

# The Painswick Beacon

*Sine praeiudicio*

Volume 32 Number 10

January 2010

## Painswickians

Our Painswickians of the year for 2009 are June Gardiner and Sue Coates (formerly Morris), and two more deserving winners it would be hard to find. These two next-door neighbours have raised over £60,000 during the past ten years all in aid of the Crack Cancer campaign.

About ten years ago a friend, Jenny Spring, was diagnosed with motor neurone disease and June and Sue were motivated to raise money for the related charity. This was the start of it all. "Every family is touched by cancer," they say and so they decided to concentrate their efforts on helping to raise money for the Cobalt Unit in Cheltenham. Ten years on they can certainly look back with pride on what they have achieved. However, that is not their style. These two very big-hearted and lovely ladies simply say "Well it's so much better to do something to help than it is to take. We haven't done it for glory or recognition."

What they have in fact done is truly wonderful and quite amazing. A non-stop series of events, nothing spectacular and glitzy you understand, has enabled them to contribute a steady stream of financial donations to the charity year after year. A huge wad of letters thanking them for their efforts is testimony to just how much they have done. They were invited to the Cobalt Unit to see the new and very



expensive machines and equipment their contributions have helped to purchase and this, whilst being a humbling experience, has motivated them to continue.

So, how have they raised the money? As they modestly recall the various events you begin to understand why June and Sue are very special people. They organised two immensely popular Christmas events for children at the Rococo Garden and a snowdrop event there when a quilt was raffled. They

have contributed recipes to the Cobalt Cookbook. At Lady Gibbs' invitation they have regularly had a stand at Ewen Manor selling cream teas and pots, the latter donated by Wood Lodge Pottery and which they say have made a lot of money. On an annual basis they have organised sponsored walks and sold goods at Kemble Steam Rally. They have held successful and much praised garden parties in their own small adjoining gardens.

*continued on page 3*

## ex-Library?

During the last hours of library opening before Christmas the County Council informed the press, excluding the Beacon,

"Painswick Library will be closed with immediate effect after an inspection identified safety issues within the building. These include problems with the rear fire exit and a fire door that has become swollen due to damp problems that have been exacerbated by the recent weather. A notice informing customers of the closure has been placed on the door. It is not known how long the library will be closed for. David Paynter, Gloucestershire County Council's Head of Libraries & Information, said: "The safety of our customers and staff is our highest priority. The decision to close has not been taken lightly and we apologise for any disruption it causes."

The doors had been closed, no admission was permitted; and that is how matters remain as we go to press.

Chairman of the Parish Council Terry Parker was, we as-

certained, advised of the press release by County Councillor Joan Nash.

Asked if he had, during Christmas, managed to contact the County Council to obtain further information he told the Beacon "The information I have received from David Paynter is that he will be discussing the full extent of the report with relevant colleagues and with the Cabinet Member as a matter of urgency. A response to the report is expected to be published in approximately two weeks. This time scale will allow the Library Service's reaction to the report to be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 20th January".

Chairman of Gateway Trustees Edward Young responded to the news by saying "Words fail me. What a coincidence, given the unwillingness to make the property available to Gateway while we both knew of its dilapidated condition".

More information will doubtless emerge, and the Beacon will report accordingly. That this Grade II Listed Building, once the pride of the village who caused it to be built, has been allowed to deteriorate progressively across so many years has to be a matter of regret. Its listing concludes with the phrase "A splendid composition in the Cotswold tradition, having historic interest and forming an important introductory feature on the approach from the south".

**On other pages this month - Jack remembered, arch salt pincher, catwalking catches couture, our radio waves, the top clipper, a 'coco friendship, downpour measures, lunches prepared, a councillor upset, last architects?**



PLANNING

**Croft School**

Chairman David Hudson summarised the application by the Croft School to build a children's centre for single parents and special needs children in place of the existing kitchen. A new kitchen would be built attached to the dining hall. Members supported the application.

RECREATION GROUND TRUST

**Parking on the Recreation Field**

As the planning meeting was a short affair, Terry Parker proposed that a meeting of the Recreation Field Trustees be held prior to the main Parish Council meeting. As readers will know all parish councillors are also trustees of the REC Trust and the meeting was asked to consider a request from Gloucestershire Highways to use the Recreation Ground for temporary parking during the closure of the A46. The Clerk reported that the Charity Commission does not need to be consulted if the emergency use of the charity's facilities is for less than six weeks, which in the case of the total closure of the A46, it would be. The meeting agreed to accept the request in principle with Gloucestershire Highways to be in charge of Health and Safety issues for users of the playing field, the children's playground and dog walkers and deciding on access, the preferred option being through the 5 bar gate on the A46 opposite Goddards.

PARISH COUNCIL

**Road closures**

Edward Young told the meeting that Severn Trent was proposing to close Slad Road in Stroud from the 4th January to 31st March to replace sewers. Diversions would be along the A46 through Painswick! The work should be completed before the canal bridge works at Merrywalks start in May and the A46 is completely closed in Painswick in April/May. A member of the public asked the council to have a co-ordinated emergency plan for road closures and traffic redirection with major sewage, gas and road structure repairs, the last at Fiddlers Elbow on the A46, all due to take place in the first half of the year. Martin Slinger responded that an emergency plan

was in preparation to include all types of emergency. On the road repair issue, Ann Daniels said, much had been learned from the work at Salmon Springs in 2007 and that much of the repair work now being carried out was due to the flooding in the same year.

Cllr Joan Nash, GCC, confirmed that parking charges by Stroud District Council would not apply at Stamages Lane car park whilst the gas main repairs are being carried out.

**Allotments**

Martin Slinger reported that 12 possible sites had been identified, some of which would require discussions with trustees. A land agent, who can help sort out some of the sites, will be appointed in line with the working group's budgetary constraints. The project should be on schedule by the end of December.

To the consternation of some members, Martin Slinger, on behalf of the working group, asked whether allotments could be sited in the Recreation Ground. The meeting agreed that the request should be put to the trustees at a future date.

**Telephone Kiosk**

Dhushy Mahendran confirmed that Sheepscombe would like to purchase their BT telephone kiosk. The meeting agreed to the request.

**County Council Report**

Cllr Joan Nash, GCC, summarised her report written copy of which members had already received. The key point, as mentioned above, was the cancellation of parking charges at Stamages Lane carpark by Stroud District Council. She also encouraged the public to use the GCC website ([www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/winter](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/winter)) for information on salting and gritting over the winter. There is also good news for rail travellers – work on doubling the Kemble to Swindon line will start in 2011. Her full report can be seen at the Town Hall.

**The Library**

Edward Young, chairman of the Gateway Trustees, presented a letter he had written to the Parish Council inviting them to use the "Gloucestershire Charter" which permits Parish Councils to negotiate with the County Council about devolving services. Terry Parker had made enquiries and had established that "devolving services" (for example the Library) did not necessarily include buildings in which those services were provided. Edward Young was concerned that a survey of Library services might result in the closure of our library. Terry Parker said that cabinet member for Libraries at GCC, Antonia Noble, had confirmed that no survey was planned.. He encouraged members of the public to use the library as frequently as possible to help ensure its continued presence in the village.

**Traffic matters**

Ann Burgess Watson presented the Traffic Committee's report:

- The 20 mph speed limit will start to be implemented in March this year to embrace the whole village, including Pullens Road and Lower Washwell Lane;
- "Shops" signs will be fitted in Bisley Street and Victoria Street;
- The reduction in the central grassed area in Canton Acre was not supported as it did not have sufficient points for consideration ;
- Gloucester Street and Churchill Way will be resurfaced in October 2010;
- Martin Slinger reported that the request by Pitchcombe Parish Council for a 40mph speed limit from Edge to Pitchcombe and to Broadham had been rejected as it had not met GCC highways criteria ;
- Grit bin corner of Gloucester Street and Churchill Way. Gloucestershire Highways said the site did not meet their criteria. Ann Burgess Watson proposed that the Parish Council purchase a bin for this site which was accepted. Highways will keep the bin filled.

The full Traffic Committee report can be seen at the Town Hall.

**Signage**

Brian Nunez of Olivas told the Traffic Committee that SDC had instructed him to remove all signs apart from those outside his shop. He said much passing trade came to him because of his signs on the A46 and asked for the Parish Council's help. It was agreed to ask the District Council for a relaxation of the rules during the road closure.

**Comments on November's Parish Council Report**

Martin Slinger read out a statement objecting to how the Beacon had reported the precept matters of the Parish Council meeting in November. (*See the Beacon and Editor's response on page 19.*)

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## Painswickians

*continued from page 1*

They have held successful and much praised garden parties in their own small adjoining gardens.

By far the greatest amount though has been raised by selling cakes, scones, jam, chutneys and cream teas all of which they have produced themselves. And as June's partner, John, points out we are talking thousands and thousands of these! They have spent countless hours picking blackberries on the Beacon, arranging coffee mornings, holding skittles, rounders and cricket sessions, tombolas, to name but a few. The time and effort involved is staggering in its proportions. True to character, of course, they are keen to point out that they have been given much support in their endeavours and particularly by Sue's husband, Alan, and John. John though adds that he has been merely a 'gofer'!

Sue is a bow-wow – her grandmother ran the Whitehorse pub – and has always lived in Painswick. She works long and hard hours in and around Painswick including Resthaven, as well as having ten ducks to look after. Sue loves knitting and has been commissioned to produce work for the famous Cath Kidston. June came to Painswick from Minchinhampton 18 years ago and worked for a while at Goddards Garage. She is a very fine seamstress and produces exquisite quilts. Both Sue and June work hard at knitting and sewing (how do they find the time, you have to ask?) and much of their work has also raised considerable funds for the cause.

From the outset, Sue and June have been a superb team. "It was a joint effort from the start," they say. John says of them that they work continuously, putting in an unbelievable amount of time. Their commitment is total, their modesty overwhelming. Time spent in their wonderful, positive, good-humoured and caring company leaves you in no doubt that these two warm-hearted ladies are truly worthy winners of the title, Painswickians of the Year.

## Quiz 2010



You can now enter teams for the 2010 Beacon Quiz which will take place at the Painswick Centre on Saturday 13th March starting at 7.30. The doors will open at 7.00pm, there will be the usual light meal and full bar service.

This year we are using a new caterer for the interval refreshments – new for the Beacon Quiz night that is – Chris Campbell.

So old-timers and newcomers alike – get your teams organised and your places booked. Remember that these places are limited. I look forward to welcoming you all.

You can leave your entries in the Beacon box outside Murray's estate agents or post to me; Charles Dorman, Tilling, Kingsmill Lane, Painswick GL6 6RT or send me an email to [chasdorm@gmail.com](mailto:chasdorm@gmail.com) to reserve your place. Please send me the name, postal address, email

address and phone number of the contact person for the team. I will also need the Team Name (please be creative!) and the group, club, society, family, odd-bods etc the team is claiming to represent. The ticket price is unchanged - £4 per head or £16 per team, inclusive of refreshment platter – to be paid in cash or by cheque made out to 'The Painswick Beacon' by the end of February – though preferably sooner.

*Charles Dorman*



## Painswick Parish Housing Needs Survey Affordable Housing Drive to Create Rural Renaissance

A fundamental shake up of planning and affordable housing policy is vital to breathe new life and prosperity into rural communities, a major report to the Government says.

Living Working Countryside 2008, the independent review by Matthew Taylor MP commissioned by the Prime Minister, finds that the high cost of homes coupled with the low wages of rural workers are creating unsustainable pressures that threaten the future of rural communities.

With the flight from cities to the countryside (the rural population has grown by 800,000 people in the last decade, twice the rate of urban areas) driving up house prices, young families are being priced out of the communities in which they work.

Average wages for people working in rural communities are now £4,655 lower than the national average, while first time buyer homes (the cheapest 25%) cost £16,000 more. A mortgage now costs a higher proportion of average income in the South West than in London.

Matthew Taylor said: "The English countryside is a wonderful place to live and work - if you can afford a home, if you can find a reasonably paid job. But for too many people country life is challenging and urgent action is vital to stop villages dying and our market towns being wrecked by unsympathetic development.

"If we fail to build the affordable homes to enable the people who work in the countryside to live there we risk turning our villages into gated communities of wealthy commuters and the retired.

"In many cases just a handful of well designed homes, kept affordable in perpetuity for local people, will make all the difference to the sustainability of a village and its services."

Along with affordable village homes for local people and a transformation of the way market towns are developed, it also proposes that planning rules facilitate a broader range of rural business and boost home-based working in order to increase the wages of those people working in rural areas, which currently lag 20% behind their urban counterparts.

Mr Taylor added, "We are at a crossroads for the countryside. We can continue to let too many villages become exclusive enclaves of the elderly and wealthy, and market towns be ringed with endless housing estates - or we can create attractive communities in which people want and can afford to live".

On affordable housing for villages:

- A new 'community led affordable housing' initiative, encouraging rural communities to develop small groups of affordable housing for local people to rent or buy where they meet criteria of local support, good design, and are affordable in perpetuity to meet local housing needs;

First step - Parish Housing Needs Survey

Painswick Parish Council has been asked to assist Gloucestershire Rural Community Council in identifying whether there is a requirement for the provision of affordable housing, local-needs housing within the Parish of Painswick.

Affordable housing means accommodation for people who are unable to purchase or rent houses to very high market prices in Painswick area. New affordable housing developments would only be available to those persons with a local connection, either for rent or shared ownership (part buy/part rent) - these properties can never be fully owned and remain available at affordable prices. Affordable housing may include a range of house types including houses, flats and bungalows for elderly.

Martin Hutchings, Rural Housing Enabler with Gloucestershire Rural Community Council said: "It is proposed to issue every household in early 2010 with a two-part housing needs questionnaire, which everyone is encouraged to complete and return to one of five collection points in the Parish or return in a pre-paid envelope to Gloucestershire Rural Community Council offices, Community House, 15 College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LZ. The information gathered will be used to assess the number of affordable homes required to meet the needs of the people of Painswick. A written report of the survey response will be available to all to read and will be presented to the Parish Council in Spring 2010."

## Swine Flu Vaccinations

The Surgery has received a small supply of swine flu vaccinations and we started our campaign to immunise those patients most at risk in November. We are currently able to offer this vaccine to patients who are in the following 'at risk' groups:-

- 6 months of age and over in an 'at risk' group for seasonal flu (this would be those patients with diabetes, heart/lung/kidney disease, including asthma etc.)
- Pregnant women
- Those patients who are immunocompromised, i.e. those patients without a spleen, undergoing chemotherapy etc.
- Household contacts of immunocompromised patients
- Carers of vulnerable patients (i.e. those included above)

We are holding clinics during the month of January so if you would like one and you are included in any of the above groups, do please contact the surgery to book an appointment with the Nurse. However, if you would like a vaccination and you are NOT in any of the above groups, we would ask you to be patient and wait until we have vaccinated our most vulnerable patients first.

At the time of writing this article, we have not yet received confirmation from the Department of Health that we are able to routinely vaccinate our healthy Under 5's. We will keep parents informed as soon as we know more.

*Nicola Hayward Practice Manager*

## Icy feelings

The Beacon receives variously expressed sentiments, not least upon such as fireworks and severe weather conditions and their consequences. One which struck home a couple of weeks ago was the report that just when temperatures had reached their lowest a Council-provided salt bin, strategically located to assist those living on a gradient but with tricky access to the nearest village road, witnessed the private hijacking of all the salt available!

One driveway was made completely safe, while all those who had made their own arrangements were left unable to navigate the highway itself - there being no salt left in the bin.

Quite apart from the illegality of the action, a nasty and long-lasting taste was left in the mouths of those affected.

## Didn't it rain!

November 2009 will long be in Painswick's weather records. Ted Fellows in Orchard Mead and I in Stamages Lane have been recording rainfall for the past four years. November dumped 225.5mm in our simple measuring funnels. That is 9 inches in old measure! As one of the wettest Novembers it was Painswick's wettest month since we began our recording in September 2004. Next was the infamous July 2007 at 197mm and this July at 136mm. By contrast, September's was only 22.5mm.

*David Allott*



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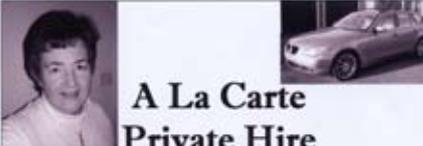
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## Silver threads

Are you a "silver surfer" - would you like to be? Or would you just like to know more about the internet? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes" be sure to come to the Town Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26th January. On that evening Glynn Nixon will be giving a talk to Yew Trees WI entitled A visit to the web. The talk will be a non-technical, lighthearted ramble about the World Wide Web. Starting with a brief history and description of it, Glynn will then go on to look at how it can be used in everyday life. As this is an open meeting, visitors of all genders will be warmly welcome (£3)!



At the Annual Meeting in November Jan Clarke was thanked for the enthusiastic and friendly manner in which she has so successfully carried out her duties as President during the year. She in turn paid tribute to the work done by all her committee and gave a warm welcome to the new secretary Morna Holliday. Prior to this Fiona Short gave an interesting talk on Traidcraft, the UK's leading fair trade organisation.

December has seen members enjoying listening to Aled Jones at the Gloucestershire Federations Carol Service in Cheltenham, attending a very social coffee and sherry morning hosted by our President; and a lively Christmas party where members had to have their wits about them to work out such brain teasers as "90 = D in a RA". The mulled wine proved a help to some and a hindrance to others!

And the fun doesn't end in December! On Thursday 14th January, Yew Trees is organising a 2 course lunch and coffee for £10 in Christchurch Hall from 12 noon - 2.00pm. All proceeds to WI funds and their Save the Bees Project. Ladies do come along; it promises to be informal and friendly. Ring Jan Clarke on 810919 for tickets. As well as a varied and interesting 2010 programme, with talks ranging from Planning a Wardrobe to the Australian Outback and a Demonstration of Enamelling, the Committee is planning outings and social gatherings. So make it your New Year resolution to join Yew Trees WI. As well as participating in all that is organised in this village, membership entitles you to join the walks and many activities arranged by the Gloucestershire Federation. (If you are still puzzling, the answer is: Degrees in a right angle!)

*Celia Lougher 812624*

## The gas works

The Beacon has run a check with the Chief Engineer of Morrison Utility Services Limited responsible for the complex gas main renewal scheme, Rob Vallender, and he assures us that while precise dates are still unknown, the information set out last month, and repeated here, still applies. He will be updating us, and others, mid-January and we will of course bring you the very latest facts in our February (6th) issue.



## Stamages parking free

Shortly after the detail of these gas and road works became known the District Council announced that there will be free parking during the road closures. They pointed out that such will apply to residents as well as visitors to Painswick, all of whom will have free parking at the Stamages Lane car park when traffic access is restricted due to the planned gas works on the A46.

They recognise that during these works residents and visitors will at times experience major disturbance and restricted access to properties. SDC has decided to waive car park fees for the five week period when the A46 is closed. Subject to work progress it is anticipated that this will occur in late March.

Councillor Joe Forbes, Cabinet Member for Community Services at Stroud District Council said: "We recognise that these works will be a major inconvenience, so to minimise the disruption for residents and encourage visitors to come to the historic Cotswold town of Painswick, we made the decision that it would be in the best interests of all concerned to waive the car parking charges whilst access is restricted."

### 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 continue to update  
each month**



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## Cotswold Care benefits from Golf Club Fashion Show

A Fashion Show kindly given by Cousins of Montpellier Cheltenham and held at the Painswick Golf Club, raised an amazing £1350.



This was organised by the Painswick Fundraising Group for the Cotswold Care Hospice. The venue was provided by the Golf Club and proved an excellent showcase for some



delightful clothes. Three of Painswick golfers were used as models and their hair was styled by Vogue of Stroud. Cousins provided some of their own models as well. The audience enjoyed seeing delightful evening clothes, winter coats, day clothes and special occasion clothes with accessories.

Sylvia Walker

## Be a Friend

### of Painswick's Rococo Garden

It is snowdrop time! The snowdrops in Painswick's Rococo Garden are famous and people come from all over the world to see them. The garden itself is a national charity, run by a board of Trustees and supported by a dedicated Friends Group. Under the direction of Paul Moir, Head Gardener Chris Hitchcock and his team work hard throughout the year, aided by a dedicated band of volunteers. Other



volunteers, like myself, man the admission till situated in the attractive shop. At snowdrop time a second till is brought into operation and the admission moves to the larger Orangery and so the Garden needs as many volunteers as possible, to deal with the extra crowds so ... if you have a morning or afternoon to spare during the next couple of months, do come and join us. You meet all sorts of delightful people and there is a splendid till which works out everything for you.

If you cannot spare the time, why not become a Friend? You will then be able to visit the garden as many times as you wish. You will receive a newsletter twice a year and be invited to the special Friends' lunches, a Christmas concert and on trips to other local gardens of interest.

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## Community Lunches 2010

The first lunch after the Christmas break will take place on Monday 18th January 12 noon in Christ Church Hall, and will be hosted by Churches Together Around Painswick.

During this session we are pleased to welcome two new additions to our rota as Sylvia and David Walker and representatives from Stroud District Council have offered to act as hosts.

The variety of groups and individuals we now have hosting the lunches reflects the diversity of our community and we hope that they will be well supported.

The lunches were started about forty years ago in order to raise awareness and money for those in need. The original aims remain, but the benefits of this project within the community has also been recognised. The lunches offer an excellent opportunity, especially for those who live alone, to meet up with friends or to make new ones.

If you would like to come but have mobility problems, Lou Kemp, the Village Agent will try and arrange transport. Please contact her on 07776.245767

Gill Gyde

## Confusions' - again

Painswick Players are proposing to offer Alan Ayckbourn's Confusions in May as their own tribute to Jack Burgess, who died on 7th December. Jack was a key figure in the resurgence of the Players ten years ago: he was in turns director, actor and playwright, as well as a driving force in strengthening the membership base so that newcomers to the stage, as well as old hands, could enjoy the thrill of the theatre.



The play that has been chosen, 'Confusions', recalls some of the material that Jack wrote for performance on the Painswick stage. It consists of five sketches in a typical Ayckbourn (one might almost say, Burgess) jaunty manner, which have no bearing on each other but which again exhibit the author's delicious sense of humour in droll abundance. They make a charmingly observed study of middle-class, marital anxieties, with a particular focus on loneliness and its effect on others. The plays are "are a bit sour at the corners, even vicious" (says Ayckbourn) and a challenge for the actors – as well as a real delight for audiences.

Auditions will be held in the Cotswold Room of the Painswick Centre on Tuesday 2nd February and Wednesday 3rd February at 7.30. Audition forms and audition pieces may be obtained from George Krasker (who will direct the play) on 01452.864175. Rehearsals, on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, will start the following week. Performances, in the Painswick Centre, will be on 6th, 7th and 8th May.

Charles Dorman

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*Happy New Year*

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# Mummers

Visitations by Mummers are the exception rather than the rule in Painswick, but The Royal Oak played host last month to the Gloucestershire Morris Men and their ancient play - to much acclaim.

Remember, these were medieval enactments, and pre-date the pantomime.



Left to right: the halalulya, Saint George is slain, here comes the hangman

# Letters



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

## Ashwell House

District Councillor Barbara Tait writes: I felt I must respond to the article in last month's 'Beacon'. As stated, I was at the November 6th meeting. To me it was loud and clear that everyone was very opposed to the possible loss of their very special Warden. I have had telephone calls and letters taking that line. I have spoken to Pam Pemberton (Principal Supported Housing Officer), at length, and want to assure everyone that this is just a review, no decisions have been taken at this point in time. An update has been sent to all tenants explaining that the Sheltered Housing Review Board (made up of SDC Officers, Councillors, and Tenants), will meet to make recommendations at the end of January. This will be followed by discussions of the recommendations at a meeting of the Housing Management Forum in March.

I strongly oppose the loss of 'our' Warden, and will continue to support the fight to keep her.

Any opinions in writing to Pam at Ebley Mill, Stroud GL5 4UB.

## Positive stories needed

Do you work with an organisation, scheme or project providing positive activities for young people in Gloucestershire?

Gloucestershire County Council's Children and Young People's Directorate (CYPD) is reviewing the provision of 'positive activities for young people' across the county, to ensure that the £3 to £5 million the county spends on youth work and positive activities is actually providing what young people want. As part of this a working group (which has Voluntary Sector representation) is mapping the provision that takes place in the Voluntary and Community Sector to highlight our contribution. We know much innovative work is being carried out in Gloucestershire but we cannot possibly be aware of everything that is being delivered, so this is your chance to 'blow your own trumpet' and tell us all about the exciting, beneficial and rewarding work going on in your area. Your examples will help to build a picture of provision within Gloucestershire and influence the future planning process.

Please send brief outlines by the end of the first week in January, using the usual 'Who, What, Why, Where, When and How' to Patrick.mcnelly@gloucestershire.gov.uk including the words 'positive activities' in the subject line. We may wish to contact some groups for further information or to ask them to participate in the research process. (Maybe next week will do. Ed.)

## Christmas Social

This was an enjoyable and well-attended occasion, on 10th December, with enthusiastic participation.

We all drank a toast to our Chairman, Alex Nichols, on the eve of his 80th birthday. A representative of the Stroud Choral Society led a rousing Happy Birthday chorus.

We then tried to answer a devilish musical quiz set by Ralph Kenber. Happily, a few of our brighter sparks knew the answers to such questions as to where The Merry Widow and Carmen Burana were set (Paris and Bavaria). The first prize was won by Howard Allen, who was scheduled to give a presentation on Haydn to the Group on 7th January. Those at the back of the class derived some low consolation from Ralph's invention of a feminist musical called Peggy and Bess. We then gorged ourselves on delicious food and wine organised by Beryl Bailey. As the commentators used to say, "a good time was had by all."

Richard Burges Watson



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## Yew tree Sponsor Book

The names of the 99 yew tree sponsors have now been written in the sponsors' book by Valerie Dugan who is one of the leading calligraphy artists in the area. Valerie commented 'writing the names of all the sponsors and persons making donations in this book was one of the most demanding tasks I have undertaken'. The green leather bound book contains a page for each tree, consequently each name and message had to be separately lined up. The size of the book also made the calligraphy very difficult.

Nigel Burt said that when the sponsorship scheme was launched sponsors were promised that their names would be recorded in a prestigious book. Each tree page has been designed so that the names of future sponsors can be entered under the appropriate tree thereby gradually building up a record of tree sponsors over many decades. The book also records the names of every person who has made a donation.

The sponsors' book will usually be kept under lock in St Mary's church. However for the next six weeks the book will be kept in St Mary's Lychgate Office where it can be viewed between 9-11am each weekday. The Vicar and churchwardens would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone who supported the scheme.

## Get talking transport!

Gloucestershire County Council wants to hear your views on what future transport goals are for Gloucestershire, how these goals should be met and what transport issues need to be improved in your local area as it starts a journey to develop its next Local Transport Plan, called LTP3. Visit [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/talkingtransport](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/talkingtransport) to find out more. LTP3 outlines everything that needs to be delivered in Gloucestershire between April 2011 and 2026 to improve Gloucestershire's roads, trains, buses, parking, cycling and walking. It also needs to help Gloucestershire meet national priorities linked to:

- The economy, growth and traffic congestion
- Tackling climate change
- Health and road safety
- Quality of life
- Equality of opportunity and accessibility

More importantly the plan needs to meet local priorities. You can help choose what these local priorities are through taking part in the Talking Transport consultation which runs until 31st January 2010. You can find out more and share your views in a short online questionnaire at [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/talkingtransport](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/talkingtransport) Here you can also find details on a series of Talking Transport workshops that will be held across the county in January 2010, and details on how to register.

Visit [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/talkingtransport](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/talkingtransport) and get talking transport today or call the consultation team on 01452.425690

## Centre report

What a great success the Christmas Goodwill Evening was, the whole village including the Painswick Centre was busy, buzzing and lively and full of Christmas cheer. Well done to Painswick Matters and all those who helped to organise what will hopefully become an annual event. The Painswick Centre will be pleased to support this event again in the future

Good News from the Painswick Centre, the new pipes have been laid under the Main Hall floor and new ceiling fans are fully installed. The new oak flooring and fanned radiators will be installed early in the New Year which will hugely increase your comfort at the Centre.

We launched our funding appeal for this in November and are pleased to announce that the Gloucestershire Environmental Trust, with landfill tax contributions donated by Cory Environmental, have granted us £5000 towards this project. Many thanks also to those of you who have already sent generous contributions for this major project, we need around £4000 more to cover our costs so please send anything you can to Painswick Centre Appeal c/o Rose Smith at Corner Cottage, Bisley Street, Painswick GL6 6QQ. Any individual or group who donates £200 or more will be entitled to having a permanent plaque on our 'Supporters Wall' in the Main Hall.

We wish all our regular users, customers and our 'owners' i.e. the Painswick Community as a whole – a Very Happy and Successful 2010.



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# The Painswick Hairdressers does it again

David Winstone-Ursell is absolutely delighted that his Painswick salon has gained the Customer Excellence Award 2009. And he is quite justified in taking pride in this achievement as he and his staff have worked hard to develop their popular local business.

David was approached way back in the Spring with a view to participating in this national scheme. He agreed and questionnaires were duly displayed in the salon for customers to complete and send off. As all the questionnaires were apparently taken David made the assumption that some at least must have been posted. He expected to hear in September but the phone call did not come until December by which time he had almost forgotten about it. Now of course he is thrilled, pleased that the judgement has been made by his clients many of whom are from Painswick but many also from Cheltenham, London and the Stroud Valleys.

After 23 years in Painswick David emphasises that such awards are definitely the result of a joint staff effort. He talks with pride of his staff, having great faith in them. "We have such a good team," he says. "They are all top class, work well together and create a good atmosphere, an excellent work environment." There are five stylists – Sara, Maria, Jenny, Suzanne and David – and two juniors. The salon is very client orientated and David feels this is reflected in the award which is about the whole experience, not just the hair cut.

The award is annual and David can now use the logo in his advertising. It will also feature on the Good Salon Guide website.

The Painswick Hairdressers is open Tuesday to Saturday and caters for men, women and children. David often opens the salon at 8am and will work in the evenings too to accommodate clients. And in these difficult times of the credit crunch there are some excellent savings to be made with 10% and 20% discount offers. Our salon certainly provides a real service to the whole community and is to be congratulated on an award richly deserved.

*Carol Maxwell*



## Croft School news

*Extracts from Janet Hoyle's letters to parents.*

### SHOW TIME

Performances of 'The Bossy King' were given by the infant children. I was particularly impressed to hear how beautifully they sang. The DVD has already been 'snapped up'.

Mrs Skinner and Mrs Ratcliffe took a group of children to Ashwell House one Wednesday, where they sang and performed Christmas carols. They performed and behaved extremely well and we are very proud of them.

### PTA FAYRE

We started off the festivities with a really fantastic Christmas Fayre. The PTA Committee put in a magnificent team effort over several weeks to pull it all together, under the energetic and creative leadership of Jo Weatherall. Thanks to all who organised, donat-

ed and supported. At the moment the profit figure is £1,604, which does not include the profits from the photos with Santa. A record I think! We are very grateful.

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

The following clubs will continue as this term – netball (Mondays), Football (Tuesdays) and Art Club (Fridays). Mrs Skinner is going to run a Country Dance Club on Mondays, open to all children in years 2 to 6. The children will be working towards taking part in a Country Dance Festival in March.

### WIDER OPPORTUNITIES MUSIC

'Wider Opportunities' is a national scheme to give every child in Key Stage 2 the opportunity to play instruments in class groups, taught by experienced music teachers. We have arranged for our children to have ten sessions per class playing percussion. These sessions will be taught by Miss Atkinson and Mr Coldrick, another music teacher. Classes 3 and 4 will have their sessions on Wednesday afternoons next term, beginning on 6th January, with Class 5 following after Easter. This is a great opportunity for all and I am sure that the children will learn a lot and have a lot of fun. You will be invited in to hear them play at the end of the programme.





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# Tributes to Jack Burgess, player

# and Beaconista



About a year before Jack & Jean Burgess arrived in Painswick the Society was no longer active and to stimulate a revival we needed a talented and enthusiastic director to move into Painswick. Well, if we could have sent those requirements to Central Casting, they would surely have given us Jack Burgess.

Jack contributed so much to Painswick Players in so very many ways. He was an experienced actor and director and a gifted script-writer - the sketches and pantomimes which he wrote for Painswick Players were subsequently published. Offstage he was also a committee member and excellent publicity officer as well as serving three years as chairman of the Players. His publicity column for the Players in the "Painswick Beacon", giving his humorous interpretation of our activities, raised our profile in the community and promoted interest in our productions. We were able to acknowledge Jack's achievements at the end of his chairmanship, by making him a life member. Jack's unfailing and unique humour enlivened everything he undertook and we shall miss him greatly.

On his arrival in Painswick Jack used his extensive previous dramatic experience to provide the impetus for our revival. He was able to gather and motivate a group of Players, keeping drama alive in our community when otherwise it would probably have faded away. Many people with a variety of talents were involved in the revival of PaDS in the late 1990's, but it was Jack who drew us all together and set the direction. He had the great gift of making it all enjoyable and the ability to relate easily to a wide variety of people.

Having revived the Players, Jack went on to shape our direction for the next decade. He directed or co-directed seven full-length plays in addition to revues and the Players' annual contribution to the Painswick Victorian Day as well as appearing in at least fifteen productions. It was good that in his final stage appearance earlier this year in "Gaslight" he was able to play the lead opposite Jean, emphasising their wonderful partnership, both on and off stage.

It was an inspired idea on Jack's part to mark the Millennium by returning the Society to its original name of Painswick Players, connecting us back to our roots. His research ensured that we had a full record of the Players' history and productions for our archive and the website which he created for us. Our 80th anniversary production, "Living Legends" in 2003, was also Jack's idea, as was so much of what we have done over the last twelve years. Probably Jack's greatest dramatic achievement was directing the Players in "A Man for All Seasons" in St Mary's Church as part of the Painswick Festival in 2004. We had not attempted anything on such a scale before and once again Jack's ability to bring together and direct a team of diverse talents, ensured a highly successful production, which will long be remembered.

Jack had many other interests as well, which makes us even more grateful that he gave us so much of his time and talents. Everything he undertook was done with the help and support of Jean, reminding us that, most importantly, Jack was a husband and father. We offer Jean, Suzie and Robert our love, sympathy and support at this time. Thank you, Jack, on behalf of the Players, for all the memories and the good times; we shall miss your sure touch and your unique wit.



It was thus that Jack addressed his Painswick Beacon colleagues, and as an ever 'switched on' professional and friend that he will be remembered.

The end product, what readers receive in our pages, requires a measure of teamwork and perception for which the widest possible range of previous experience and knowledge of the realities of our community are critical assets. In Jack we were to benefit directly and in the fullest measure

from such talents, and that has been testified by the innumerable expressions of regret at his passing made to us.

Ever flexible but ever perceptive in his approach, Jack was to consolidate our ability to widen our use of the latest in technology in discharging our self-imposed remit of conveying accurate and meaningful information within this community. That there may have been occasions when restraint needed to be exercised was testimony to his eagerness to 'publish and be damned'.

That quotation is attributed to the Iron Duke, and it is with another that our colleague will also be remembered; 'Be discreet in all things, and so render it unnecessary to be mysterious about any'.

The prematurely empty chair and silenced keyboard stunned us beyond our comprehension. They have, however, silently empowered us to build upon deeply appreciated characteristics and urged us to continue to 'sharpen' our humour and our endeavours.

With lasting pride in our co-relationship, and enduring love.

*Andrew Leach*

*Leslie Brotherton*

The performance of 'Confusions' by Painswick Players between 6th and 8th May, preliminary details of which are published separately on page 6, will be marked as the singular public tribute to Jack.

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# Painswick Radio – it's your show

The Painswick Hour has been transmitted now every Tuesday morning from 9.00 to 10.00am on Stroud FM 107.9 ( www.stroudfm.co.uk ) for about a month. This has shown us newcomers to broadcasting that it can be done.



We feel that the programme needs to be more structured so we will attempt that during January. The next transmission will be on Tuesday 2nd February at the usual time – 9.00 to 10.00am.

In the meantime if you are involved in any organization in the village and especially if you have a forthcoming event, please contact one of the people at the bottom of this article to record a short item for broadcasting. This will become easier in January as the Beacon is buying a hand held solid state portable recorder which will be kept in the village. There will be a training morning or afternoon in February to show potential broadcasters how to use it. Apparently it is not difficult as it is solid state and uses SD memory cards so there won't be loops of unravelling tape about the place you want to know more, contact any of the people below.

Chris Scott on [chris@scottwild.co.uk](mailto:chris@scottwild.co.uk) or by phone on 813907

Martin Slinger on [martinandmaryslinger@uk2.net](mailto:martinandmaryslinger@uk2.net) or by phone on 07855.162676 or 01453.763105

George Krasker on [krasker@gmail.com](mailto:krasker@gmail.com) or by phone on 01452.864175

or myself, Charles Dorman, on [chasdorm@gmail.com](mailto:chasdorm@gmail.com) or by phone on 814548



# Our apologies

## Thick covers

Probably due to mistaken enthusiasm once Inky Little Fingers, our quality printers in Churcham, saw how fine the cover colour was last month, they pressed the wrong button and 1500 Beacons shot off the production line with thicker covers than usual.

On the plus side, they will be more durable, but on the 'down' side our sixty or so distributors had a significant extra weight to carry along our village highways to your door. And it was already 'Directory' month too!

We hope all have now recovered, but do sincerely pass on our apologies.

# The Parish Council's Boxing Day walk

After the snow and frost of previous days the walkers were relieved to hear the weather forecast which promised a fine, sunny and mild day. The forecast was accurate as, following a rain shower earlier in the morning, the clouds gave way to a clear blue sky with glorious sunshine. There were fewer walkers than in the past but that may have been because of the expected



difficult conditions underfoot where the ice had not thawed: however the customary two dogs were present. Because of the conditions it was decided to keep to the road up Stepping Stone Lane and along Wick Street before taking the path alongside Hawkwood College to Folly Lane and then returning to Stamages Lane car park via Frith Wood and Greenhouse Lane. An enjoyable morning with, as always on such walks, interesting conversations en route.

*Terry Parker*



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**Tennis Club**

At the recent Painswick Tennis Club AGM, three of the club's juniors were recognized for their achievements over the last year. Nina Perry was awarded the Maureen Connolly Cup. Having progressed through mini, red and orange levels of the game Nina is now competing in, and winning, green tournaments. She is definitely one of the club's most promising young stars and one to watch for the future as is Oliver Williams who received the Boris Becker Trophy. A talented newcomer to the club, Ollie has not been playing tennis long, but has already had quite an impact. He won the club parent child tournament together with his father, and proved a huge asset to the U14 NJCL team over the summer. He is now rapidly rising up the U16 Gloucestershire rankings competing in a variety of local tournaments.

Georgina Smith was this year's recipient of the Peter Bolton Cup. Georgi, who is in her last year at school, is probably one of the last of the juniors to have been coached by Pete. Her approach to tennis embodies all that he represented and she is still enjoying the game every bit as much as she did in those days with Pete over nine years ago.



**Rugby**

The adverse weather conditions have meant that a number of matches have had to be called off.

**Results** [(L) indicates Gloucestershire Division 1. (M) Citizen Marit Table.  
Sat 5th December. (L) Painswick 1st XV 20 Old Cryptians 1st XV 3.  
Sat 12th December. (L) Cheltenham Civil Service 1st XV 15 Painswick 1st XV 15.  
(M) Chosen Hill FP 2nd XV 57 Painswick United 7.

**January fixtures**

Sat 9th. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Ashley Down 1st XV.  
Sat 16th. (L) Dursley 1st XV v Painswick 1st XV. (M) Dursley 2nd XV v Painswick United.  
Sat 23rd. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Bishopston 1st XV.  
(M) Painswick United v Cirencester 2nd XV.  
Sat 30th. (L) Longlevens 1st XV v Painswick 1st XV.  
(M) Painswick United v Old Patesians 3rd XV.  
February  
Sat 6th. Cainscross 1st XV v Painswick 1st XV. Painswick United v Bream 2nd XV.

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**The Stroud Choral Society's "Missa Solemnis"**

With a Painswickian chairman and many Painswickian Singers in the choir of the Stroud Choral Society, I feel that a brief report of their recent concert in Cheltenham Town Hall will be of interest to Beacon readers.

Beethoven's "Missa Solemnis" is a tremendously powerful work which however is relatively seldom performed as it represents a massive challenge placing great demands on choir, orchestra, soloists and audience alike. Led superbly by their outgoing conductor and joined by the Monmouth Choral Society, a strengthened Regency Sinfonia orchestra and an elite quartet of Soprano, Mezzo, Tenor and Bass soloists – all excellent - they gave a magnificent performance.

This will serve as a lasting testament to their conductor Ben Nicholas' fruitful association with Stroud Choral Society. He is leaving to join the Choral Foundation at Merton College, Oxford, and will be followed as musical director by former St. Paul's Cathedral's organist Huw Williams.

*Ralph Kenber*

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# Nativity charmers

The children of Painswick Playgroup have been busy in the run up to Christmas, rehearsing and putting on three performances of their nativity. Firstly for older brothers and sisters who attend The Croft School and the residents of Resthaven. Then two shows for parents and relatives. The children, some as young as 2 years 9 months, were amazing and as well as taking part, they also sang many Christmas songs. The hard work and encouragement of the staff, led by Beaty Bell, was rewarded with lots of happy little faces and very proud parents.



Thank you playgroup staff for all your hard work in 2009; Beaty, Linsey, Sharron, Sarah Taylor, Caroline and Sarah and thank you to all the parents who volunteer their time to help too. It is valued and appreciated and what makes Painswick Playgroup such a lovely place.

*Emma Bradshaw*



*Christmas may have receded in memory when you view these pictures, but these images will endure for every parent and audience. Ed.*



## Are you a missing link?



Drawing copy together for each edition of the Beacon is a pleasurable exercise, reading what correspondents have to say, laying it out in the page to appear neat and tidy, adding photographs wherever possible and of reasonable quality.

This month I paused a moment, and realised the massive range of inputs we might have received, but which had not come our way. So, this opportunity is taken to encourage just about every reader to reflect upon whether they have something to contribute. Glancing through the Directory it occurs to me that items of between 100 and 400 words could make very interesting reading for others on topics such as the plus points of running a B&B, the toughest aspect of running a business at present, changing patterns of visitor spending, how I came to be an art enthusiast, clients of blacksmiths today, the personal pleasure gained from regular dancing, the complexities of running a delicatessen.

And I have only glanced at the first eight pages.. Come on, we want to hear from you.

*Ed.*

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# Local History Teaser

This dear old lady, delicately holding a rose and looking determinedly at the camera, presents something of a mystery. Who exactly was she? We should love to hear from you if you can shed any light as to her identity.

Last month's charming photograph showed boys at the Gyde Home telling Father Christmas what they hoped for on Christmas morning. The picture was sent by Brian Jubb, who lived in the Home in the 1940s and 1950s. Brian explains that each boy took his turn to go to the fireplace and say what he hoped to receive, whilst in the background someone took note of each request. In this picture Sister Iris Cooke is sitting with some of the boys. Next to her in the striped pyjamas is Tony Pierson, the boy sitting with his back to the fire is Michael MacMurry, on the other side of the fire is Derrick Davies and the little boy Sister Iris is holding back is Geoffrey Davies. Our thanks to Brian for providing such a touching Christmas photograph and indeed to Sister Iris for remembering the boys' names from way back in 1957.



### ... and the Local History Society

The first meeting of 2010 will take place at the Croft School on Tuesday, 19 January when Mr John Loosley will give a presentation on early English allotments (a veritable hot topic for Painswick!). The meeting starts at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome.

Carol Maxwell

### ... and the Local History Society

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Carol Maxwell

# Ivor Gurney

Gloucestershire has been the birth place of many an eminent son, but none can equal Ivor Gurney for his dual skills as composer and poet. We were given an inspired insight to the works and colourful life of this man by Philip Lancaster a month ago. Philip is undertaking an in depth study of all material which can be assembled upon Gurney, and is based at the Archive Office in Gloucester for the purpose; and PaMAG were inspired by the wealth of previously little known facts and dedication of the boy and the man. He conveyed his earnest passion and ensured that a packed meeting of PaMAG were themselves enthused.

Born in what was then Queen Street in Gloucester in 1890, the young Gurney was a chorister in the cathedral when 10 years old and articulated – together with Herbert Howells - to Dr. Herbert Brewer six years later. He was to meet the future poet FW Harvey who was born in Hartbury, and after being awarded a scholarship to the Royal College of Music in 1911 he was to meet and learn from such as Charles Stanford, Vaughan Williams, John Ireland, Frank Bridge and Arthur Bliss. For an impressionable lad we can get some feel for the influences upon him. Stanford told Howells that Ivor was the greatest of them all, indeed 'unteachable'. Perhaps his greatest hero was Edward Elgar he had witnessed conducting his magnum opus 'The Dream of Gerontius' in the Three Choir's Festival in 1905. Gurney composed his own unpublished 'Coronation March'



when he was 20, and we were able to discern the influence Elgar had exerted.

Gurney interrupted his studies to enlist as a private soldier in the Gloucestershire Regiment, was wounded in April 1917 and gassed later that year. After his release from hospital he was posted to Northumberland where his poetry was to come to the fore with such as 'Lying awake in the ward'. His first volume of poetry, *Severn and Somme*, was published in November 1917, followed by *War's Embers* in 1919.

These columns do not permit adequate representation of the sensitivity of the music Gurney composed or the extent of his poetry, almost all of which was steeped in his close identity with the Gloucestershire countryside he knew and deeply loved from his walking just about everywhere, including Painswick and its beacon.

It was, for the county and indeed the nation, that Gurney's life was to end so tragically. He suffered from bipolar disorder which began to be apparent in 1913 but caused a major breakdown when he was still in uniform aged 28, probably from shell shock. His own family had him declared insane and he was to spend the last fifteen years of his life in mental hospitals, commencing with Barnwood. He is buried aged 47 in Twigworth to which his family had moved, his gravestone stating 'Composer and Poet of the Severn and Somme'.

Leslie Brotherton



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## Out-Painswick news

Last month we reminded readers that 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. We had particular cause to share this reminder as two out-Painswick items could not find space.

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. Any decision not to carry an item comes late in the layout process, so we suggest that reliance upon the Beacon for out-Painswick publicity cannot be guaranteed.

## Treat yourself at Hugh and Michelle's Open Day

On Saturday, 16th January, there will be a very special open day at the Three Gables Surgery in Cheltenham Road. The aim is to promote an awareness of the holistic therapies on offer either by experiencing some free tasters or simply having a chat.

Hugh Shewring has just recently joined the practice as a craniosacral therapist and is keen to introduce more people to the benefits of this treatment. Founded in osteopathy, craniosacral therapy is very much a self-healing process using the body's natural capacity for self-repair. It involves listening with the hands to the body's rhythms, the attunement helping to relieve any tensions, stress and pain in the body and raising the vitality levels. It can be used to help with mental and physical medical conditions, all levels of pain, even trauma, or simply as a relaxation method leading to a greater feeling of wellbeing. Adults, children and babies can all derive enormous benefit.

Hugh learned the necessary skills at the School of Resonance Training in Stroud. This two-year course involved in-depth training in both knowledge and application. He has practised in Cirencester and more recently from home in Whiteway. The Three Gables Surgery is the only centre in Painswick offering this therapy.

Michelle Robinson is already well established as a complementary therapist at the surgery, having started when the practice opened two years ago. Her therapies also have a wide range of benefits for a variety of conditions and treating the whole person. Michelle offers Swedish massage, Indian head massage, reflexology, aromatherapy and hot stone massage.



## "Where have all the berries gone - ?"

The rust red of the flanks perching and underwing in flight, defines the redwing. It shares a mottled breast pattern with its cousin thrush, the fieldfare, mixed flocks of the two species, winter-visiting us to harvest berry and apple. Members sighted these feasting in gardens in November and we hope that visitors may like to contribute their own sightings at the February lecture meeting in the usual starter session.



First however, will be the field trip to Cotswold Water Park on Wednesday, 20th January arriving at 10.30am. Ali Swainston, Head Ranger will lead, showing off such great birds as smew, gossander, pochard, gadwall and perhaps a wintering chiffchaff. Good warm, waterproof clothing and boots are advised for the trip as conditions are likely to be muddy. Meeting point- Gateway Centre, just off the A419, Cirencester to Swindon Road on the B4696 Spine Road (SU072971) Lifts can usually be arranged with notice; phone 813094 or 810804.

*Martin and Wendy Addy*

## BEACO-DOKU

Derived from Sudoku, Beaco-doku replaces the numbers with letters. Last month's answer used the letters

from T-I-N-S-E-L as you can see.

There is much evidence of W-I-N-T-E-R around, so we have the word for this month. So see if you can fill the blank squares in the

	E				
				E	
E	W			N	T
	R	T			
					E
			T	R	N

R	E	W	N	T	I
I	T	N	W	E	R
E	W	I	R	N	T
N	R	T	E	I	W
T	N	R	I	W	E
W	I	E	T	R	N

grid on the left so that each column, each row and each block of six squares contains each of those six letters without repetition.

Both Hugh and Michelle are keen to encourage everyone to come along on the open day to find out more about this interesting and special range of services and to try a little taster too. You can simply drop in at any time from 9.30am onwards or telephone (814427) beforehand for an appointment time if you would like to try one of the therapies.

*Carol Maxwell*

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# Happy New Year from your Village Agent



What a surprise, let's start January with some New Years resolutions. If resolutions are like goals, let's make them realistic and achievable and useful.

Resolution number 1; If you think that you feel vulnerable in any way, whether it be because you might have a fall, or you are feeling a bit scared being on your own, then please think seriously about getting a personal alarm which you wear. If you already have a pendant and leave it hanging on the mug rack or beside your bed (you know who you are!!), please go get it now and put it around your neck.

The alarms need to be tested once a month so put a reminder on your calendar for a set day each month and give the red button a push. By the mystery of science the switchboard that receives your call can tell if your battery is low and arrange for it to be replaced. Imagine how ironic and possibly tragic it would be not to realize that the battery was dead on the one time you needed help?

Resolution No. 2; If you are the main carer for someone, and understandably might be feeling concerned about what would happen to them if an emergency situation occurred with you, there is some back up help in the form of "The Carers Emergency Scheme". It works on two levels. Level 1 works by nominating two contacts that will check on the person you are caring for if you are unable to because of an accident/ emergency or illness. Level 2 is in the situation where you are looking after someone with high care needs. There is the option of having a support worker provided by the County Council for 48 hours in an emergency situation Contact Carers Gloucestershire on 01452.386283 and an advice worker will enroll you for Level 1, and for Level 2, you will need to contact The Adult Help Desk on 01452.426868 who can arrange for you to have a carer's assessment and complete an emergency support plan.

## Directory 2010AD

Our attention will doubtless be drawn to some data in the 2010 Directory which may require alteration. One has caught our eye and is given below. We cannot include every subsequent one in these pages but others arising during the next twelve months will be altered on our web edition in due course.

Page 27 delete

Parish Councillor - Painswick Ward  
Robert F Cox

insert

Ela Pathak-Sen  
Culvert Cottage, Kingsmill Lane  
GL6 6RT  
07595.905414  
ela@commotionuk.com

Resolution No 3; This is aimed at anyone of us with a mobile phone. If we have an accident how are preferred contacts going to know? Add "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) to your list of contacts and put in your choice of contacts.

Resolution No 4. There is a free information event coming up on the 9th of February in the Sub Rooms in Stroud looking at what changes are going to take place in Adult Social Care over the next few years. These changes are designed to give older people more choice and control over how they can get the support they might need to stay healthy and live independently for as long as possible. A whole range of information is going to be available and (this is where the resolution comes in), if you're inclined to say "well, I'd quite like to go, but..." ring your Village Agent instead and see how I can help you with the "but". I'm happy to take people and a free buffet lunch will be provided!

Please call me to discuss any aspect of this article, or any other issue which is causing you concern.

Lou Kemp on 07776.245767

## PROPERTY REPORT for December from Murrays

Firstly let me welcome you all to a New Year and I do hope that for all of us it will be a prosperous and good one! I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and are recovering suitably from it!

The end of last year for the property market was a surprisingly successful one and one of the busiest I can remember! The property prices went up again nationwide by another 0.5% and we at Murrays saw a surge of new sales before the Christmas period began. The fact that the property prices seem to be rising though is a direct result of there not being enough new property or property as a whole on the market. The number of houses on sale is rising but demand is still outstripping supply. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors have said that the number of surveyors reporting an increase in house prices nationwide had risen to its highest level since November 2006. So therefore there are reasons to be very positive for the New Year. We do need new properties so please do give us a ring and find out more about selling and take advantage of our free valuation service. Buyer inquiries are continuing to grow and

there is a very good chance in the New Year that we could see a further wave of interest in the market.

We have continued over the festive period to take on some lovely new properties, including No. 2 Sunny Terrace, a charming two bedroom cottage with lovely views on Vicarage Street, No. 2 Spring Cottages, a very well presented four bedroom house right in the centre of the village just off New Street, Wynch Cottage Slad Road a detached four bedroom stone cottage on the outskirts of Slad, Pen-Y-Gaer, a four bedroom chalet style house in an acre of gardens in Edge, 4 Rectory Close, a beautifully presented four bedroom house in Upton St.Leonards and 3 Mulberry Gardens, an impressive six bedroom house in immaculate condition on Robinswood Hill in Gloucester.

Properties that are now under offer are Doveton Lodge in Hambutts Mead, 32 Ashwell, and Sunny Bank in Whaddon and properties that are now sold are Greenhouse Barn on Greenhouse Lane, Kingsmill Lane Cottage, Brookhouse Mill and Inglebrook Cottage in Pitchcombe.

James Murray



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## JANUARY 2010

Mon	11	Short Mat Bowls - Mondays (contact 813627) Yoga (Mondays) contact Kim 812623	Town Hall Sheepscombe Vill. Hall	10.30am 6.30 to 8.00pm & 8.15 to 9.45pm
Tue	12	Dog Training Club (Tuesdays)	Christ Church Hall	9.30 to 12.00noon
Wed	13	Yoga (Wednesdays) contact Kim 812623 Horticultural Society: The Trials and Pleasures of being a Bloom Town - Jenny Bailey Bingo: Wednesdays – Tel. Ann, 813911/Liz, 813139	Sheepscombe Vill. Hall Town Hall	9.30 to 11.00am 2.30pm
Thu	14	Yoga - All Abilities (Thursdays) Cotswold Room 812623 T'ai Chi: Thursdays - Contact 812344 Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners - Thursdays Experienced beginners - Thursdays	Painswick Centre Painswick Centre Town Hall Town Hall Town Hall	7.30 to 10.00pm 9.30 to 11.00am 9.30am 12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm
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 (see p 6)	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 (see p 15) Parish Council	Shires Room, Falcon Gateway Centre Town Hall	10.00am 10.30am 7.30pm
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
Sat	23	<b>Copy dateline for February Beacon</b>		
Sun	24	Agape at The Bistro for Christian Unity Week	The Bistro	7.00pm
Mon	25	Community Lunch: Hosts - Tennis Club	Christ Church Hall	12 noon to 1.15pm
Tue	26	Catwalk Event - Fashion Show Yew Trees W I: A Visit to the Web - Glynn Nixon	Croft School Town Hall	7.00pm 7.30pm
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

Mon	1	Community Lunch: Hosts - Yew Trees W.I.	Christ Church Hall	12 noon to 1.15pm
Tue	2	<b>and 3rd</b> Auditions for Alan Ayckbourn's 'Confusions' (see p 6)	Cotswold Room, Painswick Centre	7.30pm
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	<b>February Issue of The Painswick Beacon published</b> Theatre Club Outing to Cheltenham	Stamages Car Park	1.30pm
Mon	8	Community Lunch: Hosts - Stroud District Council	Christ Church Hall	12 noon to 1.15pm
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
Mon	15	Community Lunch: Hosts - Falcon Bowling Club	Christ Church Hall	12 noon to 1.15pm
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
Mon	22	Community Lunch: Hosts - Conservation Society	Christ Church Hall	12 noon to 1.15pm
Tue	23	Yew Trees W I: Planning a Wardrobe - Sarah Cook	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	24	Digital switch-over explained	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
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**MARCH**

Mon	1	Community Lunch: Hosts - Richmond Village	Christ Church Hall	12 noon to 1.15pm
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	11.00am
Mon	8	Community Lunch: Hosts - Sylvia & David Walker	Christ Church Hall	12 noon to 1.15pm
Wed	10	Horticultural Society: The True Cottage Garden - Kim Hurst	Town Hall	7.30pm
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	7.30pm 10.00am to 1.00pm
Sat	13	Beacon Quiz	Painswick Centre	7.00 for 7.30pm
Mon	15	Community Lunch: Hosts - Croft School	Christ Church Hall	12 noon to 1.15pm
Tue	16	Local History Society: Streetwise - Exploring Towns - Aylwin Sampson	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	17	Probus: The Island of Arran and the Islay Whisky Trail - Ian Wilcox	Shires Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	18	Music Appreciation Group: Strike up the Band - Michael Kerton	Cotswold Room, Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Mon	22	Community Lunch: Hosts - Park Residents	Christ Church Hall	12 noon to 1.15pm
Tue	23	Yew Trees W I: Wild Flowers of Gloucestershire - Rosemary West	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	24	Television - Digital Switch-over		
Fri	26	"The Road to Calvary" - Passion Play by theatre group "Clydach" from Swansea	St Mary's Church	7.00pm
Sat	27	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party. (location check 812709) Painswick Music Society Concert - Tasmin Little (violin) & John Lenehan (piano)	Painswick Beacon St Mary's Church	10.00am to 1.00pm 3.00pm
Wed	31	Probus: Tragedy on the Thames - Peter Talbot	Shires Room, Falcon	10.00am

**APRIL**

Thu	1	Music Appreciation Group	Richmond, Painswick	7.30pm
Fri	2	Good Friday Procession of Witness	Catholic Church	10.30am
Sat	3	Theatre Club Outing to Cheltenham	Stamages Car Park	1.30pm
Thu	8	Bird Club: "A Wandering Warden's Eye" - Andy Warren, Ecological Consultant	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat	10	Painswick Music Society Concert: The Carducci Quartet	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Wed	14	Probus: Islam - Richard Long Horticultural Society: Box, Yew & Topiary - Roger Turner	Shires Room, Falcon Town Hall	10.00am 7.30pm
Tue	20	Local History Society: Research Evening	Croft School	7.30pm
Thu	22	Music Appreciation Group: Concert Outing to Colston Hall	Bristol	7.30pm
Sat	24	Painswick Music Society Concert: The Talich Quartet	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Tue	27	Yew Trees W I: Bletchley Park - Kitty Smithies	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	28	Probus AGM Bird Club Field Trip: Morning stroll with Gordon Avery around Frampton	Shires Room, Falcon Vicarage Road, Frampton	10.00am 10.30am
Thu	29	Music Appreciation Group: Members Night	Cotswold Room, Painswick Centre	7.30pm

**MAY**

Sat	8	Painswick Music Society Concert: Jayson Gillham, Piano	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Sun	9	Bird Club Field Trip: The Dawn Chorus at Ebworth Centre - led by Rob Palmer.	Ebworth Centre	4.30am (to be confirmed)
Wed	12	Probus: Women in Wartime. Poems & Readings - Philippa Roberts Horticultural Society AGM & talk followed by refreshments	Shires Room, Falcon Town Hall	10.00am 7.30pm
Tue	18	Local History Society: Annual Outing - details later		
Tue	25	Yew Trees W I: The Barb Owl Centre - Vincent Jones	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	26	Probus:	Shires Room, Falcon	10.00am



**NEW APPLICATIONS**

HAZEL MILL, SLAD ROAD, STROUD. Replacement rear extension, removal of 2 modern windows and replace with painted softwood sash windows to match original, repairs to mill building.

SEAGRIMS COTTAGE, PINCOT LANE. Discharge of condition 5 of planning permission S.09/0170/VAR. PYLL HOUSE, SHEEPSCOMBE. Erection of single storey extension. 3 VICARAGE STREET. Internal alterations.

LATCHETTS, KINGSMEAD. Cut back branches to ash trees. 10 PULLENS ROAD. Erection of 2 storey extension. Enlargement of existing garage and room over.

**PLANS WITHDRAWN**

Land adjacent to MILLBROOK HOUSE, KINGS MILL LANE. Erection of one dwelling. THE NEW HOUSE, FRIDAY STREET. Erection of extension to existing balcony.

**Complaint**

At the meeting of the Parish Council on 9th December the Vice Chairman, Martin Slinger, read out the following statement:

*"I wish to take exception to the editor of the Parish Council news item on the precept and the amount of time it was presented at the last Parish Council meeting.*

*The clerk and myself spent some 4 hours discussing the building up of accounts to form the precept for the year 2010/2011 adding and subtracting many items, then it was put before the finance committee on two occasions, before being agreed (these two meetings taking up some 4 hours). Before agreement the drafts are put into every Parish Councillors tray for them to study for their acceptance at a Parish Council meeting, after any query is discussed. On top of all this the clerk spent some 8 hours doing the budget for the precept."*

The report was mine, and I have of course revisited the words I used and the notes I made at the time.

No explanation of the time it took Mr Slinger, the Clerk, or others to prepare the budget upon which the precept was founded was given at the meeting although I took it upon myself to more than hint to readers the arduousness of such a process by pointing out that two meetings of the F&GP Committee had been required. The reality was, as stated in my report, that there was no debate upon the figures tabled and indeed they were effectively approved 'on the nod' in a matter of minutes.

While the Beacon is only too pleased to now carry the breakdown of hours actually applied to the task as supplied to us we have no intention of modifying our style of reporting. While a hint of humour may have permeated my report I have nothing to retract.

Purists may access the sterile minutes of the proceedings by visiting the Council Office but not, it seems, currently on its web site.

*Leslie Brotherton*

**ArchiTecs**

Last month we once again invited those who look upwards to identify where these two chimney pots might be located. Yuleston in Victoria Square would have struck home.



After five years of such testing of powers of observation we cannot help but wonder if there is continuing interest in such taxing tasks.

If we receive a few squeals of anguish at there not being any more environmental tests of this kind in these pages, appropriate restorative action will be taken.

**MINI-ADS**

**Use of a horse schooling ménage** or other suitable area within hacking distance of Edge wanted. Also, horse jumps, schooling poles etc. Paula 813040.

**Cranham Cottage To Let.** Springfield is a pretty character cottage. 2 Bedrooms, 3rd bedroom/office(en-suite). Wooden floors, open fireplace, modern bathrooms. £695 available end January. Pauline Lind-eque 01452.814198.

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# The Personal Column

Rachel Taylor and Jenny Gaugain

## Babies

Congratulations to SUZY BURGESS and ARYEL GREEN on the birth of Ryder Jack on 26th December, first grandchild for Jean Burgess,

and, for the first notified to us this year, to TAMMY and JAMES FISHER on the birth of Dylan James on 2nd January, a second grandchild for Liz and Anthony Fisher,

also to Joan Wells whose daughter HELEN had a son, Jeremy on 22nd October: both Helen and her brother MICHAEL, who is getting married to JOANNA EUSTACE, now live in Melbourne, Australia.

## Get well soon

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to JOHN McCABE who has been in hospital recently.

## Welcome

We would like to welcome Mrs RUTH OVERS and her sons who have moved into Forge Cottage, Butt Green,

also Mr and Mrs ROBERT SKELTON who have moved into Greenhouse Barn, Greenhouse Lane,

and CAROLINE POVEY and HAMISH DONALDSON who have moved to Inglenook Cottage in Pitchcombe, and JOHN and ANGELA HITCHCOCK to Kingsmill Lane Cottage

## Deaths

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of JACK BURGESS, DOREEN BIRT, FRANCIS OTWAY, PEGEEN MASTERS, JIM WISE, LINDA DALLEY, and ELIZABETH OAKLEY who have all died recently.

## Personal messages

**Jean Burgess** and family would like to thank all those who sent cards and messages of support and comfort after the death of Jack. "He would have been amazed that so many people felt moved to write in such a way, and I feel proud that he touched so many lives in such a positive way."

**Jane Otway** would like to thank all friends and neighbours for the many letters and cards she has received in memory of Francis. They are a great comfort, especially as his death was so sudden.

## Gloucestershire Nightstop

are recruiting hosts for

### Supported Lodgings

for young people aged 16-19. Do you have a spare bedroom?

One young person commented after a Nightstop: "They (the hosts) were very nice people and made me feel very welcome. I was grateful of their hospitality. If Nightstop wasn't there, I would be walking the streets, cold and hungry".

Do you have a spare room so you could make this sort of difference for a homeless young person? We are looking for people that have an empathy with young people and are able to offer a room and support for up to six weeks at a time. In return you will receive training, support and

payment of up to £160.00 a week. If you are interested in helping a local charity help local young people please call for more details on 01452.331330

Claran Murphy

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