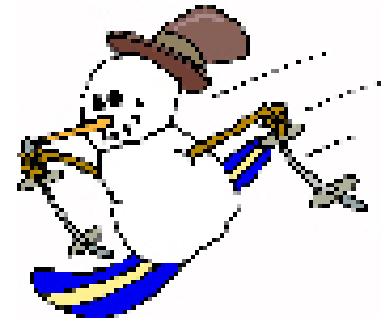


# The Painswick Beacon

*Sine praeiudicio*

Volume 29 Number 9

December 2006



*Elsewhere, in this issue:*  
Merry Xmas roadworks,  
five winners and a loser,  
**Public Meeting** about the  
library, ten little Indians  
at the Croft, a couple of  
**Blues for Christmas**,  
Christmas carols galore,  
many **Christmas treats** in  
Painswick, **nude gardening**,  
getting carried away  
by a crane, on stage after  
100 years in rehearsal  
and... **Christmas sprouts**



Best wishes, peace and happiness  
to all our readers  
for Christmas - and for 2007

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - by Leslie Brotherton

Reports upon meetings of the Parish Council cannot help but be selective, if only because of space constraints. We try to highlight points of wider interest. The full minutes of Council and committee meetings are available at the Council office and elsewhere.

## Planning Committee

### Care Centre - Phase 3

The Chairman reported that no application for this final phase of development had yet been submitted. He had spoken at length with the Managing Director Keith Cockell, who expected the application to be submitted late in November.

### Hambutts Cottage

The committee noted that the consensus view had been to oppose the revised application for a two story side extension to this property because the planning officers were insisting upon non-opening obscured 'windows' to the bedroom and bathroom on the rear elevation and such seems contrary to having reasonable ventilation and/or means of escape in the event of fire.

### Broadham Field - parking

Martin Slinger reported that no agreement had been sought or entered into for use of the parking area adjoining the A46 by users/staff of the Richmond-Painswick care site once construction has been completed.

## Parish Council

### Strong and Prosperous Communities

The Council received the summary of the White Paper under this heading; full copy having been ordered for closer scrutiny in the coming month. The views of the Parish Council upon its content will be considered at the December or January meeting.

Readers interested in the proposals of HM Government may want to examine this significant document for themselves (Date published: 26 October 2006 ISBN: 9 780101 693929 [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)). It states that "The paper outlines new proposals significantly

strengthening leadership and devolving power to local government as well as providing a major expansion of opportunities for local people to influence local decision-making and improve their lives." With sections headed

*Responsive services and empowered communities*

*Effective, accountable and responsive local government*

*Strong cities, strategic regions*

*Local government as a strategic leader and place-shaper*

*New performance framework*

*Efficiency - transforming local services*

*Community cohesion*

One could be forgiven for wondering what central government really has in mind; whether there is a 'hidden agenda'. As the consultative period is only a short way into the New Year, and decisions upon implementation are expected by June 2007, there is little time to comment (or react?).

### Youth Club

The Council heard that staff illness may have prevented all invitations to youngsters interested in reconvening meetings of the youth club. The Council decided to issue its own invitations direct, by mail, and this is repeated elsewhere in the Beacon.

### Library

David Hudson reported that the Working Party (WP) considering the report upon the future of the library and the associated old school premises were arranging for a complete structural survey, hopefully by the end of November.

Work is in hand to prepare a business plan which should be ready to bring to the Parish Council in December; it should contain sufficient evidence to determine whether the WP would conclude that an integrated project on this site is viable. If so, recommendations to form a village trust will be made to this Council, and onwards to the County Council. The WP already has in mind appointing a 'group leader' from outside its membership to advance the numerous lines of action required if the project is to move forward in the next few years.

Mr Hudson, and Peter Rowe, elaborated their personal interim expectations that viability was possible, with many exciting possibilities, but that it would be absolutely critical that public and Parish Council support was behind any recommendations. They pointed out that existing meeting halls/venues, with the possible exception of Painswick Centre, were running at significant losses and that by way of example the Town Hall was losing about £3000 per annum; this was a state of affairs which could not continue indefinitely and realistic

charges and greater utilisation of such premises as continued to offer venues will be essential. The Parish Council will, because of the time constraints imposed by the County Council, have no option but to decide the way ahead before the end of 2006.

### Public conveniences - St.Mary's Street

The Council decided to defer for at least six months consideration of relocation of these to the rear of the Town Hall (see item last month page 2) while the matter of other capital investment in meeting places is under active consideration.

### Neighbourhood Wardens

A report was received upon the activities of these Wardens, who had just completed a 6-month trial period in Painswick. The Council was impressed with their influence and helpfulness. It was unanimously agreed to accept the recommendation of the District Council that their presence become a permanent feature and that as soon as additional staff had been recruited early next year two be deployed two full days a week hereabouts (2 x 7.5 hours per week) at varying times and days between 8.00am and 10.00pm. With considerable subsidy by SDC the net cost to the Parish Council would be £880 per year.

### Painswick councillors - surgery

The Council received a report from Martin Slinger upon his periodic informal 'surgery' in Edge, which had attracted significant interest from residents in that ward. It was decided to emulate this in Painswick, possibly on a quarterly basis between 10.00am and midday on Saturdays next year. Dates will be announced which avoided clashing with bookings of the Town Hall.

Coffee would be provided, and two or three of the Painswick ward councillors would be in attendance to discuss matters raised informally by residents.

### Heavy Goods Vehicles

In response to complaints from one or two residents it was agreed to seek publicity in the Beacon as to how complaints about HGVs using New Street should best be reported.

### Recreation Ground Trustees

*These trustees are the same people as are Parish Councillors, but meet separately for discharge of their role as trustees.*

### Allotments

The trustees considered a suggestion from Somerset Moore that a part of the Recreation Field be set aside to meet the needs of some keen to create allotments.

The Trustees decided that alternative locations could be considered for this purpose, including offers for use of private gardens where these are in excess of the requirements of their owners. Further, they were concerned about security on the Recreation Ground itself, and the desirability of retaining all as a unified open space.



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## PLANNING MATTERS *A summary of information from the Parish Council.*

### NEW APPLICATIONS

2 WOODBINE COTTAGE, SLAD Replacement dwelling  
KINGS MILL HOUSE, KINGS MILL LANE. Replacement dwelling  
MIRADOR, CHELTENHAM ROAD. Resubmission of application 06/1979/  
FUL for the erection of 1 dwelling, to replace existing dwelling.  
ABBEY BARN, SLAD LANE, SLAD. Erection of garden shed & green house.  
Extension of garden.  
3 ST MARY'S MEAD. Remedial works to 2 ash trees.  
DALEGARTH, COTSWOLD MEAD. Erection of an extension.  
Land at JENKINS FARM, EDGE. Erection of an extension.

### REVISED PLAN

TOWYS, TIBBIWELL LANE. Erection of extension and internal alterations.  
Main changes: Removal of hipped roof details with a full gable end to match  
existing house.

### CONSENT

THREE GABLES, CHELTENHAM ROAD. Change of use from residential  
dwelling to Dental Surgery with staff living accommodation  
FLAT 18, GYDE HOUSE, GYDE ROAD. Installation of french doors  
PACKHURST FARM, EDGE. Change of use from barn to document & record  
storage  
ST JOHN'S CHURCH, CHURCH HILL, SHEEPScombe. Conversion of an  
existing coal store to form a disabled toilet & to provide a small mower shed  
LITTLE COB, CUD LANE, EDGE. Removal of condition 5 from application  
03/1482.  
COURT HOUSE. Fell and prune beech trees.

### CERTIFICATE OF LAWFULNESS OF EXISTING USE

WORGANS BARN, FOLLY LANE, STROUD Use of dwelling for purposes  
not relating to agriculture

### PLAN WITHDRAWN

COURT HOUSE, HALE LANE. Fell beech tree.



## Merry Xmas roadworks

Gloucestershire Highways have informed the Parish Council that they will be undertaking 'essential carriageway works' involving the repair and resurfacing of Upton Hill, Upton St Leonards commencing on 4th December. The works include excavation of sections of the carriageway, resurfacing and renewal of road markings. They anticipate the works taking five days.

The road width and type of works dictate that, to ensure the safety of both the travelling public and the work force, it will be necessary to close the road to through traffic.

Whilst access will be maintained throughout the period of the works, there will inevitably be delays when works are being undertaken directly outside properties. However these delays will be kept to a minimum. Should anyone require any assistance with access or egress to their property they should speak to the operatives on site who will assist in any way they can.

Gloucestershire Highways ask both occupiers and drivers to be patient throughout this period of disruption and say they will make every effort to minimise the inconvenience. They thank everyone in advance for their co-operation. Should you have any queries, the contact number is 08000 514514.

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### Crime figures for October

Criminal damage 2  
Theft from motor vehicles -  
Theft of motor vehicle 3  
Assault -  
Theft -  
Burglary from dwelling 2  
Burglary from non-dwelling 1

TOTAL 8

Pc 24 Reuben Wyatt  
Mobile Police Station

## STOP PRESS

### LIBRARY - OLD SCHOOL

Public Meeting  
to receive an interim report of the Working Group  
a verbal presentation  
outline Business Plan

VITAL PUBLIC SUPPORT REQUIRED

PLEASE  
MAKE THE EFFORT

Thursday 21st December  
7.00pm in the Town Hall

### Village Quiz 2007

A reminder, so that club committees and friendship groups can plan well in advance - the annual Village Quiz is scheduled for Saturday 10th March next year.

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## Joint Schools Remember

On Friday the 10th November, all three primary schools in the Painswick benefice came together in St Mary's Church for a special remembrance service.

The Croft, Cranham and Sheepscombe schools all prepared something for the service. There were contributions of dance, drama, prayers, and an opportunity for the children to share their own special memories, happy or sad. Helen Sammon our local curate gave a short talk on remembering, using the story of Jesus and the Last Supper.

There was a very moving moment when two war veterans, Mr Ken French and Mr George Warren were asked to share with the children a war time memory of their own. This helped the children understand the importance of remembering those who fought in the wars.

Kerstin Friend of PSALMS, who organised the event, is very grateful to all those who helped make the service happen and also to the children and teachers who did some wonderful preparatory work for it.

## Thank you Poppy People!!

This year we raised £2,209.78 for the Royal British Legion from street and door-to-door collections and from counters in shops and businesses. We thank the whole village who support our hard-working and foot-sore collectors with a warm welcome and a generous contribution to the Poppy Fund.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year.



*Patricia Burrows*

## Sue Ryder Thanks

The Coffee morning held on Saturday the 11th November raised a fantastic total of £1,030.10, helped by several donations and support from Ashwell House residents.

The two minutes silence was observed in the Hall and Mrs Joyce Tranter laid a wreath on behalf of the group at the War Memorial Service.

Thanks and thanks again to all those who gave their time, goods and money not forgetting those who came on the day and supported us: without them, it would all be to no avail.

Hoping to see you all next year, a very Happy Christmas and God Bless

*Anne Leoni (on behalf of the Sue Ryder Group)*

## CSO – and fashion

My thanks to all who travelled from Painswick to the performance by Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra at Leonard Stanley Priory last month. This ancient place of worship was full to capacity and the orchestra's performance met all expectations. Widely regarded as a most enjoyable evening, and some £1500 raised.

My thanks also to those who came to the Fashion Show on 16th November at Painswick Mill. I am still dreaming of being able to fit into some of the creations! This event added £1200 to the support of Horsfall House, who have asked that add their 'Thanks', not least for the very hard work which went into achieving such a total.

*Anne Smith*

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## Beacon Christmas Prize Draw



Amidst the tightest security imaginable and with scarcely containable excitement, the Beacon Christmas Prize Draw has taken place.

The lucky winners, drawn randomly from our list of subscribers, are Tony and Lynne Gibson of Butt Green, who win a bottle of whisky. They have promised us that it will not change their lives. Runners-up are Mrs D Bruton of Tibbiwell (who wins a bottle of sherry) and Mr G Ingram of Queensmead and Mr & Mrs Heyes of Gloucester Road, who both win boxes of chocolates.

The winner amongst our Business Advertisers is Robert Goddard of Cheltenham Road Garage who wins a bottle of brandy.

If the winners haven't yet received their prizes, we promise they will do shortly.

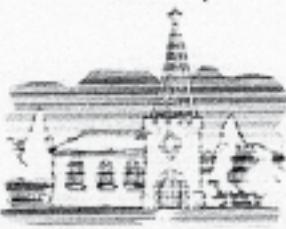
Lost  
a  
brooch?



A small metal brooch was found in Bisley street on 15th November. If you think it might be yours, please contact Duccio Leoni on 812521.

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to be held on  
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**4<sup>th</sup> December at**  
**7.30pm**

in Christ Church Hall,  
Gloucester Street.

Please bring a plate of food to share, and a story, poem or song relating to Advent, and enjoy the fun and fellowship as we celebrate together.

£1 charge for drinks which will be provided.

Contact Rita Bishop (814205)  
for further details



## Carols at the War Memorial

Come and join us for an evening of traditional carol singing.

Thursday 21st December 6.00pm starting from the War Memorial. Everyone welcome especially children.  
Proceeds to Lideta our World Vision our "Churches in Partnership" link with a shanty town on the outskirts of Addis Adaba in Ethiopia.

Iris McCormick

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Advent and Christmas 2006						
services and special events throughout the area						
Churches Together Around Painswick have co-ordinated information from all the churches which we hope will be helpful.						
Monday	December 4th	7.30pm	Christ Church Hall - CTAP	Painswick	Advent Agape - please bring a plate of food and a poem, song or reading about Advent to share	
Sunday	December 10th	10.00 am	St. John the Baptist, C of E	Edge	Christingle service	
		4.00 pm	St. James the Great, C of E	Cranham	Christingle service	
Sunday	December 17th	10.30 am	St. John the Baptist, C of E	Edge	Toddlers' Service	
		11.00 am	St. John the Baptist, C of E	Pitchcombe	Nine lessons and carols	
		2.30 pm	Cranham Village Hall	Cranham	Carols from around the world	
		4.00 pm	Methodist Chapel	Sheepscombe	Candlelight Carol Service	
		4.00 pm	Christ Church, URC/Baptist	Painswick	Carol Service followed by refreshments	
		6.30 pm	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Carol Service	
		6.30pm	St. Mary's Church Rooms	Painswick	Beacon Christmas Gathering	
Monday	December 18th	7.00 pm	St. John the Baptist, C of E	Harescombe	Carol Service	
Tuesday	December 19th	6.00 pm	Edge		Carols around the village	
Wednesday	December 20th	2.30 pm	Ashwell	Painswick	Carol Service	
Thursday	December 21st	7.00 pm	Sheepscombe		Carols around the village	
		2.30 pm	Reathaven	Pitchcombe	Carol Service	
		6.00 pm	Painswick		Carols around the village	
Friday	December 22nd	7.00 pm	St. John the Baptist, C of E	Edge	Carol Service	
Sunday	December 24th	8.00 am	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	BCP Holy Communion	
Christmas Eve		8.30 am	St. Therese	Painswick	Mass for Advent IV	
		9.30 am	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Holy Communion & Baptisms	
		10.30am	Friends' Meeting House (Quakers)	Painswick	Meeting with Christmas theme	
		10.30am	Christ Church URC/Baptist	Painswick	Morning Worship	
		3.30 pm	St. John the Apostle, C of E	Sheepscombe	Crib Service	
		4.00 pm	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Crib Service	
		4.00 pm	St. James the Great, C of E	Cranham	Crib Service	
		4.00 pm	St. John the Baptist, C of E	Edge	Crib Service	
		5.00 pm	St. John the Baptist, C of E	Harescombe	Crib Service	
		5.00pm	Prinknash Abbey RC	Cranham	1st Vespers of Christmas	
		6.30pm	Methodist Chapel	Sheepscombe	Christmas Eve service	
		11.00pm	Prinknash Abbey RC	Cranham	Vigil Service	
		11.00 pm	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Midnight Service	
		11.30 pm	St. James the Great, C of E	Cranham	Midnight Service	
		11.30 pm	St. John the Baptist, C of E	Pitchcombe	Midnight Service	
		midnight	Prinknash Abbey RC	Cranham	Midnight Mass	
Monday	December 25th	8.00 am	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	BCP Holy Communion	
Christmas Day		8.15am	Prinknash Abbey RC	Cranham	Low Mass	
		8.30 am	St. Therese	Painswick	Christmas Mass	
		9.00 am	St. John the Baptist, C of E	Harescombe	Family Communion	
		9.15am	St. John the Apostle, C of E	Sheepscombe	Family Communion	
		10.00 am	St. John the Baptist, C of E	Edge	Family Communion	
		10.00 am	Christ Church URC/Baptist	Painswick	Short all age worship	
		10.30am	Prinknash Abbey RC.	Cranham	Solemn Mass	
		10.30am	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Family Service	
		11.00 am	St. James the Great, C of E	Cranham	Family Communion	
		11.15 am	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Holy Communion (shortened)	
Tuesday	December 26th	10.30am	Prinknash Abbey RC.	Cranham	Solemn Mass	
Sunday	December 31st	10.30 am	Christ Church, URC/Baptist	Painswick	Family Worship in Church Hall	
		11am	St. John the Apostle, C of E	Sheepscombe	Nine Lessons and Carols	
		6.30 pm	St. James the Great, C of E	Cranham	Nine Lessons and Carols	

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# Little Indians

1st November, saw the children at Painswick Playgroup dress up in Indian costume to celebrate the festival of Diwali. Even some mums joined in too!

The children have also been busy this month making fireworks, cooking jacket potatoes and making salt dough hedgehogs!

Painswick Playgroup takes children from 2 years 9 months old, if you are interested give Beaty a ring on 813316.



## Croft School Futures Club

A new venture in school this year is the Futures Club. This is run for children in Year 6 on Fridays after school.

People are invited to come and speak to the children and are chosen to represent a wide range of different occupations and professions. They talk to the children about how and why they chose their occupation, what qualifications, skills or training they needed and what their job involves.

The aim is to help children to understand the world of work and to begin to have an understanding of how they might make decisions about their future lives and careers.

The excellent first session of the year was led by Diane Longuet Higgins, who brought a wealth of information, artefacts, pictures and funny stories about her life as a nurse.



## A Christmas Window

An illuminated window display competition is being organised by the Croft School PTA. It is open to anybody who lives within Painswick village and has a window which can be seen from a public road or footpath.

Window displays can be on any seasonal theme for example, a nativity scene, Father Christmas scene, snow scene or simply baubles and lights. Simple or elaborate, small scale or large, great effects can be achieved with a little imagination.

Judging will take place on the nights of 21-22-23 December, after dark. But we hope that people will feel able to light up their windows all through Christmas, and help spread some seasonal spirit cheer in the dark evenings. Prizes will be given to the best entries.

Entry is £2, please ring Della Gould on 812736 for more information or an entry form. All proceeds to the Croft School PTA funds.

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## Blue Adonis for Conservation Group?

The Beacon Conservation Group looks after 160 acres of the Beacon of which about 60 acres are Golf Course. At their recent AGM they expressed their solvency, modesty and ambition.

Paul Hackman representing Natural England, an amalgamation of English Nature, the Countryside Agency and the landscape arm of DEFRA, spoke about future prospects for the Beacon SSSI and hoped to be able to help financially with the insurance of the work force and third parties and fuel for the power tools used on clearance days. Jenny Phelps,

grasslands specialist with Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (the largest of 40 AONBs), reported that she had used her £120,000 fund to attract more money to the tune of £400,000 which was funding the cattle grids and fencing on the three local Commons, Cud Hill, Huddinknoll Hill and Juniper Hill, which will be grazed from 2007.

The Group's targets are to get the young involved, recruit extra recorders for monitoring flora, fauna etc. to increase the membership, arrange walks to see the flowers (orchids) and attract more volunteers to help with scrub clearance and strimming.

After almost 40 years of absence the Adonis Blue has reappeared in the Gloucestershire Cotswolds, not just in a minor way, but spectacularly, having been sighted in Edge, Sheepscombe, Cranham and Haresfield. It is hoped that the creation of the wildlife corridor between the Beacon and Cud Hill might attract it to the Beacon. Its food is the horseshoe vetch.

The group expressed their thanks to John Rhodes and Clare Overhill for their enthusiasm and support in scrub clearance and recording.

*Ann Burges Watson*



## A Blues Christmas for Painswick

On Saturday 16th December, Painswick Blues features the great Eddie Martin from Bristol playing for the Christmas party. With Blues guitarist Dave Bristow as support it promises to be a great night out. Doors open at 8.00pm and finishes late. Tickets £10.00.

For the New Year, on Friday January 5th 2007, there will be a Jazz evening at The Painswick Centre with many excellent musicians coming from London and home counties. Future gigs include Mike Sanchez (19th - 20th January), The Animals (16th - 17th February) and Never The Bride (16th – 17th March).

Contact Paul Gray on 814482 for more details.



## Christmas Wreath Workshop

There are still some places left in all three sessions of this Christmas Wreath Workshop (page 5 last month) being held in the Town Hall on Tuesday 12th December; sessions are 10.00 to 12.30, 2.00 to 4.30 and 7.00 to 9.30pm.

This is a fund-raising event for the Flower Festival to be held next year. The cost is £15.00 with all materials supplied, and the end product should last for many years.

*Anne Smith*

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## Treats for Christmas

There are two chances to see Valerie Dugan's beautiful botanical paintings and calligraphy along with Ian Shearman's evocative Cotswold landscapes and Cornish seascapes also his delicate Raku Pottery. Valerie and Ian both belong to the Cotswold Craftsmen and they are holding their annual Christmas Show at the Bishops Cleeve Tithe Barn on Friday 1st December (6.00 – 8.00pm), Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd (10.00am – 5.00pm.)

The following weekend, Valerie and Ian are holding their own show at Painswick Town Hall on Friday 8th December (3.00 – 7.00pm) and Saturday 9th, Sunday 10th (10.00am - 4.30pm.)

Don't miss these unique opportunities to purchase or commission a unique fine art gift for Christmas. Both shows are admission free. Valerie can be contacted at the Shetland Shop or on 814482.



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# Local History Teaser

Here's a jolly bunch of pierrots from Painswick's past. Can you name any of them? If you know when the picture was taken or where or what the occasion was we would be delighted to hear from you as this is another in our collection about which we have limited information.

Last month's teaser drew a blank unfortunately. Despite the clarity of the images no-one was able to shed any light on the two pictures of children in costume.



## ... and the Local History Society

**Chronicle No.9 – the latest edition of the Painswick Chronicles will be on sale from early December.** Painswick seems to have produced an unending supply of eccentric, creative and powerful characters throughout its history and many of them make their appearance in this issue. There are a few mysteries too. A history of the Painswick Players, an early aviator whose roots were

firmly in Painswick, the first telephones in Painswick, a walk through history in the valley, a mysterious sphere and the surprise discovery of a 19th century local book society are the subjects of just some of the articles.

Issues 3 to 8 are also available (1 and 2 are out of print) and the whole collection now forms an impressive comprehensive historic study of Painswick. As only a limited number of each are printed it really is worthwhile to buy them whilst they are still available. Also published by Painswick Local History Society is the little booklet, Barks and Bites from Bow-Wow Land, telling you everything you need to know about longevity in Painswick and puppy-dog pie. If you live here you really need to know these things! This is an excellent stocking filler.

The Society still has a few copies of Carl Moreland's Painswick: Time Chart of a Cotswold Village. This beautifully presented book maps Painswick's history against national landmark events.

Gyde House has a fascinating history and the stories of four of its former residents are told very movingly in Gyde Orphanage Remembered.

These publications represent excellent value for money and make ideal gifts. They are available from shops in the village, or from Gwen Welch (812540) or Carol Maxwell (813387).

*Carol Maxwell*

## Letters

The inclusion of letters in these columns does not imply that the Beacon committee endorses the views expressed.

## A Sign of the Times?

*From Graham Lilley:*

There's good news and there's bad news. The good news is that the County Council have agreed to remove their unnecessary signs at Sheepscombe. The bad news is that the tax payer has to bear the cost of both installation and removal. It would be nice to think that the Highways Department are aware of the trend by more enlightened authorities to reduce roadside and realise the benefits of less signage. Even Ken Livingstone is on board.

The press this weekend reported the stunning results achieved in Holland on traffic flow and road safety by removing signs and traffic lights. Similar safety results have been achieved in Kensington. Why then are Gloucestershire Council tax payers expected to fund these ill considered schemes?

We can expect, no doubt, an above inflation Council Tax increase yet again next year. We deserve better.

## 40 mph is just too fast

*From Norman Rampton:*

GCC Officers have presented the Parish with results of speeds in Cheltenham Road. Median speeds were 39-41mph - close to the present 40 limit. This factor- plus no accident record (blood required?), insufficient frontage development (very arguable), and no Police support for change - means that GCC will not change its view that the 30 limit shall be extended only to the Barn at Washwell.

Despite a good case to put the 30 limit out to the village sign (normal in villages), we have not succeeded.

Thanks to supporters and the Parish Council. A reasonable local request is rejected by officialdom. Residents are entitled to ask what DO we get for the obscene level of our council taxes? Instead we will see wasted short term expenditure on moving the signs 150m, leaving 400m at 40mph. This is against advice to avoid multiple limits over short distances.

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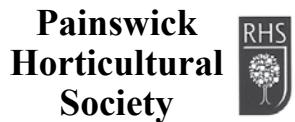
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# The Naked Gardeners

"The wow factor is here in abundance" said Alan Titchmarsh when visiting Abbey House Gardens, Malmesbury. We were certainly wowed by Barbara Pollard's entertaining view of her work with husband Ian to create the gardens. Her presentation for our November meeting was accompanied by beautiful slides.



The gardens are set in the centre of Malmesbury, next to the ruined Abbey which forms a splendid backdrop. The garden design mirrors the history of the site with yew hedges taking the place of walls. Why are they called the naked gardeners, well simply because they prefer to garden wearing as little as possible - Ian will be seen in boots and thong, Barbara in a skimpy bikini. However it is the gardens that steal your attention! In the 10 years since they moved there they have transformed it from "lawn and edges", albeit with a magnificent backdrop, into a gardeners delight. Featuring over 10,000 plants, including 2,000 roses, a herbal knot garden, laburnum walk, herbaceous borders, tree ferns, ponds making homes for water voles, fruit cordons and so much more. The gardens are open from March to October and are well worth a visit at any time.

Our next meeting will be on 13th December at 7.30pm for the annual quiz, refreshments included.

Betty Harris

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## Architecs

Where is the prominent piece of worked metal, shown right, fixed?



Last month we focussed closely upon a timber above the window of Bell Cottage in Friday Street, turning the camera through 90 degrees. Did you find this feature?



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An advertisement for Spaceintense Garden Party Tents. It features a large white tent with arched entrances. The text includes "Garden Party Tents From spaceintense", "Tel: 01452 813658", and the website "www.spaceintense.co.uk".

## Cheeses please WI

There was a packed house for the October Meeting of Yew Trees WI. Members were delighted that so many visitors joined them to listen to Liz Godsell talk about her work making hand made cheeses at Church Farm, Leonard Stanley. A fascinating talk it was too, punctuated with the chance to sample some of the most delicious local cheeses. Liz's audience came away feeling they had experienced a most enjoyable social occasion, and learnt a lot.

Liz taught us what makes a cheese crumbly, what makes it salty, the difference between Single and Double Gloucester. (In case you are wondering, the former is made from skinned milk from the evening milking mixed with full cream milk from the morning while the latter is full cream from both milkings). The fact that Church Farm Cheeses are Gloucestershire cheeses is not just because they are made in the County, but because the milk from Gloucester Cattle is used in its production. Liz and her family are increasing the size of their herd of this ancient breed, which was numerous in the Severn Vale as early as the 13th century but had nearly died out in the early 1970s. Perhaps the size of the audience bore witness to the fact that many people nowadays are keen to see the revival of the best of locally produced traditional food. I am sure that Liz's infectious enthusiasm for her cheeses and their delicious flavours has ensured that many a Painswick home now includes some Church Farm cheeses on its cheese board, though perhaps only the boldest is offering Scary Mary, which lived up to its name!

Ladies, don't forget that because of Christmas the December meeting is earlier than usual. We hope to see you at our Christmas Gathering on Tuesday 12 December at 7.30 pm at the Town Hall.

Celia Lougher

## St Kilda's Wildlife

Wildlife enthusiast and photographer Helen Williams achieved a lifetime's ambition in travelling by boat to St Kilda. Her illustrated talk on November 7th portrayed the remoteness and spectacular scenery of this Archipelago off the mainland of North West Scotland.

Home to the world's largest Gannet colony of 60,000 birds, these islands have the highest cliffs in the British Isles. There are also huge colonies of Fulmars and Puffins, as well as Ducks, Waders and Raptors.

Helen's presentation was much appreciated by a large audience, which included members of the Local History Society who were our guests for the evening.

Bill Boydell

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# Christmas shopping in Painswick...

Where do you go to do your shopping, especially your Christmas shopping? Have you considered looking in our own shops in Painswick first? You should. Each shop is delightfully individual, not like the usual predictable and ubiquitous fare available in



## **Little Fleece Bookshop**

Michael sells high-quality second-hand and antiquarian books covering a wide range of subjects including local topics and collectable children's books. He has a small selection of prints too and can search for out-of-print and second-hand books for you.

Little Fleece is a lovely place to browse in with the distinct possibility that you will come across a very special book. And just to tempt you in, Michael will be offering free mince pies during the few days before Christmas.



## **The Post Office**

Annie has added some wonderful items to an already delightful selection. There are lots more cards with new designs and some very reasonably priced charity Christmas cards. As well as some excellent children's toys and games, a range of attractive traditional

family games offer a welcome alternative to the usual television! You will find many lovely little gifts and stocking fillers nestling in the nooks and crannies of the Post Office.



## **Painswick Fabrics**

Tim's range of fabrics is simply stunning. They include exquisite silks, velvets and cottons, all top quality but not at top prices. There are plenty of lovely upholstery materials too. If you want ready-made articles you will find sumptuous cushions,

beautiful throws, rugs and tassels for sale. Painswick Fabrics has a wealth of very beautiful textiles to inspire that creative side of you, and at very competitive prices.



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## **Painswick Woodcraft**

Dennis trained with Owen Scrubey and Ralph Stevens in the style of Barnsley and Gimson. His work is, therefore, classic Arts and Crafts in traditional Cotswold style. The shop offers skillfully crafted items in a range of

beautiful indigenous hardwoods, from the practical to the decoratively beautiful. Visitors from all over the world have commented on the unique nature of Dennis' work so a gift selected from Painswick Woodcraft is certainly special.



## **The Chairman**

Chris' shop is brimming with fascinating new and antique items for the home. Carefully selected and displayed, there is a wonderful eclectic mix of beautiful pottery, furniture, wall and mantle clocks, mirrors, wooden toys, handcrafted boxes, candle holders, tree decorations and pictures including Lyn Chadwick lithographs. New arrivals are a delightful child's rocking-chair and a beautiful Victorian upholstered bench.



## **Patchwork Mouse**

Dawn's little emporium is quite simply brilliantly quirky. Step inside and you are surrounded by a miscellany of pretty and funny and different goodies. There is plenty to amuse but also plenty to enchant too. Among the extras

for Christmas, you will find bright speciality umbrellas for men, women and children, pot pourri, lovely bottle stoppers, French wooden gifts and fun Swatch watches. Dawn stocks a good range of cards and she also serves very good tea and coffee.

*Our shops all offer real quality and individuality which you would expect and you are sure of a real welcome in each one. Go in and browse the array of gifts and ideas, demonstrating a real commitment to service and you may well be surprised by what you find. They are a joy. Do come along!*



## **THE FALCON INN**

16th Century Coaching Inn

### **CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Reservations are now being taken for pre-Christmas and Christmas Day dinners or private parties in Ostlers Function Room.  
Also for New Year's Eve special buffet.  
Please contact Antony or Jolka

**01452 814222**

# Make it a Painswickian Christmas...



Our shopkeepers have carefully selected the goods they present, making shopping in Painswick a special experience. You almost certainly will find that special gift. And you may be pleasantly surprised by the prices too.



## Ha'penny Pieces

Letty started this little shop almost thirty years ago and now with daughter, Kate, sells an amazing range of lovely things. You will find china, linen, jewellery, glass, cushions, quilts, throws, pictures, mirrors, baskets, jugs (some new Staffordshire), small pine furniture,

ornaments, cutlery, copper. It is mostly vintage and there is lots of chintz. This is a little gem of a shop and furthermore, there is a discount for Painswick customers.



## Painswick Pharmacy

Mike and his team have yet again filled the shop with many special extra gifts. As well as all the usual frames, cameras, health products, cosmetics, toiletries, and so on, you will find scarf sets, photo albums, children's items, fun

hot water bottles, heat packs to ease those aches and pains and beautiful Bronnley and Floris toiletries. Our pharmacy offers a splendid range of high quality, attractive goods.



## Shetland Shop

Paul will be closing the shop shortly but there are still some lovely and unusual items available, including picture frames, soft toys, jewellery, leatherware, pens, rocks and fossils, Painswick jigsaws, wooden games, candles. Valerie Dugan's exquisite

botanical cards and pictures are also still on sale. In view of the forthcoming closure almost everything in the shop is being sold at half price.



ld find hard to beat anywhere else. They present a touch of class  
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## Allen Hale, Butcher

Allen takes a very serious interest in the food he sells. His is one of only 24 Real Meat Company shops in England, with a commitment to present only the highest possible standards. Allen sells top of the range quality meat, preserves, eggs, cheeses, cof-

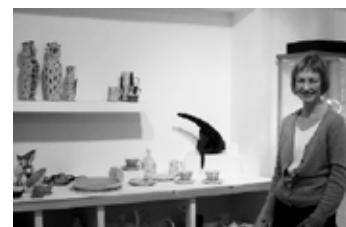
fee, home-made sausages, etc. His Real Meat Co. home-cooked hams have beaten all the competition (Observer Food Monthly). For Christmas there will also be free range turkeys, ducks, geese, chicken, but, with a shortage this year, early orders are essential.



## Londis

Londis is the true local village shop, providing for all your grocery and newspaper needs. A walk around the displays reveals a remarkable range of provisions and magazines. And for Christmas there are extra luxury goodies espe-

cially chocolates and drinks. The smaller sweets selection is a delight. Bill is pleased to inform us that the shop will be closed only on Christmas Day, re-opening on Boxing Day as normal.



## Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen

The GGC may trace its roots way back in the Arts and Crafts movement but the displays in the Painswick Centre are dramatically contemporary. All the pieces are stunning, innovative and intriguing: the finest quality ceramics, textiles, woodwork, jewellery, glassware, sculptural textiles and marbled books and cards. The Guild is continuously evolving to reflect new exciting developments in art. Do visit the special exhibition starting on 5th December.



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# Sprouts



## for Christmas!

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'Prepare the sprouts, there are a few; it will only take an hour or two'

And she was right.

Sit on the sofa, I'll make a brew. I'd put your feet up if I were you.'

If she commands, I usually do - my vegetable knife will sort them through.

And I was nearly right.

Of brussel sprouts there was no lack, I seemed to have a half a sack;

With cushion pushed into my back I pared away - time lost its track.

There were sprouts alright

Sprout in left hand, knife in right, I worked away till day was night.

Reclined asleep, my eyes shut tight, nightmare sized sprouts; I'm in a plight.

I wake in fright.

When our Christmas lunch we eat, on the plates around the meat

Nestle the sprouts, so choice and sweet, stems all crossed and looking neat.

A pleasing sight

There is no doubt the brussel sprout is not enjoyed by every diner,

At Christmas time they're in their prime, and with roast could not be finer.

But someone needs to prepare them.....

*This poem was passed on to us by Jo Brazier. It was originally written for Jo and her husband John by Clare Smith, who is well known among the residents of Gyde Road for her poems for all occasions. Truly, Clare is Painswick's Poet Laureate!*

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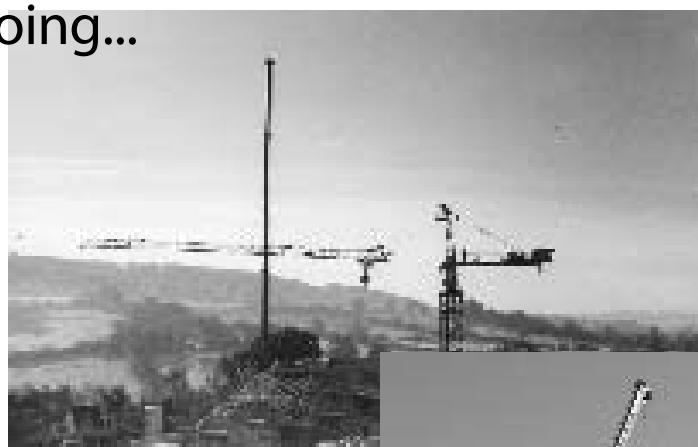
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# Going...



going...



...gone!

**A (not particularly welcome) feature of the Painswick skyline over the past twelve months or so has been the massive crane dominating the Richmond Care Centre site. On or about Guy Fawkes night, it was whisked away. Not, we hasten to add, blown up by over enthusiastic critics of the development!**

And how do you remove a great big crane? You use a greater bigger crane, that's how. Pictures from local residents, Jane Otway and Mike Kerton. This, of course, all begs the question of how they then got rid of the greater bigger crane...

Anyway, before its departure, Susie Oakley, the intrepid Centre Manager, scrambled up aloft and captured this crane's eye view of the site.



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## Painswick Centre

## NEWS

### By now the re-decoration of the Hall should be complete!

We have been fortunate in obtaining all of the materials, worth about £450, free from Dulux. They are running a promotion called 'Colouring the Community' and we managed to avail ourselves of this.

The December issue of the Painswick Beacon marks the start of the Centenary of the Painswick Centre. The first centenary event will be the Edwardian Music Hall, staged by the Painswick Players, which will run from Thursday 7th to Saturday 9th December, and this is one show that must be seen.

The following event will be the Children's Christmas Party, on Sunday 17th December, for those aged between 5 and 8 years.



We can only manage 60 children and already the tickets are selling fast, so get your tickets now from The Shetland Shop. Gary Cope has decided not to bring Sky, the Lanner Falcon, but to bring instead a Peregrine Falcon. The Peregrine is the fastest bird in the world and can reach speeds of up to 120 mph as it swoops down for a kill! If it tries to do that in the Hall it's likely to require splints on its beak for a long time to come!

In February the Painswick Players are organising a Poetry Reading & Cream Tea. Then, on Saturday 14th July, the Trustees will be staging the final event of the Centenary with the Edwardian Evening to Remember, which will be like An Evening to Remember that we enjoyed last year, only much, much better! We also have to fit in a concert by "Amorata", a vocal ensemble from Bristol. Also still to be arranged is an Antiques Fair and Craft Fair, both at the same time. More about these two events later.

We've already booked the Gloucester Police Choir for 2008, but we're still open to any suggestions - after all, the Painswick Centre belongs to you, and you, and you!



**A different angle to test you this Christmas.** Can you find sixteen fish of the freshwater variety to be found in Scottish lochs or rivers, and which two are included twice? Not quite as simple as you might think.

The answers to November WordSearch; 19 British poets:

ARNOLD  
BLAKE  
BROWNING  
BYRON  
CHAUCER  
CLARE  
COLERIDGE  
DONNE  
JONSON  
KEATS  
KIPLING  
LAWRENCE  
MILTON

OWEN  
SHAKESPEARE  
SHELLEY  
SPENSER  
TENNYSON  
WORDSWORTH

### Beacon subscribers

21st November 2006	2006-2007	2005-2006
New or renewed after lapsing	144	116
Renewed from last year	495	479
<b>Total including postal</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>595</b>
Painswick village dwellings	1057	1057
Subscribing households	557	414
Percentage subscribing	53%	40%



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## Tennis

Painswick Juniors were very successful at the Gloucestershire County Closed Tournament held at the East Gloucestershire Club in Cheltenham at the end of August. The finalists, pictured above, were:-

James Barnett - U18 Singles Runner-Up (RU), U16 Singles RU, U16 Doubles Winner.

Freddie Speed - U16 Plate RU. Ed Williams - U14 Singles Winner, U14 Doubles Winner.

Dan Omnes - U14 Singles RU. Lucy Moir & Sarah Thomas - U16 Doubles Winners.

Alicia Barnett & Chelsea Warrington - U16 Doubles RU.

Chelsea Warrington - U14 Plate Winner. Annabel Sidwell - U18 Singles RU.

Annabel Sidwell & Judith Thomas - U18 Doubles RU. Alicia Barnett - U14 Singles RU.

Alex Duncliffe & Robert Sidwell - U12 Doubles Winners. Alex Duncliffe - U12 Singles Winner.

Jake Roberts - U16 Plate Winner. Megan.

## Snowboarding - Kate Foster

21 years old local resident and Olympian Kate Foster has after only two seasons riding with TeamGB already taken silver in the European Championships and competed in the 2006 Turin Olympics. Kate's progress on the world halfpipe (HP) snowboarding scene has been outstanding having joined the junior squad in 2005 and within months selected for the 2006 World Cup Team. The HP is like a pipe cut into snow with the top cut off with sides up to 20' high. The riders do a run consisting of a series of aerial tricks which are judged on overall impression, amplitude and the complexity of the tricks, rotations and inverts score highest. HP is a huge hit with the spectators and TV audience with its spectacular injuries. On route to the Olympics Kate suffered 2 dislocated shoulders, concussion and many other scrapes. She did World Cups in Chile, Switzerland, France, the USA, Japan and Canada.

Chile was the first World Cup and while training she dislocated her shoulder but finished 23rd. It was onto France and Whistler Canada taking 22nd in both. She needed 2 top 20 places for the Olympics so she dropped the next competition for training in the USA, returning to take 7th and 16th in the Swiss World Cups and qualify! Kate went onto finish 20th in Turin!

The Ski Club of Great Britain in its 2005 Snow Sports analysis states that snowboarding is the fastest growing sport in the UK with an estimated growth of 12% per year there are nearly a million Brits riding. Over 70% of lessons at Milton Keynes indoor centre are for snowboarding. As a result the sport receives a lot of media cover in the UK. Kate has a 4-year plan to be an Olympic podium contender in 2010. To support her, local businesses are invited to be sponsors. She can also undertake school and club visits. If readers are interested they can contact Kate by email at: [Kate7Foster@talktalk.net](mailto:Kate7Foster@talktalk.net)

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## Rugby

Painswick first fifteen had a convincing victory over Old Colstonians in a Premier Division match at Broadham Fields at the beginning of November. From the kick-off Painswick showed their intention to carry on their recent good league form. Playing against the slope they soon put the visitors under pressure but found the Bristol team's defence difficult to breach. It was not until the second quarter that the Cherry and Whites' replacement wing-threequarter Jake Saunders broke through to score an excellent try under the posts which was converted by stand-off Dominic Barnard. Painswick were to lose three players through injury during the match and when Russell Thornton was forced to leave the field, the visitors crossed Painswick's line for an unconverted try. The next period however belonged to Dominic Barnard when he added 10 points to the home side's total, first with a penalty and then with an excellent try which he duly converted. Shortly afterwards second row Matt Iles went over for an unconverted try to put the game beyond the visitors' reach. The following Saturday, 11th November, Painswick were away to another Bristol Premier Division side, Aretians. Although they lost by 10 points to 3 they could count themselves unlucky not to have at least gained a draw as they came close to scoring on a number of occasions. Painswick's points came from a Dominic Barnard penalty midway through the first half. Last Saturday Painswick travelled to Widden Old Boys for another league encounter when they had a disappointing afternoon losing by 27 points to nil.

November results [(L) indicates league match. (M) Merit Table]

Sat 4th. (L) Painswick 1st XV 22 Old Colstonians 1st XV 5.  
(M) Painswick United 15 Gloucester Old Boys 2nd XV22.

Sat 11th. (L) Aretians 1st XV10 Painswick 1st XV 3.

(M) Painswick United 5 Stow-on-the-Wold 2nd XV 19.  
Sat 25th. (L) Widden OB 1st XV 27 Painswick 1st XV 0.

## December Fixtures

Sat 2nd. Painswick 1st XV v Cirencester 1st XV. (M)  
Cirencester 2nd XV v Painswick United.

Sat 9th. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Cainscross 1st XV. Painswick United v Cainscross 2nd XV.

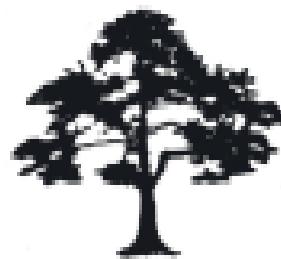
Sat 16th. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Aretians 1st XV. (M) Painswick United v Widden OB 2nd XV.



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ADRIAN HARRIS

**01452 527647**

## Skiing or Snowboarding this Winter?

Many people at this time of year are gearing up for their annual ski holiday ... well how about making this year's trip to the slopes even more enjoyable? Five Valleys Physiotherapy and Sports Injuries Clinic is coordinating a Fit for Skiing/Boarding course with Ed Archer, Director of Action Professionals Ltd, and former Strength and Conditioning Coach with Gloucester Rugby Club. Ed is passionate about winter sports – he's a qualified snowboard instructor and the course coordinator for the Peak Leaders Snowsports Instructor training programmes in Argentina. The benefits of preparing for the mountains are two-fold: You reduce the risk of injury, and you will recover from your day's exertions more effectively and be able to ski/board at a higher level. Improving performance in your skiing or boarding means different things to different people – this season you might want to progress from blue to black runs, or maybe you want to make those parallel turns a little smoother, or tackle tough back country or the terrain park! This class focuses on the motor skills, balance, coordination and muscular demands associated with skiing and snowboarding. The training benefits all ages and abilities and crosses over to many other sports and activities. Most importantly, it's a fun way to build up the excitement of your winter mountain adventure. If you are interested in attending these classes, please call the Five Valleys Physiotherapy Clinic on 01453 755948.

## Yoga with Kim



The Beacon is always on the look out for new enterprises, and we are able to record the start-up of two yoga classes locally.

Kim Brockett, tells us that she would like to welcome you to her yoga classes in Painswick Centre on Thursdays at 9.30am and in Sheepscombe Village Hall on Wednesdays, also at 9.30am.

Kim has recently moved to Vicarage Street from Oxford where she had been teaching yoga for the past five years. Yoga has been a part of Kim's life for 16 years and she is very excited to be bringing her knowledge and experience to the residents of Painswick and Sheepscombe.

Her unique style of teaching brings together the many yoga influences in her life from world renowned teachers such as Patabis Jois, Shiva Rea, Mohini Chatlani and Marteen Vermasse as well as her own self practice. She went on to say she "also trained as an aromatherapist and uses her aromatherapy and massage in the classes to enhance the yoga practice and meditation. Yoga is a wonderful tool for building strength and flexibility, learning new methods of how to still your mind and distress. The classes are suitable for all abilities".

Contacting Kim for more details is best on 812623.



## The Organ

**David Martin, a true enthusiast, was presenter at the Group's meeting on 19th October; his career had been in engineering which he had found helpful. He suggested that, inevitably, his talk would at times be slightly technical.**

All organs consisted basically of an air supply, valves and pipes, from 880 or so in a parish church to 9900 in the Albert Hall. A pipe was needed for every key on the keyboard. An 8ft pipe was two octaves below Middle C. A bass pipe is 16 feet long. Halve the length of pipe and you move up an octave. To make the pipes "speak", they need wind under constant pressure. The air pipes are controlled by sliders. A fat pipe produces a solid sound, a thin pipe a reedy one. The quality of the sound depends on the harmonics. This is controlled by one or more keyboards.

Organs evolved from a very simple instrument over the last 1000 years. An important innovation was "the swell" which overcame the organ's innate limitation of producing straight, static tones. Another was the introduction of "stops", which allowed the organist to create different sounds and colours. More recently, the application of computer technology has much improved quality. This is also affected by the acoustics of the building. A current problem is the declining supply of organists, although a competent pianist can make the conversion quite quickly.

Organ music started out from plainsong. This then developed through rounds into canons, as in compositions by Pachelbel, and then into fugues, of which much of organ music consists. The great exponent of fugues was JS Bach. An illustration was his St Ann's fugue. The subject was the hymn O God our help in ages past. From this was developed a counter-subject, from which emerged a new theme. Another development from hymns was the choral prelude, also highly developed by Bach.

Some compositions were what David called show-off music, designed to emphasise the virtuosity of the performer; he illustrated this by a recording from the church of La Madeleine in Paris, which was of amazing complexity. At the end of the service the organist performed an obligatory "voluntary".

This was an illuminating talk: many thanks, David.

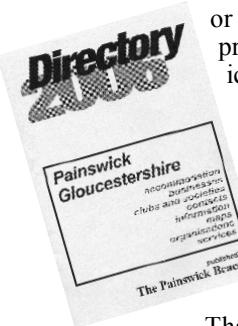
Richards Burges Watson

## Directory 2007

We are pleased, this month, to enclose copy of our 2007 issue of the Directory. We are indebted to all who have taken the trouble to let us have up-dated information about the 350 or so entries we make in this free publication, and of course our subscribers and advertisers in the Beacon from whom the funds required to print this booklet are drawn.

In addition to over 1500 copies circulated with this month's Beacon a number of copies are made available to local estate agents Hamptons and Murrays to pass to those taking up residence in the area, and others are held ready for the Tourist Office to use when it reopens in the spring. We receive quite a lot of appreciative comment about this annual publication from those

seeking a particular club or service, and from the providers of those services themselves.



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# Durbar in Zaria

Claire Burges Watson sends this account of her participation in a Durbar festival in Nigeria, where she is currently working for the British High Commission.

**Durbar festivals are celebrated in towns and cities throughout the North of Nigeria at the culmination of the Muslim feast of Eid ul Fitr marking the end of Ramadan.**

Having been a spectator in the last Durbar, it was a great privilege to be a participant in this Durbar and to celebrate Eid ul-Fitr with the people of Zaria, a town located on the margins of the Sahara.

Our starting point, one of the old gates in Zaria, was weighed down with hundreds of spectators who had found a viewing point from anything which gave them additional height - cars, lorries, balconies, trees - as spectators craned to get a sight of their Emir. As we readied to leave, the Magajin Zazzau's retinue, dressed in flamboyant costumes, jostled around him, singing his praises, their horses restless and occasionally ill-tempered. The Emir passed us, shaded by a silvery-blue umbrella and preceded by a string of spare horses bedecked in glittering embroidered saddle blankets and drummers mounted on camels.

The Emir led the procession, followed by several thousand horsemen - roy-

alty, title holders, district heads and their colourful retinues. I was riding with the Magajin Zazzau. We were a couple of hundred metres behind the Emir. Tens of thousands of Zaria's residents had lined the streets to greet their Emir who was riding to his palace from morning prayers. We rode for about an hour through the streets of Zaria behind a group of dancing drummers and a few metres in front of the Magajin who was wearing a huge woollen red cape embroidered with gold brocade.

It was extraordinarily hot as we were weighed down with heavy gowns and riding in the midday sun. Once we were riding, there was a little breeze and we were able to put a little space between our horses, which was a great relief to me as I feared that my horse would buck - as he had done in the past - if he was kicked.

The Emir arrived at the palace and sat on his throne surrounded by the guests including government officials, dignitaries and diplomats who had been entertained by a procession of snake charmers, fire-breathers, acrobats and hyenas.

When the crowds noticed that there was an English-woman riding in the procession, they made me feel most welcome and greeted



me enthusiastically - some of the spectators ran out of the crowds to shake my hand. The women were particularly vocal in their greetings, ululating, cheering and waving as I passed. While in recent times a woman riding in the Durbar may be a rarity, the people of Zaria are alive to the history of one of their most famous warriors, the sixteenth-century Queen Amina of Zaria.

Of all the Hausa warriors, Queen Amina was one of the most famous and her military achievements brought her great wealth and power. In her thirty-four year reign, she expanded the domain of Zazzau to its largest size ever. She is mostly remembered as "Amina, Yar Bakwa ta san rana," meaning "Amina, daughter of Nikatau, a woman as capable as a man.

*Claire Burges Watson*



## PROPERTY REPORT for December by Hamptons International

The national trend of demand outstripping supply has not escaped the West Country. Potential purchaser numbers have continued to rise during the Autumn and sales agreed during October in the Painswick office were 100% higher than in October 2005. With 26% more properties changing hands across our Cotswold offices from July to October compared to the same time last year there is little doubt that the market is on firm ground. It seems that yet again buyers are fighting to buy in this area with a number of properties having gone to sealed bids last month. Therefore it appears that this is an opportune time to take advantage of the ability to achieve an excellent sale price.

If you are thinking of moving in the new year and would like a free market appraisal then do not hesitate to contact me on 01452 812354. We also now have Peter Atkinson, a mortgage consultant from our award winning Hamptons International Mortgages, coming to our office every Thurs-

day afternoon to give free independent financial advice on mortgages/equity release. Please do drop in to discuss any of your financial requirements or call Peter on 0117 9281519.

New properties on the market are: Downage, in the popular Cotswold Mead which sold straight away, Overdale in Slad which went to sealed bids, Weavers Cottage in Longridge and Kingsmill Lane Cottage which are traditional Cotswold stone cottages with fabulous views, Wynstowe - a much sought after bungalow in Painswick, 2 Yew Tree House Flat, Ashcroft- a 4 bedroom family house with an acre of grounds in Cranham, Robinswood Cottage - a 4 bedroom period house with a one bedroom annexe in Whaddon.

Properties now sold are Copperbeeches in Painswick, Chapel Cottage in Edge, 14 Canton Acre in Painswick, Downage in Cotswold Mead and Laurel Court in Slad.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Miranda Harding, Branch Manager*



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## DECEMBER

Sat	<b>2</b>	The Painswick Singers Carol Concert, in aid of Church funds	Christ Church	7.30pm
Sun	<b>3</b>	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group: scrub clear Croft School Christmas Fair	(location check 812709) Croft School	10.00am to 1.00pm 2.00 to 4.00pm
Mon	<b>4</b>	Austerity Lunch: Hosts – Christ Church Advent Agape – bring a plate of food and a reading or other Advent contribution	Christ Church Hall Christ Church Hall	12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	<b>5</b>	Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) Yoga: Beginners welcome – Tuesdays - contact Emma 01453 840395 Bingo Club PCMS: Carols, Wine & Cheese. Proceeds to SOS Children's Villages	Christ Church Hall Town Hall Ashwell House Westmorland House, Kingsmead	9.30 to 12.00noon 10.00 to 11.15am 6.30pm 7.30pm
Wed	<b>6</b>	Coach to London: Enquiries 813965/813227 Probus: Falklands Recalled – Mr E Fellowes	Stamages Car Park Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30am 10.00am
Thu	<b>7</b>	Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners Experienced beginners – Thursdays Tea Dances – Thursdays Painswick Players Centenary Music Hall	Town Hall Painswick Centre Painswick Centre	12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm 2.30 to 4.30pm 7.30pm
Fri	<b>8</b>	Cotswold Care Support Group Christmas Dinner	Town Hall	7.00pm
Sat	<b>9</b>	Country Market with coffee available: Fridays Painswick Players Centenary Music Hall	Painswick Centre	10.00am
Sat		Sale of paintings by local artists; local history books; & D.K. wool etc. in aid of the Alzheimer's Society	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
		P.P. Centenary Music Hall - Saturday matinee	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
		Painswick Players Centenary Music Hall	Ostlers Room, Falcon	7.30pm
		Jazz Night	Christ Church Hall	12.00 to 1.15pm
Mon	<b>11</b>	Austerity Lunch: Hosts – Catholic Church	Church Rooms	
Tue	<b>12</b>	Flower Guild: Wreath and table decoration workshop	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	<b>13</b>	Yew Trees WI: Christmas Gathering	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	<b>14</b>	Horticultural Society: Quiz Nite with refreshments	Golf Club	12.30pm
Fri	<b>15</b>	Women's Fellowship: Christmas Lunch Music Appreciation: Christmas Social	Cotswold Room	7.15 for 7.30pm
Sat		Country Market: main Christmas market	Town Hall	10.00am
		Friday Club: Christmas Lunch	tba	tba
		Blues Night: The Eddie Martin Band	Painswick Centre	
Sat	<b>16</b>	<b>Copy dateline for January Beacon</b>		
Sun	<b>17</b>	Children's Party - including magician	Painswick Centre	tba
Tue	<b>19</b>	Jazz Evening no entry fee	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
Wed	<b>20</b>	Women's Fellowship Carol Service	Ashwell House	7.30pm
Thu	<b>21</b>	PSALMS Christmas Fun Day – crafts, workshops, games, the Christmas story, for children aged 4-11	Croft School Hall	2.00 to 4.40pm
		Public Meeting: Interim report upon Library (page 3)	Town Hall	7.00pm
Fri	<b>22</b>	Country Market: small pre-Christmas market	Town Hall	10.00am
Sun	<b>31</b>	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group: scrub clear	(location check 812709)	10.00am - 1.00pm

## 2007

## JANUARY

Sat	<b>6</b>	<b>January issue of The Painswick Beacon published</b>		
Wed	<b>10</b>	Probus: Everyman Theatre – Ms Sarah Hasman Horticultural Society: English Garden History - Barbara Drake	Ostlers Room, Falcon Town Hall	10.00am 2.30pm
Thu	<b>11</b>	Music Appreciation Group: Antonin Dvorak	Cotswold Room, P, Centre	7.30pm
Fri	<b>12</b>	Country Market Re-opens	Town Hall	10.00am
Tue	<b>16</b>	Local History Society: The poor are always with us	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	<b>24</b>	Probus: The Sinister World – Mr P Petrie	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	<b>25</b>	Music Appreciation Group: Jazz in the 30's	Cotswold Room, P, Centre	7.30pm

## FEBRUARY

Thu	<b>1</b>	Cotswold Care Support Group meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Wed	<b>7</b>	Probus: Well, Whatever Next – Mr R Shotter	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	<b>9</b>	Music Appreciation Concert Outing to Symphony Hall	Birmingham	
		Tennis Club/Badminton Club Barn Dance with The Downfielders	Sports Club, Broadham	7.30pm
Wed	<b>14</b>	Horticultural Society: RHS Garden at Harlow Carr - Maurice Everett. Plant Sale	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	<b>20</b>	Bird Club: Birds & other wild life of the Forest of	Town Hall	2.00pm



	Dean, Lesbos and the Galapagos – Terry Wall	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	<b>21</b> Local History Society: An Archard/ Briggs Production	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	<b>22</b> Probus: Drug Awareness & Education – Mr A Wood	Cotswold Room, P, Centre	7.30pm
<b>MARCH</b>			
Thu	<b>1</b> Cotswold Care Support Group meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Fri	<b>2</b> Horticultural Society Special Event: An evening with David Howard – Head Gardener at Highgrove	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Wed	<b>7</b> Probus: Cider with Rosie Country – Mr J Fern	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	<b>8</b> Music Appreciation Group: Franz Joseph Haydn	Cotswold Room, P, Centre	7.30pm
Sat	<b>11</b> Village Quiz	Painswick Centre	
Wed	<b>14</b> Horticultural Society: Pruning – Sue Gibson	Town Hall	7.30pm
Tue	<b>20</b> Local History Society: Hugh Conway-Jones – Gloucester Docks	Croft School	7.30pm
Thu	<b>22</b> Music Appreciation: More variations on a theme	Cotswold Room, P, Centre	7.30pm
Sat	<b>24</b> Music Society Concert: Felicity Lott & Graham Johnson	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Tue	<b>27</b> Bird Club: The Wildlife of Trinidad & Tobago - Bob Axworthy	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	<b>28</b> Horticultural Society: Outings booking morning	Church Rooms	10.00am - 12 noon
<b>APRIL</b>			
Wed	<b>4</b> Flower Guild: Cookery demonstration by Rob Rees	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Thu	<b>5</b> Cotswold Care Support Group meeting	Cotswold Room, P, Centre	7.30pm
	Music Appreciation Group: Film Music	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	<b>11</b> Horticultural Society: British poisonous plants - Michael Leech. Plant sale	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Sat	<b>14</b> Music Society Concert: Daniel de Borah	Croft School	7.30pm
Tue	<b>17</b> Local History Society: Research Evening	Cotswold Room, P, Centre	7.30pm
Thu	<b>19</b> Music Appreciation Group: Members Night	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Sat	<b>28</b> Music Society Concert: Kungsbacka Piano Trio		
<b>MAY</b>			
Thu	<b>3</b> Cotswold Care Support Group meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Wed	<b>9</b> Horticultural Society: AGM – followed by Painswick in Bloom – Philip Berry (plant sale)	Town Hall	7.30pm
			8.15pm
Sat	<b>12</b> Music Society Concert: Rasumovsky Ensemble	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Tue	<b>15</b> Local History Society: Outing	Croft School	7.30pm
<b>JUNE</b>			
Thu	<b>7</b> Cotswold Care Support Group meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Tue	<b>16</b> Local History Society: AGM	Croft School	7.30pm
<b>JULY</b>			
Thu	<b>5</b> Cotswold Care Support Group meeting	Ashwell House	2.30pm
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
Sat	<b>8</b> Horticultural Society Annual Show	Painswick Centre	2.30pm to 5.30pm

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# The Personal Column

## Babies

Congratulations to AIMEE COLLINS and MATTHEW CLUTTERBUCK on the birth of their daughter on 9th November (Esme Elizabeth Zia Clutterbuck), a granddaughter for John and Barbara Hulme;

also to ASHLEY and LINDSAY GRANT on October 23rd, a daughter, Amelia, a sister for Kieran;

also to HILARY and RUSS WILCOX on the birth of a daughter, Sophie Rose on June 10th;

also to NICOLA and WAYNE HOLMES, a son Ethan Adam on October 13th. (Both grandchildren for Robert and Lesley Barnfield and two greatgrandchildren for Mrs Weeks and Marjorie Barnfield)

## Weddings

Congratulations to CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT and RHIAN WYN WILLIAMS who were married on November 25th at St Mary's Church;

also to STUART BRADLEY and MICHELLE BURDETT who were married at Harescombe Church on November 25th.

## Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of PEGGY WEBB and JIM LANGSTON who have died recently.

## Welcome

We would like to welcome back to Painswick, PAUL MORRIS and ANGELA JANES, who with their 8 year old son Reece, have come to live at Park View, Gloucester Road;

also to Mr & Mrs WESTERN to Angels' Roost, Vicarage Street;

also to Mr & Mrs GAVIN HILL to Cotswold Villa, Gloucester Road.

## Congratulations

Our congratulations to ABIGAIL COLLINS, who having completed her degree in Occupational Therapy at Exeter, is now working at St Rose's.

## Personal messages

**Jenny Cartwright Taylor** would like to thank the people of Painswick for the help she received towards enabling her to go and work in Zambia in October to help with children and AIDS victims.

(Jenny has written a very interesting diary with excellent photos about her experience.)

**Felicity Sharwood-Smith** sends greetings to her many kind friends and wishes to thank them for their support, prayers and good wishes during her recent very successful hip replacement.

**Mair Daly** would like to thank all her friends in Painswick for their flowers, gifts and cards received during the past weeks. She would also like to thank the doctors of the Painswick surgery and the doctors and nursing staff in the Gloucester General Hospital for their kindness and care.

*Rachel Taylor welcomes information for the Personal Column. Space limitations permit only a small amount of text and your assistance in this regard is helpful.*

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## 100 years in rehearsal...?

Well no: it just feels like that! Big shows like the Centenary Music Hall (Painswick Centre - 7th, 8th, 9th December) can be... well, challenging. Or, as Ann Dorman

put it the other day when discussing with her fellow wardrobe mistress, Pat Francis, how they would tackle the 87 intricate costume changes needed by the 28 members of cast, "Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaarrrrrrrrrrrrggggghhhh!!!"

Then there is the staging, special effects and props. A two ton dumbbell for the Amazing Hercules, the Strongest Man in The World? "No problem," says Russ Herbert grinding his teeth.

Tony Gibson and Mike Breeze are similarly unfazed by the demand for a fully functioning cannon capable of firing a series of small boys to the back of the hall. "Trials are going according to plan," muttered Tony, standing amongst the smoking remains of his garage.

Meanwhile, director Alistair Anderson claims to be "quietly confident". And, as our picture shows, the cast are deliriously happy. Or, at any rate, delirious.

Tickets for the three evening performances (starting 7.30 pm) cost £10.00 – or £6.00 for children – and include a ploughman's supper. The Saturday matinee starts at 2.30pm with tickets at £7.50 – or £4.00 for children – but with no food. And there will be prizes for the Best (Edwardian) Dressed members of the audience. So get into the Edwardian spirit, get your tickets from The Chairman or The Shetland Shop.

And – if the Edwardian pre-Christmas spirit so moves you – why not get dressed up?

Jack Burgess



## NEXT ISSUE

Publication date  
**SATURDAY 6th JANUARY**

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**Rachel Taylor** 813402

#### Diary

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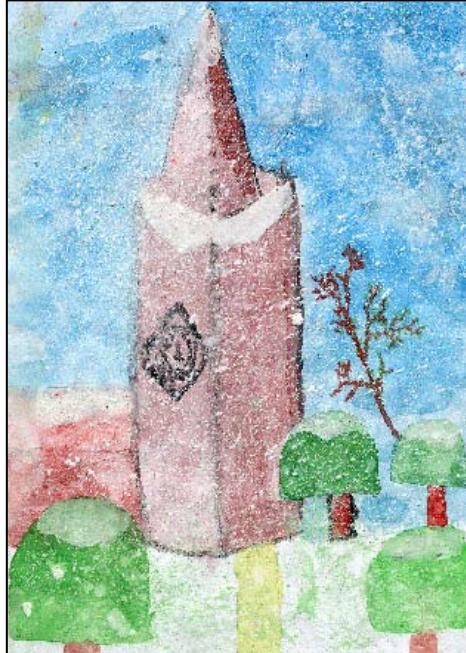
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## Our Christmas cover picture

This year we asked Janet Hoyle, Head Teacher at the Croft School, to invite some children to paint pictures which we might use for our cover.

We were well pleased with the 'gallery' from which the Beacon committee made its choice last week, and take this opportunity of thanking all those whose artistic talents were on display.

The front cover picture was painted by Max Simpson aged eight from Class 4 and the close alternative, which is reproduced left, is from Amy Cox aged ten in Class 5.

To each we are passing book tokens together with one for the school itself. Thank you once more.

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