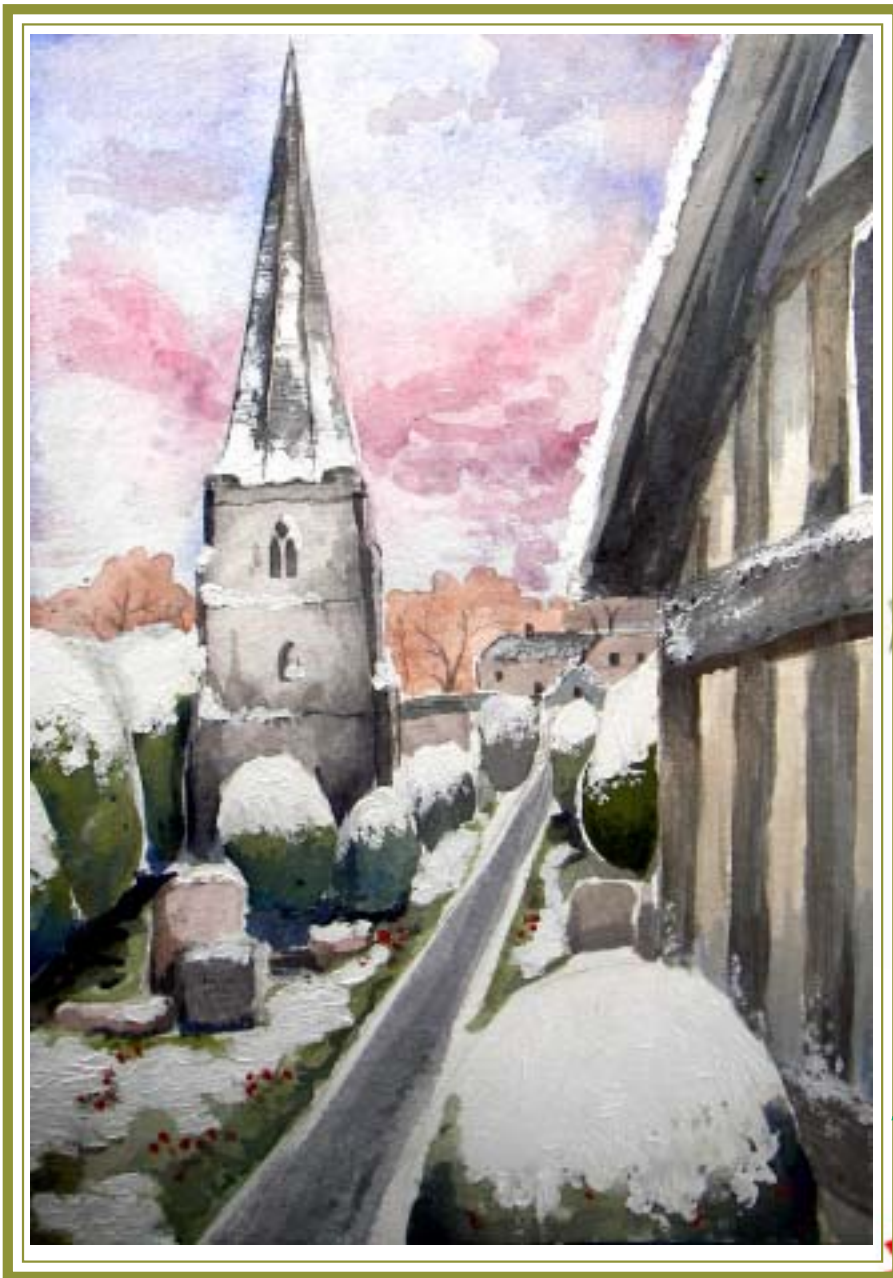


The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 28 No.9

December 2005



*Best wishes,
peace and*

*happiness
to all our readers
for Christmas and the New Year*



Elsewhere in this issue - seasonal **teasers**, an **artistic challenge**, quest for **Painswick carol**, Cedric holds **the undergrowth**, about **the Malverns** last month, from **circle to Friday**, dancing at **tea time**, wind blown **turbine looming**, local lad hits **big-time racket** while a **local man is champ**, some **rocky panels** to be seen, **services throughout Christmas**, latest on **the library**, a **strange stallion**.

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 draw attention to those of wider interest, but remind readers that the full minutes of Council meetings are available at the Council office on Wednesday and Friday mornings, as well as Painswick Library.

PLANNING

Broadham Field - floodlighting

The committee was informed that SDC enforcement officers had inspected the new hoods on the floodlights to the rugby training area and stated they seemed satisfactory. The Council had suggested that their inspection should be during the hours of darkness so that light spillage, the cause of the complaints, could be fully assessed.

SDC - Planning procedure revision

The Chairman read out the full response as sent from the Parish Council (see page 2 last month). District Councillor Barbara Tait, who was present, affirmed that no decision would be made by SDC for several months, and that Painswick was not alone in registering its objections.

Gyde Barn - leylandii

A letter was received from the owner of the barn expressing her regret that there was a seeming 'harassment' from the Beacon report of discussion at the last meeting of the Planning Committee (*We only report as accurately as we can upon what actually takes place. Shooting the messenger is never the only option. Ed.*) and that a compromise upon a reduced height for these (temporary) trees was sought. Three members of the committee were appointed to discuss the matter with her.

Friends Meeting House - direction sign

Terry Parker reported a new planning application to erect a direction sign had taken note of the District Council's conservation officer and altered its colour to pale brown; this instead of the previously suggested green.

PARISH COUNCIL

Public session

Street Parking - Pullens Road

In accord with Council procedures, Edward Lane of Canton Acre was permitted to address the Council prior to commencement of business on the agenda.

Mr Lane suggested that the use of on-street parking, and virtual monopoly of the public parking spaces in Pullens Road (see report last month page 2) by one resi-

dent, and this by as many as eight vehicles, including trailers and motor cycles, was not only inconsiderate in that it was obstructing the pavement but unlawful. He contested the assertion by the police that they did not have powers to discourage/prevent such parking; he was also scathing about the District Council's officers for regarding there as being no limit to the number of vehicles one of its tenants may park on the highway. He noted that he knew of parking in Canton Acre because of the consequent lack of spaces in Pullens Road, and wondered whether the reverse might be as unwelcome if it had the effect of blocking Pullens Road.

Mr Lane urged the Parish Council to take much more affirmative action.

Chairman Terry Parker reported that a letter had been received from the vehicle owner, which would be considered later that evening, but undertook to investigate any further action the Council might take.

Cotswold Hunt - Elcombe

The Council was reminded that the only two concerns reported to the last meeting by local Councillor Jeanne Berry were (1) that hunts should not trespass on private property, and (2) that they comply with the new legal requirements.

Street Parking - Pullens Road

The Council received a letter from the District Council explaining its limited powers regarding vehicle ownership by its tenants, and parking on or off road.

A lengthy letter was also received from John Rhodes, owner of the several vehicles causing some concern because of their being parked in or adjoining Pullens Road. Mr Rhodes made many points in his letter, including that all vehicles are 'legal and in good working order', that they are 'parked carefully to ensure that they are not a nuisance to any other persons', that the District Council had been consulted regarding compliance with any rules or regulations they may have, and that his commercial vehicle, a vintage 1990 Dodge Tipper Truck, is used mainly for private journeys such as shopping and holidays, and that not only is it of rarity value but only 'sometimes used for our commercial work'. He was critical of anonymous Emails, suggesting they might have emanated from anywhere, including Taiwan or even Transylvania! Other points he raised included views being taken by the Parish Council without consultation with him, Council procedures, seeming harassment, on-pavement parking being acceptable elsewhere in the village.

While the letter was read in full, the Council decided to refer the matter, including a review of on-pavement parking, to the Traffic Committee for reconsideration as such was increasingly conflicting with resolution of criticisms received.

Disused pole - Tibbiwell

The Clerk reported that this pole had now been removed.

Gloucestershire Police

The Council received a letter from the Leader of the County Council, Councillor

Barry Dare, (who also made clear his being leader of the Conservative Group) seeking support for a petition in favour of retention of the County Constabulary and opposing regionalisation/amalgamation. The Council decided that, in the absence of a detailed case for or against amalgamation, not to support the petition en-bloc, but individual Councillors might sign. (See GRCC report on page 8.)

Tennis courts - Recreation Field

The Chairman reported his understanding that the tennis club's intentions regarding long-term use of these courts would be the subject of discussion at a club committee meeting at the end of the month.

Edge Road - overhanging trees

Martin Slinger reported trees overhanging the narrow pavement in Edge Road which were forcing pedestrians into the carriageway, and that this would be drawn to the attention of householders concerned.

Stamages car park - free

The District Council propose to refurbish the toilets in this car park but have realised that while they are fenced off for contractors the ticket machine will be inaccessible.

During the fourteen week contract period, during which temporary toilets will be provided, car parking will be free of charge.

Town Hall - upper hall redecoration

The Council gratefully accepted an offer by a consortium of art clubs which exhibit in the upper hall to redecorate free of charge with materials provided by the Council.

Painswick Plantation

Ann Daniels reported occasional abuse of this much valued sanctuary off Gloucester Road and members (and readers) were reminded that it is a place only for walkers; cycles, motor cycles, horse riding etc. are forbidden.

St.Mary's churchyard paths

The Council received information from David Harley, Church Warden, that consultants had been appointed to recommend alternative paving materials, etc., and that the Wardens would seek to reopen discussions with the Parish Council regarding a possible financial contribution towards the cost of relaying when this information and the outcome of a lottery grant application is known early in 2006.

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Sheepscombe

One thousand years in this Gloucestershire valley

Elisabeth Skinner's history of Sheepscombe has been a long time in gestation but finally came to birth and into the public light at its launch on 5th November. Some 150-200 people came to Sheepscombe village hall for the event.

Elisabeth's love of history had been sparked initially by her mother and of local history in particular through an Open University degree she undertook in the 1970s-80s. While she was doing this she also worked at the school in Sheepscombe and during her time there a package was received from Canada of a notebook and photographs from around 1900 which had belonged to Sophie Carmen whose story is told in the book. This was to be the impetus for the forming of the Sheepscombe History Society which has since then built up a very large archive of material in respect of the history of the village much of which has been incorporated into the book.

A first draft, "long and rambling" was Elisabeth's description, was around in the 1980's based largely upon a series of lectures on Sheepscombe's history which Elisabeth had given based upon her Open University studies. In 1997 the millennium was approaching and this was the next target for publication. But history cannot be rushed. Finally a revised text, not so long and rambling yet with much new material, was ready in 2002.

There were many people to be thanked for their help in the production of the book from those who provided material, to those who helped arrange the publication. In particular Elisabeth wished that Frances Patterson and Myra Haywood who spent so many hours working on the design and layout of the book should be mentioned in person.

The book is a tribute to Elisabeth. She said she had "tried to convey a sense of the incredible detail that can be found among surviving evidence without being overwhelming, in the hope that others may be persuaded to carry on the search for knowledge and understanding" and this book is certain to achieve the aim.

In addition she says there is never just one version of history. Others will look at the same evidence and come to different conclusions – indeed she entreats us to come forward should we think something needs correcting for the next edition!

We offer our thanks to Elisabeth for all her many years work on this history of Sheepscombe. Reading this history cannot but spark your own interest in the history of your own local area. The book is a fascinating read worth every penny – copies can be obtained from Sheepscombe History Society.

Peter Jackson



The Magical Christmas Garden Tour

We were only too pleased to include notice of this (now) annual event at the Rococo Garden on 4th December - tomorrow, in our last issue.

There was the forewarning that there was **NO ENTRY WITHOUT A TICKET**.

The heartening thing is, they are all sold, and organiser June Gardiner has asked us to remind those still planning to attend that safety reasons alone mean that it is not worth even trying to get in.

That said, June is very appreciative - as will the Cobalt Appeal Fund Crack Cancer Campaign - that so many bought tickets!

Christmas Draw 2005

SUBSCRIBERS

Congratulations to four subscribers whose receipt numbers came out of our 'hat' in this order, and so receive 'prizes' **321 - Mr and Mrs J Reed**

A bottle of Whisky

The Malt House, Vicarage Street

055 - Jane Holford *A bottle of Sherry*
11 Hyett Close

239 - Mr & Mrs Normore
A box of Chocolates
Cleverleys, Vicarage Street

144 - Mr & Mrs Howson
A box of Chocolates
2 Spring Cottages, New Street

and our thanks to all our advertisers, from among whom we 'drew'

BUSINESS ADVERTISER

Mr M Powis *A bottle of Brandy*
The Pharmacy, New Street

A Painswick Carol?

With a keen sense of timing, the Beacon has received an enquiry from Stephen Rowley, organiser of some carol singing and mumming in the area.

Stephen says that "Many people do not realise that most carols have their origins in local traditions. The universally-known carols that we use today, were mostly collected in towns and villages in the early C20th by people like Cecil Sharp, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Percy Grainger. Some of the best known, like Holly and the Ivy were collected in Gloucestershire. A few communities still have their own carol singing traditions, but most have fallen by the wayside."



We are pleased to enquire whether any readers know the Painswick carol, or any other local carols that may be fading out of use. Just let us know, or Stephen direct on 01453.763181 steve@artension.com

The Chairman, Members and Clerk to the Parish Council wish all parishioners a very happy Christmas and a trouble-free New Year.


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Sounds of the Night

Our afternoon meeting in the Town Hall in late October certainly proved an alternative to a dark and cold winter's evening event. It was still summer! Notwithstanding, club members reported the first of the winter's migrants to Painswick, including fieldfares and redwings.

"Birds and beast sounds of the night" was the theme of Rosie Cliffe, Head of habitats and species with the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. With the use of slides and tapes, the speaker's presentation was an unusual one for the club, and very successful.

The presentation followed the seasons of the year, covering a wide range of wildlife, and my particular favourites were the sounds of a Forest of Dean nightjar and badgers emerging from their set. At times it seemed we were outdoors amongst the wildlife!

Bill Boydell



**Painswick
Bird Club**

Our cover picture

for this Christmas has been prepared by Annabel Sidwell of Greenacres in Cheltenham Road. We think readers will agree that her choice of angle of view of the church and local buildings is unique and interesting.

Annabel is studying at Downfield Sixth Form in Stroud but has had to relegate her interest in creative art to the status of 'hobby' while she concentrates upon subjects which could help her move into a career in medicine. Good luck, and thank you.



The Friday Club

What is in a name? Well, it all depends. **The Painswick Senior Circle has changed its name;** it is now to be known as **The Friday**

Club. Why? Well, for a long time the name Senior Circle has conjured up strange and varied views in the minds of all ages as to what we might be about. A cosy image, perhaps, of an aged knitting circle sitting around half asleep chatting, or a coven of weirdoes getting together, who knows what? What is certain, however, is that the word *Senior* is beyond definition in today's world. Nobody wants to be a 'Senior' unless it saves them money. So what are we, then?

Well, we are a Club in the sense that we get together, right? And we meet on Fridays, right or, rather, every other Friday, but that is still a Friday, right? So why not 'The Friday Club'? It seems likely to provoke the interest of the uninformed to, at least, find out. Oh, and Pat Daly is our first President.

Changing a name like *New Daz* (or *New Labour*) implies metamorphosing into something else that is quite different. We are not changing anything else: we are very proud of what we do. We arrange an annual programme of fortnightly talks on matters of topical interest by 'the great and the good', with occasional outings to interesting places. We also indulge in 'social interaction' between members, which translates mostly as tea and biscuits with conversation but sometimes known as gossip. At an all-in cost of £1.50 a time (There is no membership subscription) – how is that for value! Why not try us if you have not already?

Maurice Maggs Man Friday

First year celebrated

A very successful inaugural year was celebrated by members of Yew Trees WI at their Annual Meeting on Tuesday 22nd November. A splendid cake, made by Andrea Linsell, to celebrate the first birthday of Yew Trees WI, was enjoyed by all. As was a most informative talk on Denman College given by Rosemary Bishton.

Looking back on the year Christine Fellows, the President, said she was delighted with all that Yew Trees had achieved. She also said that she hopes even more ladies will join when they realise what an interesting and varied programme of speakers has been arranged for 2006. The subjects range from reflexology to women in prison, from badgers to BBC Radio Gloucester, from a talk on local cheeses to The St. John of Jerusalem eye hospital, from The Everyman theatre in Cheltenham to The Elsa Conservation Trust in Kenya.

Along with a fascinating variety of talks, new members can be assured of a warm and friendly welcome. The meetings are normally held on the fourth Tuesday in the month at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall. The exception being this month when the date is Tuesday 13th December, when prospective members are most welcome to come along to an informal Christmas gathering.

Celia Lougher



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committee want to say a big Thank You to all who helped at, contributed to or came to our Christmas Sale and Coffee Morning on November 5th. £290 was raised.

Liz Davies

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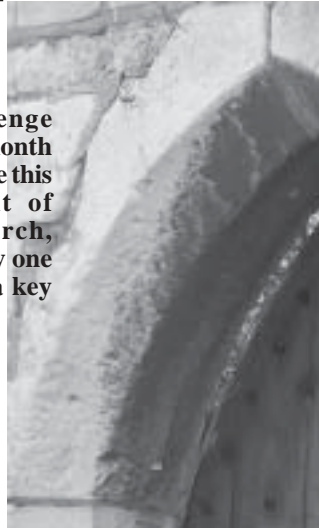
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Architects



A challenge for this month is to locate this fragment of stone arch, unusually one without a key stone.



The answer for last month was the stones atop the fine restored entrance to Castle Hale. See page 20!

Christmas conundrum

Jealousy

A very ancient puzzle tells of **two married couples** who wished to cross a river in a rowing boat that would hold only two people. So jealous were the men that no wife was ever to be left in the company of another man unless her own husband was present.

They solved their problem in five trips: (1) First couple crossed, (2) Husband returned, (3) Both husbands crossed, (4) Husband of remaining wife returned, (5) Second couple crossed.

But, what if there were **three couples** with only the same two-person boat, and the husbands were similarly resolved that no wife should be left in male company unless her husband was present? Could they all cross the river, and if so what would have to be the minimum number of trips?

No tricks, like suggesting someone should swim, or that they tie a rope to the boat and pull it across. The problem must be solved fairly, as in the original case.

Seasonal colour

A photographic challenge

Digital cameras and the weather forecast could, we hope, prompt a few readers to help the Beacon.

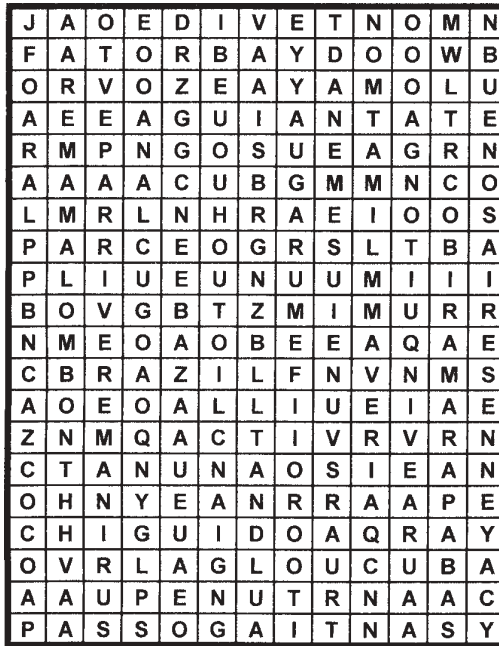
We would very much like to receive, for use in future winter issues, photographs which combine two qualities - wintry scenes and an aspect distinctively within Painswick. Colour is essential, as is a definition of about 600 dots-per-inch. Ingenuity in the choice of 'shot' will be a bonus, but it is the capturing of a scene unique to Painswick, and instantly recognisable as such that we are really after.

Could you help? Are you joining the digital camera brigade this year? If so, please click away and either let us have some pictures on disc or your camera's card, and we will promptly return them after down-loading.

Wordsearch

This month we have a serious look at South America, and wonder if you can find all thirteen of the mainland countries which comprise that amazing half-continent, and their capital cities?

If there is doubt about spelling, that in the Beacon's atlas applies.



Last month we sought twenty European capitals, and you may have come up with this list, as Julia and Claire did:

- AMSTERDAM MADRID
- BELGRADE OSLO
- BERLIN PARIS
- BERN PRAGUE
- BRUSSELS ROME
- BUDAPEST STOCKHOLM
- DUBLIN VADUZ
- LISBON VIENNA
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Poppy Day

This year the wonderful total of £3060.12 has been collected in our village for the Royal British Legion by people of all



We do remember them.

ages who care for our veterans, We received £670.85 from the two Church Memorial Services held this special 60th anniversary year. It is so good not only to remember the sacrifice of the fallen but what this achieved for the rest of us. The Evening to Remember organised by Ralph Drew and his friends was certainly a most enjoyable celebration and they also raised a stunning £442.00 in an auction, where some young people actually auctioned some sweets they had already won and subsequently paid more than £25 for them amidst great laughter. Personally I hope they do some more of these evenings as we all had such fun.

Our door-to-door and street collectors did very well this year, raising £1401.43. Toby, one of our local dogs, did his bit this year by wearing a poppy to encourage his mistress on her rounds.

Many in our local businesses, the school, the library and Town Hall, displayed boxes of poppies raising £415.65 for which we are so grateful. I feel that practically the whole village was involved this year. Thank you all very much.

Patricia Burrows

Willie and so much more . . .

Painswick has certainly had its fair share of characters over the years, indeed over the centuries. Bizarre, forlorn, good, talented but always fascinating, a few more of them have turned up in the latest edition of the Painswick Chronicle (Number 8).

Of course, this annual publication of the Local History Society is also packed with many other subjects and this year's edition is no exception. House history, local industry, life on Kimsbury hillfort, the Cox family, connections with Llanthony are just some of the themes, and the timescale is most impressive – from the Iron Age to the 20th century.

Painstakingly compiled, the Chronicles are an invaluable record of all aspects of Painswick's rich history. They reflect a wide-ranging set of interests, from the light-hearted to the erudite and have an equally broad audience appeal. Number 8 is fresh off the press and back issues are also still available. And as the



subject is history, they don't date! They make excellent presents too.



Other publications by the Society include 'Painswick: Time Chart of a Cotswold Village' by Carl Moreland, a beautifully presented book tracking Painswick's history alongside national events. This is available in both hard- and soft-back versions. And then there is the perfect stocking filler and essential must-have for all Painswickians, 'Barks and Bites from Bow-Wow Land' – small, feisty and guaranteed to produce a chuckle or two.

These publications are very reasonably priced, make ideal presents and are available from local retailers or direct from Gwen Welch (812540) and myself on (813387).

Carol Maxwell

Local History Teaser

In these cold times here's a reminder of warmer days. Going back some forty or so years, can you name the occasion represented in the photograph? There's a landmark in there which no longer exists – are you able to say what it is? And what of the people? We'd like you to identify the chap in the shorts, the man wearing long white trousers with his arms folded and the man next to him also with arms folded and wearing spectacles. We do not know who the man wearing a suit and tie and standing in the foreground is, so would be very pleased if you identify him for us.



The answer to last month's

teaser: the fine group of men in the picture were the Royal Oak Table Quoits Team in the early 1950s and they had good reason to be so jolly as they had been unbeaten for two years in the league. The back row: Charlie Foxwell, Tony Smith, Jack Smith, Police Constable Warburton, Harry Smart. The front row: Francis Bridseman, Wilf Fletcher, Cyril Hogg. They are proudly displaying the league cup and the champion of champions cup.

Table quoits was invented by local man, Walter Henry Burdock, and patented as "an improvement to the game of quoits" in 1893.

Carol Maxwell

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Wind Turbines

Residents of Painswick may well be concerned to know of a proposal to site two 56 metre tall wind turbines on the brow of a hill between Stancombe quarry and The Camp. Those after greater accuracy may care to note the six figure map reference as 911102, about one mile west of the centre of Whiteway and half a mile south south east of Bidfield Farm.

Although reference to the possibility of such was reported here in the Beacon in both of our most recent issues (*page 2*) this latest input of information and observation has been forwarded to us by a 'concerned local resident', John Biggs, who lives near to Fostons Ash.

John suggests that, to give some idea of scale, **the turbines will be almost as tall as Painswick church spire**. The area is designated AONB (an area of outstanding natural beauty) and being on high ground means that the structures will be clearly visible from some houses in Painswick facing East, parts of the A46 and Painswick Beacon. The view towards the site currently has no "man made structures" unlike views in other directions.

A meeting to discuss the proposal is to be held at Miserden Village hall on the 12th December at 8.00pm and all are welcome.

Mr Biggs says that anyone wanting more information should contact Faith Badger on 01285.821045 or Email on SaveOurScenery@aol.com

Busy busy

The two youth workers, Tim and Kerstin Friend, whose remit ranges across the Painswick benefice and Stroud, have been very busy during their first eight weeks hereabouts - including coaching rugby, running some sport at the Croft, and much much more. They are, however, very much in need of occasional support for such as setting up/clearing meeting places, handing out refreshments, being a first-aider, etc..

If you feel you might be of assistance do please telephone the PSALMS office on 05600.430562

The Alpha Course in Painswick

The Alpha Course will be held on Tuesday evenings, 7.00pm – 9.30pm. starting on **Tuesday 3rd January** for the Introductory Supper. The 10 week course will run from January 10th

Flyers are now available in local churches, on notice boards and at some shops. Please pick up a flyer or for more information please speak to: *Lindsay Gardner 814282 Ian Marsh 812829 or David Winstone-Ursell 810983*



Sue Ryder Care

The Coffee Morning held on 12th November raised £864.41. There was the usual cheerful atmosphere with a warm welcome given to everyone. This brings **the final total for this 25th Anniversary Year to £1585.10**. Many, many thanks to all who have given their time, goods and money. A special thanks to Michelle and the residents of Ashwell House who have been more than generous and to Angela Critchley who in spite of not being well for most of the year, produces her usual 90 mince Pies!

Back to normal next year. A very Happy Christmas and New Year to everyone and God Bless

Anne Leoni on behalf of the Group

Art at the Barn

Carol Keyes and David Morris invite you to join them at the 'Barn at Washwell' for an exhibition of 3D woodart by David and sensational oil paintings by Carol, as well as a large selection of her prints of landscapes, figures and animals ranging from £ 15.00 to £ 30.00.

Three dates to choose from: **Friday 16th December** 5.00pm to 9.00pm, or **Saturday 17th** and **Sunday 18th December** 1.00pm to 7.00pm.

Where? The Barn at Washwell, Cheltenham Road

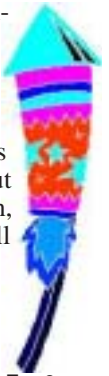
Caring community?

We do not hesitate to use this headline and, in the same breath, reflect that Painswick residents have a long-held reputation for caring for and about one another, and their environment.

So the answer to the question seems to be an unequivocal "Yes".

That said, the Beacon studiously avoids expressing opinions of its own, but resolutely passes on the views of others. We do so now, without much restraint. This because we have, yet again, received several suggestions that there are still quite a few who

do not care much when it comes to domestic, livestock or other animals!



We received one letter, written on 12th November, yes - on 12th November, firmly critical of those who were still exploding fireworks in the village.

The correspondent suggested that "You'd have thought that, given the number of animals in Painswick, and given also the number of pleas made for consideration when letting off fireworks each year, that people would by now have got the message. But no. Fireworks were first heard at the end of October, and even now as I write this on the evening 12th November, someone is once again letting off fireworks, causing my dogs to tremble and be sick in fear."

We asked around, and met with strongly held views; not least from those owning pets. "Just how selfish can people be?" we were told. Powerful explosions next door to pet owners have a most distressing impact upon their animals - fear, cowering in corners, refusal to go outdoors, and symptoms which sometimes last for several days.

One suggests "It is just this lack of thoughtfulness that leads many to seek to ban fireworks. And whilst that would seem a shame, if people cannot be responsible enough to restrict their use to one or two nights, perhaps it is the only solution. After all, a 'Nanny State' is only necessary when people act like children."

It is suggested that those people who have nothing better to waste their money on than fireworks might refrain from setting them off on nights other than the 5th November.

Are there any who disagree?

LWB

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Personal messages

Joyce and Ron Lamort would like to thank all their family and friends for the cards and gifts for their Golden Wedding celebration. They had a great time in Devon with all the family.

Ken French, Elisabeth and Martin wish to thank all who sent cards and letters in remembrance of Joy. And 'Thank You' to those who attended the Funeral Service on 1st November to make it such a Joy-ful occasion.

Ella Adlam would like to thank the friends and neighbours who have been so kind and helpful over the past twelve months, with hospital visits, shopping and caring. Thank you.

Meredith Dunnett. Jerry and Sue Dunnett write on behalf of their family to sincerely thank all who have written, Emailed or phoned to offer words of sympathy and support at this very sad time. Baby Thomas who was born on 5th October is doing well. Sue should be returning home at the end of November and we will be returning to Melbourne at the beginning of January. On behalf of Tim, Millie, Sam and baby Thomas we thank you all again for your kind words of support.

Gloucestershire's police

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council remind us, by a press release, that "This is the most important time in Gloucestershire Constabulary's 166-year history. Decisions are about to be made which mean that the Constabulary is likely to cease to exist as a fully independent organisation in 2½ years or less.



A recent report by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary has questioned the current structure of police forces in England and Wales and states that there is a growing threat from serious and organised crime, and terrorism, and that most forces are too small to properly counter these threats.

Gloucestershire Constabulary has to date successfully met the challenges of serious and organised crime, and terrorism, and is recognised as a good performer. However, the Home Office has recommended that Gloucestershire join with the four other forces in the South West (Devon & Cornwall, Avon & Somerset, Dorset and Wiltshire), or to join with just three of them (Avon & Somerset, Dorset and Wiltshire).

From the Constabulary and Police Authority view, Gloucestershire's option to remain as an independent Constabulary is still a strong one, and the Constabulary and Authority believe that communities should have the opportunity to consider it alongside the Home Office's preferred options.

This is your chance to have your say... go to <http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/9.html> to complete the questionnaire".

"Magic, dreams and mulled wine"

Janet and Alison would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement since opening the Fiery Beacon Gallery in April, and as part of their current focus "angels and fairies, magic and dreams" would like to invite readers to their late night opening on Friday 16th December.

The Fiery Beacon will be open from 6.00-8.00pm and they hope you will **join them for a glass of mulled wine** while you enjoy the range of beautiful gifts and handmade Christmas cards.



Those Malvern Hills

Mark Bowden, a past chairman of the society, who works for the English Heritage talked (on 15th November) about the history of the Malvern Hills, of which he has made a survey.



**Painswick
Local History
Society**

Geologically the rocks are extremely old at 680 million years.

One of the main features of the hills is the abundant supply of water which never seems to run dry. Cremations from the bronze age (1500 BC) have been found on the hills, but the main features are the two iron age camps on Midsummer Hill in the south and the Herefordshire Beacon in the centre.

Both of these have many hut circles within their boundaries, though not a great deal of archaeology has been carried out. In the case of British Camp on the Herefordshire Beacon there is evidence of reconstruction and extension in iron age times with some of the extensions abandoned at an early stage (the planners changed their minds!).

There is a dyke or boundary ditch which runs slightly below the level of the main ridge of the hills and on their eastern side. This is thought to have been built as the result of a dispute between Gilbert De Clare, the lord of Gloucester and the Bishop of Hereford in 1287; however, there is evidence in places that to some extent this old boundary predates the iron age camps, as part of it runs under the ditches of the British



Camp. In mediaeval times there is little evidence of occupation of the hills, with Ledbury being the only significant settlement in the area. There is evidence in place names containing elements such as "green", "street" and "end" that people in the Middle Ages were engaged in making clearances in the woodland that surrounded the hills. The town of Great Malvern itself came into existence in the early 19th century in the area round Great Malvern Priory. There were a number of mediaeval castles, but the largest of these, Bronsil Castle, was demolished by Lord Beachamp in the 19th century and the stone used to build Eastnor Castle.

The talk was illustrated with some magnificent aerial pictures of the hills and camps.

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Two kitties, one horse and a month of Sundays

Depending on when you get round to reading this, you have either just seen or are about to miss *A Tail of Two Kitties*. If the latter, drop everything! Gallop like a stampeding pantomime horse to the Painswick Centre now and you may just be in time to grab the last couple of tickets. If the former, wasn't it fantastic? Weren't the YiPPies terrific in *Puss in Slippers*? And, speaking – as we were – of panto horses, what a superb performance from Trigger! One that will surely go down in the annals of equestrian dramatics alongside Black Beauty, Champion and the mighty hiyo Silver! If you missed it, the



accompanying picture gives just a hint of the sheer equine power and grace of this noble beast. Modesty prevents me identifying who was actually responsible for bringing Trigger to life. I would merely direct the reader's eye towards the beauty of that exposed rear leg. Need I say more?



All of which links very neatly with my next topic and our next production, *All Things Bright And Beautiful* on Saturday 18th February. This is the latest of Pauline Foreman's ever popular afternoons of poetry and prose, made all the more bright and beautiful by the accompanying cream teas. As usual, a donation to charity will be made from the proceeds. More details next month.

Returning to the YiPPies, those that weren't in *Puss in Slippers* are, even now, busy rehearsing for the YiPPies first full length production in March, *The Magicians Nephew* from C S Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia*. Actually, I suggested doing a little-known *Narnia* adaptation called *The Panto Horse, the Witch and the Wardrobe* but the director, Lesley

Wolowiec, vetoed the idea. She says that what appeals to her about *The Magicians Nephew* is that it is the most personal of the seven *Narnia* stories with clear reflections of Lewis' own childhood. 'There is the attic filled with secrets and discoveries, just like the attic Lewis and his brother played in, and an escape into a newly created world, just like the land the young Lewis had created.'

It will clearly be a busy year for Lesley since she is also directing *A Month of Sundays* by Bob Larbey, which is our next major production in May. Bob Larbey (amongst much else) was half of the Larbey/Esmond writing team responsible for TV's *The Good Life*. Set in a rural rest home for senior citizens, *A Month of Sundays* is a beautifully touching, funny, happy, and sometimes sad but always heart warming play. With the new Richmond development opening in Painswick shortly, it should strike quite a few chords amongst those of us contemplating being put out to pasture.

Which brings us back to Trigger... What a performance!

Jack Burgess www.painswickplayers.org.uk

Daylight dancing

This is an invitation to all you couples who enjoy dancing to **come and join us at the weekly Tea Dances on Thursday afternoons** in the Painswick Centre.

The dances are run by Joy & Geoff Codd from 2.30 - 4.30pm with a break in the middle for tea and biscuits. We do Ballroom, Latin and Sequence dances with lovely music in a very friendly atmosphere. For those who want it, the afternoon starts with a half hour lesson at 2.00pm on one or two Sequence dances.

Surely after the excitement of Strictly Come Dancing you can't wait to come and try it out?! I've been going for four years and it truly is a wonderful way to spend an afternoon, especially at this time of year when it's dark and cold outside.

So come on, turn up at 2.30 (or 2.00pm if you would like to do the lesson) on a Thursday afternoon and experience a delightful way to get some exercise and make new friends. If you would

like more information, do ring Geoff and Joy on 01453-833150 and they will be pleased to help you.

Liz Fisher

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History revealed

Have you seen the three new information panels, installed in blocks of stone at the car park entrances to Painswick Beacon? They explain why the Beacon is such a special and important place. One part explains the uses to which the Beacon has been put for over 2000 years, ranging from an Iron Age Hill fort, a place for quarrying and grazing to a place for walking, playing golf or appreciating the range of wildlife and the super views. Another part outlines the restoration project carried out by Gloucestershire County Council's Archaeology Department to repair the ramparts and remedy erosion problems.

Perhaps the most important part is that which focuses on the important wildlife and flowers including many species of butterflies and orchids. Their future is continually at risk because the grassland that supports them was created by hundreds of years of grazing, and that stopped nearly 50 years ago. The Painswick Beacon Conservation Group primarily arose, and continues, in order to battle with the encroaching scrub and woodland that threatens the grassland and obstructs the views.

Cedric Nielsen has been the prime mover in the Group for many years and has doggedly worked to raise funds, and to kindle and sustain enthusiasm and commitment in others to get these panels into existence and into place. It has taken several wearying years and we owe him a huge debt of gratitude!

The winter programme of working parties to reduce overgrowth and undergrowth on the Beacon is just getting into full swing. Why not come and join us! Bring your healthy friends. It is a legitimate opportunity to slash and burn! The aim is to remove or contain scrub, seedlings, brambles and excess grass growth that threaten the important plants and insects, which give the Beacon its special character. Tools are provided; encouragement and guidance are given. Meet at the Car Park opposite the Golf Club entrance at 10.00am. Work finishes at 1.00pm. The dates are Sundays: 4th December, 1st January and 29th plus Tuesday 27th December. This gives you a wonderful opportunity to work off over indulgence at Christmas and New Year as well as doing something really worthwhile! More dates to follow for February onwards.

David Allott - Chairman



Painswick Library - review update

The level of interest in the future of the library and its associated premises is a matter of which the Beacon is very much aware. Many readers Jo Hand made a presentation regarding the review of library services to the Annual Parish Meeting way back on 25th May and assured the matter be forthcoming from a meeting of the County Council's Cabinet in September - and that after a further public meeting to which she would refer.

In the absence of any further 'signals' from the County Council since then the Beacon has pressed hard for an update so that the public can be aware of which may be impending at Shire Hall. The response has been a statement from Graham Twarog, a County Council spokesperson, who said: "This is part of a wider review of Libraries throughout the county. This has taken longer than was originally planned and consequently no decisions will be made with Tony Hicks the Lead Cabinet Member for Libraries in January when a decision on the way forward will emerge."

The County Council will listen to local people who may have ideas for the future of the Library/building. We have already had a very successful meeting led by Jo Hand, Assistant Head of Libraries and Information, in which local people gave us suggestions and ideas on the future of the library.

In the mean time we would like to emphasise that no decisions have been made. However a recent staffing review has resulted in the introduction of libraries of at least two which has meant an improvement of the staffing level provided at Painswick. There has been an excellent response from the public for hire and following promotions to local schools about the summer Reading Challenge visits by local children and young people have increased.

County Councillor Joan Nash contacted the Beacon to add: "I have seen the statement from the County Council's Libraries Department. I would like to see that I hope we can maintain a library in Painswick, but under-used libraries are not sustainable and should be closed. If anyone has a suggestion of services they would like provided in the library or type of book they would like to see or contact me."

Meanwhile, and as was reported to the Parish Council last month, the St.Mary's Church wardens have contacted the County Library service about their desire to be party to discussions concerning the future of the library and their own aspirations for the Church Rooms and even a new footpath between Stamages car park and the Beacon.

From these pieces of information it appears that **Painswick remains 'on probation'** in this regard and it is up to the public to **retain and build upon these facilities.**

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Tribute from Nature

Representatives from environmental organisations and members of the Painswick Beacon Conservation Group met in the Falcon Inn on 4th November for a presentation to Cedric Nielsen in recognition of all that he has done for conservation on Painswick Beacon. Environmental bodies represented at the occasion were Peter Bradshaw from English Nature, Jenny Phelps the Grasslands Officer of the AONB Partnership and Beth Ackers, National Trust and English Nature.

In making the presentation Paul Hackman of English Nature described how much Cedric's work has contributed to the present knowledge of the history and ecology of this important landmark and explained how Cedric's efforts had resulted in the area being designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Cedric was given an autographed copy of David Attenborough's latest book 'Life in the Undergrowth', a fitting present for one who has spent so much time observing, recording and ensuring the future of the flora, fauna and landscape of Painswick Beacon.

Gwen Welch



... and our Council

At last month's meeting of the Parish Council note was taken of Cedric Nielsen's plan to move towards the south coast in the not-too-distant future, and it was readily agreed that appreciation of the very significant contribution he had made to the restoration and representation of the Painswick Beacon and its Kimsbury Fort across many years be conveyed to him by letter.

library info

We are pleased to say that the library is now fully staffed. Our two new Library Customer Assistants started at the beginning of November. Anne Gowan will work Tuesdays, Thursdays and alternate Saturdays with Jessica and Janine Harris will work every Saturday and I will continue to work every Friday with Jessica. Neither Anne or Janine has worked in a library before, so please bear with them as they learn the ropes! I am sure they will soon be "up to speed". *Kath Pritchard*

Christmas Opening Hours

Friday 23rd December	2.00 – 5.00pm
Saturday 24th December	10.00am – 12.00pm
Tuesday 27th December	Closed
Thursday 29th December	10.00am – 1.00pm
Friday 30th December	2.00pm – 5.00pm
Saturday 31st December	10.00am – 12.00pm
Tuesday 3rd January	Normal opening hours

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Craftsmen extra-ordinary

The Gloucestershire Guild of craftsmen, who have been exhibiting every August for 50 years in Painswick and have their own Gallery in the Painswick Centre, has now been granted Registered Charity status. This is another milestone in an illustrious history of the Guild, and an opportune moment to draw attention to its activities and make known that they have a year-long programme.

The Bryant Fedden Award Scheme. As part of its charitable function, the Guild operates a bursary scheme to support new designer makers in the first two years of their professional career. Thanks to the generosity of the Gloucestershire Arts Development Fund, the Guild now supports five of these young makers. "The Guild has now been established for 73 years and we see this as ensuring its continuing future," said Colin Gerard, the Guild Chairman. These five include furniture maker Matthew Tradgett, Sarah Pearson Cooke a textile artist specialising in Shibori hand dyeing, Beshlie McKelvie a wonderful printmaker, strongly influenced by the time she spent with native south Americans in the Andes. Catharine Zoraida a jeweller whose modern organic jewellery has to be seen, and Emile-Kriste Wilcox a ceramic artist whose re-constructed 'Alice in Wonderland' creations test your imagination

Matthew Tradgett, the furniture maker, will be in the Gallery on Friday 30th January, pop in and have a chat to him about commissioning furniture.



The Gallery will specially feature the work of these young makers from 13th December to the end of the year, and will also feature the work of several new Associate members who do not qualify under the bursary scheme.

Sarah has 'scored a hat trick' since joining the Guild last July by being awarded the top three prizes in The Hat Magazine's 2005 Hat Designer of the Year Competition for the 'Best overall collection', 'Best craftsmanship', and 'Most popular in the public vote'. Judges included expert milliners Stephen Jones and Philip Somerville, and the award was announced at Pure, where the six finalists' collections were on show. Sara already has many celebrity customers including local style icon and former guild exhibition opener, Isabella Blow. All hat enthusiasts have a great opportunity to meet Sarah, as she will be in

the Gallery on Saturday 17th December. The Guild is very proud of Sarah and we will be offering a special 10% discount on any of Sarah's work bought or ordered on that day. Make sure to put it in your diary!

The Guild also welcomes recent member and new Gallery Manager Jenny Ford. Jenny also joined the Guild in July and her own work is 3D textile art with vibrant colours and organic shapes. Impossible to describe on the page, her work will be in the exhibition but, why not pop in to the Gallery any Tuesday and meet her in person.

Please Note, the Gallery will be closed from 10th to 23rd January for redecoration.

Purcell - the first really great, if not the greatest English Composer?

Holst considered Purcell equal to Mozart in instinctive musicianship and fertility of invention, as also in the brevity of his career (he died when only 36 years old). It is with Mozart that Purcell is most nearly comparable and one can only wonder what he might have achieved over a more normal life span. On the other hand, long neglected and only recently "rediscovered" by such as Britten and Tippett, his music is for the most part in forms that are hardly suitable to rehabilitate in modern conditions of large choirs, greater variety of instruments and more sophisticated tastes in drama.



Iain Cooper put the evidence before us with his fluent and witty presentation of current recordings on 3rd November. He started with the anthem 'Almighty and everlasting God' by Orlando Gibbons, one of our best known polyphonists, to illustrate the form of church music from which Purcell drew early inspiration for his own anthems of which we heard three that are often sung by church choirs today, including St. Mary's.

Then came the instrumental opening of Handel's "Messiah" to illustrate the then popular French style of overture that Purcell adopted for the exciting anthem "My heart is inditing" he composed for James II's coronation. He had turned away from church music towards the dramatic and opera by force of circumstances because James II was a Roman Catholic. Contrasting excerpts were played from "King Arthur", Purcell's wonderful "semi-opera", and the lovely "Dido's Lament" that ends his chamber opera "Dido and Aeneas". Then "Sound the Trumpet", the second movement from his most famous ode, "Come ye sons of Art", that he composed for Queen Mary's birthday and finally "Funeral Music for Queen Mary" who died in 1694, a profoundly grievous work with massive brasses. A wide ranging overview, much appreciated for its content and scholarship.

Ralph Kenber

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A Christmas Country Market



**Painswick
Country Market**

Join us at our **Christmas Market on Friday 16th December** at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Hall for coffee and hot mince pies. This will be our final market for 2005. We will re-open for business in the New Year on Friday 20th January 2006.

Place Your Christmas Orders Soon. There is still time to order seasonal baking. Browse at our Christmas Table for examples of the goods on offer, such as Christmas cakes, chocolate logs and puddings, to name but a few. Mince pies and home-made mincemeat will also be available. Please place your order at our next market or by telephoning Doreen Boon on 813850.

Our craft stalls offer a range of hand-made cards and fancy goods suitable for presents. Seasonal plants and bulbs such as hellebores, potted hyacinths and holly bushes are on sale this month. We will also be selling sprigs of holly and bunches of mistletoe.

Finally, we wish our customers, producers and helpers a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Patricia Davey and Jane Rowe

Churches Together Around Painswick

are not having a separate Advent service this year, but have coordinated the following information, which they hope will be helpful.

Sunday	11th	4.00pm	Our Lady & St.Thérèse	Painswick Praise Christingle service
Saturday	17th	7.00pm	St.Swithun's - Brookthorpe	Carol service
Sunday	18th	8.30am	Our Lady & St.Thérèse	Mass
		10.30am	Friends Meeting House	Meeting with Christmas theme
		11.00am	St.John the Baptist - Pitchcombe	Nine lessons and carols
		4.00pm	Sheepscombe Methodist	Carol service
		4.00pm	Christ Church	Carol service with refreshments
		6.30pm	St.Mary's	Carol service
		7.00pm	St.John the Baptist - Harescombe	Carol service
Tuesday	20th	2.30pm	Ashwell	Carols
Thursday	22nd	2.30pm	Resthaven - Pitchcombe	Carols
		7.00pm	St.John the Baptist - Edge	Carol service
Saturday	24th	4.00pm	St.Mary's	Crib service
		4.00pm	St.James the Great - Cranham	Crib service
		4.00pm	St.John the Apostle - Sheepscombe	Crib service
		4.00pm	St.John the Baptist - Edge	Crib service
		5.00pm	St.John the Baptist - Harescombe	Crib service
		11.30pm	St.Mary's	Midnight service
		11.30pm	St.James the Great - Cranham	Midnight service
		11.30pm	St.John the Baptist - Pitchcombe	Midnight service
Sunday	25th	8.00am	St.Mary's	BCP Holy communion
		8.30am	Our Lady & St.Thérèse	Mass
		9.00am	St.John the Baptist - Harescombe	Family communion
		9.30am	St.John the Apostle - Sheepscombe	Family communion
		10.00am	St.Mary's	Family service
		10.00am	St.John the Baptist - Edge	Family communion
		10.30am	Sheepscombe Methodist	Short family service
		11.00am	Friends Meeting House	Half hour worship
		11.00am	Christ Church	Short all-age worship
		11.00am	St.James the Great - Cranham	Family communion
		11.15am	St.Mary's	Holy communion (short service)
Sunday	1st	8.30am	Our Lady & St.Thérèse	Mass
		10.30am	Rodborough Tabernacle	Joint service
		6.30pm	St.James the Great - Cranham	Nine lessons and carols



Gloucestershire Echo

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Falcon Bowling Club

The club held its Annual General Meeting on 12th November, and the beacon caught two significant moments on camera.

David Ryland, club champion for 2005 was presented with the mens singles cup.



We 'snapped 'The Girls'; that is, some of the ladies, including the captain Myra Savage, with the rose bowl with which they were presented as runners up in the County Ladies 2 Rink inter club competition, losing by just 2 shots to a Bristol club on 3rd September.



Golf Club Seniors

A successful year for the Seniors Section was concluded with the Annual Dinner and AGM on 2nd and 3rd of November respectively. Jim Orpin, Club Captain, attended to present the prizes and the President, Adrian Layton-Smith addressed the members and their guests, who included the Ladies Section representative. Adrian thanked the Seniors for the work they had done in the clubhouse and their financial contributions to the club and reported that the Clubs interim financial position was healthy.

Stewart Price, 2004/5 Seniors Captain in reviewing his year in office said that he had enjoyed the support of all members so that it had been a pleasure and privilege to serve. Match results were even with 12 wins, 12 losses and 5 draws but, judged by enjoyment and good fellowship the season was a great success. Particular thanks were accorded to the Greens Staff and the very high quality catering and service by the Steward, Les Jones, his wife and staff, had been enjoyed by visitors and members alike. Trophy winners were;

- Senior Champion** - Ken Morris
- Senior Tankard** - John Wright
- Centenary Cup** - Doug Jones
- Millenium Trophy** - Malcolm Booth
- Arthur Paget Trophy** - Richard Wright
- Organ Niblick** - Alan Fisher
- Ironman Trophy** - Malcolm Booth
- Deva Cup** - Stewart Price & Tom Morris

At the AGM, the next day, Stewart Price welcomed a number of new members and congratulated our over 80's still playing regularly and Peter Poyser who would join Bill Phillips in the over 90s, still playing, category in December. So much for the rumour that Painswick is an unduly strenuous course! Peter Sibley was thanked for his running of the very successful Senior Open in May which had attracted 97 entries. The winner was Ray Cawston of Ross Golf Club with the other 20 odd prizes being widely shared, with only three Painswick winners among them. Peter Sibley was elected Senior Captain for the coming year with Richard Wright as the Vice Captain. Secretary, Roger Anthony, Treasurer Stan Thurlow and Competition Secretary, Ian Smethurst and Auditor, Ray Etheridge were re-elected with acclamation.

Senior golfers enjoy the opportunity to take part in some 85 Opens in the Glos, Somerset&Wilts circuit. Even with our matches and competition there is still time for social golf at 8am on Tuesdays and Thursdays when we pair up as we arrive on the tee, with no cliques allowed. The 60 seniors all know each other and a friendly welcome is assured for newcomers, over 55 years of age. Contact the club on 812180.

Jim Hodge

Gloucester Road 812573

Boxing Day walk

The annual Parish Council Boxing Day walk will start from Stamages Lane car park at 10.00am.

The walk is planned to return to the car park at approximately noon.

Details of this year's route will be published on the various village notice boards nearer the day. Everyone is welcome, but stout footwear is required.

Dogs are also welcome but must be on a lead at all times.



Piste fitness?

Why not get fit for the piste? Five Valleys Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Clinic are running their Ski Fit classes yet again this year at the Painswick Rugby Club.

Classes will be held on Monday evenings from 7.00pm until 8.00pm starting Monday the 28th November and running through till early March. Anyone is welcome, you don't have to ski to come along! The classes are designed to stretch and strengthen the 'Bits' you will need when hurtling down the piste. It is a great work-out for thighs and buttocks particularly, though other parts are considered, with the hope that injuries will be prevented, and the holiday will be enjoyed to the full.

While classes can be on a single basis all six sessions are recommended to maximise the benefit. Full information can be obtained by telephoning the Five Valleys Physiotherapy Clinic on 01453.755948 to secure a place, or just turn up on a Monday evening.

Tim Mifflin



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Rugby

Last Saturday Painswick met Cainscross at Victory Park in Stroud where they were competing for the Barrie Meadows cup.

Putting their indifferent league form behind them, Painswick ran in seven tries with the final score, Cainscross 1st XV 11 Painswick 1st XV 37. Painswick's try scorers were, Russell Thornton (2), James Reed (2), Ossie Smith, Tim Friend and Eddie Bressington, with Eddie successful with one conversion.

The previous weekend Painswick United put in a good performance against Cainscross 2nd XV with a 19 points to nil result.

On 5th November, Painswick 1st XV had an excellent victory in a friendly match against Old Centralians 1st XV winning an exciting game by 32 points to 31. The result was particularly pleasing for the Cherry and Whites as the Gloucester side play in a higher division in the Gloucestershire league than Painswick. The visitors were leading by 32 points to 29 with ten minutes remaining when Painswick were awarded a penalty which was calmly converted by Eddie Bressington.

Results [(L) indicates league match, (M) Merit Table].

- Sat 5 Nov Painswick 1st XV 32 Old Centralians 1st XV 31.
- Old Richians 2nd XV 32 Painswick United 5.
- Sat 12 Nov. (L) Painswick 1st XV 12 Old Colstonians 1st XV 42.
- (M) Painswick United 7 Chosen Hill 2nd XV 37.
- Sat 19 Nov. Painswick United 19 Cainscross 2nd XV 0.
- Sat 26 Nov. Cainscross 1st XV 11 Painswick 1st XV 37.
- Berry Hill 3rd XV 20 Painswick United 5.

Fixtures

- Sat 3 Dec. (L) Widden OB 1st XV v Painswick 1st XV.
- (M) Hucclecote 2nd XV v Painswick United.
- Sat 10 Dec. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Drybrook 1st XV.
- (M) Painswick United v Cinderford 2nd XV.
- Sat 17 Dec. Painswick 1st XV v Brockworth 1st XV.
- Painswick United v Brockworth 2nd XV.
- Sat 7 Jan. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Old Colstonians 1st XV.
- (M) Painswick United v Tewkesbury 2nd XV.

JT Sundling - top ranked tennis player

Fourteen year old John Tyler Sundling, (JT for short), known to Painswick when he attended Croft School and his family lived in Gloucester Street, has become America's top ranked player in the boys' 14s category. He achieved this status by capturing four major junior singles titles in 2005 and finally by winning the Wilson Junior Championship, under 16s, title in Mirage, California without dropping a set in any of his six matches - and eliminating three seeded players en route. For good measure he also finished runner-up in the doubles event. What would have been a fairytale ending to the season was denied when, representing the USA, he lost in the final of the Nike Junior International Masters, after having three match points, to the previous years finalist Radim Urbanek of Czechoslovakia.

The four older Sundling children all played their tennis with Painswick Tennis Club and brothers Alex and Ben also played at a high competitive level in California. Katie also played but has majored in Dance at College. The two oldest are now at university and Ben graduates from college next year. The baby of the family, Annie, born in Painswick, majors in charm and keeps mother Jennifer on her toes.



Clockwise from left Katie, Alex, Ben, JT and Annie

Now at 6ft 2ins, JT is still a leftie, with a two-handed backhand. Originally coached in Gloucestershire, his father Tom and Jennifer have supported him all the way in his tennis.

Former classmates at Croft school will remember JT as a hard tackling soccer player and a real charmer with the girls. Now they can say they know a 'famous' tennis player.

The family have already appeared on TV at Wimbledon when they sat through a rain-interrupted day some years ago. Perhaps we can look forward in the future to their re-appearance, with JT on court this time!

You can keep up with JT on www.usta.com and see his picture on the Junior Spotlight of the Week, dated 20th October 2005, which gives a resume of his formidable tennis achievements. He also has to work hard at his studies. This probably explains why, in the picture, he hasn't had time to get his hair cut!

Jim Hodge

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Distribution

About forty people turn out in all weathers to distribute the Beacon to households throughout Painswick village every month. Without their dedication (and fitness) the preparation of your newspaper would be pointless.

We expressed our appreciation of their commitment last month by inviting them to a finger buffet and a drink in the Church Rooms and caught quite a number of them still smiling before they went home.

Thanks again, on behalf of all our readers.

And, while mentioning distribution, the opportunity was taken to thank **Gus Gaugain** for being distributor-in-chief

since January 2003. That task is the first stage in the exercise of

getting the 1550 copies we have printed each month out to distributors, an hour or two as you can imagine of negotiating the highways and byeways of the whole of the area. Copies have to be counted out, bagged up, and delivered to distributors - sometimes tucked away in special hiding places for them to retrieve when they return home from work. Our thanks to Gus, aided and abetted by David Ryland, and their regular efforts to complete their rounds on the Friday afternoon before the first Saturday each month.

Celia Lougher has kindly volunteered to take over this task from Gus and is fully armed with the shortest routes between points and will be helped by her partner David Allott, and another volunteer - Roydon Hales. Our thanks to them, too.



Too much crime, sex or violence in your house?

The Mission to Seafarers at Bristol is still collecting paperbacks to help sailors while away and their long hours at sea. If you have any which are just cluttering up the place we will be happy to find them a good home. Light fiction is especially welcome.

There will be a box by the main door of St.Mary's Church during December, or contact me at St.Andrews in New Street, opposite the war memorial, or telephone 813444. We will collect if necessary.

John Parfitt

PROPERTY REPORT for December by Hamptons International

As 2005 draws to a close I can honestly say that this year has been one of the most frustrating and unpredictable market places in which to work since I first started working in the Painswick office over 20 years ago.

Throughout the year vendors expectations remained higher than those of our applicants and only those vendors who heeded our advice and realistically priced new properties for sale resulted in achieving a sale.

Sales have taken an age to exchange contracts this year as surveyors seemed to be more critical and solicitors are much more cautious resulting in buyers walking away because of the time taken throughout the sale process.

We are very optimistic that 2006 will prove to be a very good year to sell and

bearing in mind that the sellers pack may come into force in early 2007, many home owners may wish to sell now as the costs of moving house will certainly go up. We have some very good buyers on our mailing list and I advise anyone who is thinking of moving to instruct us now in order to commence marketing in January as we feel that if you wait until Spring there will be a glut of properties on the market and the supply may well outweigh the demand.

Recent completions include: Woodridings in Cotswold Mead, Gorselands in Edge, Springbank in Slad:

Purchasers of the following properties and hoping to complete before Christmas include: The Watch House in New Street, May Cottage off Edge Road, 10 The Croft, Severn Cottage in Vicarage Street,

Cromwell House at Haresfield Beacon, Ferndale in Pitchcombe and Scrubbs Bottom near Bisley.

Our latest instructions include Greenbank - a bungalow in a fabulous plot at Edge; Holly House - a fine period house in Slad and no 3 Churchill Way - a 3 bedroomed townhouse in the village. We still have a flat in Hyett Orchard for sale which is a very good retirement home. If you would like a free market appraisal of your property or would like to receive an up to date list of properties for sale do call into our office in Bisley Street.

From Miranda, Lucy, Jill, Carol and Merriel may I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Diane Mearns

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DECEMBER

Sat	3	Painswick Players: <i>Last Panto in Painswick/ Red Hot Cinders</i>	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
		Theatre club Outing to Malvern	The Falcon	12.45pm
Sun	4	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group Scrub Clearing. Contact John Rhodes - 812709	Car Park opposite the Golf Club	10.00am
		Magical Christmas Tour, with Peter Pan as the theme	Rococo Gardens	SOLD OUT
		Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Improvers - Sundays	Painswick Centre	7.30 to 8.30pm
Mon	5	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Women's Fellowship	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Tue	6	Dog Training Club (Tuesdays)	Christ Church Hall	9.30 to 12.00noon
		EXTEND: exercise class for over 60s and less able people of all ages. Tuesdays	Pitchcombe Village Hall	2.00 to 3.00pm
Wed	7	Coach to London: Tel 813965/813227	Stamages Car Park	8.30am
		Coffee morning in aid of St Johns Eye Hospital in Jerusalem. Raffle, Bring & Buy, Cakes, Books. For details tel: 371916/813711	Bond End Farm, U-St-L (near Bowden Hall Hotel)	10.30am to 12.30pm
Thu	8	Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners	Town Hall	12.00 to 1.00pm
		Experienced beginners - Thursdays		12.30 to 1.30pm
		Tea Dances - Thursdays	Painswick Centre	2.30 to 4.30pm
Fri	9	Country Market with coffee available: Fridays	Town Hall	10.00am
Sat	10	The Painswick Singers: Christmas Carol Concert - carols, readings, solos and choir items; retiring collection	Christ Church	7.30pm
Mon	12	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Catholic Church	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Tue	13	Young craftsmen exhibition until 30th (<i>page 12</i>)	Guild Gallery	
		Yew Trees WI - Christmas Gathering	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	14	Probus: First descent of the Grand Canyon - Ken Ingamels	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
		Women's Fellowship: Christmas Lunch	Golf Club	12.30pm
		Horticultural Society: Quiz Nite - with refreshments	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	15	Music Appreciation: Christmas Social	Cotswold Room	7.30pm
Fri	16	Friday Club: Christmas Lunch		
		Art at the Barn exhibition (<i>page 7</i>) & 17th - 18th "Angels and fairies, magic and dreams" (<i>page 8</i>)	The Barn at Washwell	5.00pm to 7.00pm
		Painswick Blues: Animals (and 17th)	Fiery Beacon	6.00 to 8.00pm
Sat	17	Copy dateline for January to Editorial Team	Painswick Centre:	8.00pm
Sun	18	Puppet making and performing "workshop" for Children 8-16yrs. Tel: 813229	Painswick Centre	10.00am to 12noon
		Lempen Puppet Theatre Co. show: Puppets in the wild	Painswick Centre	3.00pm
Tue	20	Jazz Evening no entry fee	Ostlers Room, Falcon	8.30pm
Wed	21	Women's Fellowship: Carol Service		
		Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	22	Diary deadline for January to Edwina Buttrey via. Beacon box please		
Tue	27	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group Scrub Clearing. Contact John Rhodes - 812709	Car Park opposite the Golf Club	10.00am

JANUARY 2006

Sun	1	Annual Boxing Day Walk	start Stamages car park	10.00am- noon
		Painswick Beacon Conservation Group Scrub Clearing. Contact John Rhodes - 812709	Car Park opposite the Golf Club	10.00am
Sat	7	January issue of The Painswick Beacon published		
		Local History Soc/STET Landscape walk (meet at)	Juniper Hill/Wick St lay-by	10.00am
		For details phone 814139		
Wed	11	Probus: Paying for Rain - Mr W Affleck	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
		Horticultural Society: Welcome to Thailand - a Video presentation by Stan Newey	Town Hall	2.30pm
Mon	16	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - CTAP	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Tue	17	Local History Society: Edward Jenner - His Life, Work & Legacy	Croft School	7.30pm
Mon	23	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Dog Training Group	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Tue	24	Yew Trees WI: Reflexology & the Metamorphic Technique - Sam Bloomfield	Town Hall	7.30pm



Wed	25	Probus: The Ice Cream Industry - Mr J Falcon	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Sun	29	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group Scrub Clearing. Contact John Rhodes - 812709 CTAP Christian Unity Service	Car Park opposite the Golf Club Christ Church	10.00am 10.30am
Mon	30	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Puffins	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm

FEBRUARY

Mon	6	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Yew Trees W.I.	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Wed	8	Probus: The changing face of the Law - Mr R Morgan Horticultural Society: English Garden History - Barbara Drake	Ostlers Room, Falcon Town Hall	10.00am 2.30pm
Mon	13	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Tennis Club	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Sat	18	All Things Bright and Beautiful – (page 9)	Painswick Centre	afternoon
Mon	20	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Falcon Bowling club	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Sun	12	Bird Club: Birds on the Flood Plain	Hartpur	10.00am
Tue	21	Local History Society: A Briggs/Archard production!	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	22	Probus: American Civil War - Mr K Browning	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Mon	27	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - St Mary's Guild	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Tue	28	Yew Trees WI: The St Johns Eye Hospital, Jerusalem. - Dr Denise Magauran	Town Hall	7.30pm

MARCH

Mon	6	Austerity Lunch: Hostess - Pauline Lamont	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Wed	8	Probus: Murphy's and Other Laws - Mr R Hennessey Horticultural Society: The Newent Onion Fair - Plus bring & buy plant sale	Ostlers Room, Falcon Town Hall	10.00am 7.30pm
Sat	11	Beacon Village Quiz	Painswick Centre	6.45 for 7.15pm
Mon	13	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Conservation Society	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Tue	14	Bird Club: Wildfowl and Wetland Trust - talk by Mike Teesdale. Followed by AGM	Town Hall	
Mon	20	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Horticultural Society	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Tue	21	Local History Society: Pitchcombe - Notes and Recollections - Michael Little	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	22	Probus: Brunel as a Railway Engineer - Mr D Cartwright	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Sat	25	Painswick Music Society Concert: Carducci Quartet	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Tue	28	Yew Trees WI: The Elsa Conservation Trust - Graham Dougan	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	29	Horti. Soc: Bookings morning for outings	Church Rooms	10.00am to 12noon

APRIL

Wed	5	Probus: The Cossacks - Mr M Chance	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Sat	8	Painswick Music Society Concert: Robert Irving, cello; Fali Pavri, piano	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Wed	12	Horticultural Society: Climbers, ramblers and scramblers - R Bracher	Town Hall	7.30pm
Tue	18	Local History Society: Research Evening	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	19	Probus: AGM	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am
Sat	22	Painswick Music Society Concert: Sir Thomas Allen, baritone; Malcolm Martineau, piano	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Tue	25	Yew Trees WI: Porridge - Mrs P Cottle	Town Hall	7.30pm

MAY

Sat	6	Painswick Music Society Concert: Nicola Eimer, piano	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Wed	10	Horticultural Society AGM, followed by talk - The work of 'Perennial' - Susan Bowers (with raffle)	Town Hall	7.30pm 8.15pm
Tue	16	Local History Society: Annual Outing		
Tue	23	Yew Trees WI: Resolutions, followed by a talk about Badgers - Tony Dean	Town Hall	7.30pm

JUNE

Tue	20	Local History Society: AGM	Croft School	7.30pm
Tue	27	Yew Trees WI: the Everyman Theatre - past, present and future - Sara-Jane Hasman	Town Hall	7.30pm

JULY

Tue	25	Yew Trees WI: BBC Radio Gloucestershire	Town Hall	7.30pm
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APPLICATIONS

DOVECOT COTTAGE, STEPPING STONE LANE Erection of a greenhouse against walled garden
 JUNIPERS, EDGE ROAD Loft conversion with dormers
 ST MICHAEL'S COTTAGE, VICTORIA STREET Change of use from domestic to commercial use at ground floor level
 RED LION HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET Erection of directional sign to Quaker Meeting House
 GREENHOUSE COURT LODGE, GREENHOUSE LANE Erection of a conservatory
 KNAPP HOUSE, THE VATCH, SLAD Replace left hand full length barn door (beyond repair)
 LULLINGWORTH, STROUD ROAD Alterations to kitchen wing
 LOWER BUMPS, THE GREEN, EDGE Erection of a summer house
 LITTLE ACRE, CHELTENHAM ROAD Conversion of attic space to additional accommodation and installation of dormer windows
 CLOVERS, KINGS MEAD Two storey extension to dwelling and garage
 JENKINS BARN, JENKINS LANE, EDGE Extension and alteration. Demolition to a wall

ASHLEIGH, GLOUCESTER STREET Erection of a flue on kitchen roof
 ROSE COTTAGE, SLAD Extension to form day room & erection of a workshop/store

CONSENT

HIGHFIELD HOUSE, GLOUCESTER STREET Re-pointing small stretch of external wall on front elevation
 THE LAURELS, JACKS GREEN, SHEEPS-COMBE Erection of a summerhouse
 GREENLEAS, LONGRIDGE, SHEEPS-COMBE Erection of a two storey extension and loft conversion
 CHESSED, SLAD Erection of a single storey side extension
 FLAT 1, ROSSWAY HOUSE, NEW STREET Retrospective application for a free standing privacy screen with wooden frame
 ASHTREES, KINGS MEAD Erection of conservatory
 MICHAELMAS COTTAGE, VICARAGE STREET Erection of a conservatory and enlargement of existing parking area

REFUSAL

SHEEPS-COMBE HOUSE, JACKS GREEN, SHEEPS-COMBE Refurbish existing outbuilding to form home office

MINI-ADS

Pram for Sale - Graco single pram - Beautiful stone colour. Perfect condition with rainwear and parasol. £70.00ono. 813533.

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Logs - Seasoned Hardwoods. Sold by the large trailer load delivered - £70.00. Other loads available. Contact Felix on 07958.108841.

Lift Required for Midnight Mass at Prinknash Abbey on Christmas Eve. Please contact 813832 if you can help.

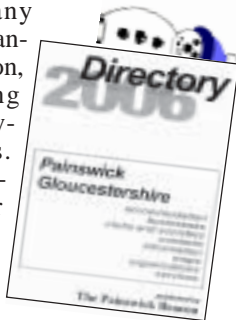
Cheap reliable small car wanted for use by mum to take child to Crypt School in Gloucester. (Current car MOT failure) 812700

MINI-ADS - non-commercial, maximum of 30 words - are 10p per word with a minimum payment of £1. Maximum of 14 accepted per month. Beacon subscribers have 25% discount. Please send money with mini-ad to Philip Oakley, Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street, GL6 6QN. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to The Painswick Beacon. Receipts are not forwarded unless requested.

Directory

We are pleased to distribute copy of the Directory for 2006 free with every issue of this month's Beacon.

This is the opportunity to thank those many readers, organisers, and so on, for assisting us by notifying updates. If there are errors, our apologies in advance.



Don't Miss Little Fleece

You may recall reading an item a few weeks ago about Michael McCarthy's plans to re-open Little Fleece in Bisley Street. Since then Michael has been working hard in order to try to open in time for Christmas and as a result will be able to throw open the doors by mid-December.

It will behove you to pay a visit to the shop especially if you are fond of good quality, interesting books and objects. In particular, you will discover some wonderful second-hand books on a range of subjects from art and architecture, gardening and biography, archaeology, Cotswold history and so on. There are first editions, unusual and special books, indeed many very collectable works. Good prints and nice pieces of porcelain, glass and silver will also be on sale.

As there is still a considerable amount of work to be undertaken, Little Fleece will open only for the rest of December. It will open properly in February.

Michael speaks appreciatively of the warm welcome he feels everyone in Painswick has afforded him. He continues to make great efforts to turn Little Fleece into a National Trust property we can be proud of and is keen to provide a high quality service.

Do go and browse – you may find something quite special.

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The Personal Column

Babies

Congratulations to SIMON and LOUISE STEWART who live by The Green in Edge, on the birth of their daughter Maya Lucy on 12th November, a sister for Megan.

and LISA and GRAHAM WARNABY are celebrating the birth of their first child, Alex Michael, born on 22nd September. (*Our apologies for a spelling error last month. Ed.*)

and DAVID and SARAH CARLILE on the birth of their daughter Sophie on 23rd October, a sister for Thomas and Lucy,

also to ZOE and BOB BUNDY on the birth of their second son Fabian Jacob on 2nd November, a second grandson for Rosie and Jack Smith,

and to CHARLOTTE and WILL SMITH on the birth of their second daughter Rosie on 27th October, a sister for Madeleine and a fifth grandchild for Angela and David Hudson.

Weddings

Best wishes to JUDITH PARKINSON who married RAY STANDEN on 29th October in Ramsgate, Kent; Judith and her sister Jan used to run 'Chancellors' in Painswick

and congratulation to NICOLA WEST and EDWARD ISAAC who were married at St.Mary's Church on 5th November.

80th Birthdays

Congratulation to JOAN TRUMAN who celebrated her 80th birthday on 15th November,

and to Professor TED BURGE who celebrated his 80th on 17th October

Did you see

.. the bright yellow plait which seemed to be adorning one side of the entrance to Castle Hale?

What you almost certainly did NOT see was the 'maiden' who was believed to have been hiding on top while her hair grew long enough for Prince Stam to climb to her rescue from wicked Fairy Hale!

Our Princess was coy about having the camera trained on her but, as ever, the Beacon persevered and she was caught on film with a 'far away' look on her innocent face. Although she was reluctant to be interviewed, we did just manage to elicit the fact that her name is Bethany - does not live locally - and can assure readers she is a real charmer, Grade I.

Welcome

We would like to welcome SAM and STEVE TWIGG and their children Harry (4) and Gracie (2) who have moved into Lower Washwell,

and to DAVID and MAUREEN VARDY who have moved into 2 St.Mary's Mead from Skipton in Yorkshire,

and to PAULINE and ROGER BAYLISS who have moved to 6 St.Mary's Mead from Stroud,

also to Mrs JOHNSTON who has moved to Hurst Cottage in Butt Green,

and EMMA WILSON-COPP who has moved to Hillman's Cottage in Paradise

Moved home

Best wishes to SUSAN ROBINSON on her move to Apartment 4 at Richmond Painswick in Stroud Road, the very first resident in one of the new apartments.

Get well soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to BRIAN HUNT and PHILIP JARMAN.

Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of ROSIE RICKETTS, TIM GREW, VICTOR STYTHE and EDNA SWIFT who have died recently.



NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date

SATURDAY 7th JANUARY

Items for publication to Editorial Team using E-mail or the Beacon Post Box by

SATURDAY 17th DECEMBER

Mini Ads to the Treasurer, Philip Oakley, Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street, GL6 6QN

SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER

Business adverts to Dermot Cassidy at 1 Painswick Heights, Yokehouse Lane, Painswick GL6 7QS by

THURSDAY 22nd DECEMBER

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey

THURSDAY 29th DECEMBER

Letters and articles for publication are particularly welcome by Email to painswickbeacon@supanet.com or, alternatively, on computer disk. Items to be published, and other mail for the Beacon Committee, can also be placed in the **Beacon Post Box** in New Street - next to the telephone kiosk. Please be sure to provide your name, address and a contact phone number. The **Beacon's telephone number is 814500**

Our web site is

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Address for general correspondence *not items for publication,*

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Beacon Committee

Editorial team this month

Jack Burgess, Leslie Brotherton*, Dermot Cassidy, Carol Maxwell, and Terry Parker

*co-ordination and compiling

Personal Column: Rachel Taylor 813402

Diary: Edwina Buttrey 812565

Feature Writers:

Carol Maxwell 813387

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