

The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 25 No.10

January 2003

Joyce Tranter our Painswickian of the Year

Margaret Thatcher famously once said that there is no such thing as society: we're all just individuals. A few minutes talking to Joyce Tranter, our Painswickian of the Year, would surely have changed the mind of the Iron Lady. Joyce's view of community is straightforward. She says: "When you live in a village like Painswick, everyone looks after everyone else."

Others say of her:

"She's always there helping people, in the background, always doing something really practical." "She has been a prop to so many folk in Painswick. Her acts of kindness and help in the community are untold."

"Whenever you meet her in the village, she is always on her way to do something for someone."

"Joyce is quietly self-effacing. She works away doing whatever needs to be done, so much so that she can be taken for granted."

Joyce insists there are hundreds like her and that whatever she does is always done as part of a team. This may be true. It's just that most of us aren't part of so many different teams: collecting for Poppy Day and Christian Aid, helping prepare austerity lunches and lunches for Ashwell, involved with Brockworth Nursing Home, Sue Ryder Home, Painswick Wives Fellowship, the Badminton Club, the Puffins, the History Society... the list seems to be endless. Wherever there is a worthwhile local cause, the chances are that you'll find Joyce there, quietly and good-humouredly beavering away to make it work. And to cap it all, she is actively involved with no less than three local churches: Sheepcombe, St Mary's (where she's a 'Holy Duster') and Christ Church.

The secret of such a full life is tinged with a certain poignancy. Born in Edge, Joyce married George Tranter and came to live in Painswick 57 years ago. Sadly, she was widowed at an early age and left with two boys to bring up. It was the tremendous support and friendship she was shown at that time by the Painswick community that made her resolve to channel her seemingly boundless energy in paying it all back.

Not that there is anything sad about Joyce: she lives and loves life to the full, usually at breakneck speed and always with a smile. As she says: "Life is what you make it: just get involved!"



Painswick Surgery - telephone consultations

Many patients will be aware that we recently conducted a 'Satisfaction Survey' asking patients for feedback on the care they receive here at the surgery.

One of the questions in the survey asked whether patients would prefer to speak to a doctor on the telephone, rather than coming in to the surgery. In fact, 62% of patients surveyed agreed that they would like the opportunity for a telephone consultation. With this in mind, we propose to trial this type of consultation for a period of one month, **commencing in this New Year**, to see if it is helpful for both doctors and patients.

With the addition of telephone consultations, there will then

be 4 ways in which you can make contact with the GP:

- a) A routine appointment with the doctor of your choice.
- b) A 'triage' slot if you need to be seen *urgently* and there are no routine appointments left (you will have to see whichever doctor is available that day).
- c) You can leave a message for the GP for a reply to a query.
- d) You can request a telephone consultation, if you are reasonably sure that you don't need to be seen.

If you do request a telephone consultation, you will be asked by the receptionist to leave a telephone number where you can be contacted. It will therefore be **vital** that you are available to take the call from the GP when he/she contacts you.

We all hope that this new system will reduce the waiting time to see the doctor of your choice and we will keep you informed as to its progress.

Nicola Hayward Practice Manager

Articles inside include **reflections upon 2002**, the prospect of **four new street lights**, a **stimulus for the Beacon conservationists**, power **Aquila the none**, little news about **terrestrial digital**, date to note for a special **2003 Village Quiz**, transition of **Clerk to the Parish Council**, sporting **triumph**, two **sad commentaries** about some dog owners and others, and revelations about a **fff in Ff** with the Players.



Reports upon meetings of the Parish Council cannot help but be selective, if only because of space constraints. We try to draw attention to those of wider interest, but remind readers that the full minutes of Council meetings are available at the Council office on Wednesday and Friday mornings, as well as Painswick Library.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Gyde House

Malcolm Watts, Chairman, reported that the residents of Gyde House had formed a conservation group and were, collectively, less than happy with the actions of the developers who were dividing the open area to the front of the House. A fence which had suddenly been erected parallel to the Gyde Road was subsequently replaced by a hedge, this seemingly to designate a part of the site for future development of housing to border that road. This was regarded by residents as significantly detracting from the openness of the overall site within which their properties are situated, and lessening a curtilage which they had understood would be unaltered. The Chairman's understanding is that, upon conclusion of the sale of the last property within the house, the whole of the property and its curtilage will be directly managed by that community.

As the intentions of the developers are as yet unknown the Council decided to write to them to ascertain the reasons for the hedge. Meanwhile the Council would make clear to the District Council that it supported retention of the whole of the open area around the House.

Windrush - Beacon Close

The committee particularly welcomed one of the conditions attached to the granting of planning permission for erection of this detached property was that there should be no vehicular access to the adjacent bridle path.

PARISH COUNCIL

Grassland conservation

The Council welcomed the news that the Painswick Beacon Conservation Group had been awarded a grant to support its work (see detail on the next page). They were likely to receive about £7000 from the British Trust for Conservation Volun-

teers and such would enable part-year grazing of areas of grassland (excluding the Beacon itself) which would restore and retain the habitat necessary for wild orchids. While some fencing will be required to constrain cattle, this was not intended to inhibit public access to common land.

The Parish Council undertook to support the Group and appointed three of its number to join the Group in preparing a list of equipment required, as well as offering storage and insurance cover.

Official Web site

Text from the Parish Council to the District Council for inclusion in its web site will be forwarded shortly. Meanwhile an offer was received from The Painswick Beacon to assist in any way possible with the creation of an official Painswick web site at an early date. The offer was appreciated and deferred for consideration during 2003 when the Council's 'quality services' had been reviewed.

Fireworks

It was noted that some relief from fireworks was expected consequent upon the voluntary withdrawal of the noisiest variety. (See also item on page 19.)

Street lighting

David Hudson reported that the four additional street lights requested of GCC had been approved and their introduction/erection was imminent. (See report elsewhere in this issue.)

Museum and Information Link

The Council received a letter outlining how a museum might be created in Painswick at an early date, closely associated with a major information linking service, all achievable within existing resources. It was agreed that the suggestions be considered as an agenda item at the next (January) meeting.

Donations to charities

The Council considered the recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for donations to charities. It is the Council's policy to support Painswick parish charities/organisations and those district-wide bodies that help local residents. Arising from a question from Alan Shearer the Council was reminded of this policy and, hence, the inclusion of such as Victim Support and Stroud CAB being identified and approved for modest donations.

Recreation Field - unruly behaviour

Malcolm Watts made reference to continuing unruly behaviour by some young people on the perimeter of the field, especially close to the hedge and seats near

the apparatus. He, once more, expressed the opinion that a substantial metal seat located in the centre of the field might form an alternative rendezvous for youngsters, thereby exposing them to greater public view.

Ann Daniels joined other councillors in expressing concern at the prevailing misconduct but felt that locating any form of alternative meeting point in the centre of the field was unlikely to be successful. The Council voted 6-3 against such a scheme.

The Chairman, Terry Parker, drew attention to an 'open shelter' project of which he was aware in Wotton-under-Edge, and undertook to investigate its effectiveness and cost, this with the possibility of location elsewhere on the perimeter of the field but not close to adjacent dwellings.

Parish Plan - Part Two

The Chairman reported that the Monitoring Group had met to assess progress in the implementation of the Parish Plan, and would be meeting again early this year. He had undertaken to update Part Two of the plan so that all deliberations of the Council to date were incorporated.

Further representations will be made to the District Council to ascertain the stage they had reached in adoption of Painswick's Parish Plan.

Recruitment of Clerk

The Chairman reported that the working party responsible for drawing up the particulars and conditions for this post, to be vacated by May or June this year, had nearly finished its work and that an advertisement would be placed in the Beacon in January. (See opposite page.)



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Peter Grant retiring

Since October 1993 Peter Grant has served as Clerk to the Parish Council, the 13th to hold the post since the first appointment in 1894. Several Clerks, now well into their retirement years, can only admire the way in which Peter has upheld the tradition of quiet attention to ever-increasing detail and scope of administration required in such a post. Peter expects to vacate his chair about June this year, once the process of selection of his successor (advertised today) has been completed, he or she inducted, and the accounts fully audited; a neat hand-over typical of such a man..

Although the current idea is that we work beyond our retirement age, Peter has already demonstrated that as he approaches 73 it is reasonable to take life a little easier. He is looking forward to joining the Monday Walkers, a pleasure denied by his duties across nearly ten years and, while he realises that there are many other jobs awaiting his attention at home, he is not sure if his wife Billie is adjusting to his being there every day! "I have greatly enjoyed the job" Peter told the Beacon, "with many high points. Although I live just outside the parish in Pitchcombe, I have increasingly felt as if I was a native Painswickian!"

Peter feels there is an additional reason to retire at this time. The Parish Council has recognised that modern technology must be embraced, an on-line computer and other aids brought into its administration. Peter told us that, as he is not au fait with the skills required to introduce and operate that technology, this is the right moment to hand over to someone who can more readily get to grips with the radical changes such will bring to the Council's office and ways of doing things. "My previous experience in the army was invaluable when taking on these duties" said Peter, "and has not only helped me to continue to enjoy the

administration, but also appreciate the tremendous help I have received from Parish Councillors and others." He went on to recognise that one cannot please all the people all of the time, but there is a well established rapport with the many members of the public who are so reliant upon the services rendered through this post.

For our part, the Beacon wishes Peter Grant well in his retirement later this year, and believes that is a sentiment which will be echoed by many others throughout the parish.



Success for the Conservation Group

Following an application to the BTCV Peoples Places Scheme the Group were delighted to learn that they had been awarded over £7000 to fund their conservation work. Sincere thanks are due to Cedric Nielsen and the Group's mentor Mike Thornton for all their hard work in securing this funding.

Painswick Beacon Conservation Group

Opportunities Fund which was set up to manage grant schemes in the U.K.

The BTCV Peoples Places Award Scheme is open to community groups in rural and urban areas across England. It offers groups of individuals a chance to make a difference to their communities, in our particular case, the conservation and improvement of Painswick Beacon.

The scheme is funded by the New Opportunities Fund's green spaces and sustainable communities programme with additional funding from Rio Tinto and English Nature. It is a U.K-wide non departmental public body sponsored by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

After our somewhat gloomy crisis appeal in the October Beacon this is really good news and will help to support the continuation of the Group's good work for some time to come.

Duncan McKenzie

PAINSWICK

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Applications are invited for the post of part-time Clerk to Painswick Parish Council.

22 hours per week: Monday and Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-4.30pm, Wednesday 9am-1pm; with an average of a further 5 hours each week for other business.

Applicants must be computer-literate with an understanding of electronic communications. Administrative experience is essential. A qualification in Local Government Administration is desirable.

Commencing salary will be: £8,242.52p.a. plus staff responsibility supplement of £1,590. Applications to include CV should be submitted to: Mr Peter Grant, Clerk to Painswick Parish Council, Town Hall, Victoria Square, Painswick, Glos. GL6 6QA by Friday, 14th February 2003.

Local electoral matters

Following the changes to the structure of Stroud District Council electoral wards, which (incidentally) did not affect Painswick, the electoral divisions of the County Council are now under review. At its meeting on 5th November last year, the County Council voted to recommend that the division currently called "Painswick" be restructured to comprise the district wards of Bisley, Painswick and Upton St. Leonards. This recommendation went forward to the Boundary Committee for Gloucestershire and formed part of Stage 1 of their review, ending later that month.

At present the Painswick Division of the County Council consists of the district wards of Painswick, Randwick, Randwick (Cashes Green), Upton St. Leonards and Whiteshill. The parishes of Cranham, Miserden and Pitchcombe form part of the Painswick District Council Ward.

Staffing problems at the Committee have delayed the process but the proposed changes to the County Council electoral divisions are to be the subject of consultation when published on 11th August this year, for response by 7th October. The formal changes will be published in March 2004, with County Council elections currently planned for May 2005.

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Digital television reception

art of the possible

Curious about the assertion that 80% of the population can now receive terrestrial digital television transmissions, the Beacon decided to ask around the village as to whether residents were already enjoying up to 30 free channels on offer.

Not much success! In fact the starting point was zero. The following may save you some time.

Enquiries of several retailers of televisions and set-top boxes, which decode the transmissions, led in every case to their checking the post code of the resident, and being informed that GL6 is a no-no area from whichever transmitter - Mendips, Stroud or Ridge Hill - the signal is received.

Undaunted (or pig-headed), a set-top box was purchased on a sale-or-return basis, and tried out with the main reception being from the Mendips transmitter - almost line-of-sight from many of the higher reaches of Painswick village. Tweak this, tweak that, but to no avail; and the box was returned.

Could all this be true, we asked ourselves. Surely the Painswick area is closer to transmitters than, say, crofters in the Outer Hebrides? If we cannot receive the signals now, just when will they beam down on us?

One weary retailer suggested a check on the Internet, and www.freeview.co.uk was tried. Masses of information there, very sophisticated - but no indication of the timetable for extending coverage beyond that which is already in place. There, tucked away in a corner of the screen, are a pair of telephone numbers, which might be helpful for those, who 'want to know more'. Over to 08456.013608 and we found ourselves in touch with the ITC, several options to select and (eventually) a real person to give advice. "Try Freeview," we were told. Over to Freeview on 08708.809980, the usual several options and 'potted music' and then to be informed that they did not have the faintest idea really - could be anything up to twelve years! "Why not try ITC?" they said. We growled, but did go back to them.

Through the 'options' system again, and insisting that we speak to an expert. The normally protective switchboard operator put us through to a chap who certainly seemed to know just what was what!

Just as we thought, the precise postcode is not the critical factor! We all know that the aerial must be pretty recent and in good condition, of course. But this chap knew that there are locations around here where some, if not all, of these wondrous channels can be received in digital format. It seems that transmission is in what is called 'multiplex', and that a complete set of six 'multiplexes' is required if total coverage is to be assured. Some transmitters have as many as four 'multiplexes' operating, including Mendips. Nice man, no forecast for the future because saturation level has just about been reached; to put out more signals will conflict with the existing analogue signals. He told us that several very clever fellows have been recruited to find a way to squeeze more digital signals into the ether, but they have a very real conundrum to solve, and nobody has a firm idea of how it might be achieved - other than turn the entire analogue off! Literature with our reporter's exact post code analysed for reception followed in the post, with both Mendips and Ridge Hill mentioned as the transmitters. A booklet accompanying the information identified Stroud and Slad transmitters as being sub-Mendip; but no mention of Painswick or Sheepscombe!

Almost despairing. Then a close neighbour telephoned to thank our reporter for his advice upon aspects of replacing his aerial, the one that blew down in the storm a few weeks back. The aerial chap had called, replaced the aerial, made an excellent job of it and fitted a set-top box which worked like a dream. The 'trick' seems to be to contact those 'in the know', the aerial specialists! Our reporter followed up with his own new aerial and box - about £300 including VAT. Now able to receive most of the channels - and a beautiful clear picture too!

We asked readers to tell us whether they were receiving digital terrestrial television, but the only post codes we can report are as shown. The moral in the tale is to contact aerial specialists. Please do let us know if you get BBC4 et al.

Poetry

The WEA class Enjoying Poetry with Mary Newman restarted on Wednesday 8th January. The class runs for ten weeks and is from 2.30 until 4.00pm in the Library Room; the cost is £35.90.

Newcomers will be welcome. All enquiries to Yvonne Penfold on 01453.766219



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Anti-social, to say the least

The Beacon has received numerous reports of recent incidents, the latest of which are pictured here.

Discarding hearsay, we have been told of the following specifics, some of which have been repeated

- damage to a picture inside St.Mary's church
- Ashwell House entered by children on scooters
- climbing and running along garden walls
- disrespectful behaviour in the churchyard and memorial ground
- 'buzzing' the elderly on pavements causing serious distress
- mutilation of the tree in the Recreation Field
- damaging and removing a dog waste bin
- road sign rotated to give misleading directions
- throwing of dog excrement from waste bins onto surrounding grassland
- throwing rubbish on to pavements and grassed areas
- running through moving traffic on the highway
- riding scooters into shops
- making obscene suggestions to pedestrians
- indecent exposure on the public highway
- throwing apples at a severely disabled walker
- throwing stones and breaking windows of private residences
- firing air-gun pellets at windows of private residences
- verbal abuse of pedestrians
- throwing stones at a partially sighted person in their own garden
- tipping dog excrement from waste bins into private gardens
- skateboarding on tennis courts after forcing entry
- damaging trees in the Plantation
- obscene language to pedestrians
- throwing stone through car windscreen while in garage
- smashing greenhouse glass
- throwing eggs at houses
- trespass into private gardens
- theft of money from houses
- pilfering from shop
- throwing stones at pets
- late night rattling of windows of property where residents are disabled or elderly
- theft from private garages

Residents are urged to immediately inform the police of incidents they witness or experience.



Readers are reminded that the Police non-emergency number is
0845 0901234

Tourist Information Office

After having a very enjoyable tea at the Falcon Inn, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. French of the Painswick Woodcraft shop, the volunteers are now taking a well earned rest.

It was an extremely busy season, with the volunteers welcoming 6,214 visitors to Painswick. These numbers are back to the 1996-97 years.

The office is now closed but access is still possible when the library is open, and all information is updated every week.

Terry Causon

GODDARDS GARAGE

Cheltenham Road, Painswick



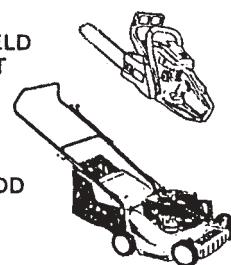
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Village Quiz 2003 - 5th July

This year is a very special one for a number of organisations.

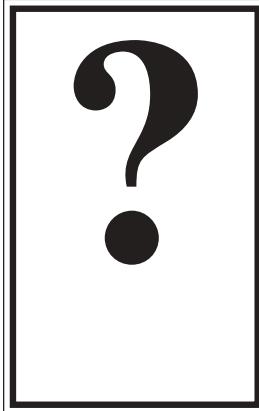
The Parish Council is celebrating the 750th anniversary of the granting of a Charter to hold a market. As mentioned elsewhere, this newspaper is celebrating its more modest 25th in April, and we hear that there could be 'round figure' anniversaries for The actual charter date is to be marked by a special service to be held in St.Mary's on Tuesday 8th April

As this is not the ideal time of year to arrange combinations of both outdoor and indoor events, current planning is to schedule an assortment during the week or so early in July. The Beacon feels it most appropriate that the annual Village Quiz, with its teams drawn from different organisations, would be an ideal feature among those celebrations, and we hope that you feel the same way.

So, we have booked the Painswick Centre and are planning the quiz along lines similar to those which proved so successful last October. We have learned some lessons from that format, and believe we can produce an even more enjoyable evening.

Early bookings will be welcomed, although we will of course be going through a little more formality nearer the date. The maximum number of teams is 24, so why not make this a special evening out for your club, street, society, pub, or whatever?

Above all, please note the date in your diary, and help avoid its clashing with anything else!



Little Red Whittington

The Senior Circle kicked off the Christmas season on Friday 6 Dec. at the Town Hall by getting into pantomime. The usual celebration tea was enlivened with much merriment and hilarity generated by a dual pantomime performed beforehand by nine members, suitably encostumed, revealing hidden talents. With unexpected aplomb and panache they pulled off a much enjoyed performance that spoke of a deal of prior rehearsal.

'Dual' because the two rival presenters, the suave Pat Daly and the rural Myles Curtis-Hayward had clashed on their venue bookings but agreed to give a joint performance of respectively, Dick W and Little R R – hence the title.

Given that they switched repeatedly from one to the other upon the happen-chance of a single pivotal word, the prompt cueing of the whole cast produced seamless transitions with highly entertaining results. With expertly scripted dialogues that were topical and funny, they had the Circle in stitches. In the title roles, Avril Dorey as Little RR and Freda Huddlestone as Dick W were supported by Cat, Wolf, King, Queen, Chamberlain, Sir Hugh, Maid, Grandmother (yes, some doubled, which left the maid with a beard). Too many to list here, except John McCabe as Grandmother , who got a big hand for his remarkable costume and near wordless portrayal – groans as the Wolf got to work. Mention, though, has to be made of Robert Burgess who doubled musical direction with the part of "Curtain". Carrying a mini curtain mock-up he minced across the floor whenever 'curtain' was called (and unless we failed to get the message it was rammed home with a label to that effect). He was rewarded with a round of applause each time he went into operation.

Finally, by audience demand, we all joined in a repeat of the final chorus to the tune of 'There is a tavern in the town' The producer Pauline Foreman is to be congratulated on producing such an enjoyable seasonal entertainment, so a good time was had by all.

Maurice Maggs

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Directory

2003

The following important changes in Directory information have been drawn to our attention.

CLUBS and SOCIETIES

Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club
replace entry with
Sec: Mrs Pamela Stewart,
Rivendell,
Halfway Pitch, Pitchcombe,
Stroud
GL6 6LJ 814157

Local History Society

replace entry with
Gen.Sec.: Mrs E Buttrey, 14 The Croft, Painswick 812565

ACCOMMODATION

add, under guest accommodation
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1do.en-suite, 1tw.en-suite

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Dawn Mallinson

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Summertime in February! 80 year old to frolic full frontal in French farce?

A Happy 2003 to you all! The New Year Being well and truly being upon us and the Christmas Panto being now part of history, I promise not to mention anything to do with pantos at all this month. Oh, no I won't! (*You mean, you're putting the panto 'Behind you!' ... ? – Ed*) Rather, I shall look forward to the broad sunny uplands of the dramatic year ahead.

And we are promised an exceptionally sunny start! Oh, yes we are! I can reveal that, following extensive negotiations with the Met Office, *Summertime* will start this year in February. Compiled and directed by Pauline Foreman, *Summertime* will be an idyllic, warm and sunny afternoon of poetry and drama. In the best traditions of the British summer, you will be able to experience *Summertime* for just one afternoon, Saturday, February 1st, in the Church rooms. So, note the date and order your tickets now from Chrissie Stephenson-Oliver on 01452-812232. You can then experience a particularly warm glow of satisfaction, secure in the knowledge that the ticket price includes not only a cream tea but also a donation to Resthaven in Pitchcombe.

Now for an even more dramatic announcement! If you thought the Magic Thighs of Prince Lustin in the panto (which – sorry - I wasn't going to mention and certainly won't mention again) had tested the lurid limits of what is erotically permissible in Painswick, prepare to think again! According to persistent rumours circulating through the louche demi-monde of trendy Painswick café society, Painswick Players are hell-bent on presenting a full frontal production of the French farce, *Don't dress for dinner*, by Marc Camoletti from 8th to 10th May 2003.

'It's all good clean fun!' claims director designate Lesley Wolowiec, with a knowing chuckle 'Well... good and fun, anyway.'

'Oh, no it's not!' I hear you cry. Make your voice heard at a public meeting to discuss *Don't dress for dinner* on Tuesday 14th January in the Green Room at the Painswick Centre at 8.00pm. Should such explicit permissiveness be allowed in our village? Do we really want to see erotic bed hopping romps on the Painswick Centre stage? Is this the way we expect an eighty year-old to behave in public?

 'What's this about a misbehaving eighty year-old?' Well, you see, it happens that Miss Lucy Hyett created Painswick Players exactly 80 years ago in 1923. To mark the occasion, we're thinking along the lines of coupling it with the 750th Painswick Charter do, for some sort of historical/ hysterical dramatic celebration in July. Ideas, proposals, protests, people – most of all people - are all welcome. Oh, yes they are! So why not put some drama into your life in 2003 and join the year-round pantomime that is...Painswick Players?

Jack Burgess Painswick Players

The Dragon's Tale!

The inclement turn to the weather in the first week of December made a pantomime in Painswick feel just right – after all nobody goes to a pantomime except in winter, do they? But while outside it may have been cold, inside the audience was quickly warmed by the liveliness and delight of the production which the Painswick Players gave us, as their latest triumph of ingenuity, hard work and dedication to entertainment.

First of all congratulations must go to Jack Burgess for his imaginative and funny script – we had a pantomime with all the usual elements – the wicked uncle, the stupid son, the lovely princess, the buffoons and the principal boy with the magic thigh, lots of magic in fact and a host of characters to tell the tale. As we learned from the programme, the inspiration for the story came from the tap dancing which had been learned for the

brilliant production of "Stepping Out"; so there it was – magic shoes which made the wearer tap dance!

The players included 'old' faces and new ones and all made up a great team. It seems unfair to pick out individuals because everyone added so much and director Lesley Wolowiec is to be congratulated on the production but Jean Burgess's Princess Inflagrante was particularly winsome and the inadequate but oh so kindly Prince Eric was very sensitively portrayed by Mike Jackson. The singing of Susanna Davis, playing the horrible Countess Scrofula, was beautiful and it is to be hoped that there will be more opportunities in the future to hear her again. It was good to see two young people - Sophie Allen and Ellie Jackson – making a great contribution to the team as Phineas Frog alias Princess Fenella.

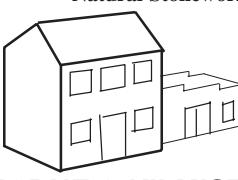
The costumes and the set gave it a real traditional panto feel, with an excellent backdrop of 'Much Tapping-on-the-Toe'. Can't think where they got that idea from! Eleven scene changes can be a nightmare but the stage crew coped admirably – perhaps recent investment back-stage helped! Lighting and effects were up to the usual high standard, including a chair which lit up – I could have sworn that red dragon was a Welsh one!



Live music, lots to join in with and plenty of hissing and booing at the effectively horrible Scrofulas, as well as the usual 'oh yes it is – oh no it isn't' routines allowed the older ones among us to shed a few years. So from an appreciative audience and from one member who shall be nameless but who has been heard to say that pantomime is for others - Well Done, PPs!

Gill Cox

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Rugby

Painswick 1st XV's league match which was to have been played against North Bristol last Saturday had to be postponed because the Bristolians' ground was waterlogged. The fixture is being rearranged for Saturday 25th January. There were no pitch problems at Broadham where the United met Tewkesbury 2nd XV and ran out victors in a match which saw the home side overwhelm their opponents by a score of 76 points to 7. The result reflects the confidence with which the Painswick second string are playing and that confidence was again apparent when they defeated Wotton-under-Edge by 24 points to nil in their recent Stroud Junior Cup encounter. The senior fifteen has also been playing well and is looking to consolidate the team's position in the Gloucestershire Premier Division to which they were promoted last season. If they continue to play as they did against Cirencester 1st XV in the last league game before the Christmas break, they should be well placed at the end of the season. The game saw Painswick victorious by 22 points to nil. One note of disappointment for the side was that the match saw Alastair Bressington making his final league appearance of the season before flying out to Australia but coach Wayne Lee told the Beacon that, whilst Alastair would obviously be missed, there was considerable talent in the side and the players had every confidence in their collective ability to win most if not all of their remaining matches. Results [(L) indicates league match]
 Sat 7 Dec. (L) Avonmouth OB 1st XV 47
 Painswick 1st XV 10.
 Painswick United 24 Old Richians 2nd XV 32.
 Sat 14 Dec. (L) Cirencester 1st XV 0
 Painswick 1st XV 22.
 Sat 21 Dec. Stroud Combination Junior Cup. Painswick United 24 Wotton-under-Edge 0.
 Sat 28 Dec. Peter Bradshaw's XV 22
 Andrew Morgan's XV 22.
 Sat 4 Jan. Painswick United 76
 Tewkesbury 2nd XV 7.

Tennis

Gloucestershire LTA Club of the Year 2002

Chris Rivers, Gloucestershire County Development Officer announced Painswick Tennis Club's success as 'Club of the Year' in her speech at the prize giving on 2nd December. A shield was presented to John Courts, President of Painswick Lawn Tennis Club by Mary Eyre, President of the Gloucestershire LTA. John is pictured here with the shield.



Those attending the prize giving learned that the Painswick Club has approximately 200 adult members and 90 junior members, many of whom participate in the club's coaching scheme. The club has supported members through the Tennis Assistants Course and one member has started the Referee's Course. The Broadham facility is a mini tennis accredited centre and is currently working towards performance accreditation. The Development Officer congratulated the club on the hard work put in by its committee and the membership as a whole.

Ken Morton

Lloyd

Members of the Thursday morning senior men's and Monday morning social tennis groups hosted a lunch at the Golf Club in celebration of Ken's 80th birthday. Ken, a club life member, is a regular playing member of both groups.



Winter tennis

The matches continue throughout the winter months with the Thursday evening intra-club league being particularly popular.

The annual Christmas mixed tournament took place on 27th December with mulled wine and party hats much in evidence. The winners were, Beverleigh Anderson and Adrian McDowell.

Alastair Bressington

Alastair flew out to Perth, Australia on New Year's Day for a three-month period of coaching in fast bowling at Foster's Cricket Academy.

Alastair told the Beacon that he was very grateful to the individuals and organisations who had given financial support without which the coaching would not have been possible.

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Golf

Mike and Cheryl Horton have settled in well as Steward and Stewardess at the Golf Club.

They are keen to welcome both new and former social members. Social membership is £35 per couple.

Pictured are Mike (left) and Cheryl with staff member Michael Green and Chef Dean Langford.

More news from the Falcon

The prophecy in last month's newsletter proved to be correct when on Sunday 24th November the Falcon men took on the Stroud team in the Cotswold Interclub knockout competition. Our men's captain drove home from "the north" after celebrating his birthday, but still our side, which was seriously depleted from the one that beat Cirencester, struggled to keep up with the men of Stroud. One rink came within 3 shots of a win, but the others were well beaten.

We continue in the mixed competition, having received a bye against Gloucester Spa, and perhaps with the help of our ladies can put up a better show against R.H.P (another Stroud side) in March.

On 8th December a mixed side played a club friendly against the MidGlos Indoor club. As most of our members play at this venue during the winter it was more of a home match. However they have some of the best indoor bowlers in the area and although we had a significant win on one rink skipped by Brian Eley, we did not manage an overall win. What promised to be a very social occasion lived up to our expectations, the bar was open and the restaurant supplied us with a hot meal afterwards, where we were joined by our non playing supporters.

Our social calendar continues with whist drives and Christmas celebrations.

During January and through until March we will compete in an interclub league at MidGlos, against very strong sides, with cash prizes for the first six teams. This should concentrate the minds as all prizes are awarded to club funds. More of this and other matches later.

David Ryland

On the Inca Trail

Joan Wells thanks everyone who came along to the Festive Evening at Painswick Mill to listen to James Prince sing Edwardian and Victorian songs, accompanied by Robert James.

The evening proved to be a great success and raised £1100 towards the Inca Challenge for CLIC.

Joan Griffiths, Painswick Lawn Tennis Club's ladies captain, will be joining tennis club colleague Joan Wells on the Inca Trail Challenge in Peru during May 2003. Details of the challenge appeared in the October issue of the Beacon but the intention is to promote the awareness of childhood cancer and leukaemia.

Joan has to raise at least £2,500 for the Cancer and Leukaemia in Children charity (CLIC) in order to join the arduous 100 kilometres, ten-day trek. Most of the trek will be at very high altitude, climbing to 14,500 feet on remote mountain trails and high passes. Joan's first fund raising event will be a bridge evening, with supper, in the Church Rooms on Friday 7th February, 6.45 for 7.00pm. To reserve a place, please forward a cheque for £15 to Ms J Griffiths, 'Chandos', Cranham, Gloucester GL4 8HB

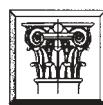
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THEN-and-NOW

The Beacon is close to celebrating its 25th anniversary, and the exact date will coincide with the issue brought out on 5th April this year.

We have been thinking about how this modest 'milestone' might be marked and have in mind creating an enhanced issue which will include some colour photographs, reference to stories we have carried across those years - culled from the archives, and a complete section dedicated to clubs and societies and what has happened to them over that period.

There are many residents who have moved into the area in that time who do not have a great deal of information about the diversity of our many voluntary organisations; but depend for their information upon any articles we may carry at the present time, or such as the annual Directory; or chancing upon information among those they meet. Our experience is that there are many who do realise that there are quite a number of interesting groups, but are short of knowledge about what they do - or have done.

Hence our intended, and extended, article. It could run to several pages.

For this we need some help, please.

We are, here, inviting all groups to let us have

up to 100 words and a photograph about their history. Maybe when they started, highlight events in the last 25 years, characters involved; recent activities or intentions for the future will be particularly appreciated. We want as many groups as possible to get in touch please, but as we will need to draw the information into a single 'spread' we will need to edit to achieve the most readable format possible.

In order to prepare material for publication there just has to be a deadline for this particular copy, and that must be Saturday 15th February. Receiving it typed will be a real bonus for us.

Can you help, and in so doing render a service to your own group through the 'free' publicity about your being alive, active, and looking towards the future?

Silver Anniversary of The Painswick Beacon

Boxing Day walk

It's one of those odd coincidences that each year the walkers arriving at the Stamages Lane car park for the Parish Council's Boxing Day walk number around thirty with about half of that total not having been on the annual walk before. This year was no exception with 29 adults and children and three dogs setting out. In the party were a number of visitors including one lady from the United States.

The weather forecast was not inspiring with rain expected but the day was very mild. In fact the rain hardly materialised with just a hint of drizzle on the return leg and anoraks were soon being removed. However, the heavy rain that had fallen during the night did nothing to help the already very wet conditions underfoot and the walkers had to be particularly careful at certain points to negotiate the mud and surface water.

The route took the walkers down to Painswick Mill and then up Ticklestone Lane to Bulls Cross. Here the party crossed the Birdlip/Stroud road and went through Trillgate Farm, going up Down Hill and then along Downwood North Bank before recrossing the Birdlip/Stroud road and entering Blackstable Wood above Sheepscombe. The walkers then made their way along Beech Lane and Vicarage Street before returning to the car park. The walk had taken just over two hours.

Music Appreciation

"Music from the South" was the attractive title of the Royal Philharmonic's programme in Cheltenham on 14th November. Rodrigo's 'Concierto de Aranjuez' with Gallardo del Rey as guitar soloist, and Nicky Kennedy singing the 'Five Songs of the Auvergne' arranged by Canteloube, were particularly enjoyed by some of our party.

On 28th November we witnessed a great "ladies doubles" with the Stroud Choral Society's two Sues, Freck and Edwards, providing a potted history of the Society, cleverly linking salient features of Sue Freck's excellent book "Stroud Sings" - a local social and musical history spanning nearly 200 years - with appropriate music recordings. These included excerpts from Elijah, Haydn's Creation, St. Matthew Passion, Mendelssohn's St. Paul, The Messiah and Dvorak's Requiem. The two ladies had put a tremendous amount of hard work into preparing their presentation - what a pity there were so few present to listen!

Not so on 12th December when a nearly full house enjoyed our annual Christmas Social by candlelight. Was it the generous provision of wine coupled with the liberal outpouring of inane witticisms from your reviewer's neighbour, one B.b Sh., that

made the musical crossword appear less fiendishly difficult than in previous years? (We shall miss him and his wife and wish them the very best for their forthcoming move).

A happy New Year to all Pmaggers!
Ralph Kenber

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Many thanks to all who supported the coffee morning on 7th December.

A cheque for £800 has been sent to Jerusalem to help them in their work.

Denise Magauran and Paula Allison

Serious business

The sun shone brilliantly through the Town Hall windows. On the President's table stood a colourful floral arrangement in red, yellow, blue and green. WI Annual Meetings are businesslike affairs and not expected to be wildly exciting. Painswick's, however, in November, was certainly interesting if only for the variety of topics discussed.

A visit to Staverton Airport had been much enjoyed by members, despite poor weather resulting in few planes being in evidence. Kathleen Gibson told us that over the years we had collected over £2,000, with help from Queenie Grant and her friends, for the Crack Cancer Campaign. There was news of a forthcoming Austerity Lunch organised by our WI; Christmas concerts at Cheltenham Town Hall; "Exercise your Memory" classes at the Painswick Centre on four Monday mornings in January and February, and a country walk at Ledbury in January.

After a welcome cup of tea and really good biscuits the meeting ended, each member taking with her a questionnaire to be completed. It lists sixteen questions concerning what we think about our WI. Here's hoping!

Dorothy Binns



Painswick Women's Institute

Members arrived at the December meeting bearing gifts for GEAR; Gloucester Emergency Accommodation Resource. These were placed on a table in front of a Christmas tree with ever changing coloured lights. We sat at small tables with seasonal flower displays which blended with the green and yellow table cloths in the well decorated hall.

After a brief business meeting Dorothy Daniels, dressed as Queen Victoria, invited us to celebrate our Queen's Golden Jubilee by taking part in a programme of 'Victorian music, verse and prose', such as a middle-class family might have enjoyed in an evening. We heard excerpts from Dickens and Lewis Carroll and sang 'Home, Sweet Home', 'Come Into the Garden, Maud', and 'Sweet and Low'. Finally we joined in a few Christmas carols.

A splendid buffet tea followed, organised by Janet Dent and helpers. Janet also won the competition for a Christmas table decoration with Helen Briggs as runner-up. There was a raffle, and Jane Otway made us laugh by reading some lines on how turkey remains were dragged out for the twelve days of Christmas.

Margaret Richards

New Age Limit at Youth Club

The Youth Club has gone from strength to strength this past year.

There is a membership of approximately forty young people, twenty of whom come on a regular basis every Wednesday.

However, due to County requirements and comments from the older members, we have decided to introduce a new lower age limit of 12 years old or year 7 at secondary school which started from 1st of this month. We hope that rather than upsetting younger members, who have been stalwart in their support, it may encourage other members of the community to take up the challenge and provide an under-12 club, for which there is a definite need. The youth club is dedicated to providing access for teenagers and at times younger members have felt excluded. Thus, if anyone out there fancies starting a Junior Youth Club, please contact Jenny Broadbank or the Parish Council for details. We look forward to seeing some of them again at a later date!

The past three months have been very busy at the club. We have had workshops on Wildlife Conservation, Halloween Decorations, Health and fitness and an introduction to being a DJ. The highlight was a trip to Gloucester to "Applause 2000" – a whole county gathering to celebrate youth work and its achievements.

The programme for this term, up until half-term is as follows:

8th January

Club reopened, pool competition at club.

15th January

U14 County Pool Competition at Glevum Pool Centre, Gloucester. Video evening at club.

22nd January

U16 county pool competition as above. Climbing at Glos. Climbing Centre.

29th January

U19 County Pool (as above) County activity or DJ Project (to be advised)

5th February

County Music Quiz at club.

12th February

Peer Education team workshop on drugs.

19th February

Shut

26th February

Half-term. Trip to cinema.

Other activities to be arranged are: Breakdance Project, South Cerney Water Park, Quasar and Paintballing.

We wish all our members and supporters a Happy New Year, and thank you for your continued support.

Jenny Broadbank

Chris Garrett

and Steve Miles

- Youth Workers

Playgroup News

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Painswick Playgroup has had a very busy December. There have been numerous fund-raising ideas for the new play equipment due for installation in January together with the annual Nativity Play and Christmas Party with a surprise visit from Father Christmas.

Beaty, Linsey and Christine, the playgroup leaders, have worked tirelessly with the (mostly!) enthusiastic cast of the Nativity Play. It was an excellent production with some superb singing and fantastic costumes.

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Before finally plunging ourselves headlong into 2003 it is, perhaps, worth pausing to reflect on Painswick in 2002. And where better to glean our information for this purpose than from the Beacon? This, however, is a very daunting task as last year your small but indefatigable Beacon team of unpaid volunteers produced for your edification a breathtaking 252 pages, full of news and articles of local interest and concern. And such variety. Items included the controversial, the impressive, the welcome, the unwanted, the joyous, the unpleasant, the new, the extraordinary – the list of descriptors is endless.

Bill and Phil Varah were the very popular recipients of our Painswickian of the Year award, nominated because of their real commitment and unstinting contribution to the community over many years. Their quiet kindness and compassion has touched many people in Painswick.

Staying on a high and perhaps hopeful note, the publication of the Parish Plan became a focus of wider interest as it was the first in the country to appear. We should be proud of the fact that the Plan was widely complimented for its quality.

And what of our forebearance? The A46 saga continued to put this to the test. This time, the road closure at Pitchcombe gave rise to a myriad of problems. In particular, too many cars travelling too fast along Wick Street left the verges and passing places in a woeful state. Roads in general were the subject of great debate and dispute. Not before time, Edge received its hard-won speed limits which in turn gave rise to many months of vigorous correspondence, provoking strong feelings on the subject. Safety on Painswick's roads was also an issue.

The controversial question of affordable housing, or lack of it, in Painswick continued to exercise our minds. St. Mary's Home was finally demolished bringing to an end a century of Painswick history. On the much-discussed subject of the care centre, the detailed planning application was finally approved by the District Council's Development Control Committee and work will probably commence early in 2003.

Of a more immediately worrying nature was the issue of illegal parking especially in Tibbiwell Lane and Kemps Lane where the problem of access for emergency services is very real.

However, one of the greatest causes of concern was dog fouling. I have been strictly forbidden to suggest that there may be some words rhyming with 2002 in relation to this subject so suffice to say that you have put pen to paper many times to complain. To add to the problem and increase the health risks, dog faeces have been taken from the bins and scattered around the Recreation Field.

And while we are on the Recreation Field ... A new children's roundabout was installed, mysterious holes were the work of over-enthusiastic young metal detectors, and unfortunately, there was increased concern about the anti-social behaviour of some local young people on the Field.

It was estimated that the Pavilion required £14,000 worth of work. An assistant Youth Club Leader was recruited and an encouraging number were attending. A delegation from the Youth Club gave a most impressive presentation to the Parish Council which, in turn, reiterated its commitment to ensuring the future of the Club. Funds would be set aside for the Pavilion structure, Youth Club services, assistance for the Playgroup and equipment for the Recreation Field.

Yet another hot topic for your letters was horse riding on the Beacon Common. An impassioned plea was issued for preservation and this led to a veritable deluge of heartfelt correspondence. This equestrian controversy continued for many months.

Moving from horse riding to sport in general, the First Fifteen were promoted for the second successive season. With nineteen consecutive victories they were awarded Team of the Month (and 100 cans of Tetley Bitter) by the magazine, Rugby World, and they won the Stroud Combination Senior Cup competition. The Tennis Club celebrated its 40th anniversary, won cups, and Junior Tennis was very successful with 130 children involved. Painswick Bowling Club was 90 years old and very active as was the Falcon Bowling Club. Cricket had its ups and downs but play went on, the Badminton clubs and Golf club were very busy and the Ladies' Hockey Club won a resounding victory over their local rivals, Stroud.

We suffered a few losses in 2002. John and Barbara Hulme sadly but deservedly retired after running the Central Stores for over 40 years. Their devoted service to the village

a reflection 2002

was marked by a grand get-together in the Post Office and Painswick. Under their tutelage on the first class stamp in 1997 and the South West award. Paul Moir relinquished leaving the future of the pack in question. editor of the Beacon. We thank him for David Felce, the fish man, stopped bringing on Thursdays. And Brother Michael was remembered of his death.

We lost the phone box in Stamages Lane (to be precise). The doors of the Town Hall were very valuable statue was stolen from Prinknash by the actions of a few local youngsters who keep its doors locked.

Well now for the other side of the coin, the to take a deep breath. Who and what did we?

Christ Church welcomed its new and new Whyte at a service attended by many rebrary Manager, Hilary Youldon, who con Library's future. Phil Stick is the new Ber the Lych Gate office. Mr. Balwant Singh K Londis shop and Annie and Tony Littler Office. Sue Oakley began running a reflex Painswick home.

Painswick Fire Station is recycling collection service notice board appeared in the twice monthly outside the happy with the provision of a statuette of Christ the Good Shepherd. Church of our Lady and Saint living in Bethlehem and the Chairmen from 1894 to the Council.

A new tap dancing class for the Players' much-enjoyed return to Music classes started again. £10,000 was allocated to the scheme and there were that the Musical Equipment Fund. Funds on the Beacon is available again. A new group for mums will be in the Church Rooms, we enthusiastic Sheepscombe Society into full swing. There was

and a rich showing of local skill at several Sharwood-Smith's Message in a Bottle and the Saucy Calendar No. 6. Sheepscombe commissioned a saucy calendars, both raising money for named after him.

And what of the rare peregrine falcon in Painswick? This roused much interest among natural history subjects.

We greeted 28 babies, saw 16 weddings, 12

Take another deep breath for the achievements by our real village heroes and heroines as a



on upon 02

Town Hall. Ray and Heather Appleby left the management, Painswick's Post Office had been achieved Best Community Post Office in shed his leadership of the Painswick Beavers Tony Crook also relinquished his role as sole his tremendous efforts and professionalism. his wonderful fish stall to Painswick remembered on the 40th anniversary

the car park (well, BT removed it, to now have to be locked due to theft, a hash Abbey and trust has been eroded – Ashwell House must henceforth

the positives, and for this you'll need we gain?

newly ordained minister, Rev Heather representatives. We gained a new Limes with a positive outlook on the benefice Administrator, working from Kang became the new licensee at the became the new faces at the Post xology and massage clinic from her

to have a new fire engine. A kerbside was introduced and a spanking new the car park. An extra police presence in the form of the Mobile Police Station Town Hall, and PC Breakwell was of a community mobile phone. A Good Shepherd was presented to the saint Therese by a Palestinian Christ and a framed Roll of Parish Council the present was presented to the Par-

started as a spin-off from Painswick oduction of Stepping Out, Exercise and line dancing and Tea Dances continued. the Parish for the proposed Village Link Bus nks from the surgery for donations to the Spending for some limestone grassland restoration as part of the Caring for the Cotswolds Project. with pre-school children began weekly meetings received regular weather reports from an en school and the new Blues Club quickly went a WEA programme of poetry at the Library art and crafts exhibitions. Into print went John the Local History Society's Painswick Chronicle. Village Mug and the Royal Oak launched two good causes. Laurie Lee had a new local ale

which appears to have taken up residence in and prompted articles and letters on a host of

one platinum, two diamond and eight golden

ments. Amazing sums of money were raised a result of the many coffee mornings, concerts,

recitals, bring-and-buy sales, suppers, auctions, marathons, raffles, tuck shop, bike rides, lunches, fayres, bingo, shows, bazaars and toddle waddling.

Ashley and Fern Barker from Sheepscombe won places in the British Children's Ski Team. The Woolpack, Slad was designated one of the six best country pubs in England by the Daily Telegraph. Daisy, a blue merle border collie, won a gold medal at Crufts with her owner, 17 year-old Craig Gamble and four sibling lambs all miraculously survived at Skinners Mill Farm. An example of superb craftsmanship was demonstrated in the restoration of the weir at King's Mill by Don Juggins. Angie Sadler ran in the London Marathon, Trevor Smith took part in the Great North Run raising money for Leukaemia Research and the vicar and Mike Buttrey cycled to raise money for the Historic Churches Trust. Trish Moroney plans to trek over the Wall of China and Joan Wells plans to complete the Inca Trail ... watch this space.

The enterprise which truly captured our imaginations and hearts was, of course, our very own Painswick Four. Cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats, a distance of 819 miles, in 11 days, they donated the almost incredible amount of £20,000 to four charities at a Thanksgiving Service.

Painswick and Cranham Brownies knitted more than 30 woolly jumpers for penguins in Tasmania – much needed winter warmers.

The Local History Society launched its landscape project, there was praise for the local NHS services, Christian Aid made its usual wonderful efforts, the bell-ringers continued to ring with gusto, all the local societies wrote animatedly about their fascinating programmes, the Gloucestershire Drama Association presented The Merchant of Venice in the Rococo Garden without rain, the Painswick Singers celebrated their Golden Jubilee, the Horticultural Society celebrated its 50th show, the Remembrance Day poppy collection in Painswick yielded a remarkable £1,900 and the Painswick Players and their audiences thoroughly enjoyed their pantomime.

Christian Unity was happily promoted by several ecumenical occasions and events for all denominations. If only such cooperation were in evidence in the wider world.

The playgroup was busy and thriving and thrilled to receive a letter from the Queen, pleased that they had enjoyed their Jubilee tea party so much. The Croft School saw the opening of a new purpose-built classroom, enjoyed football victories, purchased a digital camera with Tesco vouchers, participated in the Woolpack Cluster project, forged links with schools internationally and opened the Fun Club, a new after-school care club.

Now it's time to look quickly at major events. Edge Fete with its Chitty Chitty Bang Bang theme was a great success, despite the weather. Victorian Market Day, blessed for once with good weather, brought out many who enjoyed the puppy-dog pie atmosphere. The Victorian Ball which followed was also a great success. Painswick Show thank-

fully returned after last year's absence, now, we hope, with a secure future. The annual Clipping Service was well attended, combining old and new. The Village Quiz, with its new format was most entertaining with PaDFAS coming through at the last minute to snatch victory from the WI. Painswick felt the earthquake.

And, of course, there was the Golden Jubilee. A greeting was sent to the Queen, a special dance took place at the Painswick Centre, a Jubilee Lamp and plaque were placed outside the Town Hall, a copper beech was planted in the Recreation Field and there was a metal table for the Plantation. Painswickians certainly celebrated this great occasion with several very red, white and blue street/garden parties including that at Ashwell House. Union Jacks, bunting and red, white and blue flowers made it all very special.

So that was 2002.

There is a sense of true warmth as one concludes this summary. Re-reading about all those quiet acts of kindness, of utterly unselfish dedication to the good of others, so routine in Painswick, the overall feeling is of optimism.

It is perhaps summed up by a request printed early in the year by a lady for help walking her dogs, due to difficult circumstances. Within days there was an overwhelming response from the people of this village.

That says it all.

Carol Maxwell



LETTERS

Eileen Lambert

We would like to thank those concerned for presenting the 'Remembering Eileen Lambert' article last month, and reproduction of the photograph.

It has given pleasure, and we feel hopeful about furthering the appeal.

Unity Stafford

Phyllis Calvert

You ask in the Beacon if any villagers remember Phyllis Calvert and her family. I was a schoolgirl at the time, Barbara Daniels. I lived at The Baths on the Cross. My father was Arthur Daniels, one of the local postmen. Phyllis Calvert's home was one of the ones on his postal round, he got to know the family well. On Phyllis Calvert's return from Hollywood, which you mentioned, she gave my Father a present for my Mother, a pair of nylons. You can imagine the thrill; they were like

gold dust in the days of clothes rationing and coupons. As you can imagine, I ended up with them. They were treated with care and lasted months and months. In those days, if you laddered them you took them to the Bon Marche, now Debenhams, in Gloucester and had them repaired while you waited and watched!

My father once came home with a parcel of cast off clothes. I had a pair of maroon corduroy "slacks" as we called them in those days. They were well worn, they even had bare patches on the knee where the corduroy had worn off, but they were my pride and joy and the envy of my friends. None of us had ever owned a pair of slacks.

I remember Peter Murray-Hill driving around in a lovely large cream sports car. Being a girl I don't remember what type it was, I'm sure some of the boys from the 30's or 40's will remember.

The family fitted in very well with village life, she even attended some of the

local Saturday Dances at the institute. I remember her being very beautiful with lovely red hair.

Barbara Minett-Smith (nee Daniels)

My mother who ran a dancing school for over 30 years under the name of Helen Tait taught Phyllis Calvert's daughter, Auriol Murray-Hill, when she ran a ballet class at Pitchcombe House in the late 1940's. My mother was asked to do this class by the late Kathleen Yeomans who had several homes in Painswick, but most recently lived in Vicarage Street.

The main reason Auriol came to this class was to learn to do a curtsey as she had to present a bouquet of flowers to Princess Margaret at a film premiere.

I spoke to Lyn Black following her request in last month's Beacon for any more information as her daughter's boyfriend is Phyllis Calvert's grandson, and she told me there is a family photo recording this occasion.

Liz Fisher

Street lighting

Additional street lights have been approved for installation in the coming weeks in Painswick, this consequent upon an assessment by the Parish Council of the most urgent needs.

The County Council is making the necessary arrangements, and had hoped that the first would be in place before the end of last year. The four will be located as follows:

- in Stamages Lane car park in the corner close by the letter box, this to illuminate the area within the car park facing into the junction of Stroud Road and Stamages Lane
- in Edge Road to eliminate the remaining 'black spot' midway between the junction with Stroud Road and Hambutts where there are lights
- Cheltenham Road within the permitted roadside parking south of Lower Washwell, and
- a pillar light in the area at the junction of the footway of Hollyhock Lane where it enters Ashwell, a particularly dark spot for pedestrians.

The History of Local Canals

The 2003 programme of the Painswick Local History Society will begin on Tuesday, 21st January, when Mr. Bruce Hall will give a talk on Stroud's Canals.

Mr. Hall will speak on behalf of the Cotswolds Canals Trust, formed in 1972. The Trust aims to restore the Stroudwater Navigation and the Thames and Severn Canal, both opened in the late 18th century and very significant in the economic development of the area and perhaps, as a consequence, partly responsible for the decline of Painswick's wool industry. Restoration will provide many new uses for the benefit of the community, including the towpath as the Thames and Severn Way long distance footpath.

The meeting will be held in the Croft School and start at 7.30pm.

Carol Maxwell

Children last

Once again the Beacon has been asked to print a plea, to politely ask those few dog owners who purposely select the school playing field for their dog to run, off lead, and to defecate anywhere it chooses.

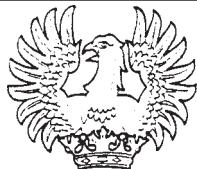


Parents of children at the school, unlike some dog owners, have a real concern for the health of their children. They are very much aware of the risks present when a child comes into contact with dog poo - of permanent health damage if in contact with an open wound, even a scratch, or the eyes; children have scratches - and eyes.

So, the **mothers** of sport-playing children at the school have to walk up and down the pitch on a regular basis and remove the muck! One thing is certain - they **are not the owners of the dogs concerned**. We have been asked to remind the selfish dog owners

concerned that they can be facing up to a £1000 fine, and a measure of embarrassment, as a consequence of prosecution.

Think twice before someone uses the number in this box.....



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Readers are reminded that the Dog Warden telephone number is
01453 754497

POLICE REPORT

13th November to 13th December

Edge, Pitchcombe, Harescombe and Brookthorpe

Burglaries: house - 0, business - 1, garage/shed - 2.

Thefts - 2. Theft of motor vehicles - 3

Painswick

Burglaries: house - 3, business - 2, garage/shed - 0.

Thefts - 2. Thefts of motor vehicles - 4

Cranham

No reported crime

Sheepscombe

Indecent assault - 1

Items stolen: Garden equipment (lawnmower, strimmer, etc.), garden accessories (holly, windchimes), house rugs, purses and money.

General: Of the 20 burglaries and thefts 11 were from insecure premises, motor vehicles or garden sheds. Please be mindful of securing homes, sheds and vehicles. Do not leave valuables on display, especially in vehicles. Make it hard for criminals to commit crime; make them go elsewhere.

Updates: There was a burglary at the Four Mile Inn, Brookthorpe. Two youths were arrested and are currently on police bail. There was an indecent assault in Sheepscombe. A man has been arrested, charged and bailed to court.

St.Mary's Church in Painswick was burgled back in the summer. A man has admitted this offence, as well as 650 other church thefts in the country of which 24 were in Gloucestershire. He is currently in prison.

From a report, on 5th December, with a description of a man wearing a balaclava and combat military clothes in the Holcombe/Gloucester Road area, the police visited but found no sign of the man or a form of makeshift tent.

His behaviour was described as unnerving; any further reports will be welcomed.

Police Information Point (PIP) This is located in the Painswick library. PC Breakwell will be there on Thursdays 16th January and 6th February 10.30 to 11.00am
The Mobile Police Station will be around on 23rd January 10.10 at Edge bus stop, 10.40 at Wick Street, 10.50 Painswick Town Hall and 12.45 at Sheepscombe Village Hall.

Detective Constable Claire Hudman

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Martin (mobile): 07808 722255

Painswick Centre - interim report

Since Millennium the Centre has progressed significantly, and the time is right for some of the most significant achievements to be put on the record. Anyone who has had cause to visit or use this, the largest village venue, cannot help but be impressed with the way in which voluntary effort, prudent guidance, and funds have been brought to bear.

The income from the Centre's Millennium Appeal, and that from increased bookings, has been ploughed back into the Centre focusing in the main on improving the existing facilities such as refurbishing both kitchens to improve the catering facilities for users. Bookings have increased both for regular Club activities and special events.

The 'Supporters Wall' was constructed as recognition of the many individuals, families and businesses, and both District and Parish Councils that gifted money to the Centre. Donations are still coming in and more plaques to recognise these have been recently ordered.

Tremendous support has been received from the major users; in particular the Painswick Players who have undertaken some significant structural work on stage, and greatly enhanced the lighting. There has been considerable help from volunteers within the community who have freely given of their time to clean, decorate, undertake bar work, 'control' the car park, fixing, sorting, and so on. Particular mention must go to Rose Smith who organizes all of the bookings, controls the keys, and liaises with the customers.

But what of the future?

The Trustees are highly committed to continue to improve the Centre and make more facilities available for the people of Painswick. 2006 will be the Centenary Year for the Centre, and they hope by then that the Painswick Centre will be a place to be even more proud of.

There are inevitably problems. The future success or failure of the Centre depends, as it always has done, on people supporting either by providing funds or assistance. Chairman of the Trustees John Stephenson-Oliver posed the question "How far can we go?" and, in characteristic fashion, went on to say that "With unlimited funds we can have a facility that will be the talk of the County. With significant funding we can complete the improvements, including the provision of disabled toilets - a project that has been partially funded by the Stroud District Council - a resurfaced car park, replacement entrance doors, better security and lighting, etc., build up a sinking fund to meet future deterioration of the building and improve the level of decoration both internal and external."

What John went on to say, being a realist, was that "With less funding the above can be done but over a far longer period of time."

"We also require help. By way of example: we need help in the design of a new bar and the existing toilets, we need people who can fix plumbing, electrical faults, woodwork, etc. to help reduce our significant cost of maintaining the building, we need people who are willing to turn their hand at anything to help deal with the many small things that arise from time to time. We would greatly value advice from somebody who can give us legal guidance and assistance."

In terms of organisation the Trustees have reached an agreement with the Charity Commission regarding the a new Deed. This requires a more open form of selecting Trustees from the local community. Trustees are now elected each year and for one year only and the first such open AGM took place last September. When it comes to donated funds the Trustees can, if the correct form is used, recover the tax from the Inland Revenue. The Centre is important to Painswick and, as its second century approaches, ideas, practical and financial help are clearly still very important. The Trustees have many ideas, but they cannot be left with sole responsibility if this is to be a facility attracting community pride. The Trustees work hard and give much of their free time. They deserve some recognition and support.

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SATURDAY

9.00 - 1.00

Power supply disruption

Aquila v MP

Like so many others in and around Painswick, the Beacon suffered the consequences of the lengthy period of loss of power during the storms of 26/27 October.

Aware of the representations made by many residents to Aquila, the power distributors for this area, as well as to the Member of Parliament David Drew, we are pleased to have his permission to publish copy of his letter of 6th December last to (at least) one resident as we feel all will appreciate the information it contains.

HOUSE OF COMMONS LONDON SW1A 0AA

On Friday 29 November, we arranged to meet Don Bacon, the Chief Executive Officer of Aquila, to discuss with him some of the issues that constituents such as you have raised with me following October's power cuts. We were keen, given the delays in restoring power, the lack of available information and worries over compensation that we should raise local concerns at the highest level.

Our meeting focussed on 3 main areas: i) what went wrong ii) what will be done differently in future and iii) what attitude Aquila will take with regard to compensation.

On the first point, Aquila agreed that they had not coped adequately with the result of the storm. They had, they said, been overwhelmed by the number of lines they lost: over 333,000 customers in total throughout the region lost their power supply though 75% of them were restored, Aquila said, by Sunday afternoon. Their

telephone system was overwhelmed by the number of calls received and effectively collapsed and they accepted that they failed to provide adequate information to customers. Being the supplier rather the billing company, Aquila had little real customer information a situation they accept they must rectify. Aquila also accepted that they should have made more effort to communicate using established local networks such as Neighbourhood Watch or Parish and Town Councils or by loudspeaker vans or letter drops. They agreed in fact that they had no strategy in place to offer assistance in particular to the elderly and vulnerable.

Aquila said they will learn lessons from this event and have identified a number of areas where they must improve. These include:

- Improve telecommunication systems
- Better identify disabled and vulnerable customers
- Undertake more aggressive tree clearance
- Improve the use of the media and internet to spread information
- Utilise local community care networks

We have agreed to help them with any specific problems they have with getting access to trees for trimming and are arranging to meet them again in 6 months to see what progress is being made with the other action points.

Aquila noted that under the terms of their standards of service agreement with Ofgem, they are not legally obliged to pay compensation. The 'Worst Served Customer' Standard (Regulation 5A) permits exemption from paying compensation if, 'the event causing the interruption resulted in the interruption ... to more than 500,000 customers in Great Britain - which the storm in October did. At the meeting however we pointed out how poorly this contrasted with the

generosity of other companies who had tried to help those with problems and pressed Aquila to reconsider. They have agreed to look again at this issue - particularly for those most seriously affected and we would urge constituents to apply for compensation if you feel this may be appropriate. Having contacted all the Parish and Town Councils and District Councillors in the Stroud constituency for feedback on local problems, we have passed on to Aquila details of any area that we are aware suffered particular problems.

We should note that the present owners of Aquila are seeking to sell the company as soon as possible and that any commitments made by the present management may have to be re-negotiated with the future owners. This is clearly far from satisfactory but it is an evitable fact following the breaking up and privatisation of the industry. We shall be arranging to meet whoever owns the company in the late Spring to keep an eye on progress.

Yours sincerely
David Drew

MP for the Stroud Constituency

Diana Organ

MP for the Forest of Dean
Constituency

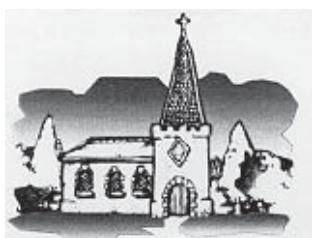
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Wednesday Tea Dances

We are well into our second year of Wednesday afternoon Tea Dances at the Painswick Centre and would like to take this opportunity to wish our supporters a very happy and healthy New Year and to remind everyone that the dances have already recommenced after the festive recess and will continue every Wednesday from 2 till 4pm until the Gloucester Guild take up residence for their summer exhibition in July.

For new residents in the town who may not be aware of our dances, could we just say that each Wednesday we have ballroom, latin sequence dancing for the two hours, with of course a break for tea and biscuits. So if you would like to come along one afternoon you will be assured of a warm welcome and at the same time be helping to raise funds for the gradual refurbishment of this great asset to your town where there are always lots of things happening many being organised by local people for the local people to enjoy.

We look forward to making your acquaintance.

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'Hello' from the States

Back on October 21 my wife were walking one of the lanes in your wonderful village and made the aquantance of a charming lady who is on the staff of your newspaper. I thought you would enjoy a snapshot of my wife and the lady. They had a wonderful conversation (and not just about the Cotswolds). We had just arrived in the Cotswolds the night before and she was very helpful. I've also attached two additional photos that I am sure you will recognize.

The shot of the church I included because there was a thick frost on everything. The water in the bird bath had frozen!

We spent about four and half days in the Cotswolds and that didn't give us enough time.

By the way, the man at the National Trust Bookstore in your village was extremely helpful! He was kind enough to give us a paper he had written recommending the "Hidden Cotswolds" that we found invaluable. When we went to some of the "popular" spots we were disappointed because they were not what we were seeking. (I think the diplomatic word would be "developed.") Anyway, I have lost that piece of paper and now can't identify the churches I photographed!

Could you ask him if he could send me a copy? Just let me know by email. If he would like I can send him the postage because I have a few stamps left.

Thanks.



Rachel Taylor, never one to miss out on a fact or two for these pages, in conversation with Susan last autumn.

*Stef and Susan Leinwohl
439 W. Oakdale Ave. Chicago, IL 60657 USA*

David Archard (our 'man at the National Trust Bookstore') recollects the meeting, and has forwarded a copy of the leaflet Stef and Susan were seeking.

Remembering Paddy Wildy

Paddy Wildy was born in Belfast on 15th June 1918 and died at his home at Ashwell on 26th November 2002.

After leaving school at 14 years old, he trained as an apprentice chef in a large Belfast hotel until he was called into Military Service in 1939, serving in the RAF. Paddy trained on aero engines as an engineer. On completion he was posted to Minchinghampton where he met Eva and they were married in 1942, before Paddy was posted for overseas duties.

Paddy became a loving husband and father to John, Kevin and Patricia. On leaving the services Paddy and Eva made their home at Monkly Road, Leonard Stanley for many years before moving to Ashwell in Painswick in 1974.

Paddy was a friend to all, his abilities were endless, so much so he was to be Painswickian of the Year in 1988 for his willingness to help all in

He became known as 'Paddy will fix it'. Ashwell House especially will miss Paddy, as over the years he played a big part in entertainment for the residents, spending endless hours making costumes and props, cooking apple tarts and mince pies etc.

Paddy brought a lot of fun and laughter into peoples lives, his humour was infectious. Now gone to his reward in Heaven, he will never be forgotten and his influence will live on forever.

Charles Say

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GREEN ORCHARD, DEERHURST, TEWKESBURY

Oscar

We have lost our tabby/spotted blue eyed cat.

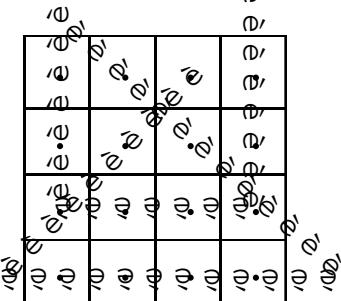
He is a neutered male and called Oscar. He is VERY friendly and we're worried someone may have picked him up while he was hitchhiking in the Edge/Painswick area.

If you have any news good or bad we would be pleased to hear from you. There is a reward for his safe return

The Marden family 01452 812459

That dotty challenge?

Answer to last month's puzzle, about how to draw six straight lines, without lifting the pencil from the paper, and make those lines pass through each of the 16 dots?



For those who know their way around

This month we have hidden the names of eight local villages in our WordSearch.

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.



Beaky

D	F	A	H	W	N	P	K	M	U	U	W
R	E	W	E	D	G	E	D	L	K	I	R
O	B	B	B	S	B	I	S	L	E	Y	A
E	M	X	M	B	H	S	V	H	A	O	P
G	O	P	O	O	K	L	D	E	U	Q	L
J	C	D	C	H	C	A	R	R	O	T	H
S	H	E	S	B	I	S	L	A	D	C	C
I	C	Y	E	N	W	U	P	E	W	R	L
O	T	S	R	N	S	L	I	E	K	A	C
O	I	S	A	K	N	T	W	F	E	N	N
U	P	A	H	F	I	R	S	I	S	H	B
G	K	P	F	E	A	O	E	G	P	A	S
H	I	T	M	S	P	N	S	H	T	M	O

Answers to last month's WordSearch. We cheated a bit; there were an extra two birds - total fifteen birds!

BLACKBIRD

GULL

OWL

ROBIN

BLUETIT

BUZZARD

SWALLOW

WREN

CUCKOO

WOODPECKER

SPARROW

MAGPIE

FALCON

ROOK

BEAKY

PROPERTY REPORT at 19th December from Murrays

May we wish you all a **Happy and Prosperous New Year**. We hope you enjoyed the seasonal festivities and are now focused on your plans for the coming year. A house move may well be among them and if we can help in any way, we are always delighted to advise and if you wish, provide a free market appraisal. Activity remained pretty strong in the run-up to Christmas with a good number of sales and new instructions bringing to a close our best ever year by far. Exchanges and completions included Turnways at Butt Green who moved to Hillview in Vicarage Street, 7 Hyett Close, Ferndale at Pitchcombe,

Folly Cottage by Painswick Beacon, The Malt House in Vicarage Street and The Old Coach House at Haresfield.

Recent instructions have kept us busy too; Spring Acre is a superbly situated detached stone cottage at Edge, and nearby Hill House Farm, a period house with barn, studio and outbuildings, Lloydstone, a 4 bedroomeed family house and Littlemead an attractive property both in Stamages Lane, 3 The Court, an artistically restored and extended cottage tucked away in Butt Green, Whitemead, a detached chalet house at Pitchcombe with a great view and also Field Cottage in the

same lane, a really attractive detached bungalow, 17 Gyde Cottages, a resale of a 2 bed cottage at Gyde House on which we are acting with Knight Frank, The Lamp House, a beautifully restored period house next to the town hall and last but certainly not least, Portlett Cottage with its lovely sitting room just by the Church.

The media continue to knock the property market but year-by-year it keeps rising and whilst demand is still outstripping supply it seems likely the rise will continue but perhaps more steadily. On an optimistic note, we at Murrays are looking forward to another exciting year.

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On Painswick . . . and Lovedays Mill

Salvador Oria is a lifetime friend of the Muller family, and in April 1995 he spent a few days at Lovedays Mill while on a visit to England from The Argentine. This poem was sent to Ann Daniels by E-mail in October last year to pass on to Charles Muller and his family. Ann and the Muller family share our thought that there will be many readers who would like to read a visitor's uniquely expressed remembrance of Painswick, written so long after the event. Salvador is a Spanish speaking Argentine, who says his English is poor!

To my friends Mr. and Mrs. Charles A Muller at Lovedays' Mill, Painswick, Gloucestershire.

I can clearly recall
The unending murmur of the stream,
And I see myself
Sitting amidst the freezing flecks
Of the frothy waterfall,
Or kneeling on the edge
Of the tiny island
Looking for crayfish
Scurrying thorough the pebbles
At the bottom, a foot deep.
(The huge dark Yew
Had been overlooking the scene
For ages. The old Mill
Has long ago stopped its spin
And its wooden wheels are buried
In the graveyard beneath the pear-tree.)

I can also see a million daffodils,
"Fluttering and dancing in the breeze"
- In true Wordsworthian fashion -
When I walked past
Along the banks, under the trees...
Those trees! The woods!
Singing down a kind slope,
A creek creeps through.
Peace can be felt in the scents
From rich wet ground and green leaves.
The elm-trees bend their backs to see the
water closer,
Mossy branches lick from it
As if the clear moving surface
Would give them a sip
With chips of its reflected Sun!
Noisy mallards, a turmoil of bills and
wings
Glitter the blue metal in their necks
Tainting the steamy droplets
From their hot love play.

The roar of a machine,
A tractor
Pulling a plough, breathing heavily and
clanking
Across a neighbouring field
Uncovering pieces of earthen pipes
And Roman tin coins
- Wheatfields have been grown here
Century after century -
Bring me back to reality.
- For a split second I'm taken off my
dream -
But then I look up the hills
And I can see St. Mary's spire
Piercing the clouds, and I hear its bells
Making room in them to lodge their peel..

A style helps me to the road.
The sidewalk climbs up to the village.
My pace is slow,
My eyes discover an old stone road-sign
My fingertips touch the lines carved in
the granite
And I can then hear the rumble of mail
coaches,
Their whining horses and voices of
command.
I pick a few wildflowers to take with me,
And also some wild chives bulbs to
bring back to Buenos Aires
Together with hawthorn offshoots,
Daisies, creeping buttercups,
I treasure all these...
Reminders of a past.

And now I stand here at the top of this hill
Seeing down the vale the placid
Limestone whitish walls of Lovedays'
Mill,
This noble sentinel, a beacon to travellers,
Mannerly distinguishing itself from
cottages,
All of them under their brown slateroofs.
Oh, I love these ancient monuments from
an unforsaken time
Of pastoral grounds and wool
When sheep trod and kept the trade alive,
Though now only their ghosts move
around
Followed patiently by the spirits
Of their former owners, clasping staffs,
Whistling to the pack of hairy dogs,
And to themselves,
Still walking flocks on to a vanished
market;
Shorn black-headed fat sheep heading
nowhere...

I can recall the bright evenings
With Nature all around
Melting slowly away into darkness.
And the silence of the night,
Broken only by the rustle of deer hooves
Or a nightingale song.
And my peaceful stride to sleep,
On to my bedroom
Overlooking all this,
Feeling trapped in,
Being, out of sight,
Absorbed in the metaphysical order
Imposed from above.

Remember, remember! the last two weeks in October and the first two weeks in November?

It doesn't scan so well but sadly it is becoming the truth. In my youth November the fifth was fireworks night; the night the country celebrated the brutal execution of the only man ever to enter Parliament with honest intentions. The firework shows now seem to start almost as soon as they are on sale in the shops, and finish when the last stocks are exhausted. Wonderful for those enjoying the spectacle but do they ever think of the distress caused to domestic and wild animals? We

have three dogs in our house. Originally none of them seemed in the slightest bit worried with the nightly flashes and bangs during November. Sadly, about two years ago, they became so distressed that they jumped out of their compound and ran free. We can only assume that someone had thrown a firework into their area. Since then they have all been terrified out of their minds when the bangs start.

This means that we have to keep them indoors during displays and turn up the television or radio in an attempt to drown out the noises. Fine you might say, that is what dog owners should do, and if it were only for one or two nights of the year, we would be happy to do so. However the one or two nights have now stretched to ten or twenty, committing us to staying at home in the evenings for the entire four weeks to look after our dogs, just in case a close neighbour decides to have a bonfire and fireworks. Why can't we go back to the one night celebrations again? Christmas Day only occurs once a year and we don't hold month long church services to celebrate the birth of Our Lord. So why do we celebrate, for thirty days, the brutal death of Guy Fawkes.

Peter Dickinson, in Edge Parish Magazine



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PLANNING MATTERS

A summary of information received from the Parish Council.

Locations are in Painswick unless indicated.

NEW APPLICATIONS

PAINSWICK MILL New extension to provide conservatory and provision of a new entrance door.

9 HYETT CLOSE Erection of single storey extension to rear.

WOODSIDE, JACKS GREEN, SHEEPScombe Retrospective application for insertion of dormer window to the side roof slope (revised scheme following permission 01/1846)

FORTUNES WELL, SHEEPScombe Construction of a driveway.

CAMPERDOWN, LONGRIDGE, SHEEPScombe Erection of single storey extension.

DENBURY, THE HIGHLANDS Outline application for the erection of one dwelling. PAINSWICK RFC SPORTS GROUND, BROADHAM FIELDS Erection of a Pavilion at the Lawn Tennis Club.

CONSENTS

COTSWOLD VIEW, THE HIGHLANDS Erection of single storey and 2 storey extension to include double garage (existing garage to be demolished).

REST BY THE WAY, CUD LANE, EDGE Erection of replacement dwelling and garage.

WINDRUSH, BEACON CLOSE Erection of detached house.

HILLSIDE, LONGRIDGE, SHEEPScombe Erection of an extension.

LOVEDAYS COTTAGE, ST.MARY'S STREET Installation of secondary glazing.

REFUSAL

HAZEL MILL, THE VATCH, SLAD Replacement of windows

APPEAL - PERMISSION

BLACKSTABLE HOUSE (formerly TULLYFIELD), LONGRIDGE, SHEEPScombe Erection of extensions and alterations to existing dwelling.

REVISED PLANS

Farmyard adjacent to PAINSWICK LODGE, SHEEPScombe Erection of garage. Main changes: Garage revised and surrounding walls altered.

Plantation coppicing

During the past week some coppicing and thinning of growth has taken place in Painswick Plantation, this by members of the British Trust of Conservation Volunteers (BTCV).

The beech woodland in the Plantation is a woodland haven requiring care if it is to remain as such.

Space does not permit an exhaustive description of the range of BTCV activities, but readers may have a personal interest in some, or care to pass information on to others.

NVQ.2 training in Environmental Conservation, a hands-on practical non-academic qualification, includes ancient skills of hedge-laying, coppicing, tree planting, dry stone walling, pond construction and associated environmental good practices. Free training is offered through funding by the European Social Fund; travel and clothing allowances are also available. Contact Theresa Watt on 01452.523692

Community groups seeking funding to create or improve an open space may be able to attract grants to assist with project costs, tools, materials, training, publicity, childcare, travel, etc.. Contact BTCV on 01452.23692

BTCV in Gloucestershire will, during the first four months this year, be involved with such as

- scrub clearance near Dursley
- managing land for the rare nightingale near Minsterworth
- creating a nature trail on Kites Hill
- tree sand hedge planting at a junior school in Gloucester
- building a bridge at Stanway House
- learning bird ringing in the Severn Vale

Gotcha !

Residents may have seen in both the National and local press an account of Christopher Coulthard, a prolific church burglar of Bedworth in Warwickshire, who on 3rd January was jailed for 4 years at Swansea Crown Court.

He had admitted over 500 offences involving thefts from churches, including St.Marys, over a 9 month period and was eventually caught because a Vicar became suspicious of him and took the registration number of the car he was driving and passed it on to the Police. He was eventually stopped and arrested.

This man was caught on camera earlier in the year entering St Marys and, because of the quality of the image stored, was easily identified. The images were also used in an edition of the BBC's Crimewatch programme. The Church Wardens told the Beacon that they think this outcome justifies the cost of installing the CCTV system they have at St.Marys, including its deterrent effect. The actions of the Vicar involved should act as a reminder to all of us to be vigilant and to report anything suspicious. Coulthard posed as a visitor, was smartly dressed, but his camera case contained instruments for use in connection with theft.

As is so often the case these days, all is not what at first it seems.

Subscriptions

Beacon subscribers at 28th December

	2002	2001	2000
	2003	2002	2001
New (or returned)	69	80	91
Renewed	580	552	542
Totals	649	632	633

Not for the first time we have been in a position to be anxious to express our thanks to subscribers for their support.

As can be seen from the latest summary, here, there has been a record subscription response already this year - way ahead of anything experienced in the past.

Thank you - it makes it all worthwhile!

Roland Boggan

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The Painswick Beacon

detail until the next issue
and mostly non-weekly after that





MINI-ADS

Dreamland Electric Double Blanket -
Little used -Free to anyone who can use it. Call 813832.

Unwanted Christmas present? Why not advertise here next month?

Epson Stylus 640 colour printer. Two-cartridge model. Sale due to replacement. £20 813101

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 6QN If paying by cheque, please make it payable to The Painswick Beacon. Receipts are not forwarded unless requested.

Gardeners - wanted

Are you a keen gardener? Care & Repair (Stroud) Ltd. are looking for gardeners to help with the 2003 Gardening Assistance Scheme.

The scheme helps older and disabled people to care for their gardens throughout the summer. This is paid work in the local community and would particularly suit semi-retired people, parents at home during school hours, or someone starting up their own gardening business.

Telephone Jacqui on 01453 753471 for more information, or write to Jane Creed at The Gardening Assistance Scheme, Care & Repair Ltd., Unit 9, New Mills Industrial Estate, Libby's Drive, Slad Road, Stroud GL5 1RN

PAINSWICK WEATHER					
report from Sheepscombe School					
for the period 21st November to 20th December					
date	Rain mm	Temperature min °C	max °C	Pressure mb	Wind speed/ direction
21	16	10	16		
22	9	11	11		
23					
24					
25	Time moves on and Arthur Lock has, af- ter being coordinator of the distribution				
26	of the Beacon since early 1999, retired				
27	from these duties. Every month, whatever				
28	the weather, Arthur has counted and sorted				
29	Beacons as soon as they are available from				
30	the printers, and delivered packs of dif- fering sizes to the dedicated team of 33				
31	distributors who then deliver them to every				
1	household in Painswick village. Many are				
2	also delivered to subscribers in Cramham,				
3	Sheepscombe, Upton St. Leonards and				
4	elsewhere. We are all indebted to them.				
5					
6					
7					
8					
9	2	-2	2		
10					
11					
12	11	-1	0		
13	Clipping/Schooling/Breaking/ Teaching				
14					
15	Also Competing available				
16	13	0	5		
17	4				
18	0 452 722533 or 0 07759 392154				
19	0.5	-2	4		
20					

Beacon Committee

Our thanks to Arthur for all he has done to support our collective efforts. Our thanks, too, for the volunteers who have accepted these duties. Gus Gaugain has kindly undertaken to be distributor-in-chief and starts his rounds with this issue. Realising Gus should not have all the fun, John Hulme has agreed to depose or share the task, and David Ryland has also offered to job-share as needs arise.

These immediate changes reflect our trend towards sharing tasks and, in so doing, spread the load.

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The Personal Column

Baby

Congratulations to BEN and TANYA STEPHENSON-OLIVER on the birth of their second daughter, Evelyne Mae, on 17th December; a sister for Tia and a fourth grandchild for John and Christine Stephenson-Oliver.

Weddings

Congratulations to ROBERT REES and Dr. RENATA PETRUV who were married at Bisley Church on 6th December and ZOE LOVERIDGE and ROBERT BUNDY who were married on 21st December in Stroud, also JULIA WYLDE and ADAM AINSLIE of Ely who were married at Christ Church, Painswick, on 7th December, and NICOLA JONES and JOHN BOWLEY who were married at St.John's, Pitchcombe, on 28th December.

Birthdays

Congratulations to JOHN MARFELL who was ninety years old on 10th December and JACK WATSON who was 95 on 21st December and ROSINA RICKETTS who was 91 on 8th January

Get well soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to SUSAN PILE, MARY PAGE, GLYNIS MAYS, JOYCE TAYLOR, MARGARET ELLISON, JEAN GREENWAY, BARBARA LEIGH-SMITH, FRANCIS OTWAY and ISABEL MANNERING.

Farewell

We are sorry to say goodbye to SUE AVERY who moved to The Elms in Stonehouse, and the TURNER FAMILY who have moved to Cheltenham from Barracough House and BOB and MARG SHEA who move to France on 20th January.

Welcome

We would like to welcome MR and MRS DENT to Hillmans, Paradise also MR EVELYN BUFTON to Slad Farm, and DR JONES to Barraclough House, Hambutts Mead.

Diplomatic Congratulations

Our congratulations to Sir Francis Richards who has been appointed as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gibraltar, and who takes up his appointment in May.

Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of JEAN WEBB, EDNA REA, NORA JONES, MICHAEL FREEMAN, MARGARET VIZOR, EDWARD (Ted) LACEY, BERNARD OWEN and JAMES ROBINSON who all died in December.

Thanks

Eva Wildy and her family would like to express our gratitude to all of Paddy's many friends and neighbours for all their practical help and moral support given to us, particularly over the past few months.

We struggled to find the right words, but realise that a sincerely meant 'thank you' to every one of you for the parts you have played in giving him such a full and happy life could not be bettered.

Eva Wildy

I wish to thank all my friends in Painswick and district who visited me in Ward 13 of Gloucester Royal Hospital between 16th and 29th November with wonderful cards, and also thank the prayers of the church.

It is with regret that I shall not be able to transport people to surgery or hospital any longer.

John Thynne-Russell

Readers are reminded that the Police non-emergency number is
0845 0901234



Publication Date
SATURDAY 1st FEBRUARY

Items for publication to Iris McCormick, St Anne's, Gloucester Street, GL6 6QN
SATURDAY 18th JANUARY

Mini Ads to Philip Oakley, Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street, GL6 6QN by
SUNDAY 19th JANUARY

Business adverts to Liz Fisher, Harebell Cottage, Blakewell Mead, by
THURSDAY 16th JANUARY

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

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**



Editorial/Production Team

Leslie Brotherton	814500
Terry Parker (& Sport)	812191

Copy Editor: Iris McCormick	812879
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Personal Column:Rachel Taylor	813402
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Diary: Edwina Buttrey	812565
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Feature Writers:	
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Carol Maxwell	813387
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Jack Burgess	812167
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Business Advertising:Liz Fisher	812130
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Distribution: Gus Gaugain	812599
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Treasurer: Philip Oakley	813936
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