

# The Painswick Beacon

*Sine praeiudicio*

Volume 33 Number 10

January 2011

## As in days of yore



Maybe times are changing, maybe global warming is affecting weather patterns, but few paused to do other than marvel at the sheer beauty created by snowfall - before going about the business of moving around with safety.

It is to be hoped that publication of the Beacon coincides with a lessening of the numerous difficulties which arise from events like these. Greatly anticipated family get-togethers postponed, travel by any means severely restricted - if not downright dangerous, otherwise well stocked larders revealing gaps in their shelves.

Numerous tales will have been told of hardships, and how they were mostly overcome by helping one another, so selecting any for this column could only be invidious.

Those of us of 'a certain age' can, however, clearly recall that such carpeting with snow is not new to our experience at Christmastides past, coupled with day-long enjoyment now only distant memories.

## Painswickian of the Year

The first to help, generous with her time, kind, caring and thoughtful – these are just a few of the sentiments expressed by many of you about Helen Baker, our Painswickian of the Year. And on being told the news she, true to character, immediately uttered words of disbelief saying that others were more worthy of the accolade.

A truly good person, Helen quietly and modestly does so much right here in our midst. Despite having two or three part-time jobs, she also organises the Ashwell lunch club where she is always willing to take on extra duties, she is on the cleaning rota for the Church of Our Lady and St Therese, she runs a weekly Bible study group in her home and she jointly organises coffee mornings for various charities. She is always the first to help but does so quietly as she does not like to be noticed and certainly does not hope for reward or recognition.

“Helen is just there for everyone and she’s always pleasant, making everyone feel welcome,” says one friend. She visits people who are sick, offers help when necessary, is sympathetic to the underdog and always sees good in people. Viewed by her neighbours as a truly caring person, she is thoroughly reliable, is very generous hearted and does not feel worthy of being singled out, insisting that others should be mentioned too.

Born in London, her parents moved to Andover at the outbreak of war and then to Middlesex after the war. Helen came to live in Painswick in 1967. “My first views of Painswick coming in from Birdlip were breathtaking,” she says “and I still have that feeling every time I return from being away. It’s a privilege and I’m lucky to live in Painswick. For someone living alone it’s like having an extended family.” Her many friends here are important to her as are her two daughters and four grandchildren.



**On other pages this month:** quiz early warning, **that cocky bird**, wearable artfest, **active in Afghanistan**, centre development, **avian concerns**, brain teaser solution, **library (etc.)** and that '**big offer**', walking + rugby, **winter recycling**, a music mistress, **Coopers Hill progress**, letters, **chilly teaser**.

Despite her busy schedule, which includes two sessions a week serving in the Post Office which she enjoys very much, Helen finds time to indulge in a much-loved hobby. She had in the past hoped to pursue a career in art but “it never happened.” For the last five years she has taken art classes with Jane Garbett in Painswick. “I love it,” she says. In fact, she is very talented.

Helen Baker is a quiet, unassuming lady who gives positive and practical help voluntarily and discreetly. She is a real asset to Painswick and in recognition for all the good works and deeds she provides she deserves without a doubt the title of Painswickian of the Year.

*Carol Maxwell*

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - by Leslie Brotherton

Reports upon meetings of the Parish Council cannot help but be selective, if only because of space constraints. We try to highlight points of wide public interest, based upon what we see and hear. The full minutes of Council and committee meetings are available for scrutiny at the Council's office and elsewhere.



## PLANNING

### District Council: Development Control

Chairman David Hudson reported having attended a Planning Forum on the previous day, at which the latest procedural arrangements to be operated by SDC were explained and discussed.

Decisions as to which items were to be considered by their full committee will now be made by the Chairman of that committee in consultation with officers, all others being delegated. While Parish Councils or others could no longer act to ensure committee consideration, the submission of information supplementary to that which is solely within planning regulations will be welcomed, so that a clearer picture can be obtained by SDC of the context and concerns of local people - the Parish Council included.

### Definitions: Residential v Domestic

Some concerns were once again expressed upon the use of either of these two words to describe intended works when applications were made; on this occasion where it is proposed that a farm change to 'domestic' use. Councillors were worried that in such an instance permission might have implications for the future use of the land around the property, or other buildings existing on the site. Encouraged by Terry Parker it was agreed to obtain absolute clarity about the seemingly interchangeable definitions from SDC.

### Highbury, Cheltenham Road

Members were opposed to the retrospective application for seemingly complex works which had been undertaken including erection of a conservatory and changes to the roof and first floor gables. They had the impression that works had in fact been carried out which had not been included in the plans.

## PARISH COUNCIL

District Councillor Frances Roden was invited to address the meeting and used the opportunity to discuss communications and the manner in which local issues, which she regarded as her first priority, are best brought to her attention. As Leader of the District Council there

were considerable pressures on her time, and many meetings to attend centrally and throughout the district, but she laid store upon her weekly contributions to the press regarding the activities of the District Council and receiving enquiries by Email. Mrs Roden expressed concern that she had not received Parish Council minutes in recent months, which omission Terry Parker undertook to reverse immediately. She also indicated the desire of herself and Barbara Tait to attend meetings of the Parish Council whenever they could, but regularity was not always achievable.

In response to a question Mrs Roden indicated that a full review was being undertaken into refuse and recycling collection to see if greater efficiency could be achieved. Chairman Terry Parker expressed the Council's appreciation of this discussion and recognition of the work-load she was undertaking.

### Allotments: Mop Tree site

Martin Slinger made a verbal report upon the status of negotiations with the Manorship regarding access to the Mop Tree site across common land and that Selina Blow had intimated, by copy of messages she had sent to others, that she was unable to support the proposed access point. He also reported the withdrawal of sites at Resthaven from the list of possible locations.

The Council agreed that they should not abandon the possibility of use of the Mop Tree site until they were certain that an alternative access point to this field, one used many years ago for agricultural purposes and closer to the Cheltenham Road, was not a viable alternative. Further, there were outstanding matters regarding conveyance of the site itself. Immediate action was agreed to formally approach the Manorship, coupled with an indication that a prompt and direct reply would be appreciated so that matters regarding this location could be concluded. Details of this access point are available at the Council's office.

Unbeknown to her colleagues Ann Burges Watson read out a prepared personal statement she wished to make upon the considerable efforts which had been made by the Council to meet the expressed needs of those wishing to tend allotments. The full text, which was strongly welcomed, is set out on the opposite page.

### Library services in Painswick

Terry Parker expressed his appreciation of the good synopsis of the prevailing situation, and evolving policy of the County Council as set out in the Beacon last month (see page 14). He invited the Manager of Painswick Gateway, Leslie Brotherton, to address the meeting upon any further knowledge he might have of GCC actions. Mr Brotherton reported that Painswick Gateway was not inactive and

is monitoring developments; he had obtained an invitation to a meeting the Leader of the County Council had convened for the following evening for community representatives already expressing interest in the 'Big Community Offer'. Terry Parker wondered whether the absence of funds held by Gateway inhibited any actions and was advised that until the nature of the 'package' on the table regarding disposal of the Stroud Road GCC premises was known it would be premature to suppose that no action was possible on behalf of the village. By way of example a gift of the freehold or a particularly long lease would be worthy of the closest scrutiny and might warrant reopening an appeal to the community for funding to resurrect the project. Mr Brotherton reminded the Council of there being various desirable outcomes, not least of which might be the actual safe pedestrian 'gateway' linking the car park and properties thereabouts with the centre of the village.

### Budget 2011-12 and precept

The Council received the report of its Finance and General Purposes Committee, including detail under each of its budget headings. Included within that budget there are aspirations for the Town Hall to sand and polish the lower hall floor and, if strongly requested, provide a dishwasher in the kitchen - these whilst making no increase in charges before 2012. After reflective consideration the Council approved the budget and determined a precept upon the District Council unchanged from 2010-11 at £77,160 - what will doubtless be regarded as a laudable decision seen from the perspective of payers of Council Taxes.

### County Councillor report

The Council received a written report prepared by Joan Nash. Among other matters she drew attention to how the GCC is reviewing its strategy, stated on their web site as "Its aim is to provide the spatial vision, strategic objectives and core policies for managing Gloucestershire's waste in the period up to 2027". Consequent upon public consultation 13 prospective sites have been reduced to four and further public consultation is expected shortly.

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## Beacon Quiz of the Year

Now that the bird has at last been finished, the pies have crumbled and the cards have been taken down, it is time for the quizzers to plan their teams for the quiz of the year. This year the Beacon Quiz will take place on Saturday 19th March in the Beacon Hall at the Painswick Centre starting as usual at 7.30 pm sharp. There is space for around 24 teams so submit your entry early to be sure of a place. For newcomers teams must consist of four people, the entry fee is £4 per person which includes a light supper and the bar opens at 7.00pm. Teams may be organised on any basis you like - we have groups of friends, neighbours, family, club members and so on. Newcomers are especially welcome - and remember there are prizes - not thousands of pounds I'm afraid but bottles of wine chosen by the Beacon's personal sommelier (sometimes with his wife's assistance).

I will need some information from each team - the team name, which group does the team represent, contact person's name, address (email too) and telephone number.

You may email me on [chasdorm@gmail.com](mailto:chasdorm@gmail.com) or leave your entry in the **Beacon Post Box** outside Murray's Estate Agents in New Street

or write to me at **Tilling, Kingsmill Lane, Painswick GL6 6RT**. I look forward to hearing from you.



*Charles Dorman*

## Community Lunches

With the closure of Christ Church Hall, the Community Lunches moved to their new venue at Ashwell Centre in October.

We are pleased to report that it has proved a successful move, with good support from village groups and people.

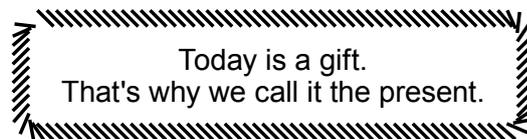
After the term's 10 lunches over £800 has been raised – more than at this stage last year – so WELL DONE!

The Lunches resume on **Monday 17th January from 12noon to 1.15pm**.

You can read in the Beacon Diary which group are taking it each week. Thanks to all who support – and we welcome ALL to come and enjoy the home-made vegetable soups, fresh bread and cheese each week.

Many thanks,

*Rita Bishop and Anne Leoni*  
*Coordinators of Community Lunches*



## Allotments

### Statement by Parish Councillor Ann Burges Watson

I think it is very sad that this saga has gone on so long. It seemed such a simple request and given more than 6 families had requested an allotment it was the duty of the PC to try to find a suitable place. I have very happy memories as a child helping my father on our allotment during the war. It was a meeting place for the people in the village and they exchanged ideas and helped each other. When I visit my mother's grave in Chevening, Kent I pass by some of those people who had allotments alongside ours. Sadly the allotment site is now a feeder road for the Sevenoaks by-pass.

To-day having an allotment is encouraged. We read that the NT have set aside land in some of their gardens and The Queen has one. When I was despairing that we were ever going to get these allotments up and running I thought about ringing the 'Archers' storyline to ask them to have some requests for allotments. My prayers were answered and land was given by a benevolent landowner and the allotments were up and running

in about 2-3 weeks thanks to local cooperation. Growing your own vegetables is a healthy thing to do. It is physical exercise (good for health, obesity etc) encouraged by our Government and a saving on the NHS and the end product is free of contaminants and no airmiles, road miles etc. have gone into their production. It is also cheaper as our food prices are increasing. It is also good for children to be involved in the food chain.

The PC has bent over backwards, having meetings, preparing papers, soil samples etc. and having a public consultation. They deserve thanks by the Parishioners for their hard work. We are all unpaid volunteers which I think some people forget when they criticise us.

Painswick is traditionally an agricultural village/town. We should try to continue this habit. These would be allotment holders are not wannabe criminals wishing to use their tools to burgle local houses. They are ordinary families who want to do something to help themselves and the planet and should be given every encouragement. It gives Painswick a very bad name to find that the desires of some are inhibited by a few. We should all co-operate and pull together and show some community spirit.



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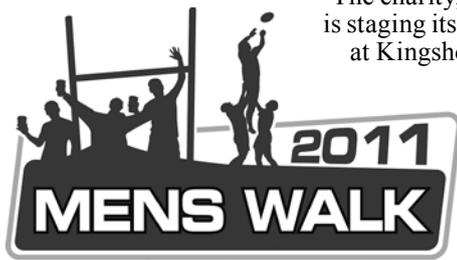
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## A challenge and a scrum half

Men can enjoy a walk, a pie, a pint and a rugby match while raising money for Cotswold Care Hospice.



The charity, which every year helps hundreds of people, is staging its first men's fundraising event on 13th March at Kingsholm Stadium, home of Gloucester Rugby.

Men can choose between a five and 10-mile walk around Gloucester, starting and finishing at the stadium. They return through the players' tunnel for a triumphant lap around the pitch.

Then they can relax with a pie and a pint and watch England v Scotland Six Nations match on the big screen in the 1873 suite.

Families can join the men at Kingsholm Stadium and enjoy the rugby.

Raging Bull has teamed up with the charity and its founder, former England prop, Phil Vickery is supporting the walk.

"What better way to help this great cause than sign up for the Men's Walk and help raise the much needed funds for the hospice," said Phil who recently retired from rugby due to injury. "It's a great way to help generate monies and make a special difference to patients and their families, in our county, through our love of sport."

The event is also backed by Gloucester player, Olivier Azam. "I have a friend whose wife is being supported by a hospice so we know how important places like Cotswold Care are," said Olivier. "I would encourage all men to sign up and do their bit by raising money for this worthwhile cause."

Every year Cotswold Care Hospice supports more than 500 people with life-limiting illnesses and their families in Gloucestershire. All of its services are provided free of charge. It supports people from diagnosis onwards providing counselling, therapy and individually-tailored care.

It costs £2.3 million a year to run the charity. It receives less than 10 per cent of funding from the Government. The remaining 90 per cent comes from fundraising.

To sign up for the walk, you can register online on [www.menswalk.com](http://www.menswalk.com) or contact Cotswold Care Hospice on 01453 886868 or email [vanessa.rinaldi@cotswoldcare.org.uk](mailto:vanessa.rinaldi@cotswoldcare.org.uk)

*Marianne Sweet Communications and Marketing Manager*

## Ashwell House - Scheme and Manager

*Janine Clarke 810919*

In our last issue we carried a factually incorrect reference to Michelle Elliott in our Parish Council news, this on page 2. This stemmed from verbatim information conveyed to the Council.

Michelle is the Scheme Manager of Ashwell House (not the Warden) and is currently on secondment full time to Stroud District Council as the Supported Housing Project Review Officer until April this year and is not currently working part time at Ashwell as stated in the December Beacon.

During this time Michelle's role at Ashwell is being covered by an Agency Scheme Manager.

The District Council made a decision concerning the outcome of its exhaustive Sheltered Housing Review at a meeting convened for this sole purpose on 16th December; the agenda makes for interesting reading, including statistics to match

Just a little of the background to the issue of sheltered housing is worthy of note, our having but the one here in Painswick, and much appreciated too. Our District Council has 5219 dwellings under its wing, 796 of which are in sheltered housing, defined as specially designated accommodation for older people, normally for those over the age of 60. These are operated in 29 'schemes' of differing size, two of which include personal care provided by another agency. Schemes have differing characteristics, some with each unit of accommodation accessed from internal corridors while others mix with direct external access. Some 98% of residents are aged over 60, with 47% over 80.

The District Council was obliged to review this aspect of its services for a variety of reasons, including a desire to update the efficiency of its application and its cost, there being a funding shortfall of no less than £233,570 in this financial year alone - the equivalent of £6.25 per resident per week. The report before the Council, clearly prepared after widespread consultation, identified four strategic options, each of which had been costed and evaluated for its advantages and disadvantages for all concerned with its delivery or receipt. One, Option 2, was approved. This will take full advantage of the skills among staff and flexibility into the future, the seeming disadvantage being that a manager would not be resident on every site.

Cutting to Painswick - our Ashwell House, is to be one of 22 schemes linked by no more than 4.5 miles and an average of 7 minutes travelling time. This option will enable some managers, over time, to extend their service into the local community. The decision upon the 'pairing' of Ashwell with another has been taken and it is with Grove Park Road, in Uplands.

While the outcome will not be to everyone's liking it would be less than helpful if they were not wished well in their new partnership.

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## Did you hear?

At the AGM in November members discovered the amazing difference having a Hearing Dog can make to deaf people. Tracey Stevens from the Gloucester branch of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People explained how the selection and training of these dogs takes place. When trained, not only do



**Hearing Dogs**  
for Deaf People

the dogs alert their carers to the sound of the doorbell, telephone, alarm clock and smoke alarm, but have been known to call attention to a neighbour's smoke alarm sounding. They can also be trained to fetch and carry items and can call attention of other members of the household to their carers' needs.

Yew Trees has had a very successful year, with great speakers, many and varied social functions, and have seen an increase in membership. The existing committee was re-elected to serve for 2011, but were delighted to welcome two new members to help with the enjoyable work load.

On the 25th January Peter Roberts will be speaking about "Birds and a Lancaster Pilot", so ladies, do come and join us for an entertaining evening, you are assured of a warm welcome.

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# Joint venture Painswick Players and the Everyman



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GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S THEATRE

The Painswick Players are delighted to announce a series of three theatre workshops to be held on Saturday mornings in March and April. Run by experienced professional staff from the Everyman Theatre, they will take place at the Town Hall from 10.00am to 1.00pm.

On Saturday 5th March, Louise Partridge will deal with basic acting skills, a session that will include some fun exercises to help with basic stage presence and confidence. This will be followed, on Saturday 19th March, by a session at which she will consider alternative ways of interpreting a text and the characters within it. The final session, on Saturday 2nd April, will be led by Paul Milton who will explore the fundamentals of stage movement.

A play, 'Duets' by Peter Quilter, will be used throughout the workshops and it is anticipated that this will be performed by the Painswick Players later this year, possibly as part of the annual Painswick Arts Festival.

The intention is that the workshops, while addressing the serious business of acting, should also be good fun and provide an opportunity for those who are new to theatre to relax in the company of more experienced members of the Painswick Players.

The workshops are open to everyone aged sixteen or over and the fee is £35 for the course of three sessions. Cheques, made payable to 'The Painswick Players', should be sent to Jean Burgess at 7 Gyde House, Painswick GL6 6RR. Jean will be delighted to provide further information, so don't hesitate to ring on 812167.

*Stephen Friar*

## Sri Lanka for Flowers and Wildlife

The next lecture in Cotteswolds Naturalists' Field Club's winter series will be on Wednesday 2nd February at 2.30pm in the Town Hall, when Michael Robinson will give an illustrated talk on Sri Lankan Flowers and Wildlife.



Visitors are welcome to attend the Field Club's lectures, which are followed by light refreshments. For membership information, please contact telephone 813228.

*Jane Rowe, Membership Secretary*

Churches Together  
around Painswick

## Week of Christian Unity January 17-24th

Monday 17th  
**Community Lunch**  
12 – 1.15pm. Ashwell Centre

Thursday 20th  
**Speaker & afternoon tea**  
Roz Harris will talk about  
"What Quakerism means to me."  
2.30pm Richmond Village  
auditorium

Monday 24th  
**Agape at The Bistro**  
7.00pm

Bring your choice of readings,  
music, poetry etc and enjoy a light  
supper together.  
Tickets £10 (including tea/coffee)  
available in January from each  
church.

ALL are welcomed at any and all  
events – the Community Lunch at  
Ashwell Centre, the afternoon tea  
and talk at Richmond

Painswick and  
the Agape at  
the Bistro.  
The latter  
is the only  
event that  
needs a ticket  
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payment through  
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*Rita Bishop*

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## Cock struck

David Harley, of whom it could be said there are few who know as much about St Mary's church fabric or lightning conductors, has kindly followed up our 'Cock a-doodled' story last month (*page 5*) with some **inspiring** supplementary information of considerable seriousness.

"While Painswickians have been gazing upwards to catch sight of the 'laid back weather forecaster', our drunken weather cock, they have overlooked or ignored the blatant vandalism and thieving below where someone has been ripping off the lower sections of copper lightning conductors from the church tower.

This is the second attack by metal thieves upon our historic church within the past twelve months, firstly lead roofing and now copper tapes, surely someone must have seen or heard something.

Loss of the lightning conductors puts our whole church building at risk. The steeple is often struck by lightning and safely discharged. However, in 1883, before any lightning protection was installed, the steeple was struck one Sunday afternoon just before evening service. The top third of the spire was destroyed and crashed down through the church roof causing immense damage. Fortunately it was half an hour before people arrived for evening service and so nobody was hurt.

Please be vigilant and inform the police (see opposite page) or the Churchwardens, of any suspicious events."

## Marketeers



Many thanks to all our customers who supported us in 2010.

We re-open next week, on Friday 14th.

*Anne Leoni Secretary*

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## Thank you Painswick

Once again Stroud and District Mencap Society have reason to thank the people of Painswick for their support. The Christmas Fayre held on November 20th was a great success and members of the society would like to thank those people in Painswick who gave their time so generously to help at the Fayre, and also to thank everyone who attended for their generous support. We raised just on £2490 for the local society – this will be used to support anyone with learning difficulties in the area. Thank you Painswick.

*Andrea Linsell 812464*



## Refuse + Recycling

With winter far from over we cannot help but respect the remarkable efforts made by our District Council



to meet demanding targets for our wellbeing. Among the services much valued is the clearance of our refuse and the transference of materials for recycling before they accumulate beyond our ability to store them.

It was, therefore, particularly helpful to receive words of encouragement and explanation from Michael Towson, from the Public Space Service based at Ebley Mill.

### Missed collections

We will always try to collect refuse and recycling on scheduled collection days, but adverse weather, such as snowy conditions, may mean that we are unable to do so.

If this happens:

\* we will try our best to return within 2 days depending on weather and road conditions around the district. Therefore please leave your rubbish and recycling out for this period

\* if we have not managed to collect within two days, we will not be returning, so please bring your refuse and/or recycling back in and put it out for collection, as normal, for the next scheduled collection day

For example:

If your collection was scheduled for a Wednesday and you have not received a collection, please leave your refuse and/or recycling out for collection until 6.00pm on Friday. See the table below for more details.

Collection Due	Leave Refuse and Recycling out Until 6.00pm on
Tuesday	Thursday
Wednesday	Friday
Thursday	Saturday
Friday	Monday*

\* Collections will not be made on a Sunday

### Refuse (Weekly Collection)

If your refuse collection was missed for the reasons above please put it out for collection the following week.

### Recycling (Fortnightly Collection)

If your recycling collection was missed for the reasons above please put your recycling out for the next scheduled date on your calendar.

Ideally, it would help us if you would place additional recycling in containers of a similar size to your recycling box, or separated by each different material, in carrier bags. PLEASE DO NOT USE BIN LINERS.

Alternatively please use the alternative recycling points around the district - locations can be found here - [www.recycleforgloucestershire.com/recycle/at\\_home/stroud.html](http://www.recycleforgloucestershire.com/recycle/at_home/stroud.html) <[http://www.recycleforgloucestershire.com/recycle/at\\_home/stroud.html](http://www.recycleforgloucestershire.com/recycle/at_home/stroud.html)> .

### Keeping updated

Updates on the progress of waste services during bad weather will be displayed on our web site and we will provide the local radio stations and papers with the latest information.

### Contact us

Telephone 01453.754424

Email: [recycling@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@stroud.gov.uk)

**We hope this message provides a clear definitive guide.**

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## Wearable Art Painswick will be back on July 10th 12noon – 6.00pm!

It promises to be bigger and more exciting than ever. WAP needs you to get involved!!.....

**Get creative:** Design and make some fantastical outfit to enter the competition and potentially win fabulous prizes and glory! The themes this year are Deja Vu, Rococo, Dream Machine and Bra-tastic, which raises money for WAP's chosen charities.

**Get selling!** The streets of Painswick will be full of stalls selling all manner of beautiful arts, crafts and speciality produce, so if you would like to take a stall, get in touch!

**Get friendly:** Become a friend of WAP and get fabulous benefits, which for 2011 include an invitation to a Celebrity and Friends Cocktail Party kindly hosted by Cotswold 88, a voucher for a free cup of coffee at Olivias, a chance for the earlybirds to win your own piece of wearable art made and donated by Frances Day of Straightlaced, and an opportunity to donate to our 2 chosen charities for 2011, Cobalt and Cotswold Care Hospice, all for only £20 a year! Apply online or by picking up a form from The Chairman or Painswick Fabrics, New Street, Painswick.

**Get really friendly!** Become a corporate friend for even more benefits and your company's name in lights!

**Get sponsoring!** Sponsorship is always needed for prizes, music, entertainment, publicity, staging etc – the list is endless! Maybe your company has a product or a service that you feel would help us deliver a more exciting event, or maybe your company would like to sponsor with a monetary sum. Rest assured that whichever way you choose your company will appear in 'Bright Lights' wherever possible.

**Get inspired!** Visit the gorgeous new WAP website, for details on how to enter the competition, take a stall on the day, become a friend of WAP and much more! [www.wearableartpainswick.co.uk](http://www.wearableartpainswick.co.uk)

**Get excited!** Ultimately we envisage that WAP will fill every venue in Painswick over a summer weekend and will offer dance, theatre, music, circus, sideshows and sumptuous food all alongside the Wearable Art Competition. Each WAP event will leave a permanent legacy for Painswick: an exhibition of winning creations to entertain visitors throughout the year.



**STOP PRESS.** We are thrilled to announce that **Plum Sykes** of American Vogue fame has kindly agreed to be our Patron. Contact point Chris Mercer, The Chairman, New Street, Painswick, Glos GL6 6UN 810820.

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## Music in Brum

On 24th November, Stewart Price organised a very rewarding visit to Birmingham Symphony Hall for the Group to hear a performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 5.

The Hall is acoustically brilliant and, conducted by the athletic Andris Nelsons, the Symphony Orchestra gave us a mind-blowing experience, which will live for a long time in our musical memories. Many thanks, Stewart.

The coach was full, but our for a 'shopping hour' before the performance was foiled by a lorry fire on the northbound carriageway of the M5; we were diverted and arrived without much time to spare.



*Richard Burges Watson*

## Police report

### *Incident 186 of 28th November*

Between 6.00pm and 9.00pm on 14/11 unknown offenders removed the drivers side wing mirror of a blue mini cooper that was parted on Stroud Road in Painswick.

### *Incident 137 of 4th December*

Between 4.00pm on 3/12 and 8.45am on 4/12 offenders stole three copper earthing rods from St Marys Church on St Marys Street.

Anyone with any information about these incidents is asked to contact Gloucestershire Police on 08450.901234 quoting the incident number. Information can also be given anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800.555111.

*Alexa Collicott Press Office*

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# From Khyber to Falklands

On 1st December Michael Burdge took us on a journey using slides, starting from Lahore station and ending with the protection of armed guards, on the borders with Afghanistan and the Khyber Pass. We saw a wide range of locomotives and rolling stock including some ancient steam engines.



In spite of icy weather, our annual Christmas Dinner at The Hill in Stroud on 8th December (pictured) was well supported and an excellent meal was enjoyed by all. There were brief speeches from Joan Hardwidge representing the ladies and from our President David Linsell.

Our last meeting of the year on 15th December was a fascinating, illustrated talk on the Falkland Islands given by Paul Stevenson. He gave us a knowledgeable account of The Falklands' complex

history and of the war but, in addition showed the Falklands in a new light regarding its economy and attractions including its wildlife and wrecks. We learned that the islands are the same latitude south as London is north and that it is warmer and drier than Kew Gardens. We also learned that prisoners in Port Stanley gaol are given the key of their cells so they can go home to lunch!

*Glynn Nixon*

## Letters

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

### 20mph speed limit

*Ralph Drew observes:*  
It seems fairly clear to most residents that the 20 mph speed limit is being ignored by a considerable number of drivers.

A couple of months ago I read an article in The Daily Telegraph about a village with a

similar problem. They sorted it when the local police force issued a number of responsible residents with "speed guns". The police then took action accordingly, without being directly involved. Apparently it worked very well. Perhaps our Parish Council could follow this up.

### Beacon photograph

*Harold Wood writes:*  
My old Mum always had the right little phrase or proverb even until her nineties, and I am sure that had she seen the December Beacon and finally reached the back page would have quoted one of her favourites, "There's a time and place for everything", and that applies for what I suppose is meant to be a dog cartoon?

Never mind she is long since gone so I will act as her spokesperson and say that 'we' found it tasteless, puerile and a waste of that valuable Beacon colour.

## What is Messy Church?

MESSY CHURCH has been happening in different parts of the country since 2004.

It is a church for families who find it hard to go to traditional services on a Sunday and so meets at a time most suitable for a local area, either after school or at the weekend. It is aimed at primary school children but welcomes the whole family together not just the children. Young and old, children and teenagers can all be part of Messy Church. Children have to be accompanied by an adult.

A session would last about two hours and during this time there would be a choice of several different craft activities in which to get involved, indoor and outdoor games, a short time of worship and a shared meal. Reports from other churches, which can be found on the Messy Church web page, say that some people enjoy helping set up the activities, some are happy to help with the food, some are really keen to have a go at messy crafts, some to lead the worship. For helpers, it is all about what you are most comfortable with.

A planning group has been meeting in Painswick for several months and are now ready to launch into the first Beacon Benefice Messy Church event. This will be on the last Sunday of January from 3.30 to 5.30pm at the Croft School. The theme for this first Messy Church will be "Light and Darkness" which is inspired by the church's Epiphany season. There is no charge, no reservation and no ticket required and there is fun to be enjoyed so it is hoped that families will come along to see what Messy Church is all about.

*Olive Freeman 814522 freeman647@btinternet.com*

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The Old Baptist Chapel, New Street

# Alan Walford

We were privileged, last month, to carry on our front page a picture prepared for us by professional artist Alan Walford. From the numerous comments received it was widely appreciated. It brought together the perception a true artist has for the symbolism of subject matter coupled with his own personality of viewing his cartoons with a sense of latent humour.

It was my good fortune to collect the picture from his home in Pullens Road for our committee to make a selection. We met therefore for the first time - albeit briefly - and I was able to admire other examples of his skill. Once the selection had been made and copy taken for publication I returned the original and advised Alan of his work being chosen. I will never forget his expression of surprise and delight that such was the case, and repeated observation that this news would cheer him when, on the following day, he was to journey northwards for major surgery, an operation he knew was to be very challenging indeed.

That Alan did not survive that procedure brought us deep sorrow, but we would want his wife Jill and her family and friends to know how much he was admired as we share the pleasure he brought to us.

Leslie Brotherton

*The Beacon is privileged to be carrying the following insight to the service currently being rendered by one of our own, from Kingsmill Lane, in Afghanistan; this was made available to us by Flt Lt Stephen Jolly of the Media and Communication unit at HQ Air Command, RAF High Wycombe and is reproduced verbatim.*

*The Tornado Force in Kandahar has three main roles*

- *Close Air Support (CAS) – routine sorties (flights) in support of known ground troop activity*
- *Reconnaissance*
- *GCAS - on standby on ground ready to respond to a call (i.e. when troops are in contact)*

*Kandahar has a population of almost 28,000 personnel and over 300 aircraft – more than 30 different types.*

## First missions

### protecting British troops

Painswick-born Tom Hill (35) a Squadron Leader with Lossiemouth-based 14 Squadron, Royal Air Force, has helped protect UK ground troops from insurgent ambushes from their first mission in Afghanistan. He has provided covering fire against insurgent gunmen to allow British and coalition ground forces to break contact with the enemy, regroup and then successfully take insurgent strongholds.

Number 14 Sqn, part of the RAF's 904 Expeditionary Air Wing, has recently taken over as the resident Tornado GR4 squadron of fast jets at NATO's busiest airfield at Kandahar. Although Tom is no stranger to operational missions, having flown on numerous tours over Iraq and elsewhere, this was his first mission over Afghanistan.

Tom explains that they were on one mission as wingman to another Tornado GR4 that was undertaking a reconnaissance tasking. As the armed support to the reconnaissance aircraft, they found themselves the closest aircraft to ground troops who requested immediate 'CAS' standing for Close Air Support. He said, "We were tasked with a request to provide armed over watch to a British ground call sign from a unit that came across an insurgent stronghold and they were suspicious of an imminent attack. We were able to react immediately, leaving the recon aircraft to continue its mission alone, and within minutes we were overhead the troops to provide support."

Normally the aircraft would provide what is called a Show of Force whereby the aircraft would be flown low and fast over the insurgents to demonstrate the formidable capability it has to protect friendly ground troops. This deliberate escalation of force often works to disrupt insurgents before they attack and lowers any risk to ground troops and collateral damage to innocent civilians.

However, in this instance, he said, "Even in the short time from when we called to when we were overhead, by pushing the aircraft to its max speed, the ground troops had already come under fire from a known firing point in the insurgent stronghold. Working closely with the ground based Forward Air Controller we fired a short burst of canon fire at the insurgent gunmen. This had the desired effect against them and allowed the UK ground troops to break contact and regroup."

Tom described how they stayed over the UK troops until an Army Apache Attack Helicopter arrived on the scene but by this time, his Tornado GR4 needed to receive extra fuel from a coalition air-to-air refuelling aircraft.

After they had refuelled, he asked if he was needed back at the insurgent stronghold, however, the regrouped ground troops had by now been able to take control with support from the Apache helicopter. A thorough search of the compound revealed arms and ammunition and a significant amount of IED bomb making equipment.

Tom concludes, "It was a great to know that we gave covering fire and with the Apache, to destroy the insurgent forces. We don't always get to help just British forces, especially as we cover a huge area of Afghanistan with our reconnaissance kit, but this was a chance from our first mission here. A cracking start to our tour."



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## Resolute entry to the New Year

The Front Lobby Building Project is nearly complete. The



more spacious entrance area and smart toilets, one equipped with facilities for people with disabilities and for baby changing, are already in use. The final fitting of a new stained-glass window designed and made by Claire Nayegon, who works in the Artists' Studios, will finish the internal changes. This month, the ramp and second exterior door to provide improved disability access, will be installed. Our thanks go to our Slad-based builders, Bear Construction Cotswolds Ltd., and to the donors who have supported this project. In particular, the Centre is very grateful to The Painswick Trust for their generous grant towards the costs of the project.

We also offer thanks to Sue Lendon and her helpers for organising the splendid Christmas Fair on Friday 10th December, held as part of Painswick Goodwill evening, and to the 25 stall-holders and artists for their support. Many Painswick businesses kindly contributed money and toys towards Santa's large sack of presents for local children, with the few left-over being passed to The Family Haven. David James is thanked for his magical tricks, the Community Choir for their two sessions of super seasonal music, and Phil Ions for the terrific lighting of the building's exterior.

### All Change in 2011

The Painswick Centre could not survive without the help of a large number of volunteers who give their time and expertise so generously. In particular, many users will know that the Centre's Booking Secretary, Rose Smith and her husband, Jack, are invaluable to the smooth-running of the Centre. To enable the Trustees to prepare for the future, they have given advance notice of their plan to 'retire' in 2011. As a result, the day-to-day management of the Centre is being reorganised, with changes being phased-in, over the next few months. Our search for a new Front of House & Caretaker/Maintenance supervisor - see the vacancy advertised on inside back cover - is one important element of the changes to come.

The Painswick Centre will also no longer be able to accept cash for room-hire and related services. From 1st February, only payment by internet banking or cheque will be accepted. We hope to introduce payment by debit card and via PayPal in due course. Regular users of the Centre will be sent details of these and other changes.

*Jane Rowe, on behalf of the Trustees*

## History teaser

When you're this age the white stuff is great fun. Do you know when this picture was taken and what and whose the shop was? Answers in next month's Beacon.

Last month's photograph elicited many expressions of interest but only one correct identification regarding location. Martyn and Helene Hewitt wrote in to say, "This month's Local History Teaser was a surprise for us - we seem to have found ourselves looking at a picture of our own dining room!" And indeed they were, for they are the current residents of the Red House on Lower Washwell Lane. It was known for many years as the Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Diseases, caused by phthisis (tuberculosis). Established in 1893, it was funded by the Wemyss sisters. From 1914 the house was used to accommodate some of the many Belgian refugees who stayed in Painswick and after the War it became once again a hospital for tuberculosis patients.

If you have an old photograph which would be of interest to readers we should love to hear from you.

The next meeting of the Local History Society will take place on Tuesday, 18th January, 7.30pm at the Croft School, when Dave Kaspar will give a presentation on ancient orchards and fruit of Gloucestershire. Everyone welcome.

*Carol Maxwell*



Beacon subscribers		
as at 17th December	2010 - 2011	This date last year
New or renewed after lapsing	100	78
Renewed from last year	454	492
Total including postal	554	570

## A46 Cooper's Hill Landslip

Bulletin No 5 30th November 2010

Piling began adjacent to the live carriageway on Wednesday 20th November using a cased flight auger system to bore the piles. As boring takes place ground conditions are continually checked to ensure that the pile has reached its design depth before the tubular steel reinforcement is inserted into the pile bore and grouted in place.

Inserting the 406mm diameter tubular steel reinforcement into the pile bore prior to grouting can be seen in the second picture.

Behind the scenes and down slope of the carriageway to confirm the strength of the rock and thus validate design parameters for the tension piles which will be drilled into the hillside to provide additional support for the new retaining wall.

Although the weather has not been ideal there have been no delays to



the progress or programme. Work continues apace to date four 14 piles and 4 probes have been completed.

The traffic management system continues to work well and both Gloucestershire County Council and Dawnus appreciate the co-operation of the travelling public in reducing their speed while travelling through the site thus ensuring both their safety and that of the site operatives.

For further details and information about this scheme, as well as previous issued bulletins, please visit <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=98677>  
*Patrick Tiffney Projects Manager*

## So you've a sharp brain?

To while away a few minutes over Christmas, we last month offered a famous problem from 1882. We went on to say that we couldn't match the original \$1000 prize for the best solution, but we would admire and praise the first correct solution to be received. Within minutes of the Beacon 'hitting the streets' we received a response from Judie Hill in Kingsmill Lane who sent a cryptic e-mail with the answer - the only response we have received. Our sincere congratulations to Mrs Hill.

In case you have still not attempted the test, but would like to be separated from the answer, it appears on page 19 - when you are ready.

There are many stimulating moments when editing this monthly newspaper, and one we can share occurred in this instance. As can be seen, we are carrying an article on page 9 as sent to us from the RAF Media Unit regarding a Squadron Leader Tom Hill. They could not, however, link his having a current connection with Painswick despite our enquiries. While chatting with Judie's son Freddie about this brain-teaser we ventured to ask if there was a relationship, and he immediately and with obvious pride told us Tom is his elder brother!

The task is to arrange the seven numbers 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 0, and eight dots in such a way that an addition approximates the number 82 as close as possible. Each of the numbers can be used only once. The dots can be used in two ways: as decimal point and as symbol for a recurring decimal.

For example, the fraction 1/3 can be written as  $.3\dot{3}$ . The dot on top of the three denotes that this number is repeated infinitely.

If a group of numbers needs to be repeated, two dots are used: one to denote the beginning of the recurring part and one to denote the end of it. For example, the fraction 1/7 can be written as  $.142857\dot{142857}$ .

Note that '0.5' is written as '.5'.

*The Question: How close can you get to the number 82?*

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## Within REACH

The Beacon recently received a challenging message from John Sidwell, who lives in Cheltenham Road, which we believe should not only be shared with you, but will resonate with readers willing to assist him. He says "I have recently taken on a new project to help a very small and young organisation that helps people who are socially excluded or who have committed an offence; ex-prisoners, etc. called REACH Gloucestershire. It operates from Prinknash Abbey and was started in February, with no funds, by a 35 old guy Matthew Haynes, whose aim is to help the lesser fortunate in society". John goes on to say "He is an amazing young man and I want to do all I can to help him".

Small though this charity may be, they are committed to providing activities which unlock the potential of participants, about 60 each week, through their contributing to society and building new lives for themselves. The realisation of self-worth can be profound, and permanent.

The immediate challenge is to find two volunteers, one to look after their modest accounting functions and one to help with the administration. The essential information is

- A part-time Book Keeper with knowledge of accounting likely to require about 4 hours weekly**
- An Administrator to organise non-financial matters for about 5 hours weekly**

In their endeavours there is a strong active relationship with such as British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, the Probation Service, the Police and Home Office, and others. REACH is targeted to bring their service to about 400 in the coming year, and it hardly requires much imagination to appreciate their potential, albeit quiet, impact upon numerous lives.

If you could help, please contact John on 814244 - he and REACH would be so grateful.

## Wish You Could Draw ?

Jane Garbett has let us know that she would like to start a new absolute beginners drawing class in the New Year in Painswick on Tuesday mornings.

Jane points out that "Drawing is a very rewarding skill that can be learnt but many are daunted especially if you have had little drawing experience. With this in mind, I want to start a class where we start from scratch

building up the range of skills week

by week in small classes where

lots of individual attention can

be given". She adds, "If you

have always wanted to draw but

thought you can't this is the class

for you. I think you

will be surprised at how you can

progress with a little technical knowledge

and practice".

What an opportunity! If you think this

approach would suit you please contact

Jane on 812176; she is offering a free taster

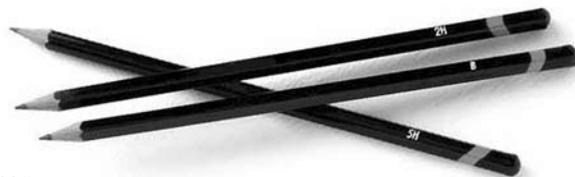
session next week on Tuesday 11th.

Her painting and drawing class starts

the following day on Wednesday 12th

so do ring to book a place and for more

information on either course on 812176.



## Beavers on the Beacon?

Our working parties have made good progress this autumn.

At first where the upper road to the golf course bisects The Plantation and then by the Club's 15th hole. Now we are working at the furthest eastern edge of our patch, the 8th green and 9th tee, where there is car parking by Pope's Wood, above and behind the Royal William pub. Do come and join in, you will find a friendly bunch beavering away near a friendly fire, who stop for a snack and chinwag about 11.15am.

This year we expect to spend some time at the extreme western end by the Painswick Gloucester road and Madam's Wood, and back by the 15th hole again.

Our working party dates are Saturdays: 15th and 29th January, 12th and 26th February, 12th and 26th March, and 9th April.

We provide tools, guidance and encouragement, and the route to a good appetite for your Saturday lunch. If you want to know more please phone our 'ganger' John Rhodes on 812709; Secretary David Little 813734 or myself on 812624

David Allott *Chairman*  
The Painswick Beacon Conservation Group



Too many people miss the silver lining because they're expecting gold.

## BEACO-DOKU

Last month's fruit was **F-R-O-Z-E-N**: how did you fare?

N	E	F	O	Z	R
R	Z	O	F	E	N
E	F	R	N	O	Z
O	N	Z	E	R	F
Z	O	N	R	F	E
F	R	E	Z	N	O

We stay seasonal, and why not? It **S-N-O-W-E-D** last month, and such is the concealed word. Can you place the full word along each row in each direction, and in each of the six boxes.

		D	W		
E					
	D			W	O
W			N		
		S			N
	E			S	

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# GCC Big Community Offer Stroud Road premises

Since last month's details published here more information has been gleaned about the 'offer'. Painswick Gateway trustees with considerable background knowledge and understanding of ways in which the Stroud Road premises might be acquired and operated have met again to look at the options.

Readers might reasonably ask why, if Gateway was not fit to proceed a year ago, what is different now? Gateway was established to investigate ways of saving a public building for community use and making it financially self-supporting. The shape that Gateway adopted was brought about by endeavouring to make best use of the perceived resources at the time, including some which no longer exist, such as an anticipated capital commitment from the Christ Church URC and an annual payment from the County Council to support the running of the library. Any refreshed plan would have a different shape from the one that was aborted more than a year ago. To that end Gateway is not at all precious about its own standing in respect of the library building. The trustees make no proprietorial claim but seek only to leave no stone unturned until it becomes inevitable that the building is forever lost to the community. Through our endeavours thus far, we have established a specific channel of communication with the County Council, which is acknowledged and thereby continues to be of value.



Church Rooms: such potentially including a village store, small lock-up shops and, hence, new trading enterprise opportunities

Gateway is by no means seeking to compete with any other village resource. This is simply about whether the community can capture and make good use of an existing building for its own benefit. The end-game has just begun. Before Autumn 2011 we will either have lost the building for good or will have set in-train the creation of a new community resource.

The GCC has set a timetable, a count-down process for all properties they have identified in this category countywide:

- by end January – submission of a short statement of intent
- by end May – full submission of minimum two-year business plan for community operation and use.
- by end June – decisions regarding disposal/sale of properties by GCC.

Between now and the end of January Gateway's investigations are proceeding on a number of fronts. These include:

- GCC Asset Management as to release of premises freehold or leasehold,
- Parochial Church Council as to continued willingness to seek to work together
- Parish Council as to their strength of support for all these goals
- SDC planners as to possible land release for development
- Developer interest and any spin-off planning gain
- Painswick Matters as to support/interest in championing economic revival of village trading
- Conservation Society and their views upon the significance of this project in the village
- An 'Art House' enquiry received and its potential
- Painswick Centre to address any fears they may have concerning competing interests.

GCC have not changed their position with regard to ownership. They are not about to give the building to the community. The best we can hope for is a long lease at a peppercorn rent. They would still rather sell and that would involve a large capital raising and a new business plan.

**We need your feedback right now.** We only have this month in which to make a decision whether the community wants to launch a final attempt to save the building.

Please respond by contacting Leslie Brotherton in writing on [mr@lesliebrotherton.com](mailto:mr@lesliebrotherton.com)

*Edward Young Chairman  
Leslie Brotherton Manager*

## The whole concept depends on the depth of community support.

If the community has lost the appetite to try and retain this building, then we will lose it and soon. There follows a reminder of some of the potential benefits of its retention:

- The possibility of a safe pedestrian route from the south into the village centre through a dedicated 'gateway' avoiding the frighteningly dangerous narrow pavement by the Lych Gate
- The housing of a wholly community-run library with any/all associated services to which we were accustomed
- A village café/rendezvous with quality facilities, manned and open for longer hours than was the original library, of good value to both villagers and visitors
- The location for updated village information, archives and a permanent exhibition of local history
- Adaptable room-hire facilities adjoining the only public car park.
- Some trading facilities, funded by a developer willing to work alongside the new venture, on the car park side of the

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# Painswick sport

We have been looking back at recent issues and realised that reports or news from our many sports clubs have found their way to us in exactly the same way as that from other organisations - as and when they 'moved' to share news with the wider public. So, we have decided to dispense with the dedicated space for sport and will treat each item exactly how we do the others coming into our pages. Please send them directly to the main address [beacon@painswick.net](mailto:beacon@painswick.net).

## Painswick Rugby success

Last Sunday Painswick first fifteen were at home to Longlevens in the National Junior Vase Competition. In November Painswick had surprisingly lost at home to the Gloucester club in a league encounter and were keen to put the loss behind them. This they did in convincing style with a disciplined performance in a hard fought match. In the second half with Painswick leading by 15 points to 8, Longlevens put considerable pressure on the home side but the defence was solid and with five or so minutes remaining Painswick were awarded a penalty which Tom Mahendran converted to seal the Cherry and Whites' (playing in yellow because of a colour clash) victory.

Painswick now move into the regional stage of the competition.



## Tucking in

Ashwell House Day Centre once again held its Christmas Lunch at the Rococo Gardens, on 15th December. As you can see there was again a very good attendance.

There is still availability at the Day Centre on Wednesdays. Transport can be arranged.

*Ralph Drew*

## Nativity pictures

Mary and Joseph, Shepherds and a Robin made their seasonal debut, and impressed one and all at The Croft.



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## Farewell from Mrs Hoyle

*In her last newsletter to parents Janet Hoyle wrote:*

This term has flown by for me and now I am very nearly at the end of my time at The Croft. I am excited about my move to a new school, with the challenges of amalgamating two schools into one in January, but this is tinged with a large hint of sadness as well. The Croft is a very special place and I have been very happy here.

You may have seen the recent Stroud Life article, entitled 'Headteacher has loved her time at Croft' This was accompanied by the most miserable looking photograph of me, I think taken some years back with some children when we were meant to be looking despondent at the possible closure of the swimming pool! In the article I am mis-quoted as saying that the best thing about the school is the fabulous environment. Of course this is not the case. The best thing about The Croft is the people in it; this is what has kept me here. When I came here as Acting Headteacher early in 2003, intending to stay for just a few weeks, I never imagined I would be here nearly eight years later. The children of this school are something special and I will miss them. Their responsibility and commitment towards each other, as well as their energy and sense of fun, are commented on so often and I am very proud of them.

I have been fortunate to work here with a tremendous staff team who work so hard together to care for and provide opportunities for your children. I am proud of how well all the staff know the children and how much time and devotion is put in to planning for their learning and giving support when it is needed. Many of you are very good at thanking them for their efforts—please continue to do this, it really makes a difference. I have worked with some marvellous governors, freely giving of their time to work with us to develop and improve the school. In addition I have been consistently amazed by the support for the school from the community.

Importantly, though, I must also give due credit to the parents of The Croft. I have been delighted to work with a long series of imaginative and devoted PTA committees, who have made such a difference to the ethos of the school through social events and fund raising. The really unique thing about The Croft, though, is the level of support for the school and for the learning of the children, shown by the whole parent body. There is nearly 100% attendance at parents evenings and teachers usually say at the end of them 'I had a really good evening.' This level of support, interest and positive interaction is unusual and what helps your children to be successful. I have been personally very pleased to hear regularly from parents, both what you are pleased about and what you are not, as this helps us to deal with issues and improve what we do.

I will look back on my time at The Croft with huge fondness, and with pride in what we have achieved together. The school will go from strength to strength in the future and I know that you share my confidence in Mrs Towler's ability to lead the school into the next phase.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and good wishes for 2011.

## Spare a thought for the birds



While preparing this issue of the Beacon, with temperatures as low as -10° at night and snow as far as the eye can see, the normality of daily life is distorted in all sorts of ways. We naturally make changes in our routines, not least when it comes to keeping warm, eating and drinking.

The world around our homes is quieter than usual, not least because birds limit their flights to known feeding points between huddling together in crevices or such as bird boxes to preserve energy.

Their quest for food becomes a life or death expedition for most in these conditions, but a small gesture from us can make all the difference.

The Bird Club urges readers to do just two small things, please; place a shallow bowl of water out where the birds can see it - preferably several feet away from the house - replacing it as soon as it ices over. And put out some scraps on a board or plate above the snow itself, bread crumbs, fruit, porridge flakes, cereals and the like if you don't have small nut or seed feeders. Thank you.

*Bill Boydell* Chairman

## Waxwing

Several sightings of waxwings have been mentioned to the Beacon in the past few weeks, much further from the east coast than usual at this time.



The waxwing, with its high trilling call, is a plump bird, slightly smaller than a starling. It has a prominent crest, with a reddish-brown with a black throat, a small black mask round its eye, yellow and white in the wings and a yellow-tipped tail. The first British arrivals each winter are usually seen on the east coast from Scotland to East Anglia, but birds move inland in search of food, increasing the chances of seeing one inland between October to March. Choice diet includes berries, particularly rowan and hawthorn, but also cotoneaster and rose.

## Santa

..... brought Goodwill, and a subtle disguise, to that special afternoon and evening on 10th December



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## Emma's music – just for you

Emma Karran moved to Painswick last spring and considers herself lucky to live in such a beautiful place.



A teacher of piano and flute, Emma is also impressed by the creative arts scene flourishing here and has already been invited to help form next year's Arts Festival with a particular interest in music. She is hoping to draw in musicians living in the locality with the aim of providing the opportunity for Painswick residents to hear and participate in more live music-making.

As far as Emma is concerned everyone has a unique creative voice and she sees music as being a valuable mode of expression for this. Teaching people to play an instrument or learn how to write their own music and thereby find their creative voice is what makes teaching music such a joy for her. It is, she says, so rewarding for the student too and has the added bonus of developing a range of other skills associated with concentration and focus. And it's never too late to learn.

Emma teaches her students in their own homes during the day or in the evening and feels this has many benefits for the learner. She is also aware that not everyone wishes to work towards exams and she is happy to adopt an approach to suit the needs of the learner be it learning popular songs or developing music appreciation skills or simply learning to read music and understand it.

With her obvious enthusiasm for and love of music and the teaching of it, Emma regards Painswick as having great potential as an arts venue. She is keen to help develop the music scene here and would love to hear from you if you are interested either in taking music lessons or in becoming involved in next summer's Arts Festival. She can be contacted on 813220 or email [emma@musicteacher.me.uk](mailto:emma@musicteacher.me.uk), or you can look at her website [www.musicteacher.me.uk](http://www.musicteacher.me.uk).

*Carol Maxwell*

## Advertising guru

All who advertise, or seek to do so, in the Beacon will be receiving a circular from us later in the month; this being our usual annual practice.

We limit advertising to 20% of our pages, an arrangement which has balanced nicely over the years to ensure that fresh information copy has the space it needs. We greatly value our advertisers, and we know our readers do too as we receive many tales of how quests for services are met through these displays.

As we revise our complete list of advertisers for April - all space is up for renewal or new advertisers - we are changing our team member responsible for drawing all requirements together. Dermot Cassidy has undertaken this task with his own unique flair since November 2004 and, having weighed up our options we agree with him that he deserves a rest.

As can be seen on our committee listing on the back page, Joyce Barrus has volunteered to step into this assignment, and the two are transferring knowledge in this month and next.

Joyce is looking forward to taking over, and your helping her will be much appreciated.

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## PROPERTY REPORT for December from Murrays

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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 that and all the snow and ice that we have been predicted in the run up to it!

The end of last year for the property market was a surprisingly successful one and one of the busiest I can remember! We at Murrays have seen a surge of new sales before the Christmas period began and November and the first weeks of December sales far exceeded those of the previous year.

We are now seeing the usual Christmas slow down as people are starting to concentrate on getting ready for that and are putting either buying or selling their property on hold until after the New Year. However this said we still have proper-

ties completing right up until the 23rd December.

There is of course the rise in VAT from the current 17.5% to 20% to contend with after the first of January which will undoubtedly make people more cautious about spending their money, but it remains to be seen how this will actually effect the property market. Both the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and Right Move have predicted that property prices will fall in the New Year but as we all now know that in the "microclimates" of the Cotswold Villages they tend to keep their prices, as The Cotswolds becomes an ever increasingly popular area to live in. 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 taken on many more lovely properties over the past few months including 11 Upper Washwell, a spacious and well-presented 2 bedroom house in Painswick, Barnwood House, a substantial 4 bedroom house with 2 bedroom annexe and swimming pool complex in Whiteway, Cotswolds, an attractive Cotswold style 3 bedroom house with stunning views in Pitchcombe and Elmbank a 1920's 4 bedroom house with far reaching views also in Pitchcombe.

Properties that we now have under offer are Greenways in Pitchcombe, 7 Church Close in Cranham and land at Verland Cottage in Painswick and properties that have now sold are Amesbury House on Vicarage Street, Torwin on Cheltenham Road, Owlcote in Stamages Lane and Beech Close in Cranham.

*James C Murray - Partner*



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## 2011 JANUARY

Mon	<b>10</b>	Street Cleaning Short Mat Bowls - Mondays (contact 813627) Yoga (Mondays) contact Kim 812623  Painswick Community Choir - Mondays (Enquiries Adrian 07855404147)	New Street Town Hall Sheepscombe Vill. Hall  Painswick Centre	  10.30am 6.30 to 8.00pm & 8.15 to 9.45pm  7.00 to 8.30pm
Tue	<b>11</b>	Street Cleaning Bingo: Tuesdays – Tel. Ann, 813911/Liz, 813139	Ashwell & Hyett Close Ashwell House	 6.30 to 9.00pm
Wed	<b>12</b>	Yoga (Wednesdays) contact Kim 812623 Horticultural Society: Wildflowers of the Cotswolds (remedies, myths & legends) - Sue Dodd & Sue Smith Table Tennis Club - Wednesdays	Sheepscombe Vill. Hall Town Hall  Painswick Centre	9.30 to 11.00am 2.30pm  7.00 to 9.00pm
Thu	<b>13</b>	Yoga - All Abilities (Thursdays) Cotswold Room 812623 T'ai Chi: Thursdays - Contact 812344 Dog Training Club (Thursdays) Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners - Thursdays Experienced beginners - Thursdays	Painswick Centre Painswick Centre Town Hall Church Rooms Town Hall Town Hall	9.30 to 11.00am 9.30am 9.30 to 12.00noon 12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm
Fri	<b>14</b>	Country Market - Coffee available - Fridays	Town Hall	10.00am
Sat	<b>15</b>	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 812709 Painswick Conservatives New Year Party	Painswick Beacon  Town Hall	10.00am to 1.00pm  6.30 to 8.30pm
Mon	<b>17</b>	Community Lunch: Hosts - Churches Together	Ashwell House	12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	<b>18</b>	Local History Society: Orchards in the Gloucestershire Landscape - Dave Kaspar	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	<b>19</b>	Probus: The Story of Tea - Pam Slater Parish Council	Shires Room, Falcon Town Hall	10.00am 7.30pm
Thu	<b>20</b>	CTAP: Afternoon Tea & Talk What Quakerism means to me - Roz Harris	Richmond Village	2.30pm
Fri	<b>21</b>	Friday Club: Travels in China - Jenny Jackson Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Creation to Culmination	Town Hall Town Hall	2.30pm 7.30 to 9.30pm
Sat	<b>22</b>	<b>Copy dateline for February Beacon</b>		
Mon	<b>24</b>	Community Lunch: Hosts Tennis Club CTAP: Agape at the Bistro for Christian Unity Week	Ashwell House Bistro	12.00 to 1.15pm 7.00pm
Tue	<b>25</b>	Painswick Players Playreading - New members especially welcome Yew Trees W.I.: Birds & A Lancaster Pilot - Peter Roberts	P. Centre Green Room  Town Hall	7.30pm  7.30pm
Sat	<b>29</b>	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 812709	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Mon	<b>31</b>	Community Lunch: Hosts Yew Trees W.I.	Ashwell House	12.00 to 1.15pm

## FEBRUARY

Wed	<b>2</b>	Probus: The Soviet Union - My Part in Bringing its Downfall: Mike Walker Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club Lecture: Sri Lanka Flowers & Wildlife - Michael Robinson. enq. 813228	Shires Room, Falcon Town Hall	10.00am 2.30pm
Thu	<b>3</b>	Painswick Conservatives AGM	Church Rooms	7.00 for 7.30pm
Fri	<b>4</b>	Friday Club: Memories of an Evacuee - Midge Leney Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Herbert Howells	Town Hall Town Hall	2.30pm 7.30 to 9.30pm
Sat	<b>5</b>	<b>February Issue of The Painswick Beacon published</b> Sound Bath Meditations: Saturdays in February: contact Christina 07871 402785 Theatre Club Outing to Cheltenham	Friends Meeting House	10.00 to 11.00am
Mon	<b>7</b>	Community Lunch: Hosts Painswick Golf Club	Stamages Car Park Ashwell House	1.30pm 12.00 to 1.15pm
Wed	<b>9</b>	Horticultural Society	Town Hall	2.30pm
Thu	<b>10</b>	Bird Club: The Crane - back from the brink : Phoebe Young	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat	<b>12</b>	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 812709	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Mon	<b>14</b>	Community Lunch: Hosts Falcon Bowling Club	Ashwell House	12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	<b>15</b>	Local History Society: Revealing Stroud's Oldest Buildings - Nigel Patterson	Croft School	7.30pm



Wed	16	Probus: Westonbirt Arboretum - Jenny Barnett Parish Council	Shires Room, Falcon Town Hall	10.00am 7.30pm
Fri	18	Friday Club: Computers for the Elderly - Age UK Painswick Music Appreciation Group: The Violin	Town Hall Town Hall	2.30pm 7.30 to 9.30pm
Mon	21	Community Lunch: Hosts - Conservation Society	Ashwell House	12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	22	Painswick Players Playreading - New members especially welcome Yew Trees W.I.: Vintage Wonders - Ruth Jacobs	P. Centre Green Room Town Hall	7.30pm 7.30pm
Sat	26	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 812709	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Mon	28	Community Lunch: Hosts - Richmond Village	Ashwell House	12.00 to 1.15pm

## MARCH

Wed	2	Probus: The Battle of the Atlantic - Fred Jones Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club Lecture: Sudden Cyprus - Nicholas Clark. enq. 813228	Shires Room, Falcon Town Hall	10.00am 2.30pm
Fri	4	Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Concert Outing to Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff Friday Club Spring Outing to Cabot Circus Shopping Centre, Bristol Women's World Day of Prayer	Stamages Car Park Catholic Church	4.00pm
Sat	5	Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club & Glos. Geology Trust Walk - Chase End Hill & British Camp. Details 813228		10.00am
Mon	7	Community Lunch: Hosts - Probus Ladies	Ashwell House	12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	8	Bird Club: The Oak & Furrow Wildlife Rescue Centre - Paul Richardson	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	9	Horticultural Society: The Kitchen Garden Today - Roger Umpelby	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat	12	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 812709	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Mon	14	Community Lunch: Hosts - Friday Club	Ashwell House	12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	15	Local History Society: The Trials, Tribulations & Joys of Owning an Old House - John Goom	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	16	Probus: Joint meeting with the Ladies: The Barge Ladies and Wine Tasting Parish Council	Church Rooms Town Hall	10.00am 7.30pm
Fri	18	Friday Club: Diaries of a Durham - Alan Parker	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	19	Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Concert Outing to Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury Beacon Quiz	Painswick Centre	5.00pm
Mon	21	Community Lunch: Hosts - Park Residents	Ashwell House	12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	22	Yew Trees W.I.: Medical Women Through The Ages - Jenny Barraclough	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat	26	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 812709	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Tue	29	Painswick Players Playreading - New members especially welcome	P. Centre Green Room	7.30pm
Wed	30	Probus: King Cotton - Norman Brown Bookings Morning for Horticultural Society Outings	Shires Room, Falcon Church Rooms	10.00am 10.00am to 12noon

## APRIL

Fri	1	Friday Club: Jerusalem Eye Hospital - Denise Magouran Painswick Music Appreciation Group: The 17th Century	Town Hall Town Hall	2.30pm 7.30 to 9.30pm
Wed	6	Theatre Club Outing to Malvern Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club AGM & Lecture: India, Flowers & Wildlife - Philip Mugridge. Details 813228	Stamages Car Park Town Hall	1.00pm 2.30pm
Sat	9	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 812709	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Wed	13	Probus: The long thin country - Chile - Bob Price Horticultural Society: Hidcote; A Garden Created by Lawrence Johnston - Duncan Coombs	Shires Room, Falcon Town Hall	10.00am 7.30pm
Fri	15	Friday Club: Easter Food - Gillian Hancock Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Richard Wagner	Town Hall Town Hall	2.30pm 7.30 to 9.30pm

Entries for the Village Diary should be sent direct to **Eddie Buttrey** at [em-m.buttrey@virgin.net](mailto:em-m.buttrey@virgin.net)



**NEW APPLICATIONS**

**HIGHBURY** Cheltenham Road. Retrospective application for revisions to S.03/627/FUL to erect glazed conservatory porch, enclose retaining walls and enlargement of roof and first floor gable addition.

**PAINSWICK HOUSE LODGE**, Gloucester Road. Replacement of 1 chimney.

**BEECHVIEW**, Far End, Sheepscombe. Construction of an attached double garage and bedroom above replacement dwelling.

**BERRY BARN**, Paradise. (Revised Plans) Erection of detached garage/workshop with basement.

**THE BARN**, Stroud Slad Farm, Slad Lane. New Entrance Lobby.

**UNDERLEAF**, Orchard Mead. Erection of replacement enlarged, projecting, rear double dormer gable.

**DAMSELLS MEWS**, Painswick. Replacement of extant permission APP/C12625/A07/2057650 (S.07/1543/OUT) – Erection of Coach House. Allowed at appeal.

**9 GYDE ROAD**. Roof and wall insulation. New front door and temporary blocking of 2nd bathroom window to enable shower to be installed

**7 GLOUCESTER ROAD**. Single storey timber outbuilding

**TANGIER COTTAGE**. To replace application S.07/1781/FUL – Erection of extension

**BUTT HOUSE**. Demolition of existing garage and greenhouse, construction of new garage and attached garden room with associated landscaping

**RICHMOND VILLAGE CENTRE**. Addition of a square bay window to ground floor and west elevation (the living room of apartment 0-4)

**THE LODGE, GYDE HOUSE**. Application to renew extant permission S.07/1791/LBC for erection of side extension

**PHOENIX COTTAGE**. Erection of extensions and alterations. Resubmission following permission S.10/0225/HHOLD (change to external materials to natural stone to extensions and render to existing bradstone)

**HILLFOOT COTTAGE**. Single storey extension

**HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL**. 1 aluminium fascia sign over front entrance

**GOLDEN HEART**. Tibbiwell Lane. Discharge of Condition - Variation of condition 2 from listed building consent S.10/0396/LBC

**12 GLOUCESTER ROAD**. Removal of existing garage and construction of new extensions

**HAMPTONS INTERNATIONAL**. 1 externally illuminated fascia sign

**CONSENT**

**ENDERLEY**, Longridge, Sheepscombe. Re-submission following withdrawal of application S.10/0531/HHOLD for the erection of extension at first floor level.

**LAND AT BUTTS COTTAGE**, Edge Road. Erection of a detached dwelling.

**WELL FARM**, Wick Street. Change of use of part of paddock from agricultural to residential use. Erection of green house on the plot.

**THE OLD TELEPHONE EXCHANGE**, Stroud Road. Conversion of former (disused) telephone exchange to dwelling including site works, and extensions.

**PACKERS**, New Street. Internal alterations to recently completed cloakroom and bathroom. Alterations to external steps.

**THE OLD VICARAGE**, Damsells Mill Lane, Sheepscombe. (Reduction and felling of trees various).

**SHEEPSCOMBE HOUSE**, Sheepscombe. S.10/2038/DISCON – Discharge of conditions three and four of application S.08/1122/FUL

**BERRY BARN**, Paradise. W.10/2084/HHOLD – Erection of detached garage/workshop with basement (Revised plans received 02/11/10).

**THE BULL**, Wick Street. S.10/2333/MINAM – Minor amendment to planning permission S.10/1391/HHOLD for changes to fenestration and walling materials.

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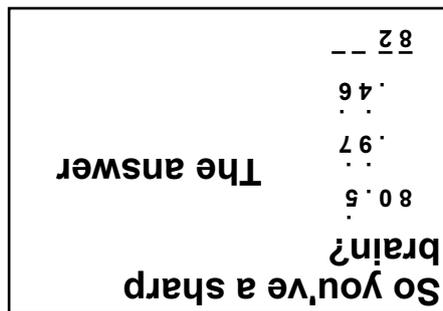
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# The Personal Column

Rachel Taylor and Jenny Gaugain

## Congratulations

Congratulations to FIONA WELBOURN and ROBERT TALLIS who have announced their engagement.

## Welcome

We are pleased to welcome PAUL and SHAUN HARVEY-BROOKS to an apartment in Rossway in New Street, also PHIL and ROS ION and their children Isabel, Natasha and David who have moved within the village to a new home, Prindion in Kingsmill Lane

## Farewell

Best wishes to DAVID and JACKIE JONES who have moved to Abbeydale.

## Congratulations

Our best wishes to The Rev MARTIN POLL RN who was appointed Honorary Chaplain to HM The Queen, and Principal Anglican Chaplain and Archdeacon for the Royal Navy on 1st November. Martin

## Barbara's Big Birthday

15th December 2010 was a very significant date for Mrs Barbara Legh-Smith – she reached the grand total of one hundred years and she certainly celebrated in style.

Bob Shea aka Father Christmas organised an absolutely splendid birthday bash in her honour which was attended by many dear friends. After a champagne reception and buffet luncheon the Queen's message of congratulations was ceremoniously opened and read out, a blessing given by the Vicar, a lovely tribute paid by Pauline Foreman and finally the cutting of the birthday cake. Some rousing Christmas Carols were sung by one and all and Robert Burgess was the perfect accompanist at the piano throughout the whole event.



Barbara, born in Shrewsbury where she grew up, first came to Painswick in the 1950s, returned in 1970 after a short absence during the previous few years and has lived happily here ever since. Her great passion is bridge and she is, according to all her bridge-playing colleagues, a very good player. Her big birthday treat was to be a balloon flight last October, cancelled unfortunately at the last minute because of weather conditions. However, she is very enthusiastic about going ahead when flights resume in March. Such a positive approach to life is what marks this very dignified lady out as special to all her friends.

Barbara's party was certainly a special and very happy occasion and we wish her good health and happiness for the future – and a memorable balloon flight.

Carol Maxwell

is the son-in-law of Peter and Daphne Hudson, now living in Cirencester but previously of Cotswold Mead.

## Condolences

Our condolences to the family and friends of JOAN FAWCUS, ALAN WALFORD, NANCY SHEPHERD of Callowell, DOROTHY BARROW, FRIEDRICH ADAM RÖDER and PEGGY PERRIN who have died recently.

## Get well soon

A speedy recovery to MAURICE MAGGS, BILL VARAH, MARY ROBERTS, TREVOR RADWAY, SHEILA LOMAS, and ANNE MORTIMER.

*You could help Rachel Taylor and Jenny Gaugain, whose contact details are in the column to the right, if you would relay information about those you know and for whom a mention in the Personal Column would be appreciated.*

## NEXT ISSUE

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