

The Painswick Beacon

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June 2005



Near miss for phone box

On Saturday 14th May, a spectacular accident demolished two of the railings protecting the phone box at the junction of Pullens Road and Gloucester Road. A local resident reported hearing an extremely loud bang and then arriving on the scene to see a blue Volvo overturned and the Painswick Fire service in attendance.

The incident was discussed in the Parish Council meeting on 25th May when reference was made to the

potentially dangerous position of the phone box. Council Chairman Terry Parker commented that, as one who often uses this phone box (Cllr Parker remains telephonically determinedly immobile), he thought that consideration should be given for BT to move it to a safer location, i.e. one where it would not be in the sights of a speeding vehicle.

Other members, however, were more reticent, fearing that if BT undertook to move the box, they might just be tempted to remove it altogether. Cllr David Hudson, who lives nearby, stated that in the 35 years he has lived in his property, the telephone kiosk has never been struck. The Council agreed that they did not feel that the kiosk was hazardously positioned, given that it had survived unscathed for as long as anyone can remember.



Just passing through...

Alan Burner, who has just retired from being 'Our Man In Dakar', passed through Painswick last week on his way from Land's End to John O'Groats. The 1200 mile charity walk is in aid of community projects in Senegal, especially those benefitting women and young children there. Alan's target is to raise £20,000 and he has already raised £12,000, which he plans to give to PLAN UK and Association Femme-Enfant-Environnement. Alan worked with these two organisations whilst running the British Embassy in Dakar and he is confident that they will use the funds effectively.

Alan is going the 'pretty way' to John O'Groats, taking in the Cotswold Way which he says is the highlight of the walk thus far, 'in spite of the steep bits.'

If you would like to support his efforts, take a look at his website www.justgiving.com/alanburnercharitywalk, through which you can make a donation. Donations can also be made by cheque (made payable to PLAN UK) and sent to Alan Burner, 12 Hillside Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TW13 3XJ.



Editorial note:



For the geographically challenged, Dakar is the capital of Senegal which is situated on the western-most bump of the African continent.

But, then, you all knew that already, didn't you?

Parish Council Annual Report

This year, for the first time, the Parish Council has published an Annual Report, made available to every household in Painswick through the medium of the Beacon, appearing as a centre page spread in this issue. Additional copies of the report are being delivered to the other villages in the civil parish, i.e. Edge, Sheepscombe and Slad.

VE-VJ Day 60th Anniversary

In line with the agreed policy nationwide, Painswick will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War on Sunday 10th July.



The date has been chosen so that the celebrations can be concentrated on the one day rather than having two separate days on 8th May (Victory in Europe) and 15th August, (Victory in the Far East).

The Parish Council is organising the occasion, one event of which will be a church service at St Mary's. The day will be centred on the Town Hall and the council is asking anyone with Second World War memorabilia if they would be kind enough to allow the item(s) to be available for public display. The Clerk to the Parish Council, Roy Balgobin, will be pleased to hear from anyone able to help the council with the loan of the memorabilia. Further details of the celebrations will be published on parish notice boards and in the July Beacon.

Elsewhere in this issue... Music from Missouri, companionable dogs do it again, Young Farmers do it on the Web, the Beacon's rubbish, more cuckoos, Dunroamin for the Romans, a well deserved tonic for our pharmacists, a cream tea with Love's Old Sweet Song and an awful lot of coffee

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

New Planning procedures

Following last month's decision to register a protest against the introduction, without consultation, of new planning procedures for major developments by Stroud District Council, Chief Planner, Ian Gobey, had sent a letter defending the procedures and denying that any snub to Parish Councils was involved. The argument was that, in order to speed up the process with major applications, the District Council had agreed to hold pre-site visits to which all members of the Development Control Committee would be invited, along with representatives of the relevant Parish and Town Councils, and that no-one would be invited to give an opinion at that stage. This was both because the meeting would be at the formative stage with incomplete information available and because an opinion at that time could prejudice future comments from members, or Parish or Town representatives. It would be wrong to invite a representative to express a view from the Parish Council, when the District Council itself had not properly considered all the details.

It was also noted that Painswick was the only Parish or Town Council to have thus protested. (See also letter from Cllr Barbara Tait, SDC Cabinet Member for Planning, page 9)

Floodlighting at Broadham

Light spillage from the rugby club's floodlighting was still a problem for local residents, despite promises to make suitable adjustments. It was agreed to write to Andrew Morgan, chairman of the Rugby Club to ask for action.

Care Centre - Publicity hoarding and fencing

The continuing controversy over the sudden appearance of the multi-coloured security fence and publicity hoardings alongside the Richmond Care Centre was discussed in some detail. However, despite concerns of it being inappropriate for an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it was accepted that the developer was acting

entirely within his rights and that the hoardings could stay in place for up to three years. Similarly, the large advertising board situated at the top end of the site had received planning approval until January 2008 or until the last unit had been let. Nevertheless, it was decided that a letter should be sent to Richmond's Keith Cockell to express the concerns widely felt in Painswick that the developer was acting without regard for the views of the local community.

Training for Planning applications

It was confirmed that Stroud District Council ran courses in Planning procedures for District Council officers which were open to Parish and Town Councillors. The view was expressed that although such courses might be valuable, members should always bear in mind that their role was different from planning officers: Parish Councillors should not overly concern themselves with rules and regulations but rather should bring to bear the layman's view of whether a particular application was acceptable in the context of the local community.

Specific planning applications

Two applications were discussed in detail:

- Mill Pool House, where a proposed extension was supported by two and opposed by three members. The key issue was a tree preservation order and the view of the County Arborologist that the tree in question would be endangered by the extension. Rival experts fielded by the new owner thought it wouldn't, provided due care and attention was exercised.

- Greenfield, Kingsmill Lane, where the majority view was that the planned development was too large for the site in the context of its unique setting and would overpower the existing cottage. Mr Glanfield, the site owner was present at the meeting and queried whether any of the members had actually entered the property to carry out a more detailed inspection. It was confirmed that this had not been possible because members had not been able to establish contact with Mr Glanfield at the time.

PARISH COUNCIL

Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Committee representation

Following a unanimous vote, Cllr Terry Parker was elected Chairman for the com-

ing year. In thanking members for their confidence, he commented that, coming up to the halfway stage in the life of this Parish Council, it was perhaps time to start thinking of a successor to ensure continuity. Similarly, Cllr David Hudson, in accepting his re-election as Vice Chairman, emphasised that since he would not be seeking re-election to the Council in 2008 and he would not accept nomination for Vice Chairman next May.

The six Council Committees and their respective chairpersons also continue unchanged, viz:

- Finance and General Purposes: Cllr Johnny Johnson
- Footpaths: Cllr Gordon Bruce
- Planning: Cllr David Hudson
- Plantation: Cllr Ann Daniels
- Traffic: Cllr Ann Burges-Watson
- Cemetery & Parish Maintenance and Town Hall: Cllr Martin Slinger

Representation on other bodies

It was agreed that all Council representatives on other bodies would remain in post except for the Gyde Charity, where Cllr Hudson offered to relinquish his position as a Trustee if anyone else was interested. Cllr Bullingham asked to be considered and was unanimously accepted.

Bulls Cross – bus shelter

The Clerk reported that for the Painswick Manorship, Mr Amaury Blow had no objection to the new site being used, but as the site was a SSSI we need English Nature's consent. The cost of a new shelter was likely to be of the order of £3,000 rather than the £1,500 originally budgeted. However, the County Council had agreed that we could commission one to be custom made from wood locally and still qualify for a grant. The Clerk has asked a local carpenter for designs and he advised that this should be achievable within our budget.

St Mary's development – Section 106 Agreement.

The Clerk reported that although £22,000 'windfall' had been collected from the developer by Stroud District Council on behalf of the Parish Council, the cash remained on the SDC bank account and he was experiencing some bureaucratic difficulty in getting it released. However, it was expected that the funds would be remitted shortly and options for its expenditure could now be considered. In principle, the

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funds should be used for sports/recreational facilities and the developer's approval would be required for alternative uses.

There was already a request from Painswick Rugby Club, asking for funding to refurbish the clubhouse to make it more family friendly. Terry Parker commented that he had spoken with Mr Bellis, GAPTC, regarding using 106 monies for this request it and it was not clear whether a private club would qualify for a Council grant. It was agreed to write formally to GAPTC to seek a legal view in order that the Council could clarify its position and that that ideas for expenditure of the 106 monies would be considered at the next meeting.

Beacon Tidy Up.

It was agreed that this would take place on Sunday 3 July at 2 p.m. The Clerk would organise equipment and Cllr Rowe would undertake the publicity.

Town Hall Car Park – improper use.

The on-going problem of improper parking at the Town Hall car park was discussed in some detail. Basically, it was a problem caused by a tiny minority, one single resident being the main problem. Bollards, said Terry Parker, were one option and lockable bollards would cost approximately £85 each, eight being required. However, bollards had various drawbacks, including problems for disabled parkers and the perception that they would be seen as being unfriendly to visitors. Members did not, therefore, support the purchase of bollards. The Council debated the specific issue regarding the most persistent offender and agreed, if the situation continued, to consider legal action. Cllr Daniels asked that the Council's deeds be checked to confirm the position.

Town Hall – Consultancy Report.

The consultancy report regarding refurbishing the Town Hall had just been received and would be circulated to all members. In summary, if all the recommendations were to be implemented the costs could reach some £250,000. It was emphasised that this high figure assumed a 'Rolls Royce' approach and was well beyond the minimum refurbishment necessary to make the building up to a reasonable standard. Clearly there was a need to prioritise, with the roof (£22,000) and the proposed toilet extension (£67,000) probably the most important. An Extraordinary meeting of the

Cemetery & Parish Maintenance and Town Hall Committee was being held on Wednesday 1st June to which all members were invited.

Road Closure – A4173.

Gloucester County Council has advised that the A4173 will be closed from 13th June for two weeks for urgent highway works.

Accident - Gloucester Road/Pullens Road *See Frontpage story*

VE-VJ Day 60th Anniversary Celebrations: Sunday 10th July

The Chairman reported that the Vicar had thought it appropriate that Council co-ordinate the celebrations which would include a Service of Thanksgiving in the St. Mary's Church. 10th July had been chosen as the national day of celebration because it fell midway between the two anniversary dates. The Town Hall had been booked for the day and the following suggestions were to be explored:

- Exhibition of memorabilia in the upper hall of the Town Hall. Members of the public will be asked to exhibit artefacts of interest. It was agreed to ask the Painswick History Society for their support on setting up the exhibition and to publish details of the event in the Painswick Beacon.
- Presentations in the lower hall by members of the public of their wartime recollections and reminiscences.

Cllrs Mrs Daniels and Mrs Woof agreed to provide refreshments in the Town Hall throughout the day.

Accounts for the year to 31st March 2005

The accounts for the past year were presented for adoption and showed income up by about 10%, expenditure down by about 10% and a surplus for the year of £12,088 (compared with a deficit of £2064 in the previous year). Although some surprise was expressed by Gordon Bruce and Peter Rowe about the lack of any review of the figures against budget, the accounts were adopted without further discussion on the seemingly tautologous basis that the accounts were merely a statement of accounts and therefore did not require a budget comparison, which is undertaken by the Finance & General Purposes Committee. The Annual Return was then duly signed by the Chairman.

Painswick Hotel signage

On behalf of the Painswick Hotel, Anthea Bond had written concerning the pro-

posed siting of signage outside the Old Bath House, under the impression that all that was required was Parish Council approval. Terry Parker reported on a conversation in which he advised the Hotel to submit advertisement consent applications to erect the signs, after which Ms Bond could make further formal representations if she wished. It was also suggested that the Hotel might consider including a location map on their website.

Stroud North Link: Flexible bus

The oft heralded 'Flexible Bus' is still scheduled to begin service on 6th June, always provided an operator is in place by then. Stroud District Council has expressed to the County Council its concern at the length of time it was taking to get the link fully operational and a meeting had been scheduled to discuss the delay on 19th May.

The Youth Club, Recreation Ground and Pavilion

The recommendations from the meeting held on 21st April were presented by Martin Slinger. The Youth Club Management Committee has been set up and a draft constitution is to be agreed at the next meeting. Currently Health & Safety issues are being checked. The draft agreement between the Council and the Youth Club will need to be updated. The recommendations were accepted.

Terry Parker reported on a recent meeting with youngsters from the village who asked the Council to consider allowing them to build a track for Mountain Bikes on the Recreation Ground. He advised them not to try to build their own for reasons of Health and Safety, but - "just to prove we're not fuddy duddies" - he suggested that the Council set up a Working Party to consider the facilities provided and develop a 'strategy for the future', which could be put to the Recreation Field Trust. The Council agreed that the Working Party be set up consisting of Cllrs Hudson, Slinger and Mr Watts and a report was requested within 3 weeks.

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Annual Parish Meeting

There is one particular occasion, each year, when the Parish Council reports to a public meeting upon its endeavours during the past twelve months, accompanied by reports from the District and County Councillors. This year it was held on 25th May, and attracted nearly 30 members of the public.

As readers will know, our Council is striving to emulate the highest standards set out by central government, that of a 'quality parish council', and all its actions in recent times have been tuned towards that goal. One of the first to have a Parish Plan, all its decisions and documentation open to public scrutiny, and so on, reinforce that objective – the 'in' word being 'transparency' in everything it does.

The latest in these efforts has been to produce a written Annual Report, and make it available to every household in the civil parish. As your primary newspaper hereabouts, the Beacon offered to reproduce that report within these pages and it will indeed be found here this month. We are proud to carry this document (at the Council's expense) and arrange printing of additional copies for their delivery to the other villages of Edge, Sheepscombe and Slad.

We commend that report for close examination.

While there was discussion of several of the matters raised in

the reports of committee chairmen, not least from traffic matters, we feel we should draw attention in particular to

- The National Trust having decided to accept a tenant for the Little Fleece, trading in antiques
- The Order of St. John having taken over all residential care operated on behalf of the County Council
- The Parish Council adhering to its policy of seeking no parking in Stroud Road below the library on grounds that such presents a traffic hazard, not least to residents on the western side of the road, and that there is more than adequate parking in Stamages Lane car park. Ann Burgess Watson said that the Parish Council was dealing with a "County Council brick wall" in its attempt to have double yellow lines on the A46. County Councillor Joan Nash responded that "I am that brick wall, as I see no point in taking any action until the care centre had been completed." She commented that when the centre was completed the whole of that stretch of the A46 would be looked at from a road safety aspect.
- Support for there being a better informed on-going debate about traffic issues and decision-making which takes advantage of inputs from residents who had knowledge of such matters.
- The widespread desire for a more tangible uniformed police presence in the village.

Police Report

Painswick

The last month has been far quieter than last month with a shed break in during the day, where garden tools were taken, and a car break in, where a stereo was taken.

Cranham

A garage was broken into, believed to be during the day, tools and plant taken, and a car break, where tools were taken.

Pitchcombe

An isolated unoccupied building was entered and tools taken.

Edge

No reported crimes this period.

Slad No reported crimes this period.

Sheepscombe

One walk in burglary where a wallet was taken.

Awareness has been good throughout this period with a lot of information being passed on to us about suspicious persons and vehicles. Many of the burglaries that occurred in the village area throughout March were during the daylight hours and the offenders would have been seen by somebody. Please keep looking out for anyone or anything suspicious and pass it on to us. We have reached the time of year where we go in to the garden and leave windows and doors open, leaving an open invitation for the opportunist thief to get in and out very quickly. Please bear it in mind when you leave the house, even for the shortest time. Be aware that garages and sheds are targeted at this time of year and electrical garden equipment and tools are often taken.

There have been a number of arrests locally in relation to thefts.

*PC Jerry Seymour, Stroud Police Station.
0845 090 1234 non emergency number
07799 624643 mobile number*



Over and out!

As we went to press, we received a communication from PC Jerry Seymour to the effect that he was moving on from Stroud INA and therefore relinquishing his role as local officer for Painswick and the surrounding areas.

His successor, PC Karl Wallace will take over from 2nd June. Jerry informs us that Karl is a very experienced officer and has an excellent knowledge of local policing matters. Along with his normal police duties he will continue to provide the same level of service, maintaining links with the community via The Beacon and other neighbourhood watch newsletters, and of course carrying the parish mobile phone.

We also have a new Police Community Support Officer in Des Moore who is based at Stroud Police Station. Des is an ex-soldier and a retained firefighter. His role will include dealing with anti-social behaviour and parking issues.

Young Farmers do it on the Web

Painswick Young Farmers Club have recently created a club website, <http://www.painswickyfc.co.uk>. They hope this will improve communication and enable everyone to catch up on the progress of the YFC, as well as enabling potential new members to find out more about the club.

Edge Fete

The annual village fete will be held on the Green from 5.00pm on Saturday 2nd July. A variety of stalls, entertainments, food and bar will be available accompanied by the Frampton Brass Band. Donations of plants, bottles, bric a brac and prizes gratefully received and willing volunteers always appreciated! Please contact Paul Harris (tel: 813567) if you can help in any way.

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Haydn's Creation

After the searing intensity of Britten's *War Requiem*, Gloucester Choral Society's Summer concert presents a complete change of style and mood in Haydn's *Creation in Gloucester Cathedral on 9th July*. Andrew Nethsingha's choirs perform to meticulously high standards. The soloists are Ruth Holton, whose clear, pure, soprano is well known to Gloucester Cathedral audiences, Allan Clayton [tenor] and William Clements [bass] and the orchestra is the Regency Sinfonia. In a summer lacking a Three Choirs Festival this potential gem should not be missed.

A special inclusive offer **including transport** is again available to Painswick residents for this concert. A Beavis coach will be waiting at 6.30pm in Stamages Lane car park for departure at 6.45pm returning after the concert. Tickets are £19 [centre nave] or £16 [rear nave] inclusive of discounted seat prices and coach fare. To use this service send a cheque [made out to Gloucester Choral Society] to Gordon Owen [Treasurer] Kemps Orchard, Kemps Lane, Painswick, GL6 6YB providing your name, address contact 'phone no. and SAE.

Music from Missouri

There will be a concert in St Mary's Church on Friday June 10th at 7.30pm, featuring The Missouri Music Ambassadors, a very successful high school choir from Dexter, Missouri. With about 60 members, the choir has won countless awards over the last 25 years under the expert guidance of their conductor, Mrs Mary Ruth Boone. The choir has an extensive repertoire of American and European music, both sacred and secular. The programme for Painswick will include music by Victoria, Vivaldi, Bach and Handel as well as John Rutter's ever popular *For the beauty of the earth* and *The Lord bless you and keep you*, American folksongs, spirituals and some lighter items.

It promises to be a fascinating and delightful evening and it would be good to see a full church to give our visitors a really warm welcome. Tickets cost £5.00 on the door.

Sue Ryder collection

A wonderful total of £174.38 was collected by our volunteers in spite of the adverse weather conditions on 21st May. Many thanks

Anne Leoni on behalf of the Group

Dogs to have their day

The Painswick Companion Dog Show is scheduled for Saturday 16th July, and The Beacon is pleased to reproduce all the main information here for what seems to be becoming a valued annual event in its own right.

While this will surely attract interest from dog owners throughout Painswick, others from further afield will be drawn to the village. The excitement of watching judges at work and anxious owners grooming and parading their four-legged friends is undoubtedly a spectator event as well, as the pictures we published last year testify. Make a note of this free afternoon, right in the heart of the village on the Recreation Field.

The Show is held under Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and any surplus funds will be used in support of the County Air Ambulance service. Judging starts at 11.00am for the Show Classes, and 1.00pm for the many Novelty Classes. Owners should note that entries are taken from 10.30am that day. All dogs are entered at owner's/handler's risk. No puppies under 6 months, no bitches in season. Dogs that have won CC, RCC, JW or any other award to the title of Champion are not eligible for entry. All chaperones are requested to clean up after their dogs.

SHOW CLASSES

1. A.V. Puppy
2. A.V. Sporting
3. A.V. Non-sporting
4. A.V. Open

NOVELTY CLASSES

5. Best Veteran
6. Waggiest Tail

7. Most Appealing Eyes
8. Best Condition
9. Best Child Handler
10. Best Rescue
11. Best Crossbred
12. Most Handsome Dog
13. Prettiest Bitch
14. Best Titbit Catcher

15. Best Dog/Bitch from Painswick Postal Area
16. Best Movement
17. Dog/Bitch the Judge would most like to take home
18. Best Companion Dog (Kennel Club Companion Dogs)
19. Dog/ Bitch not winning a First before today

OBEDIENCE CLASSES

20. Never Done It Before (Open to dogs who have not won 1st-6th at any obedience show.) Heel on lead, recall, 30 sec sit stay, 30 sec down stay
21. Done It For A While (Open to dogs who have not won 1st-6th at any open or championship show.) Heel on lead, heel free, recall, retrieve, 1 min sit stay, 1 min down stay.

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Painswick Beacon is one of the most important open spaces in the parish. It includes the historically important iron-age hill fort on the summit, and is used by walkers, riders, golfers, and many others. It is particularly attractive at this time of year (see photo).

Unfortunately, in some places it is also beginning to look like a tip. The worst parts are some of the old quarry workings where litter has been carelessly thrown away or dumped. We need your help to clear up the Beacon.

So make a note in your diary to come to the Beacon on Sunday 3 July arriving between 2.00 and 4.00 pm. Come and help us clear

away some of the rubbish that is starting to make the Beacon look a mess. Plastic bags, gloves, litter pickers, etc will be provided (thanks to the Parish Council) – all that we need is volunteers! Of any age!

We will meet in the car-park near the summit. Take the fifth road left out of the village along the Cheltenham Road. The first left is Pullens Road, the third and fourth lead to the Golf Course, and the fifth is on the double bend and sign-posted to Catbrain Quarry. The road climbs steeply and the car park is immediately on the left and right as the road starts to descend on the other side.

You might ask why we should bother. Isn't it someone else's responsibility? Unfortunately, no one is going to do anything. So

let us take responsibility and make a difference for everyone's benefit.

If you are interested in helping, please telephone to let me know so I can ensure there are plenty of bags and equipment. But don't worry if you decide to come at the last minute. Let me know if you would like to focus your efforts on a particular part of the Beacon – perhaps the parts that you use – or would like to start at a different location. All that I suggest is that we work in twos or threesomes or family groups. I look forward to seeing you on 3 July. And thank you in anticipation of your assistance.

Peter Rowe (813228)

... and so does your library!

Vigorous public expression and determination were apparent when the Assistant Head of Library and Information Services of the County Council, Jo Hand, met the public at the open meeting held immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting last week. There can be no doubting the mood of all present that a range of services based upon these premises continue to be required, indeed expected, by this community.

Ms Hand made clear from the outset that she was present "to listen" with care to all suggestions regarding "what is the best way of providing library services in Painswick", this being one of the first of six to be considered among 39 across the county consequent upon a 'best value' review way back in 2002. Although in the past ten years use of the library has halved, the service is taking note of uses to which such as the computers is being put, requests for videos and DVDs, the catchment area of users, and other data of this sort. The likelihood of significant use, directly or indirectly, by those soon to be resident in all parts of the care centre (now under construction) was suggested by the Chairman as being of considerable importance. The library service is, however, as with others, under financial constraints and plans for the future need to recognise there being limitations upon both revenue and capital investment.

It was of real interest to note that the articles we have printed on these pages, especially those in our March and April issues, had already been taken into account, together with the efforts of others to communicate their ideas and feelings to the library service.

She also mentioned an informal communication from the Church Wardens, of which the Beacon is pleased to have obtained copy, which expressed their ideas for uses to which the combined premises might be put. Space does not permit an exhaustive summary, but readers will possibly be interested to note such as

- The asset of the public car park adjoining both the church and library/meeting room premises
- The opportunity for a radical re-think about uses to which all might be put



- The importance of continuation of library services
- The potential for local history/museum location, possibly coupled with Tourist Information
- Possible retail outlet for books, cards, maps, etc
- Gallery facilities to display local art work
- A tea room open six days a week for light refreshments to serve these facilities and/or travellers briefly using the car park
- Relocation of the benefice office
- A mezzanine floor in the church room for meetings or lounge

· Interconnecting the premises, with demolition and reconstruction of outbuildings for better uses, and redevelop combined into a 'community project'.

During the hour-long meeting further ideas were contributed from those present, including

- The availability of internet access to the library service's web site with its full catalogue of books, and an on-line ordering service
- The desirability of these premises being a community focal point
- The potential of local clubs and societies interacting with the library service and these premises bearing in mind that there are well in excess of 50 in the immediate area (it transpired that the library service has a member of staff dedicated to maximising links with local community groups)
- Extended opening into both days at the weekends should be considered, not least to take into account those in full time education or employment whose access to the library is currently restricted
- The possibility of the Parish Council making a contribution towards costs which, these days, it has powers to do.

If requested, Jo Hand indicated her willingness to attend a further public meeting. However, there are only about four more weeks during which ideas can be communicated to her before she prepares a report for the 'Cabinet' of the County Council. Without a doubt, influence of the future of these premises now lies in significant measure in our own hands.

Iron Age hill fort restored at Painswick Beacon

A year's work of restoration at Kimsbury Camp, the Iron Age hill fort on Painswick Beacon, Gloucestershire, is now virtually completed. Jan Wills, County Archaeologist, reports that scrub clearance and tree felling have opened up views from and to the site, making the earthworks of the Iron Age hill fort much more visible. The reconstruction of the ramparts is complete and the backfilled erosion scars have now been surfaced with topsoil and with grass seed collected from the site. These repairs are protected with hessian in order to hold the topsoil in place until the new grass has established itself. Stone steps now give access to the top of the ramparts.

New display boards both on the site and at car parks nearby will be installed shortly to give the public more information about the hill fort built between 400 and 100BC. People visiting the site will then be able to learn more about the history of the site, the wider significance of the Beacon and the ecology and wildlife at this Site of Special Scientific Interest. As part of the restoration a management plan has been produced so that the site can be properly maintained and secured for the future.

Jan said she would like to thank all those people in Painswick, especially the Painswick Beacon Conservation Group, who have supported the project over the last couple of years and without whose support it would not have happened. Speaking on site at an event to celebrate the completion of the works, Phil McMahon, English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments, said:

"This scheme is a wonderful example of how partners, both advisers and funders, can work together to protect this wonderful ancient monument for the appreciation and enjoyment by the public."

Nick Russell, Historic Environment. Countryside Adviser who led the County Council team responsible said:

"This particular site is of interest not only as a nationally important hill fort, but also because it's unusual for Gloucestershire. It's constructed more like the hill forts you would see in the Wessex area, for example Maiden Castle in Dorset. It has three closely spaced banks and ditches, and instead of being constructed with a dry stone wall or timber it seems to have been made with clay alternating with rubble."

Nick leaves the County Council this week to join English Heritage and Jo Vallender will be taking over the management of the project until its completion in a few weeks time.



Painswick Horticultural Society

Do caterpillars and slugs eat red lettuce?

Potatoes, Plants, Parrots and Pars! Where can you find all these? Our May Meeting was addressed by Steve Mercer, General Manager at Dundry Nurseries. He gave a very entertaining account of his life at Dundry and explained that they sell more potatoes than any other nursery as well as many plants. He brought a sample to the meeting of new coloured leaf pelargoniums, compact fuchsias and an interesting scaevola. The nursery is also home to an exotic parrot, an excellent golf shop and claims the world's smallest regularly used golf course! There is something for everyone!

The following tips were passed on - to get rid of ants make tea with Penny Royal mint, water it near them and they will soon move! Slug repellents - grit, bran or vaseline round pot rims seem to work best. It is not true that caterpillars and slugs won't eat red lettuce - they love it every bit as much as the green varieties!

Steve was thanked for a very informative and entertaining talk.

Annual General Meeting

Philip Berry, Chairman of the Society, reported on an excellent year. The Annual Show (in September) attracted 418 entries of a high standard and the Spring Social Event at Sudeley Castle was very successful. During the past year members had enjoyed a variety of speakers on a wide range of subjects. The February meeting at the Rococo Gardens was particularly enjoyed and the Autumn Supper held in the Church Rooms gave

us both good food and good company. The outings had been very well supported and the sun shone on us all.

Gus Gaugain spoke of his involvement with the children of Croft School. He gives time each week to encourage the children in gardening activities. The youngsters are very keen and many melons and sunflowers are now growing! If anyone has any unwanted garden tools to donate they would be much appreciated.

Committee Members for 2005/6 were duly nominated and elected. They are Philip Berry (Chair), Pauline Lamont (President), Alan Major, Gus Gaugain, Doreen Pegg, Stan Miles, Harold Wood, Brenda Dunn and Betty Harris. Joycelyn Warren stepped down from the Committee and was warmly thanked for her invaluable help and support over many years.

support over many years.

Chairman's Outing

This took place on Saturday 14th May and was a great success. Our members were able to visit Stancombe Court and marvel at wonderfully laid out lakes and gardens, followed by tea and home-made cakes before going on to Hunt's Court where we were delighted by many interesting plants and a newly planted arboretum. They have over 300 old fashioned roses, but not quite out at the time of our visit. Penstemons and Geraniums are also a speciality. We returned via Uley where we had a veritable feast in the Village Hall before a tired and happy group reboarded the coach for the ride home. Many thanks to Philip Berry for arranging it all.

**Painswick
Horticultural
Society**



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Two dates for your diary

Our next meeting will be on **October 12th at 7.30pm** in the Town Hall. Subject 'A day with Beth Chatto'.

The PHS Annual Show is on **Saturday 10th September, 3.00pm until 5.00pm** in the Painswick Centre Hall.

We would like to increase our membership and can offer interesting meetings, outings, social events, seed discounts and good company. Do join us!



Spotlight on . . .

Martin Slinger



The Phipps side of the Slinger family history dates way back in this area of Gloucestershire. A letter received by an aunt, from a relation in Australia, asking for records to a marriage in 1711 at St Mary's is still in Martin's possession. They were from sturdy stock. Martin's Grandmother, for example, lived at Dell Farm and was a VAD Nurse during the First World War at Standish. She walked there and back every working day, passing through Painswick, down and up to Edge, along the top to Whiteshill and down through Randwick to the hospital. By the time she arrived, she had been joined by another nine nurses.

You must have many similar stories?

Oh yes. My Great Grandmother and my Great Great Grandmother left Dell Farm one day in a horse and gig in 1876, bound for Gravel Court, Harescombe. Going along Edge Road, the horse bucked, throwing both of them onto the road. They were bruised, but returned to Dell Farm, where another horse was harnessed up and they set off again. The horse bucked again in the same place. Great Grandmother had a swelling on the brain (probably called concussion today) and the cause of the two accidents was put down to a wasps nest.

Tell us about your parents, birth and schooling.

Both my parents came from farming families. My mother Zena, from Westbury-on-Severn, and my father, Stanley, from Frampton-on-Severn, where he was born in 1919. In 1942 they moved to Jenkins Farm, taking over the tenancy from the landlord when he died.

I was born in a nursing home in Brunswick Road, Gloucester in July 1944 and carried on living at Jenkins Farm until two years ago, when we sold the old farmhouse and buildings. I have one brother, Roger, in Preston and a sister, Cherry, who lives in Stroud.

I went to Painswick School from 5-11 and then to Upfield Boys School in Stratford

Road, Stroud, near where Tesco is today. I only attended school for about three-quarters of the time, because when required, I had to help on the farm, leaving school at 15.

At the age of 18 I went to Hartpury College as a boarder, which was four miles from Gloucester on the Ledbury Road. I gained a Certificate of Agriculture and returned to the farm.

What are your memories of Painswick at that time?

I remember driving our sheep and cattle along Kingsmill Lane to Tibbiwell and our other farm at Greenhouse Lane.

Then there was the Annual Painswick Carnival procession. On one occasion I was dressed up as a dog on the Puppy Dog Pie float, becoming a Painswick Bow-wow, just like Peggy Perrins. As a schoolboy I remember there were four policemen in Painswick, which, at that time, was a much more important town than Stroud. There were two pin mills making meat, hair, and dressmaking pins, amongst others. There were numerous cloth mills. Starting with Damsells Mill, there was Highgrove, Loveday, Savoury's, Capp, Painswick, Skinners, Kings and Smalls Mill below the Eagle Pub at Pitchcombe.

It was not until the railway came to Stroud in the 1840s that the industrialisation in Stroud started and the town grew.

What about your social life as a farmer?

I was a member of the Stroud Young Farmers' Club for eight years, which was a major part of my social life, and the biggest marriage bureau in the country. Through Young Farmers I joined a tug-of-war team. After several years of hard training, competing at fetes and tournaments around the country, amalgamating with a team from Cirencester, we eventually:-

Became Glos, and S.W. England champions;

Runners-up in the Inter-County championship of Great Britain in 1966;

100 and 104-stone indoor champions of Great Britain in 1967.

Did you meet your wife in Young Farmers?

Yes. We met at a dance and got married in 1967. The Bureau really did work. Mary was a nurse at Standish Hospital at the time and we have two children. There's Paul, who runs the farm from Edge and Judy, who is married to a farmer at Newent. We have three grandchildren. Mary works two mornings a week in the Painswick Pharmacy and is an assistant in Special Needs at a school in Kingscourt, Stroud.

What are your interests now?

My father was one of the founders of the Painswick Show in 1945/46. I will have been involved to the end - we have a closure meeting in about two months time. I am a member of the National Farmers' Union, a Governor at Croft School and very involved as a Parish Councillor with the conservation of the Commons - Beacon, Juniper, Bulls Cross, part of Cud Hill, Edge and Huddiknoll.

How do you feel about Painswick today?

I very much regret the demise of the self-contained wool town. I don't agree that Painswick is for older people only. There are still lots of young people about who unfortunately don't all live in Painswick, but remain part of it through sport and youth club links. Let's not forget that the Painswick youth section have won the Calor Gas Village of the Year award for Gloucestershire for the last two years. Painswick, the town that is now called a village, is still a great place, but we've got to work hard to improve it all the time. A positive way ahead is through more specialist shops.

Another of our series of interviews with people who were born in Painswick, or came here when they were very young.

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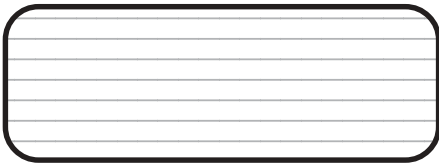
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Planning snub

*From Cllr Barbara Tait,
SDC Cabinet Member for Planning*

I feel that I must respond to your article under the Parish Council News in your last edition of The Beacon, headed: "Sites Panel meetings – snub to PCs". As you rightly state, we do have to meet stringent targets set by the Government to determine planning applications. If we fail to meet those targets then we are penalised financially through the Planning Delivery Grant. In order to speed up the process with major applications, which by their nature, are more involved, Council agreed to hold pre-site visits on major applications. All members of the Development Control Committee would be invited to look at the site and given an outline description of the proposed development, at the pre-application stage. The relevant Parish and Town Councils would also be invited to send a representative along.* The point that I feel has been misunderstood, is that NO-ONE on the visit will be invited to give an opinion at that stage, firstly, because the meeting will be at the formative stage, and the information available will be incomplete. Secondly, an opinion at that time could prejudice any *future* comments which any member, or Parish or Town representative, might be asked to make at a later date. It would be wrong to invite a representative to express a view from the Parish Council, when the Council itself has not properly considered all of the details.

The input of Town and Parish Councils has always been highly valued, and we would still expect, and want those valuable local views. They most definitely are not being ignored or undermined in any way. All of their representations will continue to be included in full in any report considered by the Development Control committee, and I do know that members of that committee do take careful note of those views. I hope that your readers will understand what this process involves, and although we are constrained by adopted policies, plans, legislation, and Government guidance the views put to us by Parish and Town Councils are, and will continue to be, very highly valued by Stroud District Council.

* Our report last month stemmed, as we said, from a letter dated 4th April from the SDC Development Control Manager in which he states "At these meetings Parish or Town Council representatives will not be invited as the Sites Panel will not be making any conclusions at this stage." Ed.

Care Centre cares

From Kenneth Lyons:

I am one of the many people who believe that in the long run, the Care Centre will be beneficial to Painswick. However, I also sympathise with those who feel that the developers are not being entirely straight with us. Hardly an issue of the Beacon goes by without an item on the Planning page requesting another modification in the much debated project, for rubber-stamping by the planning authority. The latest and most offensive is the erection of gaudy billboards under the guise of security fencing. If security is their main concern and they are going to put up respectable railings in a few months time as they say, why wouldn't they do it now instead of wasting money on these expensive placards, and antagonising folks?

My own particular gripe concerns the Care Centre road junction on the A46. After months of downright inconvenience for motorists, thousands of driver-hours of delay and thousands of litres of petrol burned by waiting vehicles, we have ended up with a roadway very little different from the one we had before and a turning lane that is barely wide enough to accommodate an old-fashioned Mini or a modern Smart Car. This is ludicrous and calls into question not only the seriousness of the developers but also that of the authorities that approved it.

From Graham Lilley:

I have to agree with the sentiments expressed by Alan Hudson in The Beacon and add to his congratulations my appreciation and thanks to Richmond Homes for the effort they have gone to to brighten up a dull Cotswold Village. They have even coordinated their colour scheme with the fetching shade of pink on the road outside - how clever! Since it seems there is no shortage of this shade of tarmac could the GCC not be persuaded to extend the colour scheme along the A46 through the village to replace the non-existent road surface for which it seems no black tarmac can be found? It would brighten up the place no end!

Editorial note: Conversely, we have received a number of comments from those who feel the whole issue of the multi-coloured hoardings is a storm in a teacup. Peggy Bradshaw, for example, makes the point that the signs are only temporary and that there are more important things to worry about, such as "the interests of people who find walking quite hazardous because of the volume and speed of the traffic along Painswick's narrow roads."

County Council Election

From Cllr Joan Nash

I am very pleased to have been re-elected as your County Councillor for another four years, and I thank all those who supported me at the election.. The new Division, formed after the recent boundary changes, covers the whole of Upton St Leonards, Bisley and Painswick and includes all the villages served by the Parish Councils. Each village has its particular concerns, but the most common concern is the increased traffic on our roads and rural lanes. Traffic calming is being tried in various forms, across the Division, but there is a mixed response from the residents. The most common reason for concern is the lack of respect some drivers have for the nature of our winding lanes and overused roads, I have yet to find a way of controlling these drivers.

In the new Council, I will have a special responsibility for Schools across the County, I respect the good work being done in our local schools and will support them in the future. I will try to represent everyone fairly and do my best to address any particular issues you bring to my attention.

From Terry Parker:

I write to thank those members of the local community who supported the Liberal Democrat campaign at the County Council election on 5th May.

That cuckoo again...

From Harold Wood:

I have a perennial competition with a previous neighbour in Hampshire, on who hears him first. Possibly because I am out walking quite frequently I invariably win. This year it was 13th April in Kings Mill Lane.

From John & Pam Bailey:

We heard the cuckoo for the first time in the morning of 23rd March - and most mornings since, from direction of Frith Wood.

From Mr U Cook:

I have just shot the first cuckoo...



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**Painswick
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Members research evening

Three members of the Society presented illustrated talks on a wide variety of topics at the Society's

a bit of historic detection work. It was identified as part of a millstone from as far away as Germany; these stones were imported from as early as Roman times through to the late medieval period. It is known that there was once a mill in Edge Road; the possibility of a windmill was dismissed for lack of any evidence and it is most likely that it would have been animal driven, possibly located at what are now cottages (Hambutts Mynd).

The Painswick Exchange – Peter Rowe

An early photograph of New Street, where telephone wires were a prominent feature, prompted Peter to find out more about the history of telephones in Painswick. In the early days, businesses and only a very few residents had the luxury of a phone. Letter writing was still the normal means of distant communication, right up until the middle of the 20th century. As demand grew, the exchanges moved to successively bigger premises; the first to be purpose built in Upper Washwell is now a house and the present exchange is situated on Stroud Road.

April meeting:

The Painswick Oak – Barbara Blatchley

The oak tree standing in a field between Edge Farm and Packhurst Farm near Edge, indicates an earlier field boundary, which has long disappeared. It is thought that the oak may have been here for as long as 800 years, its tremendous girth and hollowed structure certainly testifies to many centuries through which the tree has survived. Barbara gave us a chronological account of events in history, which the tree may have 'witnessed'. We are still curious to know why it is called the Painswick Oak?

A millstone from Edge Road – Cedric Nielson

An odd looking stone, turned up by Philip Berry when ploughing was deposited on Cedric's doorstep, knowing that he enjoys

A Villa with a View?

Why would a wealthy Roman family choose to build its home in the middle of nowhere? In the case of Witcombe Villa it just had to be for the stunning setting. Second only to Chedworth, this is the best preserved Roman villa in the Cotswolds and probably one of the least visited English Heritage sites. Notwithstanding that, on 17th May about fifty members of the Local History Society were taken on a guided investigation of the remains by Mr Neil Holbrook of the Cotswold Archaeological Trust.

The site is a bit of an enigma, not least because various digging campaigns have removed so much over the years. It was discovered by accident and first excavated by Samuel Lysons in 1818. He records finding painted plaster which crumbled quickly after exposure of course. During the 1960s there was a major excavation by Earnest Greenfield but nothing was published and furthermore he constructed some low outline walls in an attempt to replicate the original. So, much of what you now see on the surface is 1960s Roman!

Even so, there is plenty of evidence at Witcombe to indicate a huge H-shaped house, a very imposing hillside edifice with rooms on different levels. The main room was designed to have a spectacular view and there were periodic modifications reflecting changing Roman fashions. A substantial section was the wealthy living area with hypocausts, dining rooms etc, whilst the other area shows a network of kitchens and utility rooms. There are two plunge baths and a mystery room the function of

which is a subject of much speculation – for worship, perhaps?

There is a second set of baths comprising hot and cold rooms, with beautifully preserved mosaics and perfect box tiles up which the hot air was conducted. These rooms are in the sheds constructed to protect them. Outside are the remains of a trepidarium.

The villa, possibly constructed in the late 2nd century, appears to have been abandoned between the 4th and 5th centuries. Five years ago, it was realised that there was another courtyard and more building further down the

hill. This was a huge villa, owned by a very rich family. There is so much there but it has never been excavated.

This is a difficult and strange site to understand, but Neil Holbrook laid out, in a fascinating way, a number of the possible theories about the villa, inspiring many of those who came on the outing to try to seek out other Roman villas in the Cotswolds.

Carol Maxwell



Annual General Meeting

This month's Local History Society meeting will be the Annual General Meeting at which Mr Nick Russell will speak about the recent conservation work which has been undertaken on Painswick Beacon. Everyone is welcome: Tuesday 21st June, 7.30pm, at the Croft School.

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Painswick Parish Council - Annual Report 2004-05

Chairman's Report by Cllr Terry Parker

The Civic Year has been an eventful one, including as it did the election of the new Parish Council on 10th June. The elections are normally held every four years and, although it was necessary to have a by-election in August because there were insufficient candidates to hold a ballot on the June date, it was good to see that in the final line-up eleven of the twelve councillors had offered themselves for election. The twelfth member who is one of the two Sheepscombe representatives was co-opted to the council on the recommendation of local residents.

Painswick was the first parish council in the country to produce a Parish Plan but the council has been aware of the absence of an up-to-date Official Guide and so the kind offer of the Painswick Beacon to produce a new version was well received by councillors and residents alike. The council has been pleased to continue its funding of the youth club. Councillors are concerned to provide appropriate facilities for young people across a wide age range and the members are aware of the frustrations being voiced by teenagers wishing to have purpose-built facilities on the Recreation Field.

A working party comprising representatives from across the community has been set up to look at how the 'Rec' can be put to the best use for the majority of residents. The County Council is carrying out a review of its Library Service and, not surprisingly, there is much interest in how the Painswick Library will feature in the County Council's eventual plans. The Parish Council sees the review as a great opportunity to strengthen the library's position by using the building for community purposes in addition to its primary use. There has always been friendly rivalry between the County's villages and Painswick was pleased to win the Calor Gas competition's Young People category for the second successive year as well as being runner-up in the Information Technology section. Congratulations to the Edge Village Hall committee whose entry won the Environment category. If the Parish Council was itself giving an achievement award it would almost certainly go to Sheepscombe for the reconstruction of the Village Hall. As a community venture it reflects great credit on all concerned. Painswick's highlight of the year was its Festival of Arts and the Parish Council offers its congratulations to the organising committee and all the participants for giving us such a wonderful range of events. In concluding this report I wish to thank my council colleagues for the work that they do so readily on behalf of the community and to voice our appreciation for the commitment given to the council by, the Clerk to the Council, Roy Balgobin, the Assistant Clerk Liz Fisher and our Parish Handyman, George Hodder. We are all delighted that George is back to fitness after a worrying medical condition. This is the first Annual report the Parish Council has produced. We hope you will find it of interest.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN REPORTS

Planning by Cllr David Hudson

During the year 2004 we processed 135 planning applications. This year up to the 31st May we have dealt with 55 applications. In the year 2000 the number was 114. The majority of planning applications have been for extensions to existing houses, the new owners wishing to enlarge their houses. The remaining applications have been for conservatories, garages and in two cases Telecom masts one in the Golf Course Car Park and the other below Edge. Both received planning permission from the District Council. Seven of the planning applications were for new dwellings of which one was withdrawn (to be re-submitted in 2005), two were refused and the remainder were passed. One of those refused, in Cotswold Mead, has gone for appeal. In the majority of cases the Parish Council has been supportive but some we have opposed. The Council's response to planning applications is always available for the public to read in the Parish Office.

During the last year we set up a working party to look at our planning procedures to see if they could be improved in any way, especially with regard to involving the public in our decision making procedure. We only have two weeks at the most to process planning applications before they have to be returned to the District Council and we consider that the present system of passing them from one Councillor to the next with each adding their comments was the most realistic way of doing things. It is a system which has been operating successfully for many years.

Cemetery & Parish Maintenance and Town Hall by Cllr Martin Slinger

Cemetery. The Chapel has now been restored and cleaned and is being used for services on a regular basis. It is open for private prayer during the working week. The paths around the Chapel have had a coating of tarmac to brighten their appearance. It is planned to cut back some of the foliage around the Cemetery boundary walls.

Recreation Field. The field is to have greater use by local sports organisations. A football team is expected to use the ground for its matches and the under-13 rugby team is using the field as an overflow for training on Sunday mornings. The youth club continues to thrive in the old clubhouse and the rooms at the rear have been cleared. The toilet has been cleaned so that it may now be used independently from the youth club. The field is again to be used for occasional car parking. The Parish Council is seeking to use the field more widely for sports and other public activities. There continue to be incidents of vandalism on and

around the field. Litter is also a problem with certain individuals refusing to use the litter bins. The Parish Council is appreciative of the many dog owners using the field who are careful to clear up after their dogs and use the receptacles.

Town Hall. The hall is being used on a regular basis and hopefully there will be more diverse activities taking place. One of the main problems concerns car parking as certain car owners having nothing to do with the Town Hall seem to think that they can park their cars there for long periods causing inconvenience to bonafide patrons.

War Memorial. A working party was set up to investigate the condition of the War Memorial in Painswick. Its findings, which were confirmed by the Council, were to seek a grant to help subsidise the cost of relaying and replacing the paving stones which surround the Memorial. The grant is now being sought and hopefully work will be completed by the end of the year.

Tourist Notice Board. The notice board by the toilet block in Stamages Lane Car Park is being replaced. The new board will provide signing which will help to direct visitors to the shops and other places of interest.

The countryside. The surrounding countryside is changing all the time. Two commons in our parish are shortly to become National Nature Reserves under English Nature with others already being run by them under different agreements.

Maintenance. The range of activities covered by the Cemetery and Parish Maintenance Committee is quite amazing and too many to cover in this report. Funding for these activities comes partly from the Council Tax but more and more the Parish Council is seeking to obtain grants. However, grant applications take time to prepare and are not always successful. George Hodder, the Parish Handyman is now back in good health and we thank him for the work he does, from emptying the poo-poo bins to grass cutting and carrying out many different jobs across the parish.

Health and Safety. The number of Health and Safety regulations continues to increase bringing with them the need for more paperwork and form filling.

Plantation by Cllr Mrs Ann Daniels

The Plantation continues to be a good place to walk. We have had no drastic tree damage this year. They have all survived the wind. There are still fallen limbs lying around for residents to help themselves. The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers once again helped us twice this year, in January and February. They are quite expensive, but do a great deal of work. About 10 volunteers come each time. We really couldn't manage to keep the Plantation looking so good without their help. We welcome any help from residents on these occasions. I would like to take

this opportunity to thank my Committee for their support and George Hodder for all his help during the last year.

Footpaths by Cllr Gordon Bruce

The Parish Council has continued to co-ordinate and address the observations from members of the Public for repairs and improvements to the myriad of local footpaths. There remain a few perennial problem areas which will need significant investment to resolve. Of course, much of this good work would not be possible without the assistance of a number of willing volunteers. Indeed, the comprehensive, annual survey of the footpaths relies on our volunteers. Whilst formally acknowledging our thanks here, we would also extend an invitation to anyone wishing to join this team – you don't have to walk every footpath! We simply allocate a few for inspection at your leisure. We are all familiar with the Countryside Code, which was launched in the 1950s. In the last 12 months it's been updated by the Countryside Agency to reflect the new 'open access' rights. As a consequence, footpaths and their maintenance are as topical as ever.

Traffic by Cllr Mrs Ann Burges Watson

Parking remains a serious issue and there needs to be a long term study of the problem. Increased police and traffic warden presence has freed up the 1 hour parking slots and has also reduced the yellow line parking. We are still trying to implement the extension of yellow lines beyond the library which was approved by the your Parish Council actioned, however the County Council are blocking this. We have asked the District Council to consider making the top part of Stamages Lane Car Park free for up to 1 hour for local shoppers and Library users. We had no luck in getting the use of parking spaces around the Telephone Exchange. We are still looking for a site for a car park on the Cheltenham side of the village. Painswick is growing and we should be looking to the future. New Street will be resurfaced either this financial year or early in 2006/07. The Council would like to introduce a 20 mph speed limit throughout the village but the County Council are not keen. However, perhaps this can be achieved by a traffic calming scheme (no bumps!) on New Street with a widening of the pavements. We have identified a similar scheme on a very busy 'A' road in Kent through a similar village. The Interactive Speed Sign has provided useful readings and will soon be in regular use. The A46 from Brockworth to Stroud is now shown as an access or diversionary route only for lorries. This new map for lorries is being distributed now. The Bend Warning signs for Paradise with chevrons, along with those at Upton, Pitchcombe and Fiddler's Elbow should be in place by mid-May.

In 2005/06 major patching work on the road surface and pavement surfaces will take place in Hyett Close/Ashwell. Work is scheduled in the next financial year for Victoria Street, Tibbiwell and Gloucester Street. The bend after St. Mary's and near the Care Home is under scrutiny for speed control and long term remedial measures. The Committee will discuss pedestrianisation and one-way traffic to ease congestion in the centre of the village.

Finance by Cllr Johnny Johnston

The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2005 have been adopted by the Council. However, the accounts are still awaiting external audit at time of going to press. Details worthy of note are that the precept was kept below a 2% increase, a bequest of £3,000.00 by the late Miss Hampshire and the increased revenue from Cemetery fees compared to the last financial year of approximately £3K, which was used to carry out improvements to the Chapel and Cemetery pathways.

Members of the Public who are interested have the opportunity to inspect the Annual Return and all books, deeds, contract bills, vouchers and receipts; the accounts are available for inspection in the Council Offices during normal opening hours.

WARD REPORTS

Edge by Cllr Martin Slinger

The most important thing to happen was the re-positioning of road signs in better sited and more visible locations. Another initiative has been the creation of a small length of pavement on the A4173 opposite the bus shelter at 5-ways. Speeding traffic through the village along the A4173 - Whiteshill road is causing immense concern and a permanent interactive camera is planned for 2006/7. Consultations have been taking place about the introduction of a 20mph limit throughout the village.

Slad by Cllr Mrs Jackie Woof

Another uneventful year, the precept monies were used to fund one edition of the Slad Parish News and fund new gravel surrounds for the War Memorial. Our thanks are extended to George Hodder for all of his hard work around the village and to Adrian Hunt who helped cut the grasses during George's illness. Also a special thanks to Diane Baimbridge for all of her help in planting and managing the flowers in the boxes around the War Memorial.

Sheepscombe by Cllr David Harcup

The year has been dominated by the completion of the Village Hall redevelopment which was officially opened in November by John Workman, thanks to financial support by the Parish Council and many others. We now have a magnificent hall which is already widely used and in great demand. Parking around the entrance to Far End Lane remains a major problem, particularly at weekends, creating fears among residents over accessibility for emergency services. This has still to be solved. Efforts are still being made to have the Mobile Library Service Point restored to the Village Hall Car Park. Salt Box is not a very practical position, although during the Village Hall redevelopment it did help maintain the service. The replacement of the bus shelter at Bulls Cross has proved problematic. As the previous shelter was demolished by a vehicle it was thought prudent to seek

another safer site on the Longridge Road. This is being negotiated with English Nature and it is hoped to proceed shortly. Local residents are eagerly waiting the start up of the much delayed Stroud North Link Bus Service which is now due to commence in June. Finally, residents are grateful for the care and attention to the village by George Hodder the Parish Handyman and we are glad that he is now restored to health.

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year

INCOME	
Precept	£ 57,730.00
Interest Received	£ 1,904.89
Cemetery Fees	£ 7,764.63
Cemetery Lodge Rent/Telephone	£ 840.00
Sundries	£ 879.55
Agency Work	£ 510.00
Town Hall Hire	£ 4,178.52
Sales	£ 588.90
Grants & Donations	£ 5,779.00
Insurance Claim refund	£ -
Bank Ex Gratia>Returns	£ -
SDC Refunds	£ -
Calor Gas Prize	£ 100.00
TOTAL INCOME	£ 80,275.49
EXPENDITURE	
Cemetery and Parish Maintenance	
Staff Costs	£ 11,214.93
Cemetery /Chapel/Store	£ 4,743.72
Cemetery Lodge	£ 236.41
Cemetery Telephone	£ 185.22
Vehicle	£ 875.30
Machinery Maintenance	£ 113.00
General Maintenance	£ 1,651.65
Public Conveniences	£ 4,030.51
Recreation ground	£ 975.40
Sundries	£ 298.41
Town Hall	
Water/Heating/Light	£ 1,633.13
Cleaning	£ 918.00
General Maintenance	£ 1,082.17
Sundries	£ 99.40
Rates	£ 1,115.80
Plantation	£ 710.00
Footpaths	£ -
Administration & Central Services	
Staff Costs	£ 15,905.97
Telephone	£ 502.06
Equipment Maintenance	£ -
Stationary/Publications/Printing	£ 905.10
Postage	£ 190.11
Insurance	£ 3,824.40
Sundries	£ 1,529.66
Wards	£ 2,043.42
Youth Club & Pavilion	£ 5,000.95
Vodafone	£ 288.74
Capital Expenditure	£ 2,088.13
750th Charter Week	£ -
S.137 Payments	£ 550.00
Grants & Donations	£ 2,000.00
Subscriptions	£ 771.45
Courses	£ 179.50
Publicity	£ 1,949.62
Audit Fees	£ 575.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 68,187.16

We drink an awful lot of coffee...

Our Lady & St Thérèse Coffee Morning

The Flower arrangers of the Catholic Church in Painswick have organised a Coffee Morning in the Town Hall on **Saturday 25th June** 9.45 to 11.45, entrance £1.00. The goal is to raise funds for the floral display in the Denny Chapel in Gloucester Cathedral as part of the glorious Gloucester Flower Festival that takes place at the end of July. There will be Fresh Flowers, Plants, Cakes and Bric-a-Brac stalls. Home made biscuits will be served with tea, coffee or chocolate. We are happy to accept special orders for flowers and cakes (Charlotte 814621 or Anne 812521)

Please do come along and support us.

Charlotte Gamman, Anne Leoni

Women's Fellowship Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who helped and/or supported the Coffee Morning on Sat 7th May. £300.00 was raised in aid of The Door Youth Project in Stroud.

News (and Teas) from Ashwell

The Painswick Day Care Centre has continued to flourish as numbers increase and the creative activities flow! Pancakes were enjoyed back in February, ably cooked by one of the members (who thoroughly enjoyed himself), overseen of course by Margaret who is the pancake queen of Ashwell!

Moving on to Easter, Bonnets were made and a wonderful Easter bonnet parade took place judged by the only man of the group. Funds were also raised by selling Easter cards and novelty soap and flannel sets that the group had made. VE day was recently celebrated and in between picture frames, painted bottles and Mosaic drinks coasters have all been made by this able crew. Creative Crafts remain the most popular activity, closely followed by reminiscence sessions.

The first AGM of the Painswick Day Care Centre will take place at Ashwell House on Tuesday 14 June at 2.00p.m, all interested parties welcome.

As the Painswick Day Care Centre enters the summer months we would like to invite you to join us for a Strawberry Tea on Monday 27th June at 2.30pm. Tickets, at a cost of £2.50, can be bought from Michelle at Ashwell House. During this time we will be able to show you the recently converted bathing facility which is now ready for use.

Michelle Elliott, Scheme Manager, Ashwell House

Austerity Lunches

Thank you to everyone who has supported the 2004/2005 season of Austerity Lunches. It has been a very successful year with £1,600.00 being raised that will be donated towards Christian Aid's work in Africa and a much-needed new kitchen for Painswick Youth Club.

For anyone not familiar with the Austerity Lunches, they are held on Mondays from Oct - Mar at 12md - 1.15pm in Christ Church Hall. The aims are to raise money for charitable giving and to provide an excellent opportunity for people to meet together to enjoy a simple meal of homemade soup, bread and cheese. Each week they are hosted by a different group, either a village organisation or an individual supported by their friends. The money raised is donated to Christian Aid and a local charity that is changed annually. The committee will shortly be considering which local charity to support for the coming season and would welcome any suggestions.

Gill Gyde, Co-ordinator

Sue Ryder Care Coffee Mornings

The Sue Ryder Care Painswick Support Group in collaboration with the Residents of Ashwell House warmly invite you to a Coffee Morning at Ashwell House on **Friday 10 June** at 10.30 am. A raffle will also be held to raise funds for the Hospice at Leckhampton Court.

Michelle Elliott, Scheme Manager

On **Saturday 11th June**, 9.45am to 12 noon, there will be a Sue Ryder Celebration **Coffee Morning** at the Town Hall, entrance £1.00. It is a morning to meet up with friends and relax to celebrate 25 years of support in Painswick for Leckhampton Court. There will be a raffle stall with a small cake stall. A celebration cake and home made biscuits will be offered together with coffee, tea or chocolate. We are happy to accept special orders for flowers and cakes. Do come and support us and enjoy.

Anne Leoni on behalf of the Group

Cancer Research Coffee Morning

June Gardiner and Jean Ryland are entering the **2005 Race for Life** and are organising a Coffee Morning (Coffee, cake and home-made biscuits Bring - Buy Stall - Raffle) at 8 Upper Washwell on **Saturday 2nd July**, 10.00am - 12 noon. No entry fee - donations to Cancer Research welcomed.

June and Jean would be grateful for your support

Cotswold Care

Painswick Committee of Cotswold Care thank everyone who supported them at their annual coffee morning in April. We raised over £500 and are most grateful to everyone who came to the Town Hall on 23rd April.

This year, instead of holding an Autumn Fair, we are holding a **Garden Party with a strawberry tea**. Arthur and Andy Lock, of Meadowcote, have very kindly offered to lend their beautiful garden and we very much look forward to welcoming everyone, 2.30 - 5.00pm on Saturday 25th June. Look out for the posters!



Bluebell Walk

You are invited to join a sponsored Bluebell Walk in Stratford Park on behalf of Canine Partners on Sunday, 12th June. Meet at 1.00pm at the children's (top car park) at Stratford Park, Stratford Road, Stroud. The walk starts off at 1.30pm, through the woods, around the wonderful bird lake, finishing at the bandstand where a band will be playing. Sponsorship forms available from Canine Partners in Gloucestershire on 01452 810793.

Why not bring a picnic and enjoy a day for the whole family?



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**THE
Painswick
Senior
Circle**

First of all I would like to sincerely apologise to anyone who came to support our Senior Circle coffee morning. Unfortunately we had to cancel at short notice, and although we

tried to let everyone know we may have missed someone. We are very sorry for any inconvenience given. We hope you will be able to support us on Wednesday the 16th November, 2005.

Sadly we also have to cancel our outing to Snows Hill Lavender Farm on the 1st July, 2005, through lack of support.

However, we have 15 seats left on the coach going to the Flower Festival in Gloucester Cathedral, on Friday 29th July. The coach will be leaving Stamages Lane car park at 1.30pm and leaving the cathedral car park at 4pm. Tickets are £12 which will include entrance to the festival. Please ring Anne on 01452 812427 to secure a ticket.

Senior Circle is currently seeking ways of funding so that Senior Circle can continue. We hope we offer a varied selection of speakers, and four or five outings a year, with time to socialise, which is very important if you are on your own. We meet in the Town Hall at 2.30pm on a Friday twice a month and is in the Beacon Diary. We would like to know if we changed the meeting day, or gave ourselves another name, would more of you would join us. Please let us know your thoughts through the Beacon or Anne on 812427

Looking forward to hearing from you or seeing you at our next meeting which will be on Friday 3rd June when our speaker will be Ian Nicholls from the "Air Ambulance".

Readers are reminded that the **Dog Warden** telephone number is

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The Market's plants stall is well laden with a range of stock, ready for planting, including rare and unusual plants and bulbs offered by Martin Davis. Our supply of cut flowers is increasing as the growing season progresses.

We also have a good choice of local honey and home made preserves in stock, including the new season's Seville orange marmalade. Fresh eggs and lemon curd can also be bought and ordered. Our home-bakers offer delicious cakes, pastries and desserts. In addition, you can buy traditional and fancy breads, including granary and wholemeal loaves. Goods can be ordered in advance either at the Market or by telephoning Doreen Boon on 813850 at the beginning of the week with your requirements.

We are looking for new suppliers of vegetables and fruit; please contact Doreen Boon for more details.

We look forward to welcoming you for coffee and cake as well.

Patricia Davey and Jane Rowe

Cranham Artists at the Town Hall

Sabre Art presents an exhibition of paintings at the Town Hall, 10th - 19th June, by six, very different artists who either live in the village, or have connections to Cranham. Featuring work by Janet Whitton, Richard Straley, Alec Brown, Jane Evans, Jackie John and David Hughes, the paintings include land and seascapes, abstracts and figurative, as well as portraits - and all affordable! The exhibition, which is open daily, 10am - 6pm, is part of the Stroud Valleys 05 Visual Arts Festival. For more details see the event guides available in most public buildings locally or log on to www.sva.org.uk or www.sabreart.co.uk.

Copies of Alec Brown's illustrated book in aid of The James Hopkins Trust will be available to view and purchase. All proceeds from the booksales are being donated to the charity by Alec.

Art Workshops at Painswick Mill

Two well known local artists will be holding workshops at Painswick Mill in July and August with both a demonstration and tuition. On Thursday 28th and Friday 29th July, Rob Collins, who is an expert on colour, will hold a workshop featuring any media. And in August, on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th and again on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th, Mark Kelland will teach water colour on the Tuesday and mixed media on the Wednesday.

Morning coffee, lunch with wine and afternoon tea will be provided. The cost will be £40 per day or £70 for two days. Classes will be limited to 10 people, so if you are interested please contact Joan Wells on 812245.

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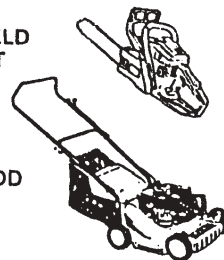
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Badminton

Painswick Badminton Club News

The club is delighted to report an excellent season for junior badminton. This season the club entered a team in the Gloucestershire Badminton Intermediate Under 15 League for the first time in many years. The Painswick team of Jenny Browne, Lucy Moir, William Allen, Tom Piggott, Ben Garbutt and Freddie Speed all did extremely well, winning four of the six matches. The standard of the juniors is reflected in five members being selected for county training. William Moir and Ben Piggott went on to represent the county in the Under 11 age group against Devon in April. Special thanks must go to our Junior Club Coach, Tim Bircher, who has worked so hard with our youngsters to bring them to such a high standard. The senior members had their end of season tournament on 25th April, for semi and finalists. Regretfully the first semi-final was marred by an injury to George Bragg. We all send out best wishes to George for a speedy recovery. The final was a very hard fought and close affair. The eventual winners (pictured) were Julia Richardson and Roy Breadman. Our Friday badminton at the Painswick Centre is open to all non-members. Anyone who has played in the past will be very welcome. The evening starts at 8.00pm until closing time in the Oak. Ring 812942 or 812771 for details. On the social side our Summer B.B.Q for members and their partners will be on Saturday 23rd July.



Bowls

The Falcon opened their green on 23rd April where the ceremonial first wood was bowled by the President Jim Muirhead and there followed a shortened 'roll up' as the weather was somewhat cold. Our first friendly match against the Frampton club resulted in a resounding win for Falcon, something which we have failed to achieve for a long time. Two of our seniors matches were cancelled because of bad weather. Both our ladies and gents league sides have had great success, winning the four matches played so far. Also on a winning run are our ladies in various competitions. Myra Savage, Angela Hendry, Mary Rampton and Rita Jackson are through to the last sixteen in the county fours, and Myra and Angie in the pairs. A mixed team comprising Myra and her husband Tony, together with Rita Jackson and John Bailey won the prestigious Barnwood Gala day, a competition entered by top class sides and won the final against a gents side from the Worcester Brotherhood. We welcome 8 new members including two ladies, and look forward to some happy bowling during the summer.

David Ryland - Club Captain

Tennis

Painswick Juniors

A three-day national tennis tournament held at Bath University saw Painswick juniors Sarah Thomas, Megan Horder and Alicia Barnett, together with two girls from the East Gloucestershire Club, win all of their matches. The successful Gloucestershire Under 14's girls team combined their efforts to beat squads from Cornwall, the Isle of Man and Hereford/Worcester, winning their division and achieving promotion. The photograph shows the County Performance Officer, Simon Pender, with the winning team after receiving their medals. Pictured in the front row, left to right, are Megan Horder and Sarah Thomas. Back row, left to right:- Alicia Barnett, Elishe Hande, Simon Pender and Georgia Rawlinson.



The first **American Tournament** of the summer was held on Sunday 8th May. Ten men and ten ladies entered and had a most enjoyable afternoon's tennis. The winners were Sharon Hall and Nigel Platt. The next tournaments to be held at Broadham are as follows: Mixed American 14th June 10.00am; Tuesday Night Tournament and BBQ 5th July at 6.00pm; Ladies Charity Tournament with lunch 15th July 10.00am

The next social event is on Saturday 9th July. This will start promptly at 6.30pm at Broadham. There is to be a circular walk around Painswick, returning to Broadham where supper will be served. There will be either indoor or outdoor games depending on the weather.

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Athletics

On Sunday 15th May, Ashley Barker (18) of Sheepscombe was at the Prince of Wales stadium in Cheltenham taking part in the high jump event at the County Club Athletics Championships. This is his first year of serious competition and only his third event of the year, made possible by the Stroud Youth Council who have helped him to compete. He achieved a new personal best height of 1m 90, three centimetres higher than his previous best set only two days earlier when he won the district schools championships. Not only was this good enough to win his under 20 age group but he also became Gloucestershire Open Champion.

Meanwhile just down the road in Cheltenham Town Hall, younger sister Fern (15) was taking part in the prose reading section of the Cheltenham Competitive Festival. This was her third class and she was determined after narrowly missing medals in the other two. She performed her reading with great expression and scored the highest mark to win and so take the gold medal to add to her previous successes. A double celebration for the family just ahead of school and A2 examinations.

Cricket

Painswick Second Eleven had an exciting victory at Broadham last Saturday. Chasing a total of 138, the home side at one point seemed to have left themselves too great a task when they fell behind the necessary run rate. However some big hitting in the latter stages, including one enormous six, saw them home with overs in hand. Skipper, Steve Pegram told the Beacon that the game typified the closeness of the results in the league this season with little to choose between the playing strengths of the clubs. Painswick First Eleven are this year playing in Division Two of the Readers Gloucestershire County League with the second eleven in Division Three. In the Village Championship, Painswick moved to the third round of the competition with victory over Birdlip but a misunderstanding over player eligibility meant that Painswick had to concede the match to their local rivals.

Results (Saturday matches all league games)

Sat 7 May. Haresfield 1st XI 89 Painswick 1st XI 92-2. Painswick 2nd XI 98 Haresfield 2nd XI 58 (D Paulson 5-19).

Sat 14 May. Newent 1st XI 177 (I Hogg 7-37) Painswick 1st XI 179-9.

Bharat 118 (A Wager 4-14) Painswick 2nd XI 91.

Sat 21 May. No results. All matches rain affected.

Sat 28 May. Shurdington 2nd XI 138-7 Painswick 2nd XI 139-7 (P Morris 36 A Cook 30).

Fixtures

Sat 4 June. 1st XI v Slaughters 1st XI (Home).

Sat 11 June. 1st XI v Churchdown 1st XI (Away). 2nd XI v St Stephens 2nd XI (Home).

Sun 12 June. Painswick v Randwick (Home).

Sat 18 June. 1st XI v Chalford 1st XI (Home). 2nd XI v Chalford 2nd XI (Away).

Sun 19 June. Painswick v Bisley (Away).

Sat 25 June. 1st XI v Witcombe 1st XI (Away). 2nd XI v Gloucester Civil Service 2nd XI at Marling.

Sun 26 June. Painswick v Dymock (Away).

Sat 2 July. 1st XI v Kings Stanley 1st XI (Away). 2nd XI v Stinchcombe 2nd XI (Home).

Sun 3 July. Painswick v St Stephens (Away).

Brunel Bicentenary

Stroud Brunel Group needs your help! Brunel 200 is a celebration, in 2006, of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, one of the most versatile and inspirational engineers of the 19th century whose astounding feats changed the face of Britain, especially in the South West. The whole of the South West Region is staging events to commemorate Brunel and the railways, tunnels, bridges, ships, and buildings that he designed and built.

Having raised grants of £28,300 so far, the Stroud Brunel Group is planning to stage a Summer Exhibition in the Brunel Goods Shed in Stroud. There will be interesting events including permanent history boards, educational projects, a children's mime, a theatrical production and a website highlighting Brunel's connection with Stroud. The railway came to Stroud in 1845: Brunel's railway route runs through our valleys and many of its original features still exist. The Group wants to know if you have any stories or memories of people who lived, worked and travelled on the Stonehouse to Kemble section during the age of steam. Your Family History research may have shown past generations who worked on the railway. Do you have any old pictures - photos, sketches, postcards — that can be copied and displayed? Or old GWR memorabilia,.....? If so, then contact Sue Harrison on 01453-764859



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The Odd Couple reviewed...

The last few issues of the Beacon had, under the inimitable pen of Jack Burgess, whetted our appetites for the forthcoming production by the Painswick Players.

On Saturday evening 30th April, a full house was eagerly awaiting curtain up which, without anyone really noticing, happened ten minutes early, revealing a very dimly lit set dressed in a most cluttered manner. This got us all speculating, but before we had time to work it out... blackout... then full lighting to reveal a very animated game of Trivial Pursuits. The pace was terrific from the start and our attention was immediate. But what language were they speaking? Suddenly it dawned: Brooklyn American. Within thirty seconds we were in that flat with them, enjoying the gossip and absolutely absorbed by the sincerity of the characters.

The pace never slackened, the movements were so natural and accents and clarity of articulation could not be faulted. Rehearsals had obviously gone well and the members of the cast were a perfect team really enjoying themselves, supported by a very efficient stage and lighting crew and production staff. The set transformation for the second act was splendid. Direction by Kevin Parker was superb.

Special mention must be given to Lesley Wolowiec and Jean Burgess for their portrayal of Olive and Florence - the Odd Couple - not an easy task; we all loved it! Mention must also be made of the prompt (Avril Dorey) who appeared to have been redundant but who, I know, had the painstaking task of meticulously following every word spoken (just in case!)

The arrival of the Spanish brothers, Manolo and Jesus (Mike Jackson and Jack Burgess), in the second act brought the house down. They were so funny and played with such expert timing and professionalism, we couldn't stop laughing. (Incidentally, where did you get those wigs?) I was a little worried because the play had been so perfect in every way and this, in my experience, has never seemed quite right. Something really ought to go wrong! Then, towards the end, Manolo dropped that lovely spoonerism concerning "Flo's Clothes" and proved that the cast were mortals like the rest of us!

Altogether it was a most successful production and I can honestly say that, with well over fifty years of participating in all aspects of amateur dramatics, I have never seen a play so obviously well prepared, so well produced and directed and so much enjoyed by both cast and audience. A truly delightful and memorable evening. Congratulations to you all. We can't wait for the next one!

Derek Hodges

... but what next?

And neither can we, Derek! The question is, what's it to be? I was expecting to announce in this very column an Edwardian Music Hall for December... including... a... Can-Can! However, it was then pointed out that the Centenary of the Painswick Centre is to be celebrated between December 2006 (100 years from when the Foundation Stone was laid) to September 2007 (the centenary of the Official Opening) and that the planned Can-Can would be a jolly good way of (so to speak) kicking the whole thing off. So the Can-Can became more of a Might-Might and this December's production became... well, we've got to decide.

In best AmDram tradition, the decision making process will mainly involve a party, in this case our traditional Summer Garden Party, which will be held at Sheephouse Cottage, Stepping Stone Lane on Sunday 17th July, beginning at 12.30 pm. I mention this because, even if you aren't yet a Painswick Player, you might like to come along, meet us all, have a convivial chat, allow us to pick your brains and pinch your ideas, and then get roped into the next production, whatever it turns out to be. Tickets will cost £6.00 per head for the food: alcohol is not included in the price but feel free to bring your own. Give Jackie Herbert a call on 813229 if you'd like to come along. Oh yes... And Derek, the review is fine: the cheque is in the post.

Jack Burgess

Love's Old Sweet Song... and a Cream Tea!



Local ensemble, Upstairs-Downstairs are presenting *Love's Old Sweet Song* on the afternoon of Sunday 26th June at The Painswick Centre, starting at 3:00pm. *Love's Old Sweet Song* is an afternoon of music and theatre set in an Edwardian household with 'upstairs' music in the first half drawn from Popular Opera and Drawing-Room Ballads. The second half is set in the Servants' Hall and features songs of the Music Hall, finishing with an Edwardian Sing-along.

Cream teas will be served in the interval, all included in the ticket price (£7.50).

The Painswick Centre concert follows a number of successful Upstairs-Downstairs productions over the past three months, including concerts at The Pittville Pump Room in Cheltenham and a Gala Charity Performance for the Mayor of Tewkesbury. Individual Upstairs-Downstairs

members are well known across the county and include James Barrasford-Lane, who won the Operatic Tenor section in the recent Cheltenham Festival, accompanied by Painswick pianist, Robert James. The other singers in the line-up are Sue Black (soprano), Susanna Davis (mezzo soprano) and Robert Bateman (baritone).

Tickets from the Shetland Shop or for telephone/ credit card reservations, call 812167.

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Down by the riverside

Club members and visitors enjoyed an early May visit to **Bakers Mill, near Chalford, in the valley of the River Frome.** Our guide was local resident Richard Mackie. The large pool revealed a Kingfisher, two pairs of Little Grebes, a family of Mallards and nesting Mute Swans – their clutch of eggs for all to see. Unexpectedly, we were very kindly shown two friendly Otters, one of which appears on TV Channel 5 at 9.20am each Sunday until 12th June!

From the banks of the Thames and Severn Canal and the River Frome, we saw Grey Wagtails and Goldcrests. On the steep wooded valley slopes there were drifts of Bluebells and Ramsons; and Blackcaps, Nuthatcher and Wrens were heard if not seen. Buzzards flew overhead.

Do come with us to Keynes Country Park on 7th June at 10.00am. There will also be an optional afternoon walk to a wild flower meadow. Look out for the posters for further details.

Bill Boydell

The Gyde and School Reunion

Don't forget the Gyde House and Painswick School reunion on Saturday, 11th June. All old boys and girls and members of staff are invited, from 12 noon to 5.00pm in the Ostler Bar at the Falcon Hotel. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet up with old friends, perhaps even for the first time for many years. There will be a magnificent photographic display of the Gyde, the school and the village going back several decades and it is expected that people will be coming from near and far. Refreshments will be available at the bar. Everyone is welcome. It promises to be a very happy occasion indeed.

Carol Maxwell

Learning to look

Members of Yew Trees WI had a fascinating lesson in learning to look when Swiss-born photographic artist, Barbara Manzi Fé came to talk on her life as a photographic artist. Barbara brought with her some exquisite examples of her close-up photographs of flowers, and of her landscape photography. The many times magnified flower photos reveal previously unseen textures, forms and colour. Her audience was not surprised to learn that Barbara's work has been chosen to hang on walls in hospitals and clinics – her images evoke the magical, fresh vibrancy of each individual flower. Images which one carries in one's mind long after seeing the photographs, and which have a great calming and healing quality. Barbara also talked about the work involved in preparing for exhibitions such as The Stroud Visual Arts Festival, in which she is participating.

At our meeting on Tuesday 28th June someone from Waitrose is coming to talk about wines.

Celia Lougher



Playgroup News

Life at Painswick Playgroup is as busy and exciting as ever. The children's special topic this month has been farm animals. The Playgroup staff ignored the old saying of "never work with children or animals" and invited Hercules, a 4 day old lamb, to visit the children at the Playgroup.

The following week the children visited Sue Warner-King's farm to learn more about life on a working farm. A fabulous time was had by all! The children then made a variety of paintings, drawings, collages and masks of their favourite farm animals to make a large wall scene at the Playgroup.

The Playgroup operates Monday – Friday 9.00am to 12.00 noon. It is open to children from the age of 2 years 9 months to school age. Although currently full, the next intake of children to the Playgroup is in September 2005. Registration forms are now available from the Playgroup leader, Beaty Bell, at the Playgroup.



Any parent or carer wishing to visit the Playgroup is welcome to ring the Playgroup on 813316 to make an appointment to chat to staff and see the children in the happy and caring learning environment.

The Playgroup received an excellent Ofsted report earlier this year. The full report is available on the Government's website, but below are some of the comments made:

- Painswick Playgroup provides high quality education and children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.
- An excellent range of high quality equipment and resources is utilised well.
- Children are happy at the Playgroup. They have developed excellent relationships with the staff and their peers.
- Sessions are well planned ... the staff are enthusiastic in their roles and make learning fun for the children.

Andrea Robinson

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Congratulations to Painswick Pharmacy

Painswick Pharmacy is a local business of which to be proud. Mike Powis and his staff have been given the prestigious Investors in People award, as the new plaque on the wall outside indicates.

This is a real accolade and represents eighteen months of very focussed endeavour to achieve the highest quality service for the pharmacy and the shop. The award was recognised in February and presented in April.

Essentially, it is about investing in staff as a means of raising the standards of the whole business. All seven members of staff were involved, willingly undergoing the very rigorous assessments necessary to gain the award, including taking written tests. A set of tough performance indicators requiring extensive evidence as proof of excellence was assessed by Quality South West and the standard is based on four key principles for people development. These involve employees achieving business goals, and the planning of, effecting and evaluating training and development of individuals and the organisation.

The idea was first suggested to Mike by Business Link which has provided good advisors throughout, and an initial diagnostic report led to an action plan outlining what was necessary to achieve the award. For the most part, it concerned setting target deadlines and proper training programmes, appraisals, training reviews and regular staff meetings.

Mike and the staff spent many extra hours working towards



their objectives but they all feel it's been worthwhile. They have all become more involved with the business and last year they all helped to write the business plan. They have all passed the rather testing training modules set by the National Pharmaceutical Association, necessary for the accreditation to serve behind the medicine counter.

Of course, there were already many strengths viz. job satisfaction, a good atmosphere, equality of opportunity, commitment. But now there is a greater sense of achievement because everything is so well organised and everyone is part of it. The final report was positively glowing – a friendly, collaborative work

environment, good consultation processes, conscientious, enthusiastic staff who feel valued, business plan and personal development both very good and excellent customer feedback.

The award has to be renewed every three years and the new performance indicators will be even tighter. However, Mike is not daunted. He wants to work towards the further development as recommended in the report. The current award has been a real fillip, especially as he believes his is the only pharmacy to have achieved the award.

Mike, who qualified as a pharmacist in 1997 from Bath University, talks about his staff with justifiable pride. Painswick Pharmacy has always been a joy to visit, a veritable treasure trove of merchandise. Now we can feel proud too, in the knowledge that our pharmacy has achieved such high honour.

PROPERTY REPORT for June by Hamptons International

With the debate continuing as to whether the property market is experiencing a temporary lull or a full downswing, buyers and vendors have come to the realisation that double-digit price gains are a thing of the past - at least for the foreseeable future.

Our country branches are not yet seeing the leap in activity currently being experienced by our colleagues in London. However, it is quite normal for the ripples of activity to start in the capital and spread outwards, which arguably bodes well for the coming year. Although there are fewer buyers around than normal, they are extremely well informed and vendors need to understand that realistic pricing remains a key factor in attracting interest.

We are encouraged here in Painswick by the influx of new properties for sale and are delighted to offer the following: The Buckholt, nr Cranham - a period property which has just been beautifully renovated and now offers two spacious family homes together with a detached 5 bedroomed house with land. Two fine houses in The Park - Damsells Mews with fabulous views and 1.5 acres and also Combe House - a lovely 4 bedroomed house; Milidduwa - a family house in Cranham with tennis court, swimming pool and 3.5 acres. This property went to best offers before we had even launched it on the market. Near Sheepscombe is The Byre - a single storey barn conversion and a 2 bed cottage in a stunning position in Longridge. Within Painswick we have a 2 bedroomed first floor apartment at Hyett Orchard; another property at Gyde House and no 10 The Croft a compact 4 bedroomed modern house. A recently renovated chalet bungalow in the grounds of Resthaven in Pitchcombe also represents a lovely home with fabulous views.

Completions during last month include: 25 Churchill Way and Little Jasmine in Painswick; Old Home Farmhouse and a cottage in Upton; Huddaknoll House at Edge; Mayfaire in Slad and Smilers Cottage in Brimpsfield.

Richmond Painswick are hoping to have properties ready to view in the near future and at our office we are fully informed with videos and dvd's available to borrow.

For any advice on marketing your property or details of any of the above please contact us on 812354.



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JUNE

Sun	5	Sunday Roasts available at the Falcon Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Improvers (Sundays)	The Falcon Painswick Centre	12.00 noon to 5.00pm 7.30 to 8.30pm
Tue	7	Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) Bird Club field trip to Keynes Country Park	Christ Church Hall Keynes Country Park	9.30 to 12.00noon 10.00am
Wed	8	Probus: Offshore Oil Production - Mr John Dutton Women's Fellowship: village Shop - Marion Beasley	Ostlers Room, Falcon Christ Church Hall	10.00am 7.30pm
Thu	9	Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners Experienced beginners - Thursdays Tea Dances - Thursdays	Town Hall Painswick Centre	12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm 2.30 to 4.30pm
Fri	10	'Cranham Artists' (to 19th June) Country Market with coffee available: Fridays	Town Hall Town Hall	10.00am - 6.00pm 10.00am
Sat	11	Sue Ryder Care 25th Anniversary Coffee Morning Sue Ryder Care 25th Anniversary Celebration CTAP at Cranham Church with Monks of Prinknash Abbey - followed by Picnic Paradise House Open Day: stalls; home grown produce; pleasant grounds; musical entertainment.	Ashwell House Town Hall Cranham Church Paradise House	10.00am 9.45am to 12noon 12.00 noon 2.00pm
Tue	14	AGM of Painswick Day Care Centre	Ashwell House	2.00p.m
Wed	15	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	17	Senior Circle: Tales from a local publican - Johnny Johnson	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	18	Copy dateline for July to Editorial Team Blues Night: Ainsley Lister	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Sun	19	Fathers Day Special 3 Course Roast Dinner: £12.50 To book - Tel: 814222	The Falcon	
Tue	21	Local History Society AGM Celebrate Summer Barbecue: Come to the BBQ then stay for the Jazz. 814222 Jazz Evening: Bizley Dilleskie Band: no entry fee	Croft School Outside the Ostlers: Ostlers Room, Falcon	7.30pm 6.30pm 8.30pm
Wed	22	Probus: Saudi Arabia - Mr Norman Ellis Women's Fellowship: Carvery Lunch	Ostlers Room, Falcon Golf Club	10.00am 12.30pm
Thu	23	Diary deadline for July to Edwina Buttrey		
Sat	25	Coffee Morning on behalf of the flower arrangers of Our Lady & St Therese to raise funds for the Flower Festival at Gloucester Cathedral	Town Hall	9.45am to 11.45am
Tue	28	Yew Trees WI – Everyday running of a Supermarket	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	29	Theatre Club Outing to Malvern	The Falcon	1.00pm
Thu	30	Probus: Tewkesbury Abbey and River Trip		

JULY

Fri	1	Senior Circle Outing to Snowhill Lavender Farm		
Sat	2	July issue of The Painswick Beacon published Coffee Morning in aid of Cancer Research - June Gardiner & Jean Ryland Edge Village Fete Blues Night: Lightning Willie and the Poor Boys	8 Upper Washwell Edge Painswick Centre	10.00am to 12.00noon 5.00 to 7.00pm 8.00pm for 9.00pm
Tue	5	Foundation Hygiene Course - details Tel. 813232 <i>to be confirmed</i>	Town Hall	9.30 to 3.30
Wed	6	Probus: Edith Cavell - Mrs Dinah Shoebrook PCMS AGM: Speaker - Revd David Newell (Please note change of date) Women's Fellowship: Memoirs of a wartime evacuee - Midge Leney: Visitors welcome	Ostlers Room, Falcon Church Rooms Christ Church Hall	10.00am 7.15pm 7.30pm
Thu	7	Cotswold Care Support Group	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Fri	8	Salsa Evening in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer	Rugby Club (Broadham)	8.00pm
Sat	9	Victorian Costume Ball for info. tel. 01453 833150	Painswick Centre	8.00 to 11.30pm
Sun	10	Red Cross Open Gardens	Painswick	2.00 to 6.00pm
Fri	15	Senior Circle: Europe - Elizabeth Finsberg	Town Hall	2.30pm



Sat	16	Dog Show	Recreation Field	tba
		Blues Night: Bad Town Blues (and pig roast)	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Wed	20	Probus: Ladies Lunch at Stroud		
		Women's Fellowship: BBQ at The Latchetts	Kingsmead	7.00pm
Fri	29	Senior Circle Outing to Gloucester Cathedral Flower Festival		
Sat	30	Art Exhibition: The Portway Group. (Until 4th August)	Library Rooms	10.00am to 5.30pm

AUGUST

Sat	13	Theatre Club Outing to Bath	The Falcon	11.00am
Sun	14	CTAP Cricket Match	Broadham	
Tue	23	Yew Trees WI – Work of County Air Ambulance	Town Hall	7.30pm

SEPTEMBER

Wed	7	Probus: Atlantic Liners - Mr Fred Jones	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	9	Senior Circle: "Them bones" - Libby Graesser	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	10	Hort.Soc: Annual Show	Painswick Centre	3.00 to 5.00pm
		Talk by Prof. Tim Gorrington - "Trade Justice" followed by Buffet Supper	Olivers	
Wed	21	Probus: Eleanor - England's First Queen? - Jim Davies	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	23	Senior Circle: The Bag Man - Hayden Gardener	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	27	Yew Trees WI - Aromatherapy	Town Hall	7.30pm

OCTOBER


Tue	4	Bird Club: Birds and wildlife encounters in the Arctic - Dr R Sale	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	5	Probus: Talk(s) by Member(s)	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	7	Senior Circle: Outing to Symonds Yat		
Wed	12	Hort.Soc: A Day with Beth Chatto	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	19	Probus: The Bristol Aeroplane Co. - Mr Walter Gibb	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	21	Senior Circle: Being a Magistrate - Kay Holmes	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	25	Probus: Trip to Tyntesfield House, Wraxall		
		Yew Trees WI: Glimpses of the history of Painswick - Cedric Nielsen	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	27	Bird Club: Birds & beast Sounds of the Night - R Cliffe	Town Hall	2.30pm

NOVEMBER

Wed	2	Probus: Priors of Gloucester - Mr Philip Moss	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	4	Senior Circle: Mary Kingsley, Explorer Extraordinary - Fred Jones	Town Hall	2.30pm
Fri	11	Senior Circle: Outing to Cribbs Causeway - Shopping		
Sat	12	Sue Ryder Care Coffee Morning	Town Hall	9.45am to 12noon
Wed	16	Senior Circle Coffee Morning	Town Hall	
		Probus: Selection & Training of Police Horses - Mr F S Knight	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	18	Senior Circle AGM followed by Travelling with Peter & Janet Jenkins	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	22	Yew Trees WI – Annual Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
Tue	29	Bird Club: Birds of Gloucestershire - Mike Robinson	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	30	Probus: Annual Dinner at Stroud		

DECEMBER

Fri	2	Senior Circle: Hand Bell Ringing - Steve Coleman	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	13	Yew Trees WI – Christmas Gathering	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	14	Probus: First descent of the Grand Canyon - Ken Ingamels	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am



The Painswick Directory
of local businesses, organisations and other useful contacts is continuously updated on **Beaconline**
www.painswickbeacon.org.uk

Beacon subscribers	<i>May</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Final</i>
<i>LATEST</i>	2005	2004	2004-05
New, or renewed after lapsing	109	84	103
Renewed from last year	434	448	518
Total - including postal	543	532	621
Painswick village - dwellings	1057		
Subscribing households	376 = 35.6%		

PLANNING MATTERS

A summary of information received from the Parish Council.

NEW APPLICATIONS

BELL HOUSE, FRIDAY STREET, Erection of a single storey extension
FLAT 1, ROSSWAY HOUSE, NEW STREET, Retrospective application for free standing screen.

GLENDALE, VICARAGE STREET, Retrospective application for installation of a combi-boiler

GREENFIELDS, KINGS MILL LANE, Part demolition of existing house & outbuildings. Erection of extension to provide additional accommodation and a double garage

JENKINS BARN, JENKINS LANE, EDGE Extension and alteration

JUBILATE, BLAKEWELL MEAD. Reduce and re-shape cedar tree.

Land at MARY'S ACRE, STAMAGES LANE, Erection of dwelling house & garage. (Resubmission following withdrawn scheme)

LITTLE ACRE, KEMPS LANE, Erection of a conservatory

LYNDHURST, BLAKEWELL MEAD, Erection of conservatory

MAYFAIRE, SLAD Extensions and alterations

MILL POOL HOUSE, TICKLESTONE LANE, Erection of extensions and installation of a new dormer window

PODGEWELL BARN, SEVENLEAZE LANE, EDGE, Alterations to barn & erection of outbuildings

PYLL HOUSE, SHEEPSCOMBE, Introduction of stone window with metal insert lights and construction of external store area

STEANBRIDGE BARN, SLAD, Erection of a flue for wood burning stove (heating)

THE RED HOUSE, LOWER WASHWELL LANE, Erection of a conservatory

WASHBROOK MILL, EDGE ROAD, EDGE Erection of extension

WELCOM, THE PARK, Internal alterations and erection of an extension

WOODPECKERS, GOLF COURSE ROAD, Erection of single storey extension to rear of property

CONSENT

WORGANS BARN, FOLLY LANE, STROUD Erection of garage, store & stables (resubmission following refusal)

QUERCUS BLUFF, THE PARK, Erection of hay store, tractor store (including stable) and log store

LAMP HOUSE, VICTORIA STREET, Insertion 2 velux roof lights and erection of replacement fencing

THE COACH HOUSE, SHEEPSCOMBE Alteration to staircase & erection of partition on second floor to form bathroom

LAND AT KINGS MILL LANE (to rear of Stoneleigh) Erection of a dwelling house

BEECH CORNER, BEECH LANE, SHEEPSCOMBE Renewal of permission 00/123 for erection of an extension

Land at STROUD ROAD (CARE CENTRE), Temporary single sided non illuminated site board describing development

REFUSAL

EDGE HILL FARM HOUSE, EDGE Resubmission following refusal 04/1940/LBC for alterations to windows

JENKINS FARM, STROUD ROAD, EDGE Demolition, extension and conversion of stable block to residential accommodation. (Resubmission)

NOTIFICATION OF APPEAL

Land at CORVARA, COTSWOLD MEAD, Outline application for the erection of a dwelling

APPEAL DISMISSED

4 UPPER WASHWELL, Erection of a bungalow

Election results

In the County Council Election, Joan Nash (Conservative) was elected for the Upton St Leonards, Bisley and Painswick Division with 2806 votes. Terry Parker (Liberal Democrat) polled 1806 and Thomas Williams (Labour) 890 votes. (See Letters page 9)

In the Parliamentary election, the full result for the Stroud constituency Election was:

David Drew (Labour)	22,527
Neil Carmichael (Conservative)	22,177
Dr Peter Hirst (Liberal Democrat)	8,026
Martin Whiteside (Green)	3,056
Edward Noble (UKIP)	1,089



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The Personal Column

Baby

Congratulations to HELEN and PETER OGILVIE on the birth of their second son, Ben Linley (a brother for Adam and a fifth grandson for Mo and Wally Walters.

Weddings

Congratulations to HELEN BRAGG and HARVEY GARDINER who were married in Cullompton, Devon on 20th May, also to VICTORIA JACKSON and MICHAEL GAY who are to be married at St Mary's, Painswick on 4th June.

90th Birthday

Congratulations to LUCY BICKFORD who will be celebrating her 90th birthday on 6th June, and also to CICELY HUXFORD who was 90 in May.

Best wishes to:

CATHERINE STEER, who trained in nursing at Guy's Hospital, is now in her second year of a degree in Occupational Therapy at Plymouth University.

Get well soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to JOYCE GIBBINS, DAVID URSELL-WILLIAMS, GEORGE BRAGG and KEN OLIVER.

Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of AMY LOUISE ELGAR who died on 13th May.

Welcome

We would like to welcome DOROTHY FRANCIS who has come to live at Ashwell House from Birmingham

also to PAULINE COLEMAN who has come to live at 3, Stamages Lane, also to JANNENE LEE with her children, Adam and Alice, who have moved into 5, St Mary's Mead.

Change of house

CLARE HAYNES has moved from Berry Close to 9, The Croft

also the HYATT family are moving to Gloucester Street from Lower Washwell, also Mr & Mrs SIMMONS have moved from Edge to Vicarage Street.

Farewell

We are sorry to say goodbye to HARRY and PEGGY MINES, who are moving to Nailsworth

also to BARRY RAE who has moved from Churchill Way to be near his family in Peterborough,

also to Mr & Mrs BAINBRIDGE who have moved from Mayfaire, Slad to Cheltenham.

Thankyou...

Martyn and Carole Smith would like to thank everyone who has been so kind and supportive during Carole's recent stay in hospital. Fingers crossed that she will be back at home by the time this edition is distributed.

Sandra Illingworth and family would like to thank all the friends who sent cards, flowers and messages of comfort after the sudden death of her beloved mother, Vera.

Painswick's banker leaves



After 17 years, Anthea Coles has left the Lloyds TSB Painswick branch. She says that she plans to take a long summer break and then? ...'Who knows?'

As the friendly smile behind the counter, she will be missed by many villagers. And what of the future for the Painswick branch without her? 'Lloyds TSB is safe in Painswick' she insists.

Rachel Taylor welcomes information for the Personal Column, on our back page. Space limitations permit only the minimum amount of text, and your assistance in this regard is helpful.

NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date
SATURDAY 2nd JULY

Items for publication to Editorial Team using E-mail or the Beacon Post Box by
SATURDAY 18th JUNE

Mini Ads to the Treasurer, Philip Oakley, Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street, GL6 6QN
SUNDAY 19th JUNE

Business adverts to Dermot Cassidy at 1 Painswick Heights, Yokehouse Lane, Painswick GL6 7QS by
THURSDAY 16th JUNE

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey, using the Beacon Box
THURSDAY 23rd JUNE

Letters and articles for publication are particularly welcome by Email to painswickbeacon@supanet.com or, alternatively, on computer disk.

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 be sure to 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 **01452.814500**

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Address for general correspondence, *not items for publication,*

Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street GL6 6QN

Beacon Committee

Editorial team this month

Jack Burgess*, Leslie Brotherton, Dermot Cassidy, Carol Maxwell, and Terry Parker

*co-ordination and compiling

Personal Column: Rachel Taylor 813402

Diary: Edwina Buttrey 812565

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Carol Maxwell 813387

Leslie Brotherton 813101

Jack Burgess 812167

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