

The Painswick Beacon

Volume 32 Number 9

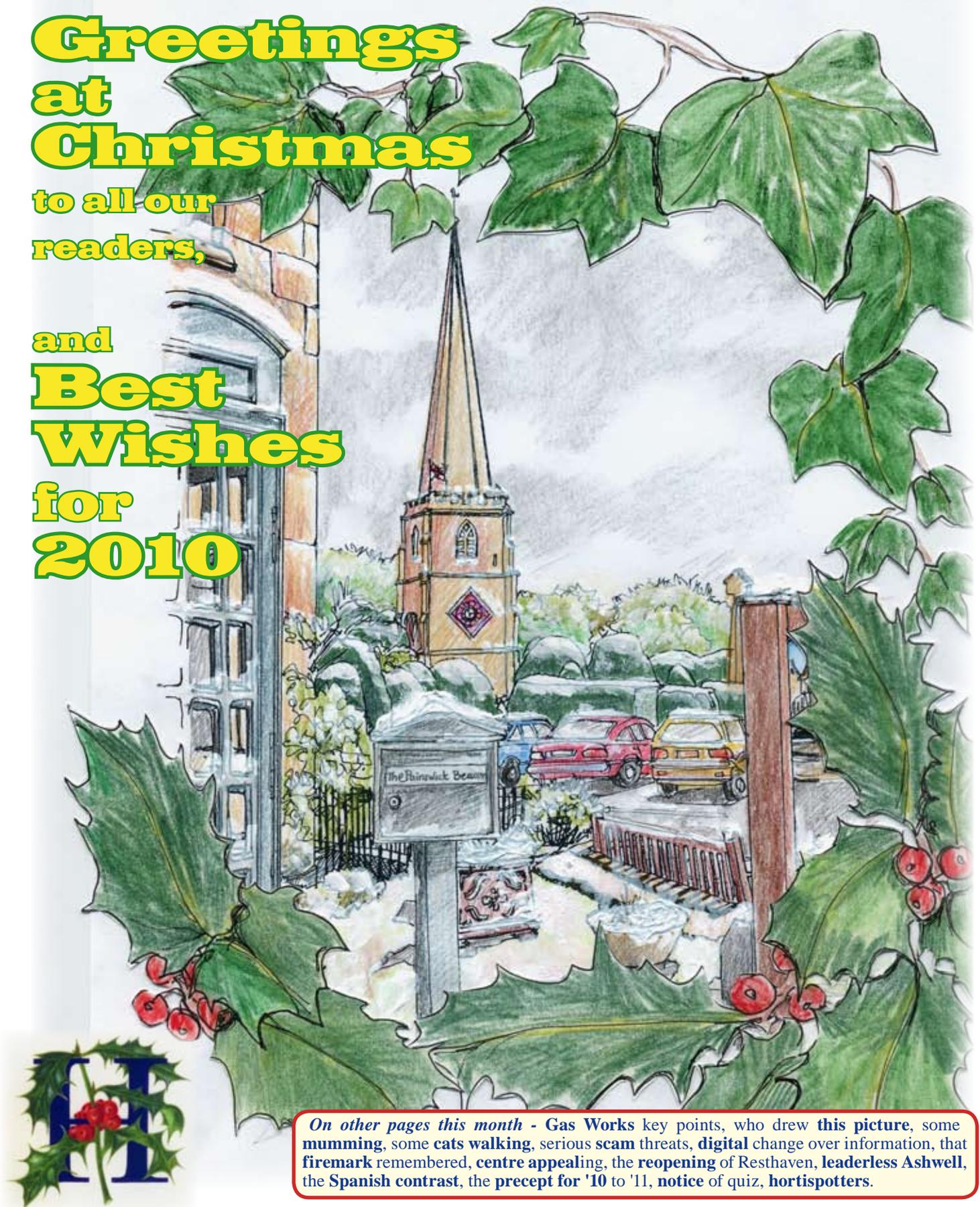
Sine praeiudicio

December 2009

Greetings at Christmas

to all our
readers,

and
Best
Wishes
for
2010



*On other pages this month - Gas Works key points, who drew **this picture**, some **mumming**, some **cats walking**, serious **scam** threats, **digital** change over information, that **firemark** remembered, **centre appealing**, the **reopening** of Resthaven, **leaderless** Ashwell, the **Spanish contrast**, the **precept** for '10 to '11, **notice of quiz**, **hortispotters**.*

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Restaurant - Bisley Street

During the pre-meeting public session, attended mainly by some 20 or so residents from the Bisley Street area, it was apparent that there was considerable local anxiety about the planning application which had been submitted for change of use of the vacant premises (previously LloydsTSB Bank) from A2-Commercial to A3-Restaurant. Some had presumed that this might be for Indian food, but the application does not specify, nor need it, the cuisine of any particular nation.

The proposal is to extend the property to provide adequate kitchen space and operate a restaurant open daily from 5.00 until 11.30pm; the upper floor to remain separate and as a dwelling.

Chairman David Hudson read out several letters of objection received, most suggesting that while not against further restaurants in the village this location, integral to structures which are private dwellings in the original main street of the village, was considered inappropriate. Residents had moved into the street and adjacent properties knowing of 'trading' most mornings each week, but never expected 7-day afternoon to late evening opening with associated odours and significant new motor and pedestrian traffic.

Councillors were each invited by the Chairman to express their views. The extent of division was interesting, some voicing the opinion that they were inclined to support the proposal on grounds that increased dining experiences would encourage visitors and overall trading. However, there were strongly expressed counter views and these focused upon such as the adequacy of existing covers in the village, intrusive odours for neighbours above and to each side of the property from food preparation and refuse bins in what will become a very small rear yard area, increased traffic and the anticipation that all could escalate to the provision of take-away foods.

Upon being put to a vote there were four against the application, two in favour, and one each of abstentions and 'undecided'.

Richmond Painswick - car parking

In drawing attention to the applications upon which the Parish Council has made

its views known to SDC since the last meeting, the Chairman pointed out that all had been supported, with the sole exception of the desire of Richmond to convert the temporary non-staffing gravel parking area to a landscaped green parking location for visitors.

PARISH COUNCIL

Painswick Beacon - conservation

Before the business meeting started David Allott, Chairman of the Painswick Beacon Conservation Group, made a presentation to explain the work of this small but energetic group dedicated to maintaining the unique landscape, and overcoming the progressive invasion of flora and fauna.

Mr Allott had been invited to explain these endeavours consequent upon some Members having expressed concerns at a previous meeting upon the extent of some clearance work. He was able, using an aerial photograph from April 1955, to highlight the areas then used for grazing but more recently overwhelmed by scrub and trees and their saplings.

The appreciation of the Council was expressed to Mr Allott and his group, not least the selfless assistance rendered by John Rhodes and Clare Overhill. Copies of his paper are available if requested.

Chairman

Terry Parker was indisposed and the meeting was conducted, in a singularly expeditious manner, by Vice Chairman Martin Slinger.

As ever, it is not possible through these columns to convey the full extent of matters discussed, or even not discussed, to the extent some would expect. We urge those with more than a passing interest to view minutes published on the Council's web site, and not to lose patience when it is not updated as frequently as it might.

Allotments

The newly created Working Group charged with examining a way forward in the matter of obtaining land for allotments will settle down to its task early this month. It is hoped that its deliberations and evidence will be regularly updated on the Council's web site for all to see.

Housing needs - survey

The Council was pleased to hear that the full cost of a survey is to be shared by other agencies.

Road closures - including parking

(See a separate report on page 4 upon the drop-in meeting, advertised on the front page of this paper last month, and held just before we went to press.)

Several Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the seeming intention of retaining parking charges in Stamages Lane car park during the works to commence in Edge Road - now scheduled

for February. Most residents in that road, some elderly or with mobility difficulties, would need to relocate their cars to Stamages for the duration of the contracted works. Representations will be made to the contractors and the District Council for free permits for such residents.

Mike Kerton's offer of the free services of an eminent traffic engineer, a friend of his, to advise the Traffic Committee upon raising issues with contractors was accepted. Half of the Council's notice board will be dedicated to updated information upon contracted works from the New Year.

From the end of November preparatory work will be undertaken for about two weeks to 'fill voids' on the A46 below Fiddlers Elbow, with single line traffic for much of the time.

Staff changes - Liz Fisher

The Council received the resignation of Mrs Fisher, effective from 31st March next, this mainly to gain additional time to devote to her increasing family. There are those (myself included) who can barely remember the Council's office other than with the background expertise of Mrs Fisher. She will have been Assistant Clerk for 25 years, since April 1985; the year Norway won the Eurovision Song Contest and Gorbachev became Russian leader.

Clerk Roy Balgobin reported the procedure, starting shortly, to review the staffing needs of the Council prior to placing an advertisement for a successor early in the New Year.

Public conveniences

The Council noted that full costings will be necessary before the suggestion made by Jason Bullingham to relocate the conveniences in St Mary's Street to the rear of the Town Hall could be seriously contemplated. Further, the extent of use in both the existing location and off New Street needed to be taken into consideration having regard to such as congregations and events at local churches.

Precept and the Christmas Tree

As can be the way of such matters among parish councils, almost as much time was used to consider the location of the Christmas tree and its decoration this year as was given to fixing the sum to be precepted upon the District Council for 2010-11 (excluding two F&GP committee meetings).

The tree will manifest itself, carefully balanced inside the upper floor window.

The precept is, exceptionally, also neatly balanced - being unchanged from 2009-10 at £77,160. One detected some disappointment that the public and the District and County Councillors had long departed the meeting when this example of budgetary prudence was endorsed.



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Handel's Messiah



at St Mary's

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the death of Handel, St Mary's is hosting a performance of Messiah by Wycliffe Choral Society on Saturday 12th December, a work which holds a unique place in the hearts and minds of music lovers throughout the world. He wrote it in just twenty-four days in the summer of 1741 using a selection of biblical texts compiled by his friend Charles Jennens and is reputed to have sobbed as he completed the famous Hallelujah chorus saying 'I did think I did see all heaven before me and the great God himself'. Handel's music is a perfect match for the words and the two combine to produce what many consider to be the most moving religious work in the entire choral repertory.

Messiah was first performed in Dublin in April 1742 and, at its London premiere in 1743, King George II rose to his feet at the start of the Hallelujah chorus and remained standing until the end, a tradition that has been followed ever since. Wycliffe Choral Society is a choir of about 90 adult singers who come from all over Gloucestershire and, since its foundation in 1983, it has performed most of the great works in the choral repertoire and in recent years has toured France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and Estonia. The choir will be joined by four first class soloists, Mary Morgan (soprano), Martha McLorinan (contralto),



Roland Kitchen (tenor) and Niall Hoskin (bass). The organist will be Christopher Boodle and the conductor is St Mary's organist, Christopher Swain.

The performance begins at 7.30pm and tickets, priced £10.00 (U18's £2.00), may be obtained from The Chairman in New Street. Mrs Penny Rawlings (01453.759936), directly from Chris Swain after services at St Mary's or, if there are any remaining, at the door.

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Cover picture

Our thanks to Jennifer Barnett for this year's cover picture, someone who, like so many here in Painswick, manages to juggle innumerable tasks into her life. Jennifer was Head of Art at Archway School for about 10 years until she decided to devote her whole time in 1995 to her family and their many occupational and hobby interests.

and H is for Holly

Our thanks to Val Dugan for an example of her calligraphy and botanical art skills, and she may recall sending this to us a year ago, but just too late for publication at that time.



1 In which forthcoming year/years, will New Year precede Christmas, in the same year?
Answer on page 22.

In Comes I...



The Gloucestershire Morris Mummers will be bringing their ancient play to Painswick.

The Mummers go back to medieval times and predates the pantomime as a seasonal entertainment for adults and children.

Their play depicts the battle between St George and the Turkish Knight. With a supporting cast of characters to from Beelzebub to Good Doctor Brown and his horse 'Stroud'.

Well worth a stroll out on Sunday 20th December for 1.00pm at the Royal Oak where admission is free.

Painswick Centre

Main Hall Appeal launched, page 11



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The gas works

Key points are set out here, verified with the contractors.

Stage One:

Edge Road to junction Blakewell Mead February-March new pipe alongside old in trench.

Works expected to last up to 8 weeks.

Pedestrians will need to avoid trenching to highway and to properties.

Access to/from individual properties in one or other direction at most times.

Replace pipe in Kingsmead; not Blakewell Mead.

Stage Two

New Street between Victoria Square and Edge Road after Stage One completed; April-May.

Single carriageway, traffic light controlled.

Non local traffic may be encouraged to divert at Pitchcombe and Brockworth.

New main threaded into existing obviating trenching length of roadway. Excavation pits will however still be required.

Pedestrian movements obstructed by trenching to properties.

Deliveries to businesses possible, but liaison with contractors essential if delays are to be minimised.

Stage Three

Victoria Square to junction Gloucester Street complete closure during May; completion before the end of May.

Approximately two to three weeks for laying replacement pipe alongside old in trench.

Non local traffic required to divert at Pitchcombe and Brockworth during road closure.

Bus and coach services to village likely to be suspended. Consideration being given to shuttle service to connect to diverted route at Pitchcombe and Brockworth.

Highly unlikely that traffic can intersect in existing one-way directions Gloucester Street, Cheltenham Road and Bisley Street while New Street is closed.



All stages

Access by emergency or other essential vehicles assured by steel plating across trenches when required.

Actual dates and detail on Council notice board when known, and updated.

Replacement of connections of properties to new main pipe where currently metal.

Disconnection of properties on one occasion only for up to 4 hours in most cases

Information updated to be included, as here, in the Beacon January to May.

District Council anxious to be informed in advance if elderly or infirm residents require assistance through Nikki Humphries on 01453.754455.

Gas contractor contact number to be published later.

Timing of Stages Two and Three contract commencement to be after Cheltenham race week and Rococo garden snowdrop season.

The Beacon will try to update each month.

Letters



The inclusion of letters, maximum 150 words, in these columns does not imply that the Beacon committee endorses the views expressed, or otherwise.

Gateway + Charter?

Edward Young, Chairman of the PG Trustees, writes:

A new, very relevant factor has recently been brought to the attention of the Gateway Trustees. Unbeknown to us, our Parish Council and the GCC have apparently been committed to a "Gloucestershire Charter".

Within the 2008 revised version the Charter, among other things, provides that "If [the PC] approach the county council we [the CC] will be open to negotiating arrangements for devolving services... [including] ...library service provision in an integrated multi-service community facility".

Why was this withheld from Gateway? If a charter is established that includes an expression of intent to "devolve", then it follows that control could pass into the local community without having to purchase assets. This would have a major beneficial impact on the financial projections.

I have requested the Parish Council vigorously pursue this option forthwith; maybe then leasing the property to Gateway? Could the premises yet revert to the community, and a form of library?

Directory 2010

We are pleased to enclose your free copy of this Directory today.

The opportunity is taken to thank all who assisted in its preparation by forwarding updated information and making this the most comprehensive edition ever published.



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Advent and Christmas 2009



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Croft School

Jottings lifted from letters to all parents from Janet Hoyle:



Staff news

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Locke as an additional teaching assistant / meal time supervisor. She is working with children from Classes 1 to 3 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and is a great addition to our team.

We have also been pleased to welcome Mr Meek to The Croft as our new cleaner / caretaker.

PTA news

Congratulations to the PTA committee, so ably led by Jo Weatherall, for the fantastic fireworks event this year; and thanks to everyone for their support. As well as being a lot of fun, it raised £810, which is a magnificent achievement. This will go directly to benefit all children at school by:

- paying for the coaches to send the children to watch the pantomime
- buying playground toys and equipment

Children in Need

Class 1 children organised our Children in Need day again this year. They have had a vote to decide what they would like us to do, and they asked everyone to wear stripes (as many as possible!) and

in exchange for donating £1 for the charity. Classes 1 and 2 baked cakes to sell on the Friday morning for Children in Need, all cakes were 20p.

Christmas concert and musical assembly

Our concert this year is to be held on Monday 14th December at 7.00pm. We would like all children in Classes 3 to 5 to be involved. There will be a musical assembly on Friday 11th December for those not playing in the Christmas concert.

Trip to Lideta

Iris McCormick, who was off to Ethiopia was delighted to receive so many lovely drawings, messages and photographs to take from our children to the children there. She was also very grateful for all the 50p contributions for gifts for the children.

2 There is one eleven letter word, which is spelled incorrectly, by some of the most brilliant students of our leading universities?

Answer on page 22

Churches Together Around Painswick have co-ordinated information from all the churches which we hope will be helpful.

Tuesday	December 15th	8.00 pm	Woolpack Inn	Slad	Carols at the Inn
Sunday	December 20th	8.30 am	Our Lady & St. Thérèse, RC	Painswick	Mass for Advent
		10.30 am	Friends Meeting House	Painswick	Christmas Meeting
		11.00 am	Holy Trinity, C of E	Slad	Family Christmas service
		4.00 pm	Methodist Chapel	Sheepscombe	Christmas candlelight service
		4.00 pm	Christ Church, URC	Painswick	Lessons & Carols+ mince pies
		4.00 pm	St. Mary's Church Rooms	Painswick	Beacon Family Christmas
		6.30 pm	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Carol Service
		Monday	December 21st	5.30 pm	Carols around village (in aid of Lideta (Ethiopia))
Thursday	December 24th	4.00 pm	St. John the Apostle, C of E	Sheepscombe	Crib Service
Christmas Eve		4.00 pm	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Crib Service
		4.00 pm	St. John the Baptist, C of E	Edge	Crib Service
		11.30 pm	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Midnight Service
Friday	December 25th	8.00 am	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	BCP Holy Communion
Christmas Day		9.00 am	Our Lady & St. Thérèse, RC	Painswick	Christmas Mass
		9.30 am	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	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Family Service
		11.00 am	Holy Trinity, C of E	Slad	Christmas Eucharist & Crib Blessing
		11.15 am	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Holy Communion (shortened)
Saturday	December 26th	10.00 am	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	St. Stephen's Day Communion
Sunday	December 27th	8.00 am	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	BCP Communion
		8.30 am	Our Lady & St. Thérèse, RC	Painswick	Mass
		10.00 am	St. Mary's, C of E	Painswick	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Christ Church, URC	Painswick	Morning Worship
		10.30 am	Friends Meeting House	Painswick	Weekly Meeting
		11.00 am	St. John the Apostle, C of E	Sheepscombe	St. John Feast Day Service
		6.00 pm	Holy Trinity, C of E	Slad	Carols by candlelight

There are services at St. Peter's Grange at Prinknash Abbey on Christmas Eve at 5pm, 11 pm and Midnight and on Christmas Day at 8.15 am, 10.30 am and 6pm. For details see www.prinknashabbey.org or the notice board in the foyer of the RC Church in Friday Street

The Catwalk coming to The Croft!

The Croft School PTA raises money to enhance the educational experiences of the children who attend the school. Money is raised through the Christmas and Summer fairs and other events such as safari suppers, quizzes and now a fashion show!

Yes the catwalk has come to Painswick and the fashion show will have ladies clothes of all sizes and top labels too. You don't have to have a child at the school to attend this event which takes place on 26th January at 7.00pm at the Croft School.

Buy tickets in advance £4 from the Croft School office, The Chairman and Painswick Post Office. Your ticket includes a glass of wine as you enjoy the show. Tickets on the door are £5.

We look forward to seeing you there.



Emma Bradshaw



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Joint Charities

No less than six charities came together for a classic Painswick coffee morning on 14th November. They not only displayed fortitude and good humour as torrential rain lashed the village for much of the four hours they were open, but had put in a great deal of effort to impress those who braved that watery challenge. Singling out one 'stand' has to be a little unfair, but note that these pots of jam and marmalade represented dozens of different flavours all prepared by Wendy Mills of Cheltenham, with proceeds in aid of Sue Ryder Care. *(The Blackberry and Whiskey had a unique flavour!)*



Other charities were Stroud Mencap Homes Foundation, The Jennie Marsh Trust, Delivering Aid to Stroud Homeless, The Family Haven and The Marah Trust.

Sue Ryder Leckhampton Court Hospice

We had lovely weather on the 7th November just for the Sue Ryder Christmas fair. Less people than last year attended and slightly down in money but we still reached the wonderful total of £1063.06. Our thanks to those who did come on the day, sent donations, of money and goods and to those who worked hard to make it happen.

Next year Leckhampton Court Hospice will have been open for 30 years, so it will be a celebration year!

A Happy Christmas, and a Healthy New Year to all.

Anne Leoni
on behalf of Painswick Support Group
aaleoni@painswick.org

Painswickian of the Year

Last month we invited nominations of any who, in your view, had exceptional qualities and contributed to our local community in a manner which justified the accolade of Painswickian of the Year.

We would like to thank those who have responded, and expect to announce our choice in the January issue - as ever.

Christian Aid

Coffee seems to ooze its way into function after function all year in Painswick, and the Christian Aid morning on 21st November was no exception. No less than £402.66 was raised from that and the several competitions and stalls and the organisers are most appreciative.



Art in style

In November the ladies of Yew Trees WI were very fortunate to have Simon Trapnell, the Director and founder of Nature in Art, as their guest speaker. He illustrated his talk with a selection of photographs from the marvellous collection of paintings, ceramics, sculptures etc at Twigworth. It was a joy to listen to someone who is so knowledgeable. His enthusiasm was so infectious I immediately arranged to pay another visit to Wallsworth Hall and thoroughly recommend it as an excellent venue for anyone who wonders how to entertain visitors on a winters day. Their coffee shop is good too!



On 27th November six of our members joined a party of 150 WI ladies from all over Gloucestershire to visit The Hall at Abbey-cwm-Hir. Set in the heart of rural Wales, the Victorian Gothic mansion has 52 rooms, each decorated to a different theme and currently decked in Christmas decorations, in matching vein and colour scheme (admired by some – not to the taste of others!) The Hall is bursting with a vast array of artefacts and collections of extraordinary items ranging from rare Royal Doulton dinner services to militaria, children's toys and items of costume. The 4 hour visit was rounded off with tea and home-made cake. On arrival the party was given a warm and vociferous welcome by the family's border collie, and were seen off the premises by her and 2 of her canine friends from the village.

Ladies don't forget that in December our meeting is earlier than usual. On Tuesday 15th December we will be having our Christmas get-together at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall, new members are warmly welcome!

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HMS Pinafore sails to a success!

It had been over 2 years since I had heard the Painswick Singers. Lethargy or other engagements were to blame. For their concert on 31st October at the Painswick Centre, however, a certain family member made certain that we went to hear them since the concert was to be in aid of the Family Haven, Gloucester. And glad I was that I went since I was astounded by what I heard. I had known the Painswick Singers previously as providing good entertainment and always producing an enjoyable occasion but this time it was the excellence of the singing that struck me. Much is due to their conductor Brian Etheridge – a retired professional singer who trained, I believe, at King's College, Cambridge. His professionalism has obviously induced experienced singers to join and this showed.

The first half of the concert included songs by John Rutter, Maurice Green, Frank Bridge, Kurt Weill and some folk songs arranged by Ian Humphris with accomplished solos by Celia McCabe and Clare Lavy. Four lovely Indian love lyrics, including the well known Pale Hands I Love, were then beautifully sung by Brian Etheridge - during which Brian Etheridge gave a demonstration of how to carry off with aplomb a song for which the words temporarily escaped him. The first half concluded with three rousing sea songs in which Adrian Bressington sang the Tom Bowling solo. The choir's Christopher Tadman-Robins, who also expertly accompanied the choir throughout the evening, arranged these songs.

The second half was a delight – a concert performance of HMS Pinafore by Gilbert & Sullivan. How under-rated their comic operas are by the cognoscenti! Although just a concert performance the choir put on costumes. The ladies as always looked lovely but it was the men dressing themselves as Jack Tars that stole the show – they wore a mixture of rugby shirts, sailing shirts, gardening shirts etc. but all attired with great straw hats. The Principals were mainly drawn from the Painswick Singers but with some guests from other choirs. Etheridge also took the part of The Rt. Hon Sir Joseph Porter, KCB – the First Lord of the Admiralty. John Dickinson was an enthusiastic Narrator and succinctly and entertainingly summarised the plot for us. Chris Woolley charmingly opened with "I'm called little buttercup" – though on this occasion the description was more apt than is sometimes the case. Soon we had Etheridge singing "When I was a lad" in which Sir Joseph explains how to become the ruler of the King's navy by sticking lord to one's desk and never going to sea! John Dickinson recalled how Gilbert's sharp satire was aimed at the then current First Lord – W H Smith - who thereafter was known as 'Pinafore Smith'. A pity Gilbert is not alive today – he would have a field day. All in all a great performance, good singing with clear diction.

In the interval Gillian Lunn, Chairman of the Family Haven, thanked the choir for supporting the charity which is devoted to supporting families in distress with children under five years old. A magnificent sum of £400 was subsequently passed to the Haven.

So – do look out for the Painswick Singers next concerts: a Carol concert on Saturday, 19th December and a concert on Good Friday, which will include works by John Rutter and Vaughan Williams.

Peter Jenkins

The 'Three Other Tenors' concert

Well, what a wonderful evening we had in Painswick Church on 30th October when we were superbly entertained by "Three Other Tenors" from the WNO. We heard a sparkling selection of favourite songs and the evening was admirably linked by anecdotes and tales from the world of opera.

A very big thank you to all who attended the concert. It was a delightful and memorable occasion and very successful financially for our Church Refurbishment Fund, over £1600 having been raised from this single and so enjoyable event.

Thank you again.

Elizabeth Ward

3 There is a fishing trawler, with a ladder in it, leaning against a wall at the harbour. There are 5 oars and 2 fishing nets in the trawler. The distance between two consecutive steps on the ladder is 1 meter. If waves lashing against the wall rise half meter in every half hour, in how much time will 6 steps of the ladder get under the waves?

Answer on page 22

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

The Chairman, Alex Nichols, featured the music of Handel's oratorios and operas in his presentation on 12th November, in this the 250th anniversary of the composer's death.

In his fascinating introduction Alex explained that Handel was a child prodigy, who was born in Halle in Germany. Handel travelled in Italy and then settled in England where he made full use of his knowledge of Italian opera. Handel's music was much admired by Beethoven, praise indeed!

Alex has an extensive collection of recorded music and a very fine appreciation of singers and performances. Thus his audience was treated in the first half of his programme to a wonderful selection of music and soon could appreciate how Handel, "the great communicator", has become so fashionable in recent times.

Amongst the music played were; the overture, The Occasional Oratorio; the aria The Trumpet's Loud Clanger from The Ode to St Cecilia's Day; arias from The Choice of Hercules, Il Penseroso and L'Allegro, Samson, Alexander's Feast and Acis and Galatea. The music was performed by such memorable musicians as The King's Consort, James Bowman, Forbes Robinson, Ian Bostridge and Bernadette Greely.

In part two Alex presented excerpts from the oratorio, Joshua. Again, Alex displayed with aplomb his fine knowledge of this oratorio. He concluded by playing the popular Sound the Trumpet that Handel had also used in Judas Mac-cabaeus.

Alex delivered his illustrated talk in his inimitable style. His commentary was interspersed with wit and so evocative of his love of Handel's music and the human voice.

Howard Allen



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Scammers Council Tax telephone scam Warning from SDC

The Beacon receives many a 'tip off' regarding such as telephone scams, and we could half fill our pages with the stuff. This one is particularly local, so we thought we would pass it on from Kam Mistry of Stroud District Council.

Kam informed the Parish Council of the potentially serious telephone fraud scam operating in our area.

"Our head of revenues and benefits, has advised that we have had several calls from our customers. The first of these was contacted by someone calling herself Rachael Green who promised a £3,000 Council Tax refund if the customer a) paid £90 for an information pack and b) gave her bank details so that the 'refund' could be paid to her. The caller has been described as "sounding foreign (European) with very poor English". The number she was calling from appeared to be a London number but actually routes through to Spain.

On our advice, this has been reported to the police who have subsequently issued a press release.

More recent calls have been made by males, again sounding 'official' and very convincing. Unfortunately, we are aware that at least one of our customers disclosed all the details of his debit card but has since contacted his bank to cancel the card. This appears to be happening nationally and these people seem to be targeting the elderly. Many other authorities are reporting that customers are giving their credit and/or credit card details.

If any receives such a call, please advise them that under no circumstances should they pass on any personal details and if they are in any doubt they should ring the council to check the credentials of anyone calling them".

Postal Scam

Warning from South Wales Police

Especially as Christmas is fast approaching - this one has been confirmed by Royal Mail.

The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 09066.611911 (a Premium rate number).

Do not call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £15 for the phone call. If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 02072.396655 or ICSTIS (the Premium rate service regulator) at www.icstis.org.uk

Painswick Library Christmas & New Year Opening



Christmas Eve: 10.00am – 1.00pm
 Christmas Day: Closed
 Boxing Day: Closed
 Mon 28th December: Closed
 Tuesday 29th December: 10.00am – 1.00pm
 2.00pm – 5.00pm
 Wed 30th December: Closed
 New Years Eve: 10.00am -1.00pm
 New Years Day: Closed
 Saturday 2nd January: 10.00am – 12 noon

and Library News

During November Baby Bounce has continued to grow, we have enrolled an extra 15 new library members and 21 children (and 11 adults) enjoyed celebrating 20 years of Elmer the Elephant by making a collage and decorating (and eating) biscuits!

Customer First Recognition Awards The staff are very pleased to be nominated for this county council award in recognition of the childrens events which took place throughout the summer. We attended the awards ceremony in Gloucester on 27th November. Many thanks to Miss Stafford for our nomination and thanks to our customers for their continuing support.

Book Sale! From 7th – 12th December there will be a BOOK SALE in the library. Books from 20p – come and grab a bargain!

In Storytime this month we will be sharing the story of Mr Big and making up to two seasonal decorations for children to take home. This will take place on Tuesday 15th December at 3.45pm.

Baby Bounce will continue each week on Tuesdays at 2.30 pm with some new songs and rhymes.

New Stock We have just put out a further 20 large print books and swapped most the Adult Spoken Word so there are plenty of new titles to choose from.

Plans for adult events are falling into place and these should start in the New Year.

Your library staff would like to take this opportunity of wishing you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Kath, Lesley and Sheila




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The digital TV switchover for GL6!

Whatever your feelings on the matter, the digital TV switchover is going to happen! The Borderlands (between Scotland & England) and the South West (Devon & Cornwall) have already switched, Wales is next, and on 24th March, the West Region (including of course Post Code area GL6) will also switch.

However, not every household in GL6 will switch in March 2010, for reasons explained later in this article! Indeed, the following paragraphs may whet your appetite for even more information, which I'll be giving in a presentation at Painswick Town Hall on 24th February at 7.30 pm. If you cannot attend, don't worry. A comprehensive public information campaign will soon commence in the local media, augmented by a series of roadshows that will give you the chance to ask as many questions as you like.

digitaluk is the not-for-profit organisation set up by the Public Service Broadcasters and transmission providers to lead the switch to digital television across the UK, region by region. The switchover is government policy, and underlines the fact that the UK is and remains a world leader in broadcasting. The switchover will also end what many regard as the 'digital divide'. Digital TV is more efficient than analogue and will free up airwaves that could be used for new services. With the old analogue signal being replaced with a digital signal, every TV you want to carry on watching will have to be connected with a digital box, or upgraded to a new TV with a digital box inside. This means also that if you want to watch one programme whilst recording another, you will need a digital TV recorder.

In practical terms, therefore, you can either convert your existing TVs via a digital box to obtain your digital signal from Freeview, or you can choose to receive your signal via satellite or via cable. If you want a new TV, clearly you must ensure that it is a digital one. In addition, you may need to check your TV aerial (fewer than 10% of households require a new aerial), and you may also need to check your recording equipment to ensure that is compatible with the digital signal. Our research

digitaluk

indicates that most people (particularly in the West Region) have one TV already converted, but that only half of all households are completely ready.

So what is the fuller story on switchover for the GL6 area? For those households receiving their signal from the Mendip transmitter or its Stroud relay station at Whiteshill (ie those receiving BBC West local news), the switchover will indeed be on 24th March 2010. Furthermore, the analogue signal will

be switched off altogether on 7th April 2010, and the digital signal will be considerably boosted. On the other hand, those households receiving their signal from the Ridge Hill transmitter or any of its associated relay stations (ie those receiving BBC Midlands local news) will not be switching over until 2011; those who receive their signal from the Oxford transmitter will also switch in 2011. If you have any immediate questions, visit our website at www.digitaluk.co.uk. Alternatively, you can phone our Advice Line on 08456.505050 (open 9.00am – 7.00pm Monday to Friday and 10 am to 4 pm on a Saturday). For those with hearing or speech impairment, you can contact our textphone service on 08452.340380.

There are of course many other points to be made before switchover, and to this end, every household in the West Region will receive a digitaluk pamphlet explaining these points in straightforward terms at about the '3 months to go' point. Of particular importance, those eligible to benefit from the Switchover Help Scheme (run by the BBC), will shortly be receiving a purple leaflet which sets out details in full. In basic terms, people will be eligible for the Switchover Help Scheme if they are aged 75 or over; or have lived in a Care home for six months or more; or get (or could get) Disability living allowance, or Attendance or Constant Attendance allowance, or Mobility supplement; or are registered blind or partially sighted. Again, if you have any immediate questions about the Switchover Help Scheme, visit the website on www.helpscheme.co.uk. Alternatively, call the Switchover Helpscheme Line on 08004.085 900 (same opening times as described above). For those with hearing or speech difficulties contact the free Switchover Help Scheme textphone service on 08004.085936.

by Peter Watson, digitaluk West Region

The Beacon Quiz

It's coming up to that time again – make a note in your diaries – the 2010 Beacon Quiz will be held on Saturday 13th March in the Painswick Centre.

There will be some changes from last year. Firstly there will be 10 rounds only with round 10, the non-Joker round, having a maximum of 30 points from the 10 questions. Secondly the quiz setters will ensure that the questions are not as difficult as last year, a complaint received from some teams. Thirdly – well there is no thirdly at the moment but I welcome suggestions on how the quiz evening can be improved so please get in touch with your ideas. I can be reached on 814548 or by email to chasdorm@gmail.com.



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The fire mark - Painswick Post Office reflections - by Philip Berry

Soon after purchasing the Post Office Mr and Mrs Yardley realised that the previous owners had taken with them maybe, or maybe not, as a souvenir the very old Norwich Union Insurance Company fire mark from the frontage.

After consultation with the Parish Council Norwich Union were contacted and they agreed to issue a replica fire mark and deliver it with a certain amount of panache in their 150 year old Mercury Mail Coach. John Parker, the famous coachman, and his beautiful team of four greys would supply the necessary 'horsepower' for a first class delivery.

The then Clerk to the PPC Leslie Brotherton arranged for the A46 to be closed for approximately 45 minutes on the afternoon of 22nd November 1989 for the ceremony to take place.

Just one small problem, who was going to fix the new fire mark? Leslie's quest was for someone with a head for heights and an old thatching ladder - I agreed to be the fixer.

Appropriate clothes were hired, a very baggy pair of trousers purchased, hessian twine tied in the appropriate places and with a special haircut I was told I looked the part. Jack Smith kindly loaned a suitable heavy hammer. Michael Yardley acquired a splendid fireman's uniform, and John Hulme dressed as a Victorian grocer and stood at the foot of the ladder.

When the Mail Coach arrived passengers, who were all delightfully attired, included Dulcie Brotherton, Alison Yardley, Anne Smith, and Parish Council Chairman Terry Parker who received the Fire Mark from the Norwich Union's representative.

A BBC Points West cameraman filmed the ceremony and photographs appeared in local newspapers. A large crowd turned out on what was a thankfully pleasant November afternoon - it didn't rain in those days!

In the New Year the British Philatelic Bulletin featured the event and a photograph showing clearly where the original Fire Mark had been hanging.

On completion a well earned glass of sherry was enjoyed in the Post Office. Everyone then went home happy, apart possibly for the motorists who had unexpectedly waited so long for the road to be reopened. Just imagine their bemused faces as they saw a Victorian artisan walking away up New Street - carrying a long wooden ladder!



The British Philatelic Bulletin picture reproduced above, and two others on the rear cover this month.

ArchiTecs

Last month hoped to catch you out with the edifice which forms a lid on something pretty important. Did you realise it keeps the elements out of the spiral stairway to the belfry and onward to the base of the church spire?



For those who look upwards in other directions, can you locate these stylish pots?

Leukaemia and Chemotherapy

The coffee morning on Saturday 24th October, in aid of the rebuilding fund for this unit at Gloucester Royal Hospital, was a great success.

Elizabeth Warland says, "I would like to thank everyone who helped with the coffee morning for the Gloucester Hospital, and all the people who came. We made £423.00, less a donation to Leukaemia Research".

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The Painswick Centre Hall Appeal to raise £10,000!

The Trustees of the Painswick Centre are launching an appeal to raise funds towards essential improvements to the Centre's Main Hall. Those of you who regularly use the Hall will know that the pine floor, now over 100 years old, is failing badly. After taking professional advice, we have accepted that the existing surface can no longer be repaired, having been already sanded down on innumerable occasions. For reasons of safety, comfort and presentation, the floor must be replaced urgently.

Installing a new floor also gives us the perfect opportunity to replace all the under floor cast iron heating pipes and the noisy and inefficient radiators in the hall. The boiler was renewed a few years ago and will cope admirably but the old pipes and heaters greatly devalue its efficiency. To build on this improved efficiency, we will also fit overhead fans to aid heat distribution and ventilation.

After carrying out a great deal of research into suitable materials and contractors, etc., we now know the total cost of this entire project will be in the region of £22,000. Our goal for this appeal is to raise £10,000 and have the work completed by mid-January!

The Painswick Centre is the primary Community Centre in the village. In recognition of the steps the Trustee Board has taken to improve the management of the Centre, we have been awarded level 1 of the Hallmark (quality standards) Scheme by ACRE, details of which were given in last month's Beacon. Open every day of the year to all members of our community, both young and old, for Sports, Drama, Music, Arts and Crafts, Exhibitions, Lectures, Private parties, lunches and receptions, Business meetings and functions, we feel everyone in Painswick has something to gain from helping us to achieve this project.

Please help us with this important step on the road to providing a first-class community centre for Painswick.

To contribute to this appeal please make your donation payable to The Painswick Centre and send it to: 'The Painswick Centre Hall Appeal' c/o Mrs. Rose Smith, Corner Cottage, Bisley Street, Painswick GL6 6QQ.

The Painswick Centre is a Registered Charity (No. 301595). We will acknowledge all donations and, for those donors who pay income tax, we will invite you to complete a gift aid form. If you have any questions about our plans and this appeal, please contact me on 813229. Thank you.

*Jackie Herbert
Chairman. Painswick Centre Trustees*

Philip W Steer

One story often leads to another. Readers may recall our item in September about a possible television programme upon Philip Wilson Steer. One such reader forwarded the item to a Peter Gray who tells the Beacon that "I have been researching Steers work for many years and as I used to live in Gloucester was very interested in his connection to Painswick and the surrounding area".

Peter goes on to say, "According to my findings he used to stay with the Gere family who were at Oakridge but often rented a cottage just opposite where the public house, I think it was the 'Adam & Eve' at Paradise; the old road was altered on the bend, old photographs show clearly a cottage at this spot. He used to use an old corrugated shed in the Catbrain Quarry as his studio so was obviously close to the site where his famous Painswick Beacon series of works in oil and watercolour were carried out".

We have no further news about the programme but will keep readers, and Peter Gray, informed if anything happens.

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Twitchers and Weeders

The Bird Club and the Horticultural Society met together last month to listen to Andy Purcell talking about 'A Calendar of British Wildlife for the Gardener and Bird Watcher'. He began his talk with humorous pictures of his 'office', a large 4x4, attempting to cross a ford which he had been advised was 6" deep - it all but covered the bonnet! This set the tone for the highs and lows of photographing wildlife. We were treated to close ups of a variety of tame, wild and rare wildlife. He allowed



us glimpses into how he sets up many of his shots as well as examples of unexpected encounters that have resulted in memorable photographs.

Listening to members' comments later in the evening it seems that the mallard duck sitting on his windscreen and the two somnolent sleeping adders in the safety of his serene garden were among their favourite photographs.

The Bird Club's next meeting is on 20th January, which will be featuring the Cotswold Water Park. Full details will be published in the January edition of The Beacon.

The next meeting of the Horticultural Society is at 7.30 on the 9th December at the Town Hall. Simon Hough will be talking about 'The Winter Season at Westonbirt'.

If you are interested in either, please come and join us.

Elizabeth Gardam

Resthaven - re-opened



Several dozen residents and staff and their families and friends and other well-wishers gathered at Resthaven Nursing Home, Pitchcombe on Sunday, 15th November when David Drew, MP for Stroud, formally re-opened the home following extensive re-furbishment.



Resthaven was first opened by Maud Little in 1938, before the inception of the Health Service, and became a Registered Charity in 1964. Although the

pose built as a convalescent home, many of the rooms were too small to comply with present day standards and needed enlarging. This work has been completed over the last six years and, in the process, ten single rooms have been added, making a total of 35 all with superb views up or down the Painswick Valley. At the same time all the facilities have been brought up to date to enable staff to offer a fully 21st century nursing service.



After inspecting the Home with a member of the Trustee Board Mr Drew congratulated the Manager, Jayne Roberts, architect, Dave Williams and builders, Vince Smith and Graham Fallows of Longlevens Roofing and Building Limited on the improvements they had carried out.

His comments were complemented by the Rector of Edge and Pitchcombe, the Reverend Elizabeth Ward, who recalled the earlier years of the home and its place in the local community and followed this with a prayer for Resthaven's caring work to continue.

The Manager and members of Resthaven's Trustee Board attach great importance to staff training and believe that the

Home is now as well equipped as many larger homes to offer a high standard of nursing care for those who need it.

As a result of this expansion Resthaven has several vacancies for privately or local authority funded patients needing full nursing care. For further information please contact the Manager, Jayne Roberts on 812682.



Photographs clockwise top right the enhanced frontage with conservatory, David Drew speaking at the formal opening, a glimpse into a private room, Michael Little explaining the development to Joan Nash in a section of the lounge, and Revd Ward, Jayne Roberts, David Drew, Michael Little and most interested of guests Dr Jim Hoyland.



The Chairman Five Years on

It is five years, on 11th December to be precise, since Chris Mercer opened his business, The Chairman, in New Street, and Chris would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to the people of Painswick for their continued support and custom.

"It has been delightful being part of the Painswick community," says Chris, "we love living here." Chris is chair of the local business group, Painswick Matters, which is organising the goodwill evening on 11th December and which of course coincides with the anniversary of the opening of the shop.

With a large selection of beautiful quality items ranging from the old to the new, the shop is a joy. It is very much about individual pieces and Chris is also happy to sell for others on a commission basis. He still does his traditional rush and cane work, generally on chairs, albeit in a truly confined area just behind the shop.

When Chris opened The Chairman in 2004 you may remember his window display which featured two dramatic wooden rocking horses. They were real show stoppers presenting a strong image. To celebrate his five years of happy trading in Painswick Chris has placed two brand new rockers – a dramatic zebra and a lovely dappled grey horse – back in the windows. Hand-crafted locally, they are stunningly beautiful, guaranteed to make you stop in your tracks!



Small ch

Ha'penny Pieces,
As a business it
chemist's in New S
Gladys' daughter a





... of the National home was pur-



... change ... but only in name

... a gem of a little shop at the top of Tibbiwell, is changing its name, but fear not, everything else about it remains the same. ... has a real Painswick pedigree. Kate Rich's family have been trading in the town since the 1950s when her great uncle and aunt first ran the ... Street, then The Apothecary Shop and the Shetland Shop. In the 1960s her Nana, Gladys Stevens, ran the Pollyanna tea shop in Friday Street. ... and son-in-law, Letty and David Gunton, joined the business and the Pollyanna was Kate's first home.



In 1975 David and Letty converted the derelict pub, The Golden Heart, into a highly successful tea shop also selling honey, china and furniture and when eventually it was sold they retained the little room at the end which became Ha'penny Pieces. Letty's extensive knowledge of china, acquired whilst working in the famous Nixon's china store in Cheltenham, has been invaluable. Kate joined her Mum in 2003, bringing with her a love of textiles developed during her five years working in an interior design showroom.

Both Letty and Kate feel that the name, Ha'penny Pieces, has served the shop well over the years but that now is the time to move forward. Although both mother and daughter continue to run the shop, bringing a successful combination of individual skills and knowledge, Kate is beginning to take on more of the responsibility. She has been part of Painswick all her life, having been educated at the Croft and Archway schools and marrying local man, Greg. Letty and Kate have decided therefore to re-name the shop simply Kate Rich.

Packed into this tiny space is the most delightful collection of charming old and new pieces including china, rugs, textiles, small furniture, ornamentals, antiques and much more. It is a treasure trove full of lovely things, guaranteed to make you linger with the pleasure of it all. Letty and Kate are very appreciative of the continued support which local people have shown over the past 26 years and look forward to you all enjoying their lovely little shop for many years to come.

Radio Painswick - on air!

On Tuesday 24th November, red-letter day for Radio Painswick, Stroud FM hosted a training session for three people who are deeply involved in the project to get Radio Painswick on the air. Locals Charles Dorman and Caroline Maxwell, plus George Krasker who is a member of the Painswick Players, spent a morning learning the operation of the deck and controls in the small, well-equipped



Stroud FM 107.9

Stroud FM studio off Stroud High Street. Tutors were Chris Scott, who has considerable experience in commercial radio, and Stephen Rowley and Martin Slinger, who have run a lot of Painswick stories in past months, and who have been driving the Painswick project with the wholehearted support of the Beacon.

The embryo team of three ran interviews and learned the skills required to host a one-hour programme from 9 to 10 in the morning – which will be the allotted time for Radio Painswick every Tuesday. Then, with the station staff, they discussed potential contributions to the first programmes – and asked each other, “How on earth are we going to fit all this in?”

On Tuesday this week 1st December, the first live programme was broadcast (you mean, you missed it?) and a regular Tuesday morning slot for Radio Painswick was established. In the short term, there is a plan to train representatives of Painswick societies and groups – in Painswick – in operating the sort of equipment that will record and transmit the programmes, and help will be offered for the preparation of programme material.

'Tis the season



... Painswick and your goodwill

‘Small but perfectly formed’ is how our traders and businesses are describing Painswick’s very own goodwill evening to be held on Friday, 11th December from 6.00-9.00pm. And this initiative really does need your support as, just as recovery from the Great Flood seemed to be on course, the prospect of another setback with the upcoming road closures presents something of a slap in the face.

All of our shops will be open and so too will the restaurants and eateries, all offering special treats for the evening. In the Painswick Centre and the Town Hall you will find charity stalls: MARAH (a hamper raffle and mini hampers for sale), Family Haven (new toys and stocking fillers), Jennie Marsh Trust (Christmas cards) and Stroud Mencap (hand-made cards and jewellery and preserves). There will also be craft and local interest stalls, the art studios in the Centre, Jane Garbett’s studio, Andy Lovell’s studio and an art exhibition upstairs in the Town Hall. Refreshments will be provided and you may even find a little something extra offered in many of the shops.

All of our restaurants and pubs are offering excellent seasonal specials over the next few weeks so why not treat yourself? Our shops are unique, stocked with lovely, unusual, different, scrumptious, fun, quirky, decorative, luxurious and delightful goodies, all making for a much more enjoyable shopping experience than trailing around a big town with the crowds.

Do come along and show your support and tell friends about Painswick’s goodwill evening too. The more the merrier – it could be fun.

4 A cowboy rode into town on Friday, stayed three days, and rode out again on Friday. How did he do that?

Answer on page 22



Ashwell House - no Warden?

The Beacon occasionally stumbles upon a story of some wider public interest and upon which silence is not an option. One such has just come our way, a matter of seeming immediate consequence, and we share the facts with you to assess as you may.

Our local authorities rightly maintain a continuing vigil to see if there are more cost-efficient ways of operating services, not least where outdated practices are crying out for modernisation. Stroud District Council are, in relation to sheltered accommodation, as a spokesman put it when asked by the Beacon, "consulting on how the service could operate in the future". But we are led to understand they are considering removing resident wardens from sheltered accommodation such as Ashwell House. Instead of the immediacy of a resident warden just a few yards away, one who knows of each resident's needs and foibles, the access to support would be by direct line alarm or telephone to a call-centre - maybe as distant as Hereford: Mumbai has not been mentioned. The first few thoughts which come to mind include the difficulties of those who are hard of hearing or none too mobile anyway, the risk of errors in communications and consequent dangers for callers where time can be of the essence, let alone the dramatic change from the arrangements they signed up to when moving into the accommodation in the first place.

Pause, for further thought. Without a caring warden, who ensures that the community of residents are happy, safe and content with their living together? Who is instrumental in harnessing local support for a range of relationships with the

and it just so happens

- Ashwell's coffee morning



The pre-Christmas coffee morning and sale of highly desirable Christmas gifts was held on 18th November, and a particularly animated affair it was too - as our pictures show.



wider village community, such as on-site lunch clubs, church services, seasonal lunches, coffee mornings, outings; these quite apart from other services for which a place like Ashwell is the perfect venue like the day centre for the otherwise housebound, the weekly lunch club where lonely people mix and socialise for a brief period each week? What about the significant measure of support from other villagers, so valued by Ashwell residents in linking them to the wider community? Relatives of residents, some living far away, will inevitably feel that their loved ones are to be denied the immediacy of support they sought for them.

There has, of course, been consultation. As recently as Friday 6th November Pam Pemberton, Principal Supported Housing Officer, invited all the Ashwell residents and their relatives to meet her as part of a review of all supported housing in and around Stroud, an exercise to be completed in November. The Beacon understands that Neil Carmichael and Councillor Barbara Tait attended the meeting together with representatives of the Ashwell Lunch Club (open to all villagers over 50) and the weekly Day Centre (for the housebound). Worries, such as those already mentioned, were expressed. It is understood that a decision about continuing wardenships in the Stroud area will be taken in January.

Clearly, Ashwell would be quite a different place without a caring resident warden. Some say that Painswick itself would be the poorer for not having the 'shelter' a warden provides and a remote anonymous voice can never replace.

Even though the consultation period has just finished you still have the opportunity to express views. The same spokesman said "The review will be completed in January and then discussed with stakeholders and tenant groups in February-March" If you care, pick up your own pen and get in touch with Pam Pemberton or your local councillors. We include the Parish Councillors, even though they were never brought into the consultative picture.

LWB

The Pageant of Christmas



Pitchcombe Church, Thursday 10th December at 7.30pm.

Medieval & Renaissance Christmas songs to celebrate the twelve days of Christmas, sung by Trio Mellion with percussion instruments.

Tickets £8 include mulled wine and mince pies from from myself on 814783.

Pippa Medcalf

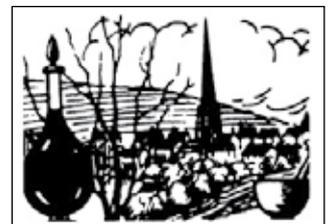


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Junipers, Birdboxes and Biomass

The Conservation Group has entered a period of hectic activity. You are invited to join in. At the 'meetings' level you can come to our crisp AGM where you will learn of our successes in 2009 and ambitious plans for 2010. Then, more interestingly you can hear Plantlife's Tim Wilkins illustrated talk: "Junipers, where have all the babies gone" and join in the discussion. The AGM meeting will be held on Thursday 10th December in the Church Rooms at 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. Free entry for members (annual subscription only £5) or £1 for non members with the chance to buy a cost price copy of the illustrated 46 page "Guide to Painswick Beacon and Popes Wood". It can help you explore for the Beacon's treasures such as 13 different orchids or 30 different butterflies.

Junipers I recently walked key areas of the Beacon with Tim Wilkins and Natural England's Terry Claxton. We chose favourable sites near established junipers for installing protective cages where the ground is stripped of vegetation so that healthy berries can germinate and prosper without smothering competition. Two cages will probably be installed by the time you read this. I have also collected two litres of ripe berries (in a one litre ice cream carton....after finishing the ice cream) which will be used locally and elsewhere in the countrywide Juniper regeneration trials. Cuttings from the best bushes will also be propagated.



Birdboxes With the essential help of several organisation and many volunteers we plan to complete the Painswick/Cudhill wildlife corridor. This will re-establish the means of transfer of plants and insects etc between Painswick and Cudhill commons to much how they were in the 1950s as shown on aerial photographs of the time. The removal of much scrub and some large trees will change the nesting opportunities for some birds. To meet this challenge we are enlisting the help of local bird experts and enthusiasts who make bird boxes.

Biomass Sunlight produces plant growth. As you make your last lawn-cut of 2009 and clear the dead leaves and flower stems in your garden you will be reminded of this. In the woods thousands of trees have increased their bulk while absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. Nothing new in that, but there is increasing realisation that the unstoppable annual production of plant material – biomass - could provide a fuel with minimum 'carbon footprint'. There are plans for the 'waste' trimmings and logs from woods to be assembled as fuel for 'burners' that produce electricity and some usable heat. There are challenges to be met with moisture content and transport. But where appropriate, successful schemes could result in our local woods being managed for production and for their positive contribution to the challenges of climate change. Come to the AGM to learn more.

Working Parties The next working party will be Saturday 12th December, and there are special work days on Tuesday 8th and Thursday 10th December. For more details contact me on 812624 or John Rhodes on 812709. After that our regular Saturday mornings will be on January 2nd, 16th and 30th. Special work days will occur when we do the major clearance towards Cudhill. This will involve temporary traffic lights because of proximity to the B4073. Learn more at the AGM! See you there?

David Allott, Chairman

DASH - Delivering Aid to Stroud Homeless

There has been a very generous response to the appeal for people to donate their small change to DASH and so to help the work of the Marah Trust in Stroud. This week we were able to hand over £105 - that is an awful lot of 5ps, 2ps and 1ps - but it was received with enormous gratitude and we were asked to keep supporting Marah in this way. So please continue to pop your small loose change into a jam jar and when it is full hand it to Alison Robinson (812286) or Frances Watson (812071) who are also happy to come and collect from you, if that is easier.

In the run up to Christmas, donations of gloves and socks (especially men's), toiletries and small tins of biscuits would be very welcome and would provide Marah's clients with possibly their only Christmas gifts. Please put anything you can spare into the boxes at the back of the churches on Sundays or, during weekday opening hours, in Murrays Estate Agents or the Royal Oak.

Thank you and a Happy Christmas to you all.

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Seasonal contrast sombre Spain



You can tell that it is December and close to Christmas when Easter eggs appear on the supermarket shelves. Manic countdowns, decorations everywhere, kids wound up like watch springs, long queues at the checkouts, frantic last minute gifts, Christmas music blasting out from most shop doorways. Do you know what? we actually miss it all. A Spanish rural Christmas is a very sombre and solemn affair. Quite rightly celebrated for the real reason with a family meal on Christmas Eve, midnight mass and that's it. There is no Boxing Day, it's a workday. The Spanish rarely send cards and they are very sparing with decorations. Hardly any Christmas trees to be seen. Most popular are nativity scenes displayed in windows. Present giving is held over until 12th Night which is known as The Festival of the Three Kings. In El Contador, three men from the village dress as "The Kings" (I must say they really look the part) and arrive in the square on a tractor and trailer loaded down with gifts for the children. It is a very happy (if freezing cold) afternoon.

Notwithstanding the commercialism, there is an air of magic in the UK - especially on Christmas Eve, not felt by us in Spain. It is hard to describe but there seems to be an expectancy, a silence, as if the world is holding its breath.....

If you have been, thank you for reading my "letters" and may Geraldine and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthful and peaceful New Year.

Christopher Piper-Short



PAINSWICK SPORT *assembled by Terry Parker*

Golf Club

Kenny Overthrow of Painswick Golf Club won The Shirehampton Junior Open in Bristol recently with a round of 68. Kenny who is 15 and attends Crypt School has shown some good form during the October half term week playing in all the Bristol junior opens scoring 75 at Henbury Golf Club and 77 at Bristol & Clifton Golf Club.

He has a Playing handicap of 5 which on current form will be coming down.

Scores

Kenny Overthrow - Painswick	68
Sam Sloman - Taunton & Pickeridge	70
Thomas Burns - Cleeve Cloud	73
Ryan Davies - Gloucester	75
Lewis Harvey - Tickenham	75
Matthew Basey -	77
Bethan Popel - Long Ashton	78
Jack Hume - Gloucester	78
Jordan Merry - Forest Hills	78
Scott Linden - Enmore Park	79
Mitchell Waite - Filton	80
Jack Bamford - Henbury	80

The photograph shows, from left to right, Vice Captain of Shirehampton Golf Club, Kenny Overthrow, and the Junior Captain of Shirehampton.



Cricket

Painswick Cricket Club require a scorer for the 2010 season. Anyone interested in this position will be most welcome to join the club. Contact Club Secretary Ian Hogg on 07971549444 or Chairman Steve Pegram on 07806597255 for further details. The club will be willing to send the applicant on a course to reach the necessary standard.

Football

Under 12s
Painswick 3
Cheltenham Saras 3
Painswick's goals came through a first half goal from Josh Newton who went on to complete his hat trick in the second period.

Table Tennis at the Painswick Centre

A successful start for the club. Our last meeting this year will be Friday 11th December, after which the Main Hall closes for a month to allow the installation of a new floor, heating and ceiling fans.

By popular demand we will start again on Wednesdays in 2010, the first meeting being Wednesday 20th January. The cost then will be £4 per playing evening. As we expect to have four tables in use and extra bats, new members will be welcome. Enquiries to 812464.

David Linsell

Tennis

The two new courts are now finished and are available for play during the day. The lights will be operational soon, hopefully by mid December. A grand opening will be held in the Spring. The AGM took place on 11th November and was well attended. The usual reports were presented with continued good progress on all fronts during the year. The Club is now planning to expand, particularly the coaching and membership, to take advantage of the benefits the new courts will bring. Anyone interested in joining the Club, please contact Ruth Smith on 813693.

Badminton Club

On 9th November the club held its annual tournament.

Six ladies and six men played a total of 15 games to 15 points in an 'American Tournament' format.

The four finalists were Debbie Towersey, Jackie Sanderson, Mike Breeze and Ron Bridgeman and after the best 3 games to 21 points each Debbie and Ron became this year's champions.

The club is looking forward to playing on the new floor in the hall and consequently will not start the new year until Monday 18th January, with Juniors starting on Thursday 21st January.

If anyone would like to come and join us please call Sylvia on 812104 or myself on 812464.

David Linsell

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Rugby

Painswick lost their Gloucestershire Junior Vase semi-final match against Bishopston at the Bristol club's ground in a hard fought game, going down by 15 points to 11. Painswick's points came through a Jake Saunders' try and two penalty goals from Dominic Barnard. In Division 1 of the Gloucestershire League, Painswick's first fifteen narrowly lost to Old Bristolians by 8 points to 5. The Bristol club are top of the division. In another hard fought contest Painswick suffered the narrowest of defeats, losing by 19 points to 17 against Bream. Last Saturday Painswick were away to Brockworth in another league encounter. Unfortunately the match had to be abandoned because of an injury sustained by the referee. In the corresponding Citizen Merit Table match Painswick defeated the Brockworth second fifteen by 19 points to 17.

December fixtures [(L indicates Gloucestershire Division 1. (M) Citizen Merit Table.

Sat 5th. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Old Cryptians 1st XV. Painswick United v Old Centralians 2nd XV.

Sat 12th. (L) Cheltenham Civil Service 1st XV v Painswick 1st XV. (M) Chosen Hill 2nd XV v Painswick United.

Sat 19th. (L) Chipping Sodbury 1st XV v Painswick 1st XV. Painswick United v Berry Hill United.

January

Sat 9th (L) Painswick 1st XV v Ashley Down OB 1st XV.

Darts

Another good season for the Falcon Hotel Darts teams. The A team (*top picture*) won their division with the following awards made at the Presentations Dinner. Top Man: G Beard; Top Lady: J Lane. Captain's Cup: J Moertimore.

The B team came third in their division. Top Man: A Kemmett; Top Lady: S Kemmett. Improved Players: J Lee and A Woresford. Captain's Cup: B Andrews. Well done to all the



players. Linda Cooke wishes a big thank you to the Falcon Hotel for their continued support.

5 Two fathers and two sons go fishing. Each of them catches one fish. So why do they bring home only 3 fishes?

Answer on page 22

The Painswick Chronicle



Issue number 12 of the Painswick Chronicle is now available.

This latest edition of the History Society's annual journal will be of interest to anyone living in Painswick including as it does a good range of articles, the result of much industrious research. Lord Dickinson's item on Sir Francis Hyett presents a picture of a life of true dedication to the service of others, a man of great significance in Painswick's past. Did you know too that a noted 19th century botanist, of snowdrop fame, lived in Butt Green? Seventy years after the outbreak of World War 2 we learn of Painswick's amazing participation in the war effort, and from a much earlier war a local man, Sir Alexander Ball, was man of the moment for Lord Nelson. Public transport before mechanisation has a fascinating and often troublesome history in Painswick, and talking of trouble our local stocks are also featured in this edition. The gruesome story of the man who leapt from the steeple to his death, plus various other short pieces make this Chronicle a really good read and an excellent little Christmas gift.

Other publications from the Society include Gyde Orphanage Remembered, Painswick:Time Chart of a Cotswold Village, Barks and Bites from Bow-Wow Land and issues 3 to 11 of the Chronicle. All are very reasonably priced, essential reading for all Painswickians and make lovely presents. They are available from various shops in Painswick or direct from Carol Maxwell (813387) or Gwen Welch (812540)

Carol Maxwell

Out-Painswick news

The Beacon is always pleased to receive news items from our neighbouring villages of Edge, Sheepscombe and Slad, and will make every effort to include them in these pages.

However, the Beacon is dedicated to Painswick village and its residents - so there are times when that priority prevents us from reproducing all else which comes our way. Two such stories have not found space this month, for which we hope this explanation is helpful and appreciated.

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New Chess Club

A new all age chess club is starting up in Painswick. Initiated by the mothers of some of our younger players, the idea was warmly welcomed by Richmond Village who have agreed to host the meetings. With interest currently expressed by players ranging in age from 11 to 99, the club looks likely to cater for a wide range of abilities. Anybody looking to play on either an occasional or regular basis is invited to join us at Richmond Village, Friday evenings, 5.30pm - 7.00pm. If you have an easily portable chess set, please bring it, just in case!



All enquiries to myself please on 812965 (evenings) pippa@millstream.plus.com

Pippa Dickinson

and if that doesn't tempt you, how about

Scrabble

Any readers interested in friendly and informal games are invited to contact Norman Snowden who recently moved from Essex to live at 15 Hyett Close (GL6 6RJ).

Norman puts an emphasis upon **informal and friendly**

and hopes like minded people of all abilities will get in touch. His telephone number is 812519 - so why not start the New Year with this sort of resolution?

Friday chair

The Chairmanship of the Friday Club has just changed, an infrequent 'happening' within this much appreciated group.

Anne Smith stood down a fortnight ago and the front-running of the group is now in the hands of Pamela Stewart.

Contact with Pamela is Halfway Pitch, Pitchcombe GL6 6LJ, and her telephone 814157.



BEACO-DOKU

Derived from Sudoku, Beaco-doku replaces the numbers with letters. Last month's answer used the letters from **FAWKES** - as you can see.

S		N	E		
					S
E			T		N
		S			
I			S		
	S		I		

S	E	F	A	W	K
W	K	A	F	E	S
A	W	K	E	S	F
E	F	S	W	K	A
K	A	E	S	F	W
F	S	W	K	A	E

and each block of six squares contains each of the six letters, **T-I-N-S-E-L**, without repetition.

There will be quite a lot of decoration around at Christmas, so see if you can fill the blank squares in the grid below so that each column, each row

Rosie and Aker

An exhibition this weekend features Rupert Aker returning to the Town Hall after his exhibition last summer, with painting inspired by Laurie Lee's Cider with Rosie. This exhibition celebrates the 50th anniversary of the publication of Cider with Rosie and features many locations mentioned in the book. So,

Cider with Rosie - in Paintings by

Rupert Aker

Town Hall 5th - 6th December 10.30am to 4.30pm.

For the full range of paintings, please visit Rupert on www.rupertaker.co.uk



Val and Ian and Lizzy

This year Valerie Dugan and Ian Shearman will be joined by Lizzy Weir for their Sparkling Christmas Exhibition and Sale. It will be in the Town Hall next weekend, Friday 11th until Sunday 13th 10.00am to 4.30pm.

They will display a wonderful collection of **botanical and landscape paintings, ceramics, calligraphy and constructive textiles**

aimed as ideal for special Christmas gifts.

They will be open late on the Friday as part of the Goodwill Evening.

More information from Valerie on 01453.751388

Beacon subscribers

<i>as at 21st November</i>	2009 - 2010	<i>This date last year</i>
New or renewed after lapsing	77	63
Renewed from last year	491	517
Total including postal	568	580

6 What ends everything always?

Answer on page 22

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Local History Teaser

Hoping for something really special from Father Christmas these earnest little faces cluster round the fireplace. Our picture was taken some years ago at Christmas time but can you say when and where and who the children were? Answers in next month's Beacon.

Last month's photograph showed the Stroud and Painswick retained fire fighting team from 1945. The uniform has changed but the pride and dedication to duty remains as strong as ever.

If you have a picture which would present a challenge to readers, we should love to hear from you.



... and the Local History Society

Gwilym Davies, a folklorist and musician, talked to the society about folk songs, morris dancing, Christmas Mummings and wassailing. The main part of his talk concerned folk songs which he identified as those songs which have a life of their own in local communities, where they are sung, where they grow and where they adapt. One of the early collectors of folk songs was Cecil Sharp (1857 – 1924) who in 1909 went around England with a notebook writing down as many songs, including the notes, as he was able. At the same time Percy Grainger set about a similar task but using a phonograph, i.e. a

wax cylinder, to make recordings, mostly in Lincolnshire but also in Gloucestershire while staying at Stanway House. In the 1930s James Madison Carpenter set about recording old ballads and in the 1960s Peter Shepherd, an American, started to tape the songs of gypsies. All these examples were illustrated by Gwilym Davies using his own voice and playing his own instruments.

Morris dancing was first mentioned in the 15th century. Originally a form of pageant with "morisco", in time it moved into the community, though it had to go underground during the time of the Puritans. It is believed there is no particular significance in the form of dress, white jacket and trousers with bells; they are just there for show. In the 19th century it nearly died out. It was strongest in Oxfordshire and westward into Gloucestershire where the concertina was invented. A rougher form is practised in the Welsh Borders.

Christmas Mummings are a feature in many villages and involve two figures dressed up as Bold Slasher and Turkish Knight. One has to die and then be brought back to life. In Marshfield this tradition continues from of old; it is not a revival.

Wassailing (a form of greeting "Be healthy"), though concerned with the productivity of fruit trees, has in Gloucestershire been more of a house to house tradition, where men went from house to house carrying a "Broad", a figure with horns on a stick. Singers carried a Wassailing Bowl and this was generally pronounced "Waysailing".

A most entertaining evening, splendidly illustrated.

The next meeting of the Society will be on Tuesday, 19th January when Mr John Loosley will give a presentation on Early English Allotments (now there's a topical issue!). Croft School, 7.30pm – everyone is welcome.

Carol Maxwell

B & W at Richmond

Richmond Painswick Retirement Village hosted a Black Tie Dinner and Auction of favours to raise funds for the children's cancer charity CLIC Sargent, the event which raised just over £2000 was attended by special guests Laurence and Jackie Llewelyn-Bowen patrons of the charity. The evening was opened by Jackie who gave a heartfelt speech on the tremendous work carried out by the charity, and the evening was finished with a splendid auction of favours. Donations included gardening time from a once Royal gardener, beautifully hand crafted items made by residents, Golf days and spa treatments given generously from local businesses and the Wellness Spa at Richmond Village. Resident Jim McNamara was a wonderful auctioneer and kept the bidding going a pace.

Laurence and Jackie Llewelyn-Bowen said: "It was a pleasure to be invited to attend the Black Tie Supper. We are always delighted to be involved in fundraising which will benefit CLIC Sargent and enable the charity to continue the wonderful work it does supporting children with cancer and their families. As parents ourselves, we can only imagine the distress and difficulties that families face when confronted with such a situation. Illness of a child – and particularly your child – is unbearable, and CLIC Sargent provides an excellent service, assisting where possible in very challenging circumstances. Pictured, from the left Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, Steve Markham – Branch Chairman for CLIC Sargent Gloucestershire, Jackie Llewelyn-Bowen and Cecile Markham.

Melissa Gough-Rundle 813902 x 224



7 Complete this sequence of letters: o, t, t, f, f, s, s, __, __, __.
Answer on page 22

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Happy Christmas from your Village Agent



VILLAGE
Agents

The end of another year approaches and as often happens; I find it's a time to reflect back on the year. What might the future bring and what I have learnt from some of the great experiences I had being a Village Agent?

My big "50" is looming and while I'm a mere baby in comparison to some of you (why do you think I do the job?) I am coming to understand better why so many people say that though their body might have reached a certain age, their minds still see themselves as they're were in their 20's or 30's. This seems to be especially poignant when a disability comes along as a result of some of the age related illness or condition. Whether it be as a result of a stroke, memory loss, arthritis, dementia or something like deafness, it is easy to lose sight of the person still there inside the body that doesn't work like it used to. I was moved considerably recently when a lady who has battled with enormous determination after a series of strokes, looked me directly in the eyes and said as she struggled to make me a cup of tea: "this isn't who I am Lou, I am still me"

I have learnt not to take for granted the freedom I have to choose what I want to do, where I want to go, what activity I want to involve myself in, because I can drive and I have independence. We live in a stunning area and most of us have chosen to be here because of its beauty but there can be the double edged sword that means we cannot be mobile once the legs are not what they used to be or we can't pop into our car.

I have gained lots of practical knowledge through the different training days I go on. You normally can tell what they've been about through the topic of the parish magazine article for that month. A simple but very important fact which I learnt this month is that if anyone comes to your door and says that they are from the water, electricity or gas "board", they're not; they are a bogus caller. The water "board" ceased to exist 20 years ago and is now known in this area as "Severn Trent Water". They would never knock on your door to try to get access no matter what the emergency supposedly was. Don't be scared into letting them in if you hear alarmist statements such as "the water is contaminated", or "your neighbour's had a flood and we need to turn the water off". Always check id from the telephone number on your bill or in the telephone book, not from their id card. Why not make a note of those numbers today and have them by your phone.

Thank you to everyone I have met as Village Agent in this area for the last 3 years. It has been wonderful and I can't wait to see what's ahead for next year. My New Year Wish is that we might give some time to that person who lives near us who is elderly and who might really appreciate a friendly word, an offer of a lift to a Christmas festivity or 10 minutes to share a cup of tea.

Lou Kemp 07776.245767

British Legion Poppy Appeal



For the first time and very much as a last minute arrangement the Painswick Poppy Appeal was joined by Pitchcombe, Edge and Harescombe.

The resulting collection looks to be a record and was bolstered by a wonderful collection at the Remembrance Day Service at St Mary's Church.

May I express my appreciation to all individuals who helped in typical wet and blustery November weather, and to all the local pubs, clubs, shops and businesses etc who contributed to a magnificent total of £3784.00.

Well done and thanks to you all.

*Russ Herbert
Honorary Organiser*

PROPERTY REPORT for November from Hamptons International

As we come to the end of the year we have been pleasantly surprised that the end of the year did prove to be prosperous despite the uncertain year.

Probably the most startling statistic at present is the volume of sales we arranged in October and November. This illustrates that there are a large number of motivated buyers still in the marketplace who are prepared to buy at the end of the year but they have limited choice.

So, sellers certainly have the upper hand at the moment, fuelling a slight uplift in prices compared to 2008. This improvement in pricing may not necessarily continue if there is a change in the balance between supply and demand so our advice to clients is that, if they are looking to sell in the next six months, now is an excellent time to come to the market. Clients are always nervous about accepting offers in the early stages of marketing their property, but our advice would be to consider these offers carefully as they may not remain on the table for long. Sometimes the best buyers are those that view

the property in the first two weeks of marketing.

So the picture remains a positive one with the general economic backdrop of low interest rates and an improving outlook giving a great deal of credence to the view that the property market is not only recovering, but is now flourishing. We are optimistic about the New Year and would encourage you to have a valuation now to be one step ahead for 2010.

New instructions are Longridge Meend, Bulls Cross a 3 bed, 3 reception room in 3.4 acres with exceptional views, Ingleside, Westbury on Severn an impressive five bedroom detached family home with a separate 3 bedroom lodge set in about an acre, Millview Kingsmill lane a detached three bedroom house offering desirable views and location, integral garage. Properties sold Nurses House St Marys Street, Glen Rosa Upton St Leonards, Orchard house Cotswold Mead, Beechcote Longridge, 1 Abbotswood. Properties now sold are Pear Tree cottage Stroud road, Fletchers Knapp Elcombe, Alderley Highlands, 6 Churchill Way.

Naomi Whitcher



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DECEMBER

Fri	4	Croft School PTA Christmas Fair Salvation Army Brass Band Seasonal Concert - enquiries to 813228	Croft School Painswick Centre	3.30 to 6.00pm 7.30pm
Sat	5	Conservatives Xmas Party and Quiz - Drinks, canapes & mince pies. Tel: 814239 / 813848 and 6th 'Cider with ' Art of Rupert Aker (<i>see page 18</i>)	Town Hall	7.00pm
Mon	7	Painswick Players present <i>The Affair of Lady Fairfax, The Fifteen Minute Hamlet & One Month to Pay or, the Sailor's Return</i> - for members, family and friends Short Mat Bowls - Mondays (contact 813627) Community Lunch: Hostess - Terry Rohrbeck Yoga (Mondays) contact Kim 812623	Town Hall Cotswold Room, Painswick Centre	10.30am to 4.30pm 7.30pm
Tue	8	all Tuesdays Painswick on air - StroudFM (<i>see page 13</i>) Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party. (location check 812624)	107.9 fm Christ Church Hall Cemetery Car Park	9.00am to 10.00am 9.30 to 12.00noon 9.45am
Wed	9	Yoga (Wednesdays) contact Kim 812623 Bingo: Wednesdays – Tel. Ann, 813911/Liz, 813139 Probus: Christmas Dinner Horticultural Society: The Winter Season at Westonbirt - Simon Hough Parish Council	Sheepscombe Vill. Hall Painswick Centre The Hill, Stroud Town Hall	9.30 to 11.00am 7.30 to 10.00pm 7.30pm
Thu	10	Yoga - All Abilities (Thursdays) Cotswold Room 812623 T'ai Chi: Thursdays - Contact 812344 Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners - Thursdays Experienced beginners - Thursdays Painswick Beacon Conservation Group AGM and talk on Junipers Music Appreciation Group: Christmas Social	Town Hall Painswick Centre Town Hall Town Hall Town Hall Church Rooms Cotswold Room, Painswick Centre	7.30pm 9.30 to 11.00am 9.30am 12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm 7.15 for 7.30pm 7.30pm
Fri	11	Country Market - Coffee available to 13th Val, Ian and Lizzy Exhibition (<i>see page 18</i>) T'is the season Goodwill evening (<i>see page 13</i>)	Town Hall Town Hall Village centre	10.00am 10.00am to 4.30pm 6.00pm to 9.00pm
Sat	12	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party. (location check 812709) Theatre Club visit to Malvern Handel's Messiah performed by Wycliffe Choral Society, conducted by Christopher Swain (<i>see page 3</i>)	Painswick Beacon Stamages Car Park St Mary's Church	10.00am to 1.00pm 1.00pm 7.30pm
Tue	15	Yew Trees W.I.: Christmas Gathering	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	18	Country Market: Christmas Market Today - then closed until 15th January Friday Club Christmas Lunch	Town Hall	10.00am
Sat	19	Copy dateline for January Beacon Painswick Singers Christmas Concert: followed by mince pies & mulled wine	Christ Church	7.30pm
Sun	20	In comes I ... mummings	Royal Oak	1.00pm
Mon	21	Christmas Carol singing around Painswick for Lideta - Meet at Gyde House for mince pies & mulled wine before setting out.	Gyde House	5.30pm
Sat	26	Boxing Day walk - organised by the Parish Council (<i>see page 23</i>)	Stamages Lane	10.00am + 2 hours

2010

JANUARY

Sat	2	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party. (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Wed	6	Probus: The Severn Bore - Chris Witts	Shires Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	7	Music Appreciation Group: Haydn - Howard Allen	Cotswold Room, Painswick Centre	7.30pm



Sat	9	January Issue of The Painswick Beacon published		
Wed	13	Horticultural Society: The Trials and Pleasures of being a Bloom Town - Jenny Bailey	Town Hall	2.30pm
Fri	15	Country Market re-opens - Coffee available - Fridays Friday Club: Laughter is a Daily Exercise - Patrick Graham	Town Hall Town Hall	10.00am 2.30pm
Sat	16	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party. (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Mon	18	Community Lunch: Hosts - Churches Together around Painswick	Christ Church Hall	12 noon to 1.15pm
Tue	19	Local History Society: Early English Allotments - John Looseley	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	20	Probus: County Air Rescue Trust Bird Club field trip to Cotswold Water Park	Shires Room, Falcon Gateway Centre	10.00am 10.30am
Thu	21	CTAP Speaker & Afternoon Tea for Christian Unity Week. Dr Alison Evans will talk about the Baptist Church Music Appreciation Group: Surprise - Iain Cooper	Christ Church Hall Cotswold Room, Painswick Centre	2.30pm 7.30pm
Sun	24	Agape at The Bistro for Christian Unity Week	The Bistro	7.00pm
	26	Catwalk event (see page 5)	Croft School	7.00pm
Fri	29	Friday Club: The Change to Digital - digitaluk	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	30	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party. (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm

FEBRUARY

Wed	3	Probus: You Cannot be Serious - Brian Partridge	Shires Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	4	Music Appreciation Group: Chamber Music - Norma Kay	Cotswold Room, Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Sat	6	Theatre Club Outing to Cheltenham	Stamages Car Park	1.30pm
Wed	10	Horticultural Society: Vegetable Growing - Roger Umpelby	Town Hall	2.30pm
Thu	11	Bird Club: The Wildlife of Shetland - David Scott-Langley	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	12	Friday Club: Brass Bands - Mike Kerton	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	13	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party. (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Tue	16	Local History Society: Old Paths of Gloucestershire - Alan Pilbeam	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	17	Probus: You Will Remember This - A Musical Journey - Ron Nott. Joint meeting with the Ladies	Church Rooms	11.00am
Thu	18	Music Appreciation Group: A Good Blow - Robert Nichols	Cotswold Room, Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Wed	24	Digital swich-over explained (see page 9)	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	26	Friday Club: Travels in Mongolia - Claire Burges Watson	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	27	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party. (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm

MARCH

Tue	2	Music Appreciation Group: Concert Outing to Birmingham Symphony Hall	Birmingham	7.30pm
Wed	3	Probus: A World of Men - The Great White South - Ken Gibson	Shires Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	5	Women's World Day of Prayer	Ashwell House	
Wed	10	Horticultural Society: The True Cottage Garden - Kim Hurst	Town Hall	
Thu	11	Bird Club: Islands of the Indian Ocean - David Cramp Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party. (location check 812709)	Town Hall Painswick Beacon	
Sat	13	Beacon Quiz (see page 9)	Painswick Centre	
Tue	16	Local History Society: Streetwise - Exploring Towns - Aylwin Sampson	Croft School	
Wed	17	Probus: The Island of Arran and the Islay Whisky Trail - Ian Wilcox	Shires Room, Falcon	
Thu	18	Music Appreciation Group: Strike up the Band - Michael Kerton	Cotswold Room, Painswick Centre	
	24	Television - Digital switch-over (see page 9)		
Fri	26	"The Road to Calvary" - Passion Play by theatre group "Clydach" from Swansea	St Mary's Church	

1 All New Year precedes Christmas of the same year
2 Incorrectly
3 The trawler rises with the waves so no step will go under water
4 His horse's name is Friday
5 Because the fishing group comprises of a grandfather, his son, and his son's son – hence just three people.
6 The letter 'g'
7 e, n, t – The first letter of the numbers from one to ten



The Personal Column

Rachel Taylor and Jenny Gaugain

Engagement

Congratulations to ALEX BREEZE of Randall's Field and SIAN WESTERN of Vicarage Street who have announced their engagement.

Birth

Congratulations to ALEX COLES and SOPHIE McINLEY on the birth of their son, Ernest on September 21st, a brother for Frank,

and to FRANCIS and MERCY STEUCK on the birth of their daughter Tonia, a first grandchild for Jeannie and Johannes Steuck of Emerald Hollow, Painswick Beacon.

Congratulations

Best wishes to BARBARA LEIGH-SMITH of New Street House who will celebrate her 99th birthday on 15th December.

Get well

As we went to press our Beacon colleague JACK BURGESS was in the recovery phase from major surgery at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital.

Romance in July

A wedding photograph with a difference caught our eye, but space did not permit inclusion sooner, and we are sorry about that.

Alastair Bressington, previously from Painswick, married Rhiannon Harris from Coopers Hill in July at St James the Great church in Cranham. Afterwards guests were invited to stroll across Cranham Common to the reception in a marquee with cricket club associations. Entirely local produce was served and the reception, with speeches, was followed by a Bride v Groom cricket match! This picture captured a special moment on a special day.



Change of Home

JOYCE TAYLOR has moved from Churchill Way to Resthaven, following a stroke and a long stay in hospital, DOREEN BIRT has moved from Ashwell to Resthaven.

Welcome

We would like to welcome RON and JENNY GAY to 3 Churchill Way

Thanks

BETTY BARNEY thanks everybody for their flowers, cards and good wishes. PETER and ROSEMARY MANNERING would like to thank Painswick friends and neighbours for all the kindness and support they have received following the death of their father, David in August.

Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of the REV PETER RENSHAW who died recently.

MINI-ADS

Leaf blower/sucker, electric, with bag, Black and Decker, little used. £12 814783

Bird table, easy self assembly, brand new, still wrapped, solar lights in roof £9 814783

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MINI-ADS - Free to subscribers.

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Text maximum of 30 words + payment by cheque in advance, to 'The Painswick Beacon', to Dermot Cassidy, 1 Painswick Heights, Yokehouse Lane, GL6 7QS

Christmas Draw

Each year we make a random draw among subscribers and are pleased to say that 'prizes' are on their way to

- Mrs B Tait in Churchill Way - **Whisky**
- Mr & Mrs P Sadler of Kingsmead - **Sherry**
- Mrs C Davie in Vicarage Street and
- Mr P Corley at Richmond Painswick - **Chocolates**

while our business advertiser is

- Sandra Walklett of A La Carte Private Hire - **Brandy**

Best wishes for Christmas!



PLANNING MATTERS A summary of information from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

Land at WASHWELL FARM, CHELTENHAM ROAD. Change of use from agricultural land to domestic garden for use by Park Edge Barn.

LLOYDS TSB BANK, 3 BISLEY STREET. Change of use from A2 to A3 (Licensed Restaurant) and erection of extension to rear.

COURT HOUSE, HALE LANE. Retrospective application for the erection of entrance gates, entry phone, lights & sign.

CROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHURCHILL WAY. Proposed Children's Centre and School Kitchen.

CONSENT

JUBILATE, BLAKEWELL MEAD. Alterations and extension to dwelling. OVERDALE, SLAD. Erection of replacement dwelling (revised scheme following approved application) S.07/1210/FUL.

HOLCOMBE FOLLY. Erection of garden shed and greenhouse.

AMBLESIDE, THE GREEN, EDGE. Erection of extension to form sun room. STOCKS COTTAGE, ST. MARY'S STREET. Internal alterations.

Parish Council Greetings

The Chairman, Members and Clerk to the Parish Council wish all parishioners a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Boxing Day Walk

The Parish Council's annual Boxing Day walk will start from Stamages Lane car park at 10.00am. The circular walk is planned to take approximately two hours. Stout footwear is necessary. Dogs are welcome but must be on a lead at all times.

Memorable pictures from the Beacon archives

Young clyppers

Charming all and taking part in the Clypping Service back in September, when it was delightfully warm and tradition was re-enacted.



Painswick in Bloom

Outstanding private residence winner in 2009, Lorraine Watson in Whitehorse Lane, with but part of her dramatic display of flowers.



Norwich Union

As the future of our valued post office was assured this year, we were minded of the delivery of a replacement fire mark 20 years ago.

That was an occasion when we chose to close the main street for nearly an hour for an event to be reported around the world.



School leavers

Year 6 pupils at the service in St Mary's church in July, just some of those now into their secondary education.



NEXT ISSUE

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