

The Painswick Beacon

Sine praeiudicio

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February 2012

Belties on the Beacon!

After much preparation, five Belted Galloway cows ('Belties') have now been introduced to an area of Painswick Beacon. Within minutes of their arrival on Wednesday 18th January they were happily munching away at the tussocks of under-grazed grass which are currently smothering the wild flowers.

As common land, Painswick Beacon has been historically grazed for hundreds of years. Painswick Beacon is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of the importance of its agriculturally unimproved limestone grassland. Grazing is vital to maintain the diversity of wild flowers in unimproved grassland; it reduces the vigour of grasses and removes dead plant material, or thatch, from the sward. This in turn gives the herbs space and sunlight to flower and set seed. Without sufficient grazing, wild flowers begin to struggle to compete and are slowly lost from the sward.

The re-introduction of grazing onto the Beacon is part of a new management regime under Higher Level Stewardship, an agri-environment scheme administered by Natural England. As the owner of the Beacon Selina Blow is host to the agreement, but the management options are delivered by several parties; commitment and determination from Painswick Golf Club, Painswick Beacon Conservation Group and other local volunteers is the back-bone of the agreement.

The cattle are penned behind a temporary electric fence in an area adjoining the back wall of the cemetery. The paddock has been carefully planned; there are four gates so that dog walkers, Cotswold Way walkers and golfers hunting mis-hit balls will not be seriously inconvenienced, and the bottom strand of the fence is not electrified so that dogs pushing under the fence will not be shocked.

Mostly teenagers, the Belties are mature, docile ladies who have 'seen it all before' and are most likely to ignore walkers and dogs unless they are deliberately provoked. If you approach closely they will back away; they are not keen on being stroked or hugged. The cattle are owned by the National Trust and are extremely well looked after. They are known individually by name to their keeper,



Matt Stanway, and their welfare will be checked at least once every day; either by Matt or by local volunteer livestock checkers. If you would like to help, do volunteer. Checking involves such things as availability of food and water, the cows' general demeanour and condition, and the state of the fencing.

If you don't know the breed, be assured that they are very hardy outdoor cattle in their element. You and I may have to wrap up in extra layers but they come with what nature and evolution provide: a thick curly coat, a thick waterproof layer of skin, (cowhide) and a thick layer of insulating fat under that. At the centre is a ruminant metabolism producing about 2 kilowatts, like a two bar fire. So they will be fine and the area will benefit hugely from the grazing. There are appropriate signs on site, and should you see anything amiss, please contact Matt Stanway immediately on 07909 872497. For further Conservation Group matters see page 9.

*David Little, Secretary David Allott Chairman
Painswick Beacon Conservation Group*

Support Group for carers formed



A new 'carers' group has been formed, stimulated by Patricia Burrows and the tea party she reports on page 5. She is shown here with Lou Kemp; see also page 16. We have lacked such a support group since Renee Hill unavoidably had to relinquish a similar organisation at the end of 2006.

The Apple core group revive tradition of wassailing

On Saturday 14th January the 'Apple Core Group' revived an ancient Gloucestershire Tradition of Wassailing, traditionally held at the deepest and gloomiest part of the year. The evening of the event was indeed moonless, cloudless with the temperature at freezing point. The event consisted of a torch lit procession of about 100 individuals starting just after 6.00pm from the Painswick Centre, around the church and down Vicarage Street to Beech Lane and the orchards. A rather noisy procession at that with banging drums, pots and pans and whistles; many of the children, and indeed some grown ups, wore animal costumes. We trust Vicarage Street residents had been advised beforehand! At the orchard there was a bonfire and fireworks, with bowlfuls of delicious homemade soup and cider on offer. There was an ancient ceremony to 'pay respect to the trees to ensure a good harvest next season'. This consisted of toast dipped in cider from a wassailing bowl and offered to the 'king tree', ie 'toasting', by a circle of children. This was followed by the singing of a traditional wassailing song and an energetic performance by Mummers from Gloucester. What was it all in aid of, apart from some innocent fun? Well, the Apple Core Group hope to encourage orchards and the growing of fruit trees in Painswick and to raise funds for a community orchard in Painswick. See page 11 for photos.

On other pages this month: Village Quiz, **Diamond Jubilee & Olympic celebrations**, New homes in Stroud Valleys, **Appeal for books**, Community lunches, **Toad patrols**, Neil Carmichael's surgery, **Painswick Players**, Yoga, **Music Society season**, Ashwell Group, **Wearable Art news**, Playgroup thanks, **Ballet successes**, History reports, **Marling school success**.

As there was no Beacon reporter available for the meeting the Council Clerk, Roy Balgobin has kindly summarised the meeting highlights as below:

Council Resignation

The Council accepted the resignation of Cllr Cash; he has resigned as he is moving to Bath for 9 months. The Chairman has sent a letter of appreciation to Andy Cash.

Allotments

Cllr Caroline White gave a very comprehensive report from the Allotment Working Group as detailed below.

i.) To continue with the Mop Tree Site

- The 20 interested plot holders must form themselves into an allotment association and secure appropriate insurance.

- They must all sign individual allotment holder licences with the Parish Council for their plots.

- They must agree to the current rental of £38.50.

These actions must be completed if the Parish Council is to sign the lease with the land owner of the Mop Tree field and for physical works to commence on site.

Or,

ii.) To consider placing up to 20 allotments on the Recreation Ground.

In light of the reduced number of takers for the Mop Tree, (20 plots rather than the original 37) the Council's allotment group is concerned that the Mop Tree site may now pose more of a financial risk to the Council than previously thought.

- A limited number of allotment holders for the Mop Tree means a high rent per plot (currently £38.50 per plot) and if the current interested tenants do not renew after one year then it may be difficult to find replacement tenants. This would leave the Council liable to pay the rent on the land for the full three years, without necessarily securing sufficient revenue to cover the out goings.

- The set up costs of circa £3936 for the Mop Tree site remain, no matter how many tenants are on site.

- The Parish Council must consider whether this cost is appropriate when considering its statutory requirement balanced with its requirements to deliver services for the wider community.

The following reasons support the proposal of the Recreation Ground.

- It is central to the village.

- It will provide an income to assist with management of the Recreation Ground.

- The Charity Commission is in favour of allotments on the Recreation Ground.

- It is an appropriate use for a leisure and recreation space.

With this in mind, the Allotment Group propose "that the Parish council seeks

the agreement of the Recreation Ground Trust to place up to 20 allotment plots on the Recreation Ground in an area between the Youth Club building and the Ground's east facing fence, subject to soil analysis and if the Recreation Trustees are not supportive the Council revert back to the Mop Tree Site." The Council agreed to this resolution by a majority with Cllr Jason Bullingham voting against the proposal.

Affordable Housing

The Chairman detailed the following update:-

A number of residents from The Park have been inquiring about the status of the suggested area for Affordable Housing, a diagram of which appeared in the December Painswick Beacon. He said that he had telephoned Mark Hutchings of the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council to ask for an update. Mr Hutchings had replied, "Following my talk with the Parish Council in October I have introduced Mr Richard Hinds (land owner), his agent (Bruton Knowles) with Chris Knibbs (Seven Vale Housing Society). It was agreed that Severn Vale would undertake a topographic survey of the site and instruct their architect to provide a number of sketch layout options, before making arrangements to meet jointly with local authority planners, the land owner and his agent.

Severn Vale and I would like to report back to the Parish Council when we have sketch layout plans, topographical survey and the planners' pre-application comments available. I suspect it may not be until March or April that we are ready to come and see the Parish Council".

Parish Plan

Cllr Ela Pathak-Sen circulated to Members a list of draft action points drawn up from recent feedback: these action points are available in the Council Offices. She asked Members to consider their priority when handing them over to the new Council.

The Olympic Torch Relay

The Chairman reported that Vicky Aspinall, David Bishop, Karen Goddard, Cllr Ela Pathak-Sen, Cllr Martin Slinger and himself had formed a group to take the Olympic Torch Relay and The Queen's Diamond Jubilee events forward.

Quality Parish Council Status

The Clerk explained that due to the current number of co-opted members, the Council could not apply to be reaccredited. It is hoped that enough candidates will seek election in May in order that the new Council can obtain Quality Status.

To Receive an Update on Catbrain Quarry

The Clerk read out an email from the Senior Enforcement Officer at Stroud District Council, which states that a Stop Notice had been issued and also a notice to reinstate the landscape.

Town Hall Works Project

The Council agreed to set aside up to £1,500 from its reserves towards the costs of decorating the Lower Hall and a sum of up to £1,800 from its reserves towards the cost of laying a non slip flooring on the ground floor walkways including the kitchen.

Painswick Centre

The Parish Council agreed to make a grant of £1,500 to the Painswick Centre following the Council's successful Big Community Offer (BCO) Community Library bid for the modernisation of the Town Hall. The Painswick Centre had withdrawn its BCO Community Library bid in favour of that of the Parish Council as the County Council had stated that they wished to receive only one bid from Painswick.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Hoyland House

The committee spent a considerable time discussing the application for change of use of part of the lower ground floor from medical/health services to an estate agency. A letter had been received from Mr David Batty pointing out that the building of Hoyland House had been the subject of exceptional development outside of the village settlement boundary. He did not believe that the proposal for an estate agency could be regarded as exceptional development.

The members appreciated that the loss of income to the Surgery was a matter of concern but resolved to recommend to the District Council that the application be refused as an estate agency was not in keeping with a medical practice.

Core Strategy

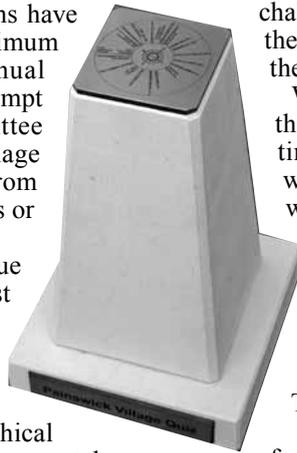
Cllr Barbara Tait in her report to the committee drew attention to the fact that the Parish Council had supported the option for up to 100 dwellings to be constructed in various settlements within Stroud District of which Painswick was one.

**See page 13 for
Parish Council
election dates.**

Beacon VILLAGE QUIZ of the Year - 10th March

We are delighted to note that thirteen teams have already booked their places among the maximum of 24 we can accommodate for this annual event - Saturday 10th March at 7.30pm prompt in Painswick Centre. The Beacon committee gain great pleasure in promoting this village challenge, and attracting teams of four from clubs, societies and groupings of neighbours or other friendship quartets.

Last year we introduced a fine and unique trophy to pass to the team with the highest score to look after for the year ahead. Using local stone it represents the highest level of the Painswick Beacon itself, symbolising the old triangulation point and the new etched bearings towards landmarks and topographical features as far as the eye can see. Little did we expect there to be such a fierce struggle to find an eventual winner, requiring a tie-break for the very first time. This year's



challenge is not to dislodge the Parfitt family, who compete as the 'St Patterns Five', they're not competing, but to enjoying the event for its own sake.

We try to take into account much learned from previous years, the level at which questions are pitched, their diversity, the timing of rounds and even the refreshments in the interval. So we're looking forward to welcoming teams but urge booking well in advance so that all is prepared to make the evening go smoothly. Team entry fees are held at £16, the bar will be open all evening from 7.15, and a 'platter' of refreshments is included and brought to each table in the interval. Carriages about 10.30pm, or thereabouts. Entries please by E-mail to mr@lesliebrotherton.com or post to his home Longhope, Blakewell Mead GL6 6UR; cheques payable to The Painswick Beacon at £16 per team.

There is not only the trophy for which to compete, but prizes for the top three teams and for the team judged to have brought the most apt and striking mascot. Do join in, it is regularly reported as 'Good fun!'.



Diamond Jubilee and Olympic celebrations

Olympic Torch/ Diamond Jubilee Committee

The committee has met to plan a series of the events in connection with the carrying of the Olympic Torch through the village and the celebration of HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It was felt that there was a need to have groups responsible for, ensuring the village was exceptionally tidy for the relay, coordinating music, entertainment and food. A group would be necessary to make the arrangements for the creation of a beacon on Painswick Beacon which would be one of the 2012 being lit to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. The committee welcomes other proposals. Please forward your ideas to the committee via Roy Balgobin, Clerk to the Parish Council, on 812722 or at clerkpainswickpc@hotmail.com

Road Closures

Gloucestershire County Council will waive the cost of applying for a road closure for people who want to hold street parties between 2nd and 5th June to celebrate the Queen's 60 years on the throne. The council is also going to waive the fee for Olympic celebrations if people decide to hold street parties to mark the games. The roads may need to be closed to traffic for safety reasons.

Gloucestershire County Council still needs the normal 12 weeks notice if a road closure is requested in order to sort out diversions for traffic. Applications need to be in by 30th April at latest for both Jubilee and Olympic celebrations. Event organisers will be responsible for safe signing as usual and they also need to consider if their event will require public liability insurance. While the council will endeavour to approve all applications, if a request comes in for a main road such as the A46, this may not be possible.

To apply for a road closure, email streetworks@gloucestershire.gov.uk or write to Streetworks Team, Gloucestershire County Council, Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2TH.



3,200 new homes in locations including the 'Stroud Valleys' Stroud District Council to consult on plans

Stroud District Council's Planning Strategy Team have advised that between Monday 6th February and Monday 19th March there will be public consultation on the next stage in the preparation of Stroud District Council's "Core Strategy" – part of a new Local Plan for the district, which will deal with development up to 2026.

The 'Preferred Strategy' consultation will deal with the Council's proposals for how best to distribute 3,200 new homes and a target of up to 6,400 jobs across the district between now and 2026. The Council seek views about focusing development at six main locations: Hunts Grove (Hardwicke/Haresfield parishes), north east Cam, to the west of Stonehouse (Eastington parish), along the Stroud Valleys, at Aston Down and at Sharpness.

Anyone who lives, works or invests in the Stroud District can take part in this consultation and make their views known. The main consultation document will be available online at <http://www.stroud.gov.uk/consultation> between Monday 6th February and Monday 19th March and at various locations during their normal opening hours including:

- Painswick and Stroud Town and Parish Council offices
- The Public library at Stroud
- The customer service centre at Stroud District Council offices, Ebley Mill. There are computers for public access here

- The Tourist Information Centre at the Subscription Rooms, Stroud

There will be an online questionnaire to respond to the consultation. If you do not have internet access you can get consultation response forms from any of the locations listed above.

There will be six drop-in exhibitions, targeted at the main development locations, during February and early March. You'll be able to chat to officers working on the Core Strategy. Copies of all the documents published in connection with this consultation will be available to view and you can pick up consultation response forms there too. There will also be unmanned exhibitions at several places during the consultation period.

The Public Drop-In Exhibitions with the Core Strategy Team in attendance targeted at the Stroud Valleys is on Saturday 25 February, 10am – 3pm at The Subscription Rooms, Stroud. (Also at Brimscombe & Thrupp Social Centre on Wednesday 22 February, 3pm – 8pm.

Static unmanned exhibition for the Stroud Valleys is at Stroud Town Council from Monday 6 February to Sunday 26 February, at Minchinhampton Library from Monday 20 February to Friday 3 March and at Stroud District Council Offices from Monday 6 February to Friday 16 March

For further information on the consultation process please contact the Council's Planning Strategy Team on 01453 754143 or Email core@stroud.gov.uk

Your Community Library appeals for books!

The Community Library in Painswick (CLIP) Trustees are looking to Beacon readers to be generous in donating books for the new community library.

We welcome all types of book providing they are in good condition and suitable for regular use in a library. Initially we have set aside two dates when you can bring your books to the newly refurbished upper room of the Town Hall, although it is likely further dates will be arranged.

CLIP Trustees look forward to meeting you to accept your book donations on Wednesday 22nd February between 2.00pm and 4.00pm and Saturday 25th February between 10 and 12 am.

This will also be your opportunity to talk to the Trustees about the community library development so why not come along and find out more? NB Any books we are unable to use will be sold and the funds raised used to buy new stock.

Pat Francis



Community Lunches

We are pleased to report that the 10 sessions of Community Lunches held through the Autumn at Ashwell Centre have so far raised over £600 for this year's charities – Painswick Playgroup, Mencap Homes Foundation in Stroud and Christian Aid.

The Lunches resumed in mid-January on Mondays from 12noon to 1.15pm. You can read in the Beacon Diary which village group is hosting the lunch each week. The highlight this last term were the children of Year 6 at Croft School – we did enjoy their enthusiastic hospitality! Thanks to all who support – and we welcome ALL to come and enjoy the home-made vegetable soups, fresh bread and cheese each Monday.

Rita Bishop and David Linsell

Toad Patrol volunteers needed

I run a toad patrol at Pitchcombe and am looking for volunteers. I wondered if The Painswick Beacon readers may be able to help.



Common toads are declining in the UK. Thousands are killed crossing roads each Spring as they make their way to breeding ponds that they have used for generations. Volunteers are needed to help on mild wet evenings in February and March. All you will need is warm clothing, something reflective, a bucket, torch and a sense of humour! You can help as little or as often as you like.

If you are interested in helping please contact me on 01453 756543.

Anne Morgan

Neil Carmichael's surgery

Debbie Young, Neil Carmichael's constituency aide, has advised the Beacon that on Saturday 11th February Neil Carmichael will be doing a mobile surgery. This will give constituents a chance to come and chat to him about anything ranging from personal problems to national issues. His timetable is that Neil Carmichael is due to be at The Black Horse, Cranham at 12 noon and at Painswick Town Hall at 1pm. However, he is also due at Bisley at 2pm. Debbie Young advises that if you have any queries on this please do not hesitate to call his office on 01453 751572

Women's World Day of Prayer

Please come and join us on Friday 2nd March at 11am at the Catholic Church, of Our Lady and St Thérèse, for the 2012 Women's World Day of Prayer service.

The Women's World Day of Prayer is an Ecumenical Christian organisation of national and international committees who choose a country to be prayed for on this special day. This year it is Malaysia. The gifts of money collected at the service are spent on the conferences, service sheets etc and valuable grants are made to Christian charities such as Cafod, the Bible Society, Feed the Minds, and to Welsh speaking Churches and the Society for the Blind in Wales.

Although men and children are welcome to attend, it is predominately a special day of prayer for women, and we look forward to welcoming you. There will be coffee and sandwiches after the service.

Jane Robinson and Anne Hamill

Lent groups 2012.

As in previous years there will be several times & venues for different Lent Study courses, running from Ash Wednesday (22nd February) to Good Friday (6th April)

Details of these will be available after the beginning of February- on the CTAP notice board opposite the Town Hall and in each church in Painswick and surroundings.

Please speak DIRECTLY to the contact given on the notice to ensure a place. If there are any queries, contact me on 814205.

Rita Bishop, Secretary CTAP

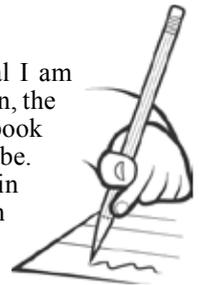


Are you a budding author? If so, then read on.....

In collaboration with the Painswick Arts Festival I am inviting entries for a short story writing competition, the ten winning entries to appear in a high-quality book published by Darien-Jones Publishing of Pitchcombe.

The competition is open to all those who reside in the Painswick Beacon distribution area together with their friends and relatives who may live elsewhere.

Entry forms can be obtained from me at 2 Gyde House, Painswick GL6 6RR, by 'phoning (01452) 814004 or emailing friarwriter@btinternet.com.



Steve Friar

Conservation work parties at Buckholt Wood

Buckholt Wood, part of Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods National Nature Reserve, is one of the finest examples of beechwood in the country. Natural England is organising work parties on 26th February and 25th March, giving members of the public the rare chance to work in this beautiful woodland and to contribute to the crucial management of its rides and glades, open areas within the wood that are home to an array of butterflies, birds and plants. The work will consist of removing scrub and small trees with bowsaws and loppers. Full induction will be given and tools and work gloves provided. You can do as little or as much as you want to, but it will surely be a good day out in the countryside, and a good workout, too!

Booking is not necessary, but appreciated. We will start from Cranham Scouts Centre at 10.30am, and finish at about 3.30pm. Please bring warm clothes, a drink and lunch. To book or for more information please contact Britta Koehler (Reserve Warden): 01452 813982, 07500918841, or britta.koehler@naturalengland.org.uk.

Britta Koehler, Reserve Warden, Gloucestershire National Nature Reserves

Is Painswick ready for this?

Contrary to my report in January's Painswick Beacon, performances of our Arts Festival production this year are on Thursday 19th, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st July.



The team who brought you Duets at last year's Festival will be performing two hilariously funny David Tristram plays, suitably adapted and with the title Last Tango in Painswick!

Everyone is welcome to join us when we read through both plays at our regular monthly play-reading in the Green Room at the Painswick Centre on Tuesday 28th February beginning at 7.30 pm.

Auditions will be held, again at the Painswick Centre, on Thursday 8th March, beginning at 7.30 pm in the Cotswold Room. These auditions are open to everyone – please contact Steve Friar for further information (01452-814004 or friarwriter@btinternet.com). We will be recruiting a production crew as well as actors so why not join us?

Workshops

Building on last year's highly successful collaboration with Cheltenham's Everyman Theatre, we are currently arranging a series of theatre workshops at the Painswick Centre on Saturdays 14th and 28th April and 5th May from 10.00am. to 1.00pm. These workshops are great fun (no-one takes themselves too seriously!), no acting experience is necessary and non-members will be especially welcome to join us. Make a note of the dates and watch this space next month for further details...

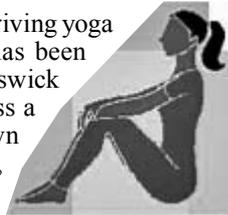
Play Readings

Last Tango in Painswick is the first in a series of play readings to be held at the Painswick Centre on the last Tuesday of most months, beginning at 7.30pm (see the Village Diary). These are always informal and very enjoyable occasions to which everyone is welcome.

Steve Friar

Yoga in the Painswick Valley

Kim Brockett has sent us information of her thriving yoga classes here in the Painswick Valley. Kim has been running the classes in Sheepscombe and Painswick for five years now, starting with just one class a week. As the popularity of the classes has grown she has expanded to five thriving yoga classes, three of which are in evening and two in the morning, running every weekday during school term times. Kim says that the classes are suitable for a range of abilities and ages, from beginners to more advanced students. They are an hour and a half in length cover all the different aspects of yoga from the philosophy, yoga postures, relaxation and breathing to meditation techniques. As the classes have evolved and grown, because of the needs of the students, Kim has changed the venues and timetables of the classes. For evening yoga you can now find two classes at Sheepscombe village hall on Monday at 6.30pm and 8.15pm and then one class on a Tuesday evening in the Cotswold Room at the Painswick Centre at 6.30pm. For daytime yoga you can attend morning classes also in the Cotswold Room at the Painswick Centre on both a Wednesday and Thursday morning at 9.30am. All abilities are very welcome, for more information Kim can be contacted on 812623.



Cupcakes for Carers

On Tuesday 10th January we held a very enjoyable tea party in the Green Room at the Painswick Centre. The people who attended were in favour of having a monthly group meeting for the time being, the main aim of the participants to be sociable and to be of mutual help and support.

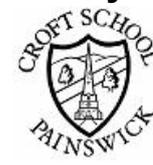
I was very pleased with the initial turnout and really enjoyed myself (although I consumed rather too many cakes!!). I was actually rather moved by the number of cheerful helpers who lent support all afternoon. It was also obvious that the carers really valued the opportunity to talk about their situations and were able to give each other little tips and hints to make life somewhat easier. Two people went away determined to buy Handibars which can help people with hip and leg problems get in and out of the car more easily.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 7th February, 1.30-4.30pm when Andrea Linsell will show some equipment and tools which can help with various physical problems, some of which may be available for purchase. She also promises scones for the tea party. The following meeting will be on 6th March at the same time, when Chloe McCarthy of Three Gables will be offering complimentary hand massages from 2.00 to 3.00pm. If any other therapists would like to offer similar relaxing services at another meeting, please contact me.

The tea party times mean that you can drop in for as long as comfortable and convenient for you and I hope that now the ice is broken many more people who are looking after family members, or friends, will come along. We believe that there are about one hundred carers in Painswick alone and more in the surrounding villages. All are welcome, including dependants. Contact me on 01452 813326 if you would like further details.

Patricia Burrows

Fairtrade coffee morning Friday 9th March 9.30-11.30am.



The children (and parents) will be baking cakes and biscuits using fairtrade ingredients to serve along with coffee and tea and juice in the Main Hall at the school and everyone is welcome to

come. Please come along and support the school.

Iris McCormick



Piano wanted



Good Piano Needed Please! Do you have a good quality upright piano that you would be willing to donate for use in St Mary's Church Rooms as the present one is fast wearing out? If so, Chris Swain, Organist of St Mary's and Chairman of Painswick Music Society would be very pleased to hear from you on 01453 822998 or cgsivain@btinternet.com. Free transportation would be arranged.

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A great 66th Season in the offing

The Music Society's 2012 programme has, as always, a range of the world's top class performers, this time with a touch of woodwind flavouring. The captivating Emma Johnson and her clarinet, with John Lenehan again her accompanist, is back in Painswick for her third visit after many concert performances world wide. They will be playing works by Debussy, Schuman, Weber, Copland, Milhaud and, intriguingly, Bed Time Stories for Clarinet and Narrator, by another unrelated Johnson.

Ian Fountain, Professor of Piano at the RAM, who was the youngest winner of the Arthur Rubinstein Piano Masters Competition at the age of 19, is our second international artist. He has performed piano concertos with most of the world's great orchestras. He will be playing sonatas by Schubert and Mozart, some Brahms and a piano transcription from Wagner's opera 'Parsifal', finishing with a Chopin Scherzo.

The Nash Ensemble, recognised throughout the world as one of the greatest ensembles of our time, will be here as a string quartet for our third concert. Their programme comprises quartets by Haydn, Beethoven and Borodin's second that includes the famous

and much loved Nocturn that has been called the greatest love song ever written: Borodin wrote it as an evocation of the time he first met and fell in love with his wife Katerina.



The Rose Trio, two sisters on oboe and clarinet plus a bassoonist, an ensemble much favoured by Mozart, are in great demand following their widely acclaimed debut recital at the Wigmore Hall in June 2011. They will play a Mozart Divertimento, a Poulenc sonata, pieces by Britten and a sprig of solos and duets by lesser known composers of recent times. It is a programme of music one seldom gets an opportunity to enjoy, full of interest and bound to fascinate.

All concerts are in St. Mary's Church, Painswick at 3.00pm. Tickets for all 4 concerts are £36 (saving £23.50 on the cost of 4 single tickets) from Tel: 01452 812419.

Maurice Maggs

Wednesday Ashwell Group

A new year and a new look. After 26 years the Ashwell Day Centre has decided to update its image.

After consultation with the members a decision was made to change the name to W A G. The Group meets regularly on Wednesdays 10.00am - 3.00pm and offers a number of activities including arts/crafts, singing, exercises, games etc together with other Senior folk. Speakers and outside visits are arranged from time to time.

The full cost of the day is £7 to include a cooked lunch and further refreshments. Free transport can be arranged. If you are feeling isolated and would enjoy company and a change of scene why not join us for morning coffee to find out more?

For a visit and further information please contact Etelle James: 01452 813358 or Sandra Glass 01452 814186

The group held its Christmas lunch at the Rococo Gardens on Wednesday

14th December. Adding to the celebrations on the same day was a ninetieth birthday for one of the members, Charlie Franklyn. Charlie is pictured receiving a birthday cake from Etelle James, one of the helpers.



A Christmas Party was held the following week. Entertainment "Red Indians" was played out by some of the helpers. Pictured from L-R

Eve Wallace, Gill Allen, Sandra Glass and Etelle James.

Sandra Glass





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Wearable Art news

The main date this year for your diary is Sunday 15th July – The Wearable Art Painswick Festival!

Christmas Party

Wearable Art Painswick celebrated a very successful 2011 and the start of the WAP 2012 season with a fabulously glamorous Christmas party for Friends, sponsors and supporters, at The Court House, Painswick, generously hosted by Linda Lloyd.

The event was a huge success, enjoyed by all who came and WAP would like to thank again all of its WAP 2011 friends, sponsors and helpers and particularly Linda Lloyd, Cotswolds88 Hotel and Olivas delicatessen who helped make this party so memorable.

Olivas supplied the raffle prize of a Tower of Treats for the evening and the delighted winners were Chris and Jane Garbett. Jane is pictured here receiving their prize from Brian and Ximena.

Mary Wing To

We are thrilled to announce that a new judge has joined the team for WAP 2012. As you may know, The World of Wearable Art is a very big show in New Zealand and the Supreme Winner last September, with her creation Hylonome, was the British designer Mary Wing To. As one of our judging panel she will be inspirational for all our entrants and we are very lucky that she has agreed to participate in our festival.

Give the Gift of Friendship

Wearable Art Painswick is now inviting existing WAP 2011 Friends and others to re-affirm their commitment and support for WAP by renewing their Friendship for the WAP 2012 season. Single membership is £25 and joint membership only £40 and application forms are available at the Painswick Post Office.

If you are looking for an unusual gift for a special birthday/anniversary/celebration, why not consider giving a WAP 2012 Friendship!? It will bring the delighted recipient into the ever growing WAP community and get them into some great WAP events!

Performers, musicians and stallholders wanted!

Would you like to perform as a street entertainer or musician at the Wearable Art Painswick Festival 2012? Or do you make beautifully crafted gifts, fabulous food or produce and you would like to sell your wares at WAP 2012? If so, then please get in touch by emailing stallholders@wapfestival.co.uk

Help!

Do you find that you are full of enthusiasm, positivity, drive, community spirit and energy, but don't have an outlet for it? If so WAP 2012 would very much like to hear from you!! We need more volunteers to help with all aspects of the WAP 2012 show and we need you now!

We are also considering the viability of putting on a show in St Mary's churchyard on the evening of Saturday 14th July and urgently need people to get their teeth into this.

Do you feel like donating your hospitality to WAP by offering a beautiful room in your house to accommodate visiting performers or judges on Saturday 14th July? If so, please get in touch with us! In all cases, please contact us by emailing info@wapfestival.co.uk. These are exciting times for WAP and Painswick – do get involved!

Chris Mercer



From photo by Anne-Marie Randall



Photo by World of Wearable Art Ltd

Coach trip to Tyntesfield

Friday Club

On Wednesday 21st March the Friday Club are taking a trip to Tyntesfield a National Trust house and garden just south of Bristol.

If you would like to join us please telephone Jane Robinson 812590 to book a seat. The cost for Friday Club Non-members will be £11.50 for National Trust members (remember to bring your membership card) otherwise £23.50 to include entrance. The coach will be leaving Stamages Lane car park at 10.45 and will return there at 4.30.

Refreshments are not included, but there is a café and restaurant.

Jane Robinson

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Playgroup thanks supportive Painswick community

The children of Painswick Playgroup put on a wonderfully festive and musical Nativity this Christmas. Narrated by Playgroup leader Beaty Bell, the traditional Christmas story was retold, with the three Kings, a host of Angels and lowing cattle, all staged in a stable as there was no room at The Olde Painswick Inn! The Playgroups's thirty-three children, aged between 2 and 9 months and 5 years of age, took part in three performances, delighting both parents, grand-parents and children of The Croft School. Over the course of the performances, a very healthy £225 was reached, including money raised during a hugely successful raffle, made possible by the continued generosity of members of the community, with prizes donated by The Falcon, The Chairman, Olivas, and The Friday Fisherman to name just a few. We are extremely grateful for this support, which is so key to the continued running and development of this outstanding Playgroup. This year we are concentrating our fund raising towards a new roof for the Playgroup's building, and other very exciting initiatives throughout 2012 will be announced forth with!

Lizzie Gordon



Not the 'mew' of a cat!

One mid-October afternoon, six buzzards were soaring on raised wings above Painswick, arousing us with their high-pitched, mewing calls.

Buzzards are the most common of our large birds of prey; about the size of ravens and red kites, two other species also seen locally. A buzzard's plumage is mainly brown; they have broad wings, rather short, barred tails and stout necks. In flight they are frequently mobbed by rooks, jackdaws and much smaller birds as they are relatively less agile in the air. They can also be seen perched on fences, gate posts and in trees.

Buzzards may be sighted all year round, and the hilly wooded rural Cotswolds is ideal territory for them. Numbers are increasing, although they suffered in the 1950s and 1960s from the drastic reduction of rabbits, a main food source, due to myxomatosis.

They usually pair for life, and nest in high trees, for example in the Slad Valley, rearing 2 or 3 young. Towards the end of winter, look out for the males' spectacular aerial spiralling mating display!

Let's hear about your buzzard sightings at the next meeting of Painswick Bird Club, on Thursday 16th February at 7.30pm in the Town Hall, where Edward Drewitt will give an illustrated talk on 'Urban Dwelling Peregrines'. Everyone is most welcome, visitors £3.

Bill Boydell



Chamber music can thrill

Maurice Maggs - a chamber musician in his youth and a member of St. Mary's choir - writes the programme notes for the Painswick Music Society's concerts. Addressing our meeting on 5th January he thought it was a pity that so few of our members attended these. After all, St. Mary's size and acoustics were ideally suited for Chamber Music and virtuoso solo artist performances and the Society presents some of the world's top musicians and ensembles from international concert platforms. Furthermore, he regards listening to recorded quartets for example as dull compared to the thrill of live performances, with our visual senses complementing the aural ones.

So he set out to put things right! Illustrating short previews of the four performers this coming Spring - Emma Thompson, the famous clarinettist, Ian Fountain, the pianist, the Nash String Quartet and the Rose Trio with some of the music they will be playing, he regaled us with recordings of excerpts of the Sunrise String Quartet by Haydn (the inventor of quartets!), the remarkable Tansman Suite (for clarinet, oboe and bassoon!) and - quite delightfully - the Nocturne and Finale of Borodin's famous quartet no.2.

Intermingled with the above we were treated to an erudite description of chamber music and its history. Briefly, it began with mixtures of voices and instruments written for amateur musicians - Madrigals - then violin sonatas; trios, quartets and quintets appeared in the 18th century, followed by the steady rise of the piano which eventually became the dominant instrument leading to a new kind of chamber music. By the 19th century all instruments reached equality requiring virtuoso playing by professionals.

Our fascinating evening was attended by a larger than normal audience - necessitating a move from the smaller to the bigger of the Church Rooms!

Ralph Kenber





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The Painswick Centre continues to make strides to improve the rooms, and facilities and services for the community of Painswick. The Beacon Hall has been redecorated to give a brighter and lighter appearance, which we hope will appeal to people wanting to hire the hall for meetings, parties and receptions. Special occasion and party lighting is

also available to create the right atmosphere. Contact our Manager on tel. 07769 182229.

Next month, the Artists' Studios celebrate three years of operation, with almost continuous full occupancy. In conjunction with the current group of artists: Angela Mullen-Bryan, Sue Cridland, Barbara Swindin and Adele Lambert and new arrival, Rupert Aker, we have reduced the number of studios to five in total by merging two small spaces, to provide larger working spaces and more privacy for the artists. Our thanks go to Paul Gray, who continues his long association with the Centre, for his work to re-position the partitions and build new storage.

We welcome Thomas and Anna Melendez, founders of Salsa del Sol, Cheltenham, who will be running a series of Salsa dance classes on Fridays from 8 to 9pm in the Beacon Hall, starting on 17th February. See the following article.

The Trustees also welcome two new Trustees, Mike Steed and Judie Hill, who were co-opted in January. Finally, a date for your diary: the Painswick Centre's Annual General Meeting will be held on 17th April starting at 8pm in the Cotswold Room. This is an opportunity to meet the Trustees, and learn about their work during 2011 and their plans for the future of The Painswick Centre. Please come along and let us have your views and questions.

Jane Rowe, on behalf of the Trustees

Salsa dancing – for passion, body & soul!



Thomas and Anna Melendez, founders of Cheltenham-based Salsa del Sol, are starting a series of Salsa classes on Friday evenings, 8pm 'til 9pm at the Painswick Centre. The classes begin on Friday 17th February and continue weekly into March.

Thomas explains: salsa dancing is a fun and fantastic way to keep fit. It's also very easy to learn. Absolute beginners and all levels of experience will be welcome! There is no need to bring a partner. The cost per class is £5 (or £3 for students). If you want to know more, look-up our website www.salsadelsol.co.uk or contact us on the number below.

Thomas Melendez, tel. 01242 708067

Painswick Community Choir!

Sing in Harmony with Painswick Community Choir - a vibrant and fun 'world music' community choir who meet at The Painswick Centre on Monday evenings 7pm – 8.30pm. It's open to everyone who would like to sing in harmony with others. New members very welcome!

The Choir is a lively and strong group of enthusiastic singers *led by Sophie Sterckx*. We sing a variety of traditional, folk, gospel, contemporary, original and seasonal songs from across the world and the UK.

Singing is good for the heart and soul and can leave you feeling uplifted and energised! Being part of a choir is a hugely rewarding and fun social experience so come along and join our song. No experience needed – just enthusiasm to sing. No music reading skills are necessary - songs are generally taught by ear with words and sheet music provided when needed.

We meet upstairs in The Painswick Centre on Monday's 7pm – 8.30pm. Sessions cost £5 - payable per half term. For more information contact me on 01453 298138 or e-mail sophiegreatorex@hotmail.com

Sophie Sterckx

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Ballet successes

Congratulations to all these local children below who recently passed their Royal Academy of Dance, ballet examinations. Kate Mead, their teacher, tells the Beacon that thirty pupils were entered and achieved a 100% pass rate. Well done to you all: Grade I Ballet: Ella Smith (Distinction), Darcy Lynall, Eszter Sipos, Ilana Turner, Isabella Nunez, Miriam Szczurek, Molly Wilkes, Poppy Hutchinson (Merit). Primary in Dance: Abigail Tweedie, Lola Dawson Maia, Beth Leeper, Kenzie Jardine, Morgan Prosser, Natalie Trenchard, Rosie Preece (Merit).

All pupils attend ballet lessons on Wednesday afternoons in the Painswick Church Rooms. Kate tells us that there are vacancies in all classes particularly the Pre-primary ballet for 3 – 5 year olds at 4.00pm and the Primary Ballet for 5 – 7 year olds at 4.30pm. Kate would like to hear from any parent whose children might be interested to join, or at least come and see what fun they have. Ballet helps with poise, confidence and general bodytone as well as co-ordination and musicality. Kate also teaches a Grade 2 Ballet, and a Junior Tap Class for 8 – 10 year olds at 5.15pm which is fun, good for the brain, the legs and stamina. Kate can be contacted on 813118.

Livestock & working parties



The page 1 article detailed the position regarding the Belties on the Beacon. To become involved in livestock checking please contact Britta Koehler, Painswick Coordinator of Livestock Checkers on 813672. For general queries about conservation grazing or Higher Level Stewardship, please contact Ellie Phillips, HLS Project Officer on ellie.phillips@fwagsw.org.uk or 07980 732860.

Meanwhile, the Beacon Conservation Group's working parties are continuing on alternate Saturday mornings (see Diary) and have recently been strimming and lopping near the grazing area. Even if you are not intending to join in do come along to see what we are at, and to encourage. If you want to have a taste of what is involved you only need to wear stout clothes, bring some enthusiasm (tools and guidance provided), and a snack for the half-time break.

David Little, Secretary David Allott

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and

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www.falconpainswick.co.uk

Local history teaser

Our picture shows the Painswick Centre, or the Painswick Institute as it was formerly known. Are you able to date the photograph and, as Ralph Drew who kindly forwarded the picture asks, are you able to identify the uniforms? We'd love to hear from you if you can provide some answers. Last month's photograph elicited no responses and so the identities of those proud mothers and toddlers remain a mystery. Our thanks to John Hogg for providing the photograph. If you have a photograph which would present a challenge to readers please let us know.

Carol Maxwell

History reports ... and the Local History Society

On 17th January Dr Christine Seal who has made a study of servants and households in earlier centuries in England was able to shed a lot of light on the many different arrangements that existed in different households. She explained such matters as the hierarchy of servants and the distinction between indoor and outdoor servants. In earlier centuries servants had been almost exclusively male, but as the 19th century wore on there were increasing numbers of women employed in the households of the wealthy, though great efforts were made to keep them apart – in Penrhyn Castle in North Wales for instance male and female servants were housed in two separate towers with a locked door dividing them.

She was able to show pictures of groups of servants in different houses. The length of time that servants were likely to stay in the employ of a particular household would vary considerably, though it was very common for the youngest servants to stay a comparatively short time while they learned their tasks, with correspondingly longer periods of employment for those who were more senior. Somewhat surprisingly many servants came from some distance away with some 60% coming from distances of more than 10 miles (not that they commuted, they were of course expected to live in the quarters provided, which were often not very comfortable). The steward at Petworth House in Sussex came from Coldstream, the home of the Homes in the Scottish border country.

Unfortunately very few of the big houses appear to have kept detailed records of their servants, and this has caused many difficulties in research. In particular records of pay and terms of employment are particularly rare, one of the exceptions being Kedleston Hall where the Curzon family has preserved very detailed records of the period between 1861 and 1891.

The next meeting of the History Society is on Tuesday, 21st February when David Archard will give a presentation entitled The Inns and Outs of Painswick. Croft School, 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Hywel James

Ifold Villa – the Romans in Painswick

A few weeks before Christmas a new study was made of the site of Ifold Villa at Highfold Farm, this time in the form of a magnetic gradiometry and earth resistance survey. Archaeological methodology has very successfully incorporated modern technology and this study, undertaken by three people over three days, provided valuable detailed information.

Ifold Villa, a scheduled monument, was first excavated in 1868 and again in 1903 by W.St.Claire Baddeley. Those investigations identified a small Roman villa, probably of the late 2nd century. Mosaic and opus signium floors, baths with hypocausts, various samples of pottery, tile, beads, pewter, tools, stone, oyster shells and animal bones were found some of which were deposited with Stroud Museum. Field walking around the area of the known site in both 2000 and 2010 revealed more artefacts, suggesting a wider spread of settlement activity than had previously been thought.

Although this latest survey has not produced more artefacts it has, however, identified distinctive ground features to the north and west which seem to indicate the area of occupation was bigger than the site of the villa alone. These features also correlate with areas of Roman period material recovered from the north of the site in 2000. The overall conclusion to be drawn from this intensive and highly technical survey is that there is considerable evidence to suggest that this Roman settlement in fact extended throughout much of the field and, though not comparable in scale to some other nearby known villas, is nonetheless of some significance.

Plans are afoot to place information boards explaining the site on the adjacent footpath and in Holcombe Lane.

Carol Maxwell





The Beacon archive

In this month, we reported

10 years ago

Demolition of the St Mary's Home to make way for a terrace of new houses at the top of Stamages Lane was under way. A two-week closure of the A46 to attend to subsidence at Pitchcombe was announced for March. A new mobile Police van was introduced to Painswick for twice-monthly visits attended by PC Ruben Wyatt, complete with a computer on board. Indiscriminate horse riding all over the Beacon and its fairways was rousing local anger, damaging greens and interfering with rare orchid growth.

20 years ago

Painswick Sports Council unveiled a plan to bid for £400,000 to improve and develop sports, a proposal supported by the Parish Council. The police reported that some vandals had satisfactorily paid for the damage caused. Free range eggs advertised at 60p a dozen. Improvements to the public toilets in St Mary's Street were agreed.

30 years ago

In response to requests at the last Parish Meeting the County Council came forward with 'no waiting' proposals for the centre of the village; these were not entirely welcomed by the Parish Council, nor the double yellow lines which would ensue. The Guardian Housing Association indicated their intention to apply for planning consent for twelve cottages to be built off Edge Road. The keeping of dogs on leads at all times on the Recreation Field was urged in order to minimise fouling. Arctic conditions brought blizzards and snow drifts of several feet and closure of the A46 in early January. After 27 years of service Leading Fireman Dennis Browning retired.

Vassailing in Painswick

The photos were taken the night of the Painswick vassailing event on 14th January. They show some of the children present dressed as animals, Mummers from Gloucester who gave a spirited performance and someone who perhaps could be described as the 'Apple Master' leading the events of the evening.



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Marling School winning debating team represents UK

The Beacon is pleased to compliment the Marling School Senior Debating Team that returned last December from representing the United Kingdom at the International forum of the European Youth Parliament. Some members of the team were from the Painswick area. Eilis Cope, the schools Marketing & PR Director has provided the following information

"Winning their regional round in Exeter the team then competed in the National Finals at Durham University. After two gruelling days of debating in both English and French, the three-strong jury judged Marling "to be utterly cohesive and exceptional ambassadors throughout the whole competition". They were selected to represent the United Kingdom at a European forum in Antwerp under the patronage of Cathy Berx Governor of the province of Antwerp, and Pascal Smet Flemish Minister for Education.

Arriving at Antwerp Central Station for the seven-day event, they were greeted by the President EYP Belgium. They had the opportunity to meet other participants from as far afield as Finland to Albania. Each team member was required to research the topic of 'Water, a sea of challenges' in preparation for the General Assembly debates.

In depth discussions and idea sharing ranged from hydroelectricity to water pollution. The last debate of the Forum proved to be challenging with a Marling delegate initiating a debate on conflict over water resources, which received a fantastic response from both sides of the argument.

Teams were also involved in social activities to promote their county and culture along with visits to the European Parliament, historical sights of Antwerp and attendance at a musical recital. The event brought one hundred and fifty young Europeans together to debate difficult European issues in a foreign country and in a foreign language and as one Marling participant stated "it was a truly, life-changing experience."

The real story of penicillin

Most of us have been taught that the drug Penicillin was discovered and developed by Alexander Fleming, but Denys Thompson told us the full story, which had been kept secret because the development was carried out during the War.

In 1928 Fleming found that a patch of mould on a Petri dish had killed off bacteria around it. However, he had not been able to carry out any further research. It was a team at Oxford in 1939 who developed the antibiotic; the real, unsung hero being Norman Heatley, a member of that team who isolated the mould, developed the drug and produced sufficient quantities to test it on mice and humans.

Due to secrecy and lack of funds, no British drug company could produce the drug so Heatley journeyed secretly to the USA, via Lisbon and then on to New York. The drug was in mass production by 1941.

Michael Houghton, a director of ICNet, a software company based here in Painswick gave us a brief sequel. He explained that, to counter the threat of resistant bacteria many new drugs have been synthesised. The company produces software enabling medics to identify the best antibiotic for a particular medical solution.

Glynn H. Nixon



Police report

Alexa Collicott, Media and Communications Officer for Gloucestershire Constabulary reports that Police are investigating an incident of criminal damage at the primary school on Churchill Way. Between midnight on 31st December and 7.30am on 13th January offenders damaged a fence at the school and broke a bird bath into pieces. Anyone with any information about the crime is asked to report it quoting incident number 218 of 13th January.



Next, incident number 178 of 8th January. Two handbags were stolen from a silver Ford Focus parked in the car park near to Catbrain Quarry at Painswick Beacon between 1.00pm and 1.20pm on Sunday 8th January. Officers are investigating the crime and following up on a number of enquiries. They remind drivers to ensure they remove all valuable items from their vehicle before leaving it unattended.

Police are also appealing to the Painswick community for information after a car caused **thousands of pounds worth of damage at the Golf Club.**

Overnight between Tuesday 24th January and Wednesday, 25th January, a vehicle has driven onto the green and the fairway and carried out a number of manoeuvres, causing extensive damage to the land that will cost around £5,000 to repair.

The vehicle is thought to be an off road vehicle, such as a 4x4, and police would like to hear from local residents or anyone who was in the area in the evening of 24th January who might have seen or heard any vehicles acting suspiciously.

Anyone with any information about the incident is asked to report it quoting incident number 84 of 25th January.

In all the above cases anyone with any information about the crime is asked to report it to Police by dialling 101 and quoting the relevant incident number. You can also give information anonymously by contacting the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via <http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org>

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Letters

The inclusion of letters, maximum 150 words, in these columns does not imply that the Beacon committee endorses the views expressed, or otherwise. Please supply the Beacon with your full name and address although such details will not appear in the Beacon unless you so request.

Thank you

Midge Leney writes:

I would like to thank all those people who put my name forward as Painswickian of the Year. I am honoured to have been chosen and it is taking me a long time to adjust to the news! I have always enjoyed whatever I have done and been supported by many friends along the way, all of whom have my sincere thanks.

Painswick is a wonderful place to live with a real community spirit, and I am fortunate indeed to have been part of it for so long.

Many congratulations to Jonas as our first Young Painswickian of the Year. He thoroughly deserves his award and has set such a good example. What an excellent idea it is to recognise and encourage our young people in this way.

Help us protect badgers in the Painswick Valley

Jeanne and Nick Berry write:

As a response to the ongoing tragedy of TB in cattle, the government has announced its intention to carry out badger culls in two pilot areas followed by a wider cull if successful. Unfortunately, the cull isn't based on clear scientific evidence yet it threatens this most iconic Gloucestershire mammal. Worst still, evidence suggests a cull will exacerbate the spread of TB in cattle.

More positively, the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust has recently completed a report into the vaccination of badgers and will not permit the culling of the badgers in their 6 Stroud Valley nature reserves.

We've established the "Stroud 100" as a register of people that won't allow culling on their land. This will make a Stroud cull impractical, allowing further work on the vaccination of badgers.

If you own some land or have badgers in your garden and would like to avoid local culling please contact us on 01452 813168 or nickberry83@yahoo.co.uk

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Parish Council Election

The District Council has informed the Parish Council that the timetable for the Parish Council Election in May is as follows:
 Publication of Notice of Election: Tuesday 27th March.
 Receipt of nominations: Noon Wednesday 4th April.
 Publication of Statements of Persons Nominated: Noon Tuesday 10th April.
 Withdrawal of candidate: Noon Wednesday 11th April.
 Publication of Notice of Poll: Wednesday 25th April.
 Day of Poll: 7.00am to 10.00pm Thursday 3rd May.



Fundraising for Oxfam

The Beacon is always very pleased to report activities of young Painswickians who, on their own initiative, raise money for good causes. The photograph shows Kim Brockett's daughter, Bethany Worsley, and Bethany's co-worker Liberty Leatherbarrow Stokes outside their house on 27th November last. They were selling drinks and apples to passers by for the charity Oxfam, all organised by themselves, and raised £21.40. They have asked us to pass on their thanks for the support received. Well done Bethany and Liberty!

Sheepscombe Ball - Friday 22nd June

You can now book your place for the next Sheepscombe Ball. We have tried to keep the costs as close to last time as possible so tickets will be on sale for £65. However if you pay before 30th April, your ticket will only cost £60. Please note this is real time, not Sheepscombe time! Everyone who pays up to that date will get this reduction. The ball is a non-profit making event and if there is any money left over, this goes to Sheepscombe Village Hall. Please phone Linda Buxton on 01452 812137 or email on lindabuxton@btconnect.com in order to reserve your place.

Lindsey Beer

Royal Oak update

Keith Ayres has informed the Beacon that, as well as Landlord, he has decided to take over the kitchen as Head Chef. He wishes to exploit his past experience and intends focusing on "simple country dishes done well". He says "We are a 17th Century Cotswold Pub and our food will reflect this by its country flavours, simplicity and darn good eating!". Keith says he tries to use products and produce sourced within 10 miles of Painswick so Game will be high on his list of priorities. Keith is currently distributing loyalty cards which give discounts and priority booking. He also informs us that he is recruiting players to form a darts team to be entered in local leagues, having acquired a dart board, and is continuing with Live Music Acts throughout this year.

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Sports reports

assembled by John Barrus

Annual Christmas football match

Painswick 1 Sheepscombe 2

The annual football match was hosted by Painswick who turned out in their new kit sponsored by The Falcon Hotel. Sheepscombe started very brightly, playing neat football on the ground and tested William Unwin on several occasions but the Painswick keeper was on top form. Following a quick move into the box a Sheepscombe forward was scythed down and the referee had no hesitation in awarding a penalty which was duly blasted over the bar. Slowly Painswick started making some good moves which resulted in Mark Yenn slotting home a well taken goal.

The second half produced some very hard tackling football from both sides and saw Painswick's Jamie Morgan smash a 30 yard shot against the crossbar. Eventually Sheepscombe got the equaliser when Andy Denyer scored with a sharp shot which deceived Unwin. With Painswick centre backs James Barnett and Tim Morgan holding the defence solidly the match went to extra time. Within minutes Sheepscombe's Mike McCabe grabbed the winner with a well taken strike that retained the Cup for Sheepscombe.

Both teams retired to The Falcon Hotel for some well earned refreshments.

Rugby

Saturday 21st January

GLOS OLD BOYS 22 PAINSWICK 23

PAINSWICK kept up their promotion charge with a nail-biting victory over Glos Old Boys on Saturday in Glos Division One. Although playing well below their standard they showed great character to comeback from 22-11 down to win with only ten minutes remaining.

The Old Boys started strongly and scored a try within the first five minutes from a catch and drive at the line out, this was too prove their biggest weapon all afternoon. Painswick soon started to get a foothold in the game and were rewarded a penalty which Josh Lister duly converted. Minutes later after intense pressure on the homeside second-row Russell



Thornton crashed over to score a try and put Painswick in front. With the halftime interval looming Old Boys scored twice to give them a 17 -8 lead at halftime.

Painswick came out for the second half all fired up and they soon reduced the deficit when Lister added his second penalty. Good defence from Old Boys kept Painswick out and they cleared their lines to score yet another try from their effective line out to give them a commanding lead.

However Painswick have a never say die attitude and they battered away at the Old Boys defence and were finally rewarded when skipper Smith beat several defenders to score a try under the posts, Lister added the extras to put Painswick four points behind. From the restart Painswick continued to put the Old Boys under pressure and with only minutes remaining they had a 5 metre lineout, from which they also scored a catch and drive try, with hooker Tom Coombs emerging with the ball from under the pile of bodies. The drama was not over, from the restart Painswick give away a penalty, but to their relief the Old Boys kicker missed and then the referee blew the fulltime whistle.

Saturday 14th January

PAINSWICK 8 DURSLEY 8

A good result for Painswick after a hard fought game at Broadham. Brockworth still lead the Glos Division One table as nearest rivals Dursley and Painswick shared the points.

Saturday 7th January **CHELTENHAM SARACENS 6 PAINSWICK 11**

A great start to the New Year with an

important away win against close rivals Saracens.

Painswick Golf Club

The golf club has been open for most of the last month; rain tends to cause less disruption than at many other courses as normally it quickly drains away.

The seniors' section changed its Thursday morning roll-up arrangements at the start of December – and now those wishing to play are invited to arrive so that a draw can be made at 8.20am with the first group teeing off at 8.30am. The new arrangements have worked well and resulted in an increase in the number of players taking part. This is a quieter time of year for competitions in the seniors' section. The main event was the January Stableford Medal competition. It was a good day for golf and there were many good scores. The top score was an excellent 46 points achieved by John Courts and Nigel Barnett. In such ties, the winner is the person with the better score over the last nine holes, so particular congratulations go to John Courts.

The club welcomes visitors and new members. Please get in touch with Marc Cottrell (01452 812615) for further details.

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Badminton

The traditional Christmas silly games evening took place as usual involving a range of unusual activities with a shuttlecock and racquet. The picture shows the sitting version of the game in preparation for our less active years. The evening was well supported by 20 active and social members with drinks and nibbles provided.



Anyone interested in joining the Club, which meets on Monday and Thursday evenings in the Painswick Centre, should contact John Wylde on 814349.

Out of the mist in Cheltenham

The Beacon congratulates playwright Alan Tyson from Cranham who is having his docu-drama 'Out of the mist' performed next month at Parabola Arts Centre, Cheltenham. His docu-drama brings key moments in the RNLI's history to the stage: the first days of lifeboating, the formation of the RNLI and the deeds of famous rescuers. Alan says that frequently he has been asked what prompted his support for the RNLI and the production of a sea drama two years ago in a landlocked village like Cranham. "It started with a sailing trip in 2001 with a family friend; this gave me my first face-to-face experience of the RNLI. Royal Marine Jason Ward had been posted to Norway and planned to sail there. I accompanied Jason with some other pals, and we were sailing off the Norfolk coast when the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston all-weather lifeboat drew close. They explained that they had been out training when they saw us in dangerous shallow water. They kindly escorted us to the station and showed us around. It made me realise that lifeboat crew are unsung heroes: all down-to-earth and extremely professional. After leaving a donation with the lifeboat crew, we continued on the journey across the North Sea, each carrying a lasting memory of the selflessness of lifeboat crew members. Jason always championed the RNLI. Two years later he was killed in a helicopter crash while serving in the Iraq war. Salcombe lifeboat scattered his ashes at sea-a request from Jason's family that remembered his support for the RNLI.



The whole experience planted a seed of support for the RNLI that grew and grew. I initially wanted to create a small presentation that would raise funds, but, as I read about the history, it fast became a stage docu-drama. Among those who encouraged me was marine biologist and TV celebrity Monty Halls, Jason Ward's best friend. Monty gave me some valuable advice which was 'just persevere'."

And now, Out of the Mist will be produced for the RNLI in association with Jenny Wren Productions on the stage of the new, award winning 300 seater Parabola Arts Centre, Cheltenham on Thursday 29th March, matinee and evening, and 30th March, evening, 2012. All proceeds will go to the RNLI. For tickets contact Parabola Arts Centre 01242 707 338 (or www.parabolaartscentre.co.uk) or information from Alan Tyson, 07764235515

Tennis quiz night

The Painswick Tennis Club will be holding their annual Quiz night on Saturday 25th February at The Broadham Sports Club. 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. This was a very successful social event last year and we would invite friends, family and members of the village and tennis club to book early to avoid disappointment. We are very grateful to Stu Hall for taking on the role of 'quizmaster' again as he did an amazing job last time! Tables of up to 8 people.

Tickets £5 per person to include food.. These are available from Ness Fair 01452 864960 or Carol Ruddy 01452 812308 or by email.

BEACO-DOKU

Last month's test was certainly topical, with **W-I-N-T-E-R** being upon us.

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

Staying in seasonal mode, there is every chance of much being **F-R-O-Z-E-N**, and we hope nothing inside your home is affected. Can you link the word in the six internal sets, and the twelve vertical or horizontal lines?

	R			O	
		Z			
	N		F		
Z				E	
			E		R
		R		F	



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Are you still treading on dried up pine needles or is it just me? Is it just me who struggles desperately to remember a familiar person's name (even a relative's)? When we think we're the only one experiencing a difficult time, it can feel overwhelming but when we find others are also going through similar situations then sometimes it can feel a bit better. Which leads me nicely to a lovely event I had the pleasure of being at in January. It was the first of "Cupcakes for Carers" held at the Green room in the Painswick Centre, organized by Pat Burrows. Pat has been spurred on by personal experience in her own family and with the knowledge that there are a great number of people living in our area who care for a loved one at home. Whilst this can be done with love and full commitment, none the less it can be a lonely, tiring, and isolating undertaking. So why not try to come to the next tea party on Tuesday 7th February? There is a chair lift if required and let Pat or I know if you need help getting there.

There was some discussion at the tea party about what was a "Radar" key? The National Key Scheme (NKS) offers disabled people independent access to locked public toilets around the country. Radar keys are available to purchase from Council offices or the main Tourist information centres for £4. These keys allow access into a range of toilets across the city. You will need to pay extra for postage. Evidence of your disability such as receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Attendance Allowance (AA) will also be required. You can also purchase them from Age UK and RADAR who also publish a national guide to



the 9,000 accessible toilets throughout the UK. Please contact me if you need local listings of toilets which have disabled access or any information on any other related matter such as continence problems, the Blue Badge

Scheme, benefits etc.

Another topic which came up was "dementia". There was some discussion about what percentage of people might be prone to getting dementia at various ages. The following has been taken from the Alzheimer's Society website; age is the greatest risk factor for dementia. Dementia affects one in 14 people over the age of 65 and 1 in 6 over the age of 80. However dementia is not restricted to older people: in the UK there are over 16,000 people under the age of 65 with dementia although this figure is likely to be an under estimate.

The national Alzheimer's society is a fantastic source of information and support and we are lucky to have a very proactive local society for our area.

I hope to see you on 7th February and 6th March at "Cupcakes for Carers", and if not, please call me to arrange a home visit if you need help with information and support.

Age UK: 01452 422660

Pat Burrows: 01452 813326

Radar: 020 7250 3222

Stroud Tourist Information: 01453 839222

Stroud Council: 01453 766321

The Alzheimer's Association 01452 525222

Lou Kemp tel: 07776 245767

PROPERTY REPORT for January from Hamptons International

Hamptons had a very busy and productive end to 2011 winning 4 awards in the prestigious Estate Agency of the Year Awards in association with The Sunday Times and The Times. Our Painswick office finished the year being responsible for 50% of all the sales in our local area over £300,000* consolidating our position as the market leader for Painswick properties

With an encouraging start to 2012, looking ahead to what the coming year will bring us the housing market dashboard is lit up with warning lights. Activity levels are expected to remain at lower levels than "normal" for the UK housing market although it must be said that what we are experiencing now is similar to recent years and probably therefore is the "new normal"! A lack of choice for buyers will also represent an opportunity for prospective sellers over the next year but 2012 will not be a year for compromises when it comes to preparing a property for sale. In 2012 we anticipate sentiment playing a much bigger role than any levers created by the Government. Sentiment will continue to remain cautious, particularly outside of London where the market has been more resilient. However, across our network of offices, demand remains stronger than supply and I expect that those who are motivated to move, and are realistic about their pricing, will be able to do so during 2012.

New properties coming onto our books recently include:

Hedges in Gloucester Street, a substantial and modern Cotswold stone family house offering 6 bedrooms, a level garden, garaging and off street parking; Meadowcroft in Lower Washwell Lane, a handsome and elegant detached house designed and built for the current owner and finished to an exacting standard; The Coach House in Seven Leaze Lane, a detached period property now offering three bedrooms, generous living space and delightful gardens; and Brookside in Painswick Road, a detached four bedroom house on the outskirts of Gloucester with excellent potential for an extension.

Properties to have gone under offer recently include Lynton on the Longridge, Amberwood in Knapp Lane and Museum Cottage in Vicarage Street.

Hamptons had a very hectic end to 2011 and start to 2012 with the following properties exchanging contracts and many having already completed: Oakleigh in Vicarage Street, 11 Berry Close, 3 Hyett Orchard, Overdale in Paul Mead at Edge, Brotheridge Farm House in Buckholt Woods, Pitchcombe Mill (after over two years on the market) and Hambutts Edge, a newly constructed house off Edge Road built by Partridge Homes (Cotswolds) Ltd which sold prior to marketing.

Guy Tabony – Branch Manager



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FEBRUARY

Sat	4	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearing working party: location check 813734	Painswick Beacon	10.00am
Mon	6	Short Mat Bowls - Mondays (contact 813627) Community Lunch: hosts - Painswick Golf Club Yoga (Mondays) contact Kim 812623	Town Hall Ashwell House Centre Sheepscombe Vill. Hall	10.30am 12 noon to 1.15pm 6.30 to 8.00pm & 8.15 to 9.45pm
		Painswick Community Choir - Mondays (Enquiries Adrian 07855404147)	Painswick Centre	7.00 to 8.30pm
Tue	7	Bingo: Tuesdays - Tel. Ann, 813911/Liz, 813139	Ashwell House	6.30 to 9.00pm
Wed	8	Yoga (Wednesdays) contact Kim 812623 Horticultural Society: Walled Kitchen Gardens - Will Scott	Sheepscombe Vill. Hall Town Hall	9.30 to 11.00am 2.30pm
		Table Tennis (Wednesdays) - Enq. 812464	Painswick Centre	7.00 to 9.00pm
Thu	9	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 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	10	Country Market - coffee available Friday Club: Poets of Gloucestershire - Dave Walton	Town Hall Richmond Painswick	10.00am 2.30pm
Sat	11	Neil Carmichael mobile surgery	Town Hall	1pm
Mon	13	Community Lunch: hosts - Falcon Bowling Club	Ashwell House Centre	12 noon to 1.15pm
Wed	15	Probus: Passage Through Time; Syria & Petra - Bob Price Music Appreciation Group: Concert Outing to Colston Hall, Bristol	Painswick Centre Stamages Car Park	10.00am 4.00pm
		Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	16	Painswick Bird Club: "Urban Dwelling Peregrines" - Edward Drewitt, Broadcaster & Wildlife detective	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	17	Salsa Classes (Fridays) Absolute beginners & all levels welcome £5 / £3 students. Info: 01242 708067	Painswick Centre	8.00 to 9.00pm
Sat	18	Copy Date for March Beacon Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearing working party: location check 813734	Painswick Beacon	10.00am
Mon	20	Community Lunch: hosts - Friday Club	Ashwell House Centre	12 noon to 1.15pm
Tue	21	Local History Society: The Inns & Outs of Painswick - David Archard & Helen Briggs	Croft School	7.30pm
Thu	23	Theatre Club Outing to Cheltenham	Stamages Car Park	1.00pm
Fri	24	Friday Club: Birds & a Lancaster Pilot - Peter Roberts Painswick Conservative Branch AGM	Town Hall Church Rooms	2.30pm 7.00pm
Mon	27	Community Lunch: hosts - Richmond Village	Ashwell House Centre	12 noon to 1.15pm
Tue	28	Yew Trees WI: An Inspector Calls - Allan Callender (Open Meeting)	Church Rooms	7.30pm
		Painswick Players Playreading (Green Room)	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Wed	29	Probus: Painswick Through the Decades - David Archard	Painswick Centre	10.00am

MARCH

Thu	1	Music Appreciation Group: Juxtapositions	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	2	Women's World Day of Prayer	Catholic Church	11.00am
Sat	3	March Issue of The Painswick Beacon published Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearing working party: location check 813734	Painswick Beacon	10.00am
Mon	5	Community Lunch: hosts - Painswick Bird Club	Ashwell House Centre	12 noon to 1.15pm
Wed	7	Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club Lecture: The Last Days of Ocean Sail. Enq. 813228	Painswick Centre	2.30pm
Thu	8	Painswick Bird Club: "The Wildlife of West Wales" - Mike Robinson Painswick Players Auditions for Last Tango in Painswick - details tel: 814004	Town Hall P. Centre, Green room	7.30pm 7.30pm
Fri	9	Friday Club: Qualifications of a Head Teacher - Norman Snowden	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	10	Village Quiz	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Mon	12	Community Lunch: hosts - Probus Ladies	Ashwell House Centre	12 noon to 1.15pm
Wed	14	Probus: Joint meeting & Lunch with the Ladies Horticultural Society: Eating for Good Health - Julia Scott	Church Rooms Town Hall	12.00noon 7.30pm
Thu	15	Music Appreciation Group: Famous Singers of our Era	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat	17	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearing working party: location check 813734	Painswick Beacon	10.00am
Mon	19	Community Lunch: hosts - Park Residents	Ashwell House Centre	12 noon to 1.15pm
Tue	20	Local History Society: The Development of Georgian Gloucester - Dr Nicholas Herbert	Croft School	7.30pm
Fri	21	Friday Club: Early Spring Outing to Tyntesfield NT		

Sat	24	Theatre Club Outing to The Water Mill, Newbury	Stamages Car Park	10.30am
Tue	27	Yew Trees WI: Herbs & Spices - Natalie Hunt	Church Rooms	7.30pm
		Painswick Players Playreading (Green Room)	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Wed	28	Probus: Present Position in the Middle East - Richard Long	Painswick Centre	10.00am
Thu	29	Music Appreciation Group: Committee Choice	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	30	Music Appreciation Group	Stamages Car Park	10.30am
		Concert Outing to Symphony Hall, Birmingham		
Sat	31	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group	Painswick Beacon	10.00am
		scrub clearing working party: location check 813734		
		Painswick Music Society Concert:	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
		Emma Johnson, Clarinet & John Lenehan, Piano.		
APRIL				
Tue	3	Painswick Bird Club / Painswick Beacon Conservation Group:		
		Birds of Cleeve Hill - Arthur Ball	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	4	Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club AGM & Lecture:	Painswick Centre	2.30pm
		The Wildlife of Australia. Enq. 813228		
Fri	6	Painswick Singers Good Friday Concert	St Mary's Church	7.30pm
Wed	11	Probus:	Painswick Centre	10.00am
		Road Travel in Georgian Gloucestershire - Nicholas Herbert		
		Horticultural Society:	Town Hall	7.30pm
		Wildlife & Plants of the Royal Forest of Dean - Pete Ralph		
Thu	12	Music Appreciation Group: Personal Choice	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	13	Friday Club: My Friends the Refugees - Angela Lerwill	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	14	Painswick Music Society Concert: Ian Fountain	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Wed	18	Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club Guided coach trip:	Stamages Car Park	T.B.A.
		Bledington & Blockley Churches, N. Cotswolds. Enq. 01242 230755		
Tue	24	Yew Trees WI: A World of Lingerie - Jilly Baker	Church Rooms	7.30pm
		Painswick Players Playreading (Green Room)	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Wed	25	Probus: Club AGM	Painswick Centre	10.00am
		Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club special luncheon -	Minch'ton Golf Club	12 noon for 1.00pm
		Queen's Jubilee. Speaker Sir Henry Elwes - Enq. 01242 890374		
Thu	26	Theatre Club Outing to Malvern	Stamages Car Park	6.00pm
		Music Appreciation Group: Number Five	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	27	Friday Club: Wearable Art - Libby Graesser	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	28	Painswick Music Society Concert: Nash String Quartet	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
MAY				
Sat	12	Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club Geology Walk:	T.B.A.	10.00am
		Beachley Point, Tidenham & Wye Gorge. Enq. 813228		
		Painswick Music Society Concert: Rose Trio	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
JULY				
Sun	15	Wearable Art Painswick	Village	

While we are only too pleased to publish dates of forthcoming events as far into the future as organisers wish, and space permits, we may in future delete those which refer to recurrent weekly meetings at the start of the next month if such prevents us from including periodic events many months hence.

We urge those organising weekly events/meetings to use our other columns to make short reports and highlight their having frequent events.

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Eddie Buttrey at
em-m.buttrey@virgin.net

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PLANNING MATTERS

A summary of information from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

THE CLOTH HALL, New Street
Widening of existing entrance to property.
Replacement of existing wooden gates
and repair and reconstruction of granite
setts and adjacent walls.

OAKLEIGH, Vicarage Street. Single
Storey Extension.

VALLUM HOUSE, Castle Close

Replacement of existing carport.
Extending the length by 140cm with an
additional support pillar. Change existing
plastic flat roof to pitched tile.

SEN SOOK, Far End, Sheepscombe Fell
Goat Willow to near ground level.

TURNSTONE HOUSE, Greenhouse
Lane. Internal and external alterations
and erection of glazed link.

TURNSTONE HOUSE, Greenhouse Lane
New vehicular entrance and driveway.

TURNSTONE HOUSE, Greenhouse Lane
Re-instatement of existing coach house to
provide ancillary accommodation.

SHEPPERDS PATCH, Stroud Road,
Edge. Two storey extension and rooms
in new roof space, detached garage and
workshop.

THE BULL WICK STREET. New dormer
to south elevation.

KINGSLEY COTTAGE, Victoria Street
Change of use to single bedroomed
domestic dwelling from defunct tea
rooms installation of new access door and
associated works.

COURT HOUSE, Hale Lane. Lime trees
x2 fell – advanced decay in both trees.
Norway Spruce x1 fell –
poor example of the species.

CONSENT

RIDGEWOOD, Queens Mead. Removal
of existing wooden lean to. Erection of
replacement extension.

THE NEW HOUSE TWO, Friday Street
Change of use from A1 to A3.

HIGH VOLTAGE OVERHEAD LINE,
Edge. Replace 8 existing 11,000 volt
overhead spans of open 2 wire single
phase line from pole 32-33 to pole 8 to 3
phase 3 wire 11,000 volt overhead line.

FAIRINGS, Castle Close. Single Storey
extension.

THE BARN, Wick Street. Upgrade of
downstairs existing storm proof windows
with wooden double glazed units of
traditional casement style.

CASTLE GODWIN, Paradise. Internal
alterations.

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The Personal Column

Jenny Gaugain

Engagement

Andrew and Sally Morgan are delighted to announce the engagement of their eldest son TIM to JESS GOODALE of Cheltenham.

Birth

Congratulations to JOE WILSON and VIVIENNE GASKIN on the birth of their daughter Roxanne Venus Gaskin -Wilson on January 3rd weighing 8lbs 3ozs

Diamond Wedding

Our congratulations to PERCY and MARGARET FRANKLIN who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 11th February

Welcome

We welcome JOHN ALLEN Snr who has moved from Derbyshire to Hyett Orchard.

Condolences

Sincere sympathies to the family and friends of PAULINE LAMONT of Richmond who has died recently.

Sincere sympathies to the family and friends of RICHARD MARTIN BEECH who has died recently

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of JOE IRELAND who has died recently.

NEXT ISSUE

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for current issue and archive, our history and aims, the annual directory, village maps and the current weather forecast

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You could help Jenny Gaugain, if you would relay information about those you know and for whom a mention in the Personal Column would be appreciated.

Subscriptions

We print and distribute 1550 copies of the Beacon in most months.

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Thank you

Beacon subscribers		
as at 21st January	2011- 2012	This date last year
New or renewed after lapsing	72	102
Renewed from last year	484	456
Total including postal	556	558

A Tribute to Ernie Daniels

Painswick recently lost one of its oldest and most highly regarded residents when Ernie Daniels sadly passed away. To me, Ernie was a special link with the past as, in his school days, he, as so many other Painswick boys of that era, worked for my grandfather, Harry Berry, at Holcombe Farm.

Ernie would often speak of happy times at Holcombe and was especially proud that one day, in the brief absence of the legendary carter, Ted Fry, my grandfather asked him to mow a field for hay. Ernie harnessed the horses to the mower and set to work. Much to my grandfather's delight he cut the field in record time, but returning to the farmyard he was confronted by a fuming Carter Fry who was not pleased to see his team of horses in a sweat. Lessons in horsemanship were learnt that day, and that in life it's difficult to please everyone!

On leaving school Ernie worked regularly at Holcombe Farm, chiefly as a milk roundsman. He made one very special delivery to the Gwynfa Hotel where he met Edna who became his wife. This was definitely a marriage made in heaven of a devoted couple who raised a fine family.

In those days winters were often harsh. Deep snows and ice made Holcombe Hill treacherous, but Ernie stuck to his task until he decided to enlist and help with the war effort. Reporting to the RAF base at Aston Down, Ernie was asked to give details of his work experience. Stating his agricultural background he was placed in charge of the large number of pigs kept at the base in order to utilise the swill and provide hearty breakfasts for the staff. Perhaps fortunately for Ernie, although he may have wished otherwise, the nearest he came to a brush with the Luftwaffe was sweeping out the sties! Of more recent years Ernie was well-known as a bread roundsman working at Painswick Bakery. He always took great care of his delivery van and would do many acts of kindness, such as collecting and delivering prescriptions as he did his job.

During retirement Ernie kept busy with gardening work in the village. He always enjoyed work and took pride in what he did. He maintained a lifelong interest in farming and regularly walked around the lanes noting the farming activities and livestock in the fields. His presence is greatly missed in Holcombe Lane.

Philip Berry

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