team site at www.gbjuniorski.com.



Chapel of Rest

The Parish Council is in the process of carrying out restoration work to the Chapel of Rest at the Cemetery.

The intention is to make the Chapel more welcoming for services and private prayer.

Fiery Beacon

All good things come to an end, they say, and it is with the greatest regret that I have had to take the decision to end the exhibitions at the Fiery Beacon.

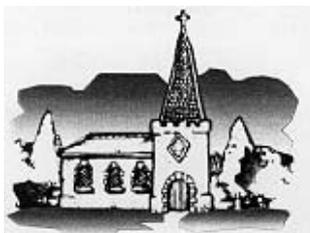
Domestic undertakings, now looming larger, are requiring so much more of my time, that something has to give.

May I thank all those who have given me such wholehearted support over the past 11 years. The village has been wonderful to both Guy and me and we are eternally grateful to you all.

We will continue to live 'above the shop', as it were, and so hope that we shall not lose touch with everyone. My sincerest thanks, again

Pam Bentley

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PAINSWICK



For those who know their way around Painswick

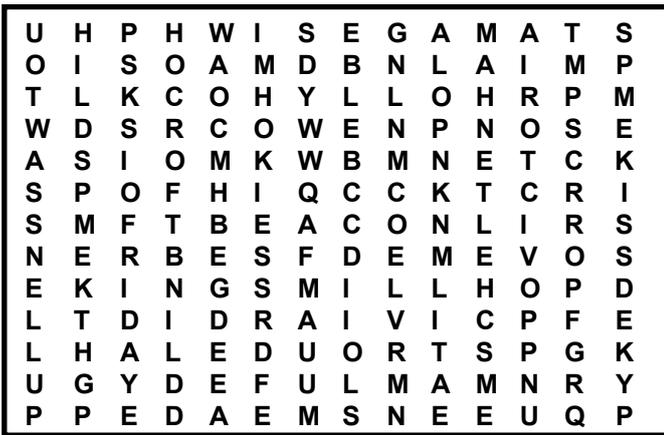
This month we have hidden the names of no less than eighteen roads in or near Painswick. The description of the road is omitted so, for example, Victoria Street is included as VICTORIA.

Can you find them?

They all run along a straight line, in any direction; but some might be backwards.

No prizes - just a bit of fun.

Answers next month.



Answers to last month's WordSearch.

SHEEPSCOMBE
SLAD
PAINSWICK
EDGE
PITCHCOMBE
HARESCOMBE
BISLEY
CRANHAM

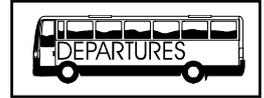


Beaky

London Coach

The spring coach outing to London will be on Wednesday 19th March, leaving Stammers lane car park at 8.30 am.

Arrival at Harrods will be at about 11.15 am, and then in Northumberland Avenue, Trafalgar Square around 11.30 am.



The fare is £10.

Booking 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

- • • • •
- **Directory 2003** •
- Please note a change in •
- Directory information •
- **SPORTING** •
- **ORGANISATIONS** •
- **Short Mat Bowling Club (Painswick ..)** •
- *replace telephone number to* •
- *Sec: Mrs S Burley, Corbiere, Hollyhock Lane 812378* •
- • • • •

PROPERTY REPORT at 23rd January from Hamptons International

House prices are set to rise by 20% this year. Interest rates are set to fall by 0.5%. Average earnings are predicted to increase by 10%. As for inflation...? Ever heard this before? No matter how much one speculates about house prices, it remains impossible to predict with any certainty what is going to happen this year. It is a question we are posed time and time again. However, the simple truth is that vendors want the market to go up and purchasers want the market to go down. Having just moved up from working in Kensington and Chelsea, I have realised that one factor is as true in the country as it is in the city. There are simply not enough places for

people to live. This fact alone dictates that property remains an assured guarantee for long term investment; especially property in Painswick.

Since, after only a few weeks at Hamptons I am certain that this must be one of the most desirable places in England. Having been used to fighting my way home through rush hour traffic to get back to my pint sized flat in Pimlico, I find the beauty of the Painswick Valley and the friendly people I have met in the village, to be a delightful contrast.

We are very pleased to announce the recent exchanges of Hillmans Cottage, Paradise, Baraclough House, Hambutts

Mead; the New House being built in Cotswold Mead; and Churchfield House in Upton. In addition, we have been instructed on some exciting new properties:- Tadleys, a Grade II listed cottage at Great Witcombe, and with over 100 viewings resulting in 10 offers!; The Laurels - a charming 3 bed house at Slad; Sheepscombe House, a fine Country house with 12 acres, the idyllic Down Cottage in Slad with its stunning rural position and The Dower House at Birdlip situated impressively in an elevated position.

On the basis of working at Hamptons for only 3 weeks I am predicting that 2003 is going to be a busy year!

Nicholas Miller

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Greetings from Thailand

Jillie Speed was our long-serving Copy Editor until her husband found his job took him to Thailand. We have this letter and thought their many friends would find it of interest.

It is with some disbelief that we can now say we have been in Thailand for six months. The time seems to have flown by and I apologise to all those who thought I might have penned something before now.

Our copy of The Beacon reliably arrives in our letter box during the second week of the month. There then ensues a mad scramble as the children fight to see who can be the first to recognise someone in a photograph and catch up on news from home, followed by the inevitable bout of homesickness. This is usually short lived, however, basketball, cycling, swimming or tennis beckoning. For me The Beacon serves as a reminder of how different our lives have become in a few short months. As you read this huddled around your fires with the snow outside I am sitting on my bedroom balcony overlooking my frangipani tree and the lake beyond. Envious? I hope so!

We have settled into ex pat life very quickly. The Thais are the nicest of people, welcoming and warm and our fellow 'farangs', be they British, Australian, Swiss or whatever, soon had us involved in all kinds of social gatherings and activities. Having a driver and maid took some time to get used to; I still miss the privacy and sometimes yearn to be mistress of my own kitchen again or take our 'bus' for a spin down the express way. Bangkok traffic is, however, dire. Appointment times are rarely met as journey times are so unpredictable. I now know to avoid going anywhere on a Friday evening, and we soon learned that traffic jams are part of



Bangkok life. I laughed when Tom told me we were to have a television in the car, but when travelling with children in this city it's a lifesaver!

Bangkok itself is a city full of contrast. Ornate golden temples nestle alongside high rise, high tech office blocks. Enormous advertising hoardings featuring David Beckham or Michael Owen tower over wooden, stilted Thai houses and stall holders selling snacks of all description ply their wares on the pavements outside luxury hotels. Our local supermarket is Tesco (and no, I can't use my card), we have M&S, Boots, Body Shop and Starbucks. But we also have the most fantastic markets, from China Town to Chatuchak, where bargaining is de rigeur and where, if you can throw in a couple of Thai words, you are rewarded with a beaming smile and instant discount.

We have been out and about quite a bit, visiting the seaside at Phuket, Hua Hin and the islands of Koh Samui and Koh Samed, as well as the National Park area of Khao Yai. Lucy spent a week with her year in Rayong kayaking, snorkeling and watching turtles. Freddie, as I write, is hill walking and trekking in Khlong Sai for the week, also with the school. (I don't expect the bar of soap has been touched yet...)

Living out here is proving a wonderful experience for the children. Their school is vast and they rarely bump into each other during the day. They are picked up in the morning by a school mini bus at 6.45am and then stay on after school for the wide ranging extra curricula activities. With homework on top it is a long day. They are making friends from all over the world. Although it is a British School only thirty per cent of pupils actually come from the UK, another thirty per cent are Thai and the rest made up of children from some forty different countries. Thai language and culture are taught as a government stipulation. Pippa picked up the complicated tonal system almost immediately, something I have failed completely to do.

what, I hear you ask, am I doing with my time with no school run, no cooking or cleaning...or The Beacon? I have yet to write my book, or put our five year's worth of photos in the albums. I do a lot of swimming and tennis, try to master the basics of the language, sightseeing and, needless to say, shopping. We have a steady stream of visitors winging their way out East over the next few months. More sightseeing and shopping!

Christmas was spent on the beach at Koh Samui. It was different to say the least, with Father Christmas arriving by long tailed boat with chocolates for the children. The Thais entered into the spirit with renditions of Jingle Bells and Silent Night, learnt syllable by syllable from a rather dubious source. We even had turkey, which was served with something referred to as 'stuffing'. But the wine flowed and Father Christmas took the children off in his boat round the bay and such was the Speed Christmas 2002.

A bit late in the day but from Tom, Lucy, Freddie, Pippa and myself a very Happy New Year to all our friends in Painswick and Beacon readers everywhere. We'll be in touch!

Jillie Speed



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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reshaping	
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PLANNING MATTERS

A summary of information received from the Parish Council.

Locations are in Painswick unless indicated.

NEW APPLICATIONS

Farmyard adjacent to PAINSWICK LODGE (COURT), SHEEPSCOMBE Rebuild part of a listed building due to collapse.
 CROFT SCHOOL, CHURCHILL WAY Application for classroom extension.
 SNOWS FARM, SLAD Conversion of farm buildings to form single unit holiday accommodation (resubmission).
 STROUD SLAD FARM, THE VATCH, SLAD Change of use of Green Barn to form wood-working workshop and classroom facility for rural studies.
 STROUD SLAD FARM, THE VATCH, SLAD Conversion of byre building with extension to form games room and guest bedroom.
 HYETT CLOSE Prune lime tree at 8 Hyett Orchard.
 HILL VIEW COTTAGE, VICARAGE STREET Removal of 1 metre of internal wall in extension to open up doorway.

PAINSWICK HOUSE Construction of retaining edge on north forecourt.
 JENKINS FARM, EDGE Demolition of agricultural buildings and conversion of barn to dwelling. Restoration of stable.
 FIELDWAYS, LONGRIDGE, SHEEPSCOMBE Erection of new dwelling to replace existing.
 PYLL HOUSE, JACKS GREEN, SHEEPSCOMBE Erections of extensions to dwelling.
 DETCOMBE HOUSE, BULLS CROSS, SHEEPSCOMBE Erection of garage and store building with staff accommodation over.
 TIMBERCOMBE COTTAGE, JACKS GREEN, SHEEPSCOMBE Erection of an extension.
 DELL FARM Erection of a steel framed barn.

REVISED PLANS

TILIA, CASTLE HALE DRIVE Insertion of 2 dormer windows (resubmission following approval 02/1256) Main changes: Dormers on north east elevation reduced in size.
 FORTUNES WELL, SHEEPSCOMBE Construction of driveway.
 Farmyard adjacent to PAINSWICK LODGE, SHEEPSCOMBE Division of current Unit 1 (Tithe Barn and Cottage) into 2 separate units. Main changes: Workshop moved to

stable and alterations to fenestration.

CONSENTS

Farmyard adjacent to PAINSWICK LODGE, SHEEPSCOMBE Alterations to enable former car port to be used for office (West Barn Unit 3, Painswick Court)
 Farmyard adjacent to PAINSWICK LODGE, SHEEPSCOMBE Reinstate existing shed to create garage. Alterations to boundary walls. Demolition of existing fuel store.
 THE LANTERN, KINGS MEAD Alterations and extension to dwelling.
 HYETT CLOSE Erection of single storey extension to rear.

NOTIFICATION OF APPEAL

SHUTWAY QUARRY, SHEEPSCOMBE Retention of building for continued use as a workshop and store.

APPEAL - DISMISSED

SHUTWAY QUARRY, SHEEPSCOMBE Retention of buildings 2 and 3.



You know where these are ... in the heart of Painswick?



Chop chop!

Remembering Jean Mary Aubrey Webb

Jean was born in 1919 in Pulteney Street and educated at Hermitage House School in Bath. She arrived in Painswick at the age of 17 to join her friend Joan, who's brother Jack Rose owned the Gwynfa Hotel (now The Painswick Hotel), where they did the catering.

It was here that Jean first met her future husband Cuthbert who delivered the milk from his parent's farm, Blakewell. They were married in 1942 in Bath and began their married life in Miserden, where Jean was based with the land army, whilst Cuthbert continued farming in Painswick.

A year later they moved to 'Valpre' in Vicarage Street, where Clare & Tim were born.

In 1948 they moved to Canton Acre and Jean was invited to become a member of the Painswick Players by Miss Lucy Hyatt their producer and director. In summer they performed Shakespearian plays set in front of Painswick House, often with Julian Slade of 'Salad Days' fame; in winter their performances were in the Institute. Jean used to learn her lines whilst washing up with the book propped up behind the taps!



Later she was she made an honorary life member of PADS. In addition to this Jean entertained Painswick for many years with hilarious monologues and sketches with friends.

Jean was a member of the Mothers Union, Wives Fellowship, W.I. and collected annually for the Lifeboat Association. She also helped with Meals on Wheels and Austerity lunches. All this was fitted around helping Cuthbert on the farm.

(A longer tribute is available from the Beacon on request.)

Roland Boggon

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PAINSWICK WEATHER

Christmas holidays

report from Sheepscombe School

for the period 21st December to 20th January

date	Rain	Temperature		Pressure	Wind	Sky
		mm	min °C			
21						

MINI-ADS

Reel- to- Reel Tape Recorder – wanted to buy or to loan. - Call 813500.

Upright wing chair upholstered in gold dralon. 812378

Woodburning Stove. Box type on legs with solid single door – rear pipe £150.00. Epsom Stylus colour printer 740. Offers. Ferguson Videostar player/recorder £30.00. Tel. 01453. 750156.

Mahogany colour 3 foot circular dining table on centre pedestal for sale. Four matching Regency chairs (Repro). Sold to first reasonable offer as we need the space. 812700

Grazing wanted for 8 ewes. Iris McCormick 812879

Pair of Victorian dining chairs which have been fully upholstered to original state. Reasonable offers invited. 812700

Table top electric oven with two hot-plates. Free. 812378

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

Please send money with mini-ad to Philip Oakley, Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street, GL6 6

Q N
If paying by cheque, please make it payable to The Painswick Beacon. Re-

Subscriptions an all-time record

Beacon subscribers at 22nd January; our last report for the current year

	2002 - 2003	
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Beacon Committee

Another change in the committee to record, this time for our commercial advertising function.

After being responsible for these duties since September 1996, Liz Fisher will be passing on her work as Advertising Co-ordinator when those for 2003-04 are fully organised. It is about this time each year that all existing advertisers, and those hoping to get into our columns, are invited to let Liz know of their intentions for the next year - in this case April 2003 until March 2004. All who let us know by 1st March are then considered in a fairly complicated allocation system in which priority is given to those whose base is in Painswick; and we also limit space each month to 20% of column centimetres.

Liz has meticulously dealt with these matters for about six and a half years, and deservedly wants to devote more time to certain other activities. During her period on the committee the income from commercial advertisers has not only increased

significantly, but helped assure the Beacon of its being able to meet its printing and other expenses.

So, Liz will be overseeing this annual organising of advertising and, at the same time, be handing over to Roy Welbourn. Roy joins the committee straight away, and will also be able to bring us skills and experience acquired in various occupations far removed from advertising. Details of his telephone number and so on will be in our last page column in due course.

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The Personal Column

or 01344.775971

Baby

Congratulations to CLARE and DARREN COOKSON on the birth of their daughter Tabitha Ingrid, on 6th January; a sister for Catriona and Ethan, and a third grandchild for David and Angela Hudson.

Engagement

Congratulations to PAULA ALLISON of Painswick and ALAN ERROCK of Sale, Manchester, who announced their engagement recently,

also to ROBERT LITTLE of Pitchcombe and ELIZABETH BENNETT of Stafford who became engaged recently,

and REBECCA LENDON to DAVID HALL of Sussex, who have announced their engagement.

Get well soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to ISOBEL and KATHARINE JONES, SHIRLEY OWEN, JOHN McCABE, DOREEN KIRK, also JOAN PALMER who is currently in Resthaven.

Welcome

We would like to welcome DOMINIC THORLEY who is moving into 14 Canton Acre,

also CAROLINE CRAWFORD who is opening a shop to be called 'Interiors' in New Street (previously 'Paraphernalia')

also BRIAN and JOANNA WHITTENBURY who have moved into 'Copper Beeches' in Woodborough Close, off Knapp Lane.

Change of house

JUDY and JULIAN REED will be moving to The Old Malt House, in Vicarage Street.

Condolences

Sincere sympathies to the friends and family of PHYLLIS CROOKE, KATHERINE BEST-DUNKLEY, JOHN WYATT and JOYCE KEARNEY who have all died recently.

Found

An 'Action Man' orange and black child's scooter thrown over a garden fence into a garden early in January - telephone 814588

Thanks

Clare Lavy (née Webb) and family would like to thank Jean's friends and neighbours, the voluntary drivers, meals-on-wheels, and all her lovely carers for helping her to lead such a full and happy life.

Francis Otway wishes to thank everyone for their cards, prayers and support during his illness and stay in Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. He has made very good

WANTED!

Is there a Lady or Gentleman who will take on the Organisation of the AUSTERITY LUNCHES which will start up again for the Autumn 2003 Session? The duties are not very onerous and there is the opportunity of meeting a wide range of people and organisations in Painswick.

Painswick Austerity Lunches were founded by two Painswick ladies some 35 years ago with the objective of raising money to help Third World Countries by foregoing one full meal a week and replacing it with a simple meal of bread, soup and cheese and donating the money saved thereby to charity. In this way some £25,000 has been raised over the years which has been shared by our three charities, Oxfam, Save the Children and Christian Aid.

I am giving up after some fifteen years as my wife and I leave Painswick to live in Hertfordshire closer to our family. I have enjoyed the job immensely and I do hope someone will come forward and carry on this worthwhile activity. Mrs. Joan Truman, Treasurer, of Little Place, Hollyhock Lane, will supply further details.

Fred Semark

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locating known terrestrial digital reception in Painswick

GL6 6LR
GL6 6QY
GL6 6RL
GL6 6UR

NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date
SATURDAY 1st MARCH

Items for publication to Iris McCormick, St Anne's, Gloucester Street, GL6 6QN
SATURDAY 15th FEBRUARY

Mini Ads to Philip Oakley, Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street, GL6 6QN by
SUNDAY 16th FEBRUARY

Business adverts to Liz Fisher, Harebell Cottage, Blakewell Mead, by
THURSDAY 13th FEBRUARY

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey, 14 The Croft, by
THURSDAY 20th FEBRUARY

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 a contact phone number.

The **Beacon's telephone number is 814500**, and can accept short recorded messages: our **fax** is on **01452.814500**

Beacon Committee

Editorial/Production Team

Leslie Brotherton 814500

Terry Parker (& Sport)

812191

Copy Editor: Iris McCormick 812879

Personal Column: Rachel Taylor 813402

Diary: Edwina Buttrey

812565

Feature Writers:

Carol Maxwell

813387

Jack Burgess

812167

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