

# The Painswick Beacon

Vol. 27 No.12

March 2005

## Dogs to have their day

Dogs all over the area, and quite a few some distance away, are anxious that their owners note that their Annual Show has now been fixed for **Saturday 16th July**.

Readers may have noticed that whispered communications between dogs have been taking place, and their tails reveal considerable anticipation of this premier event on the Recreation Field. Timing and details have yet to be announced, but the Beacon is reliably informed that after defraying expenses a donation will be made to the County Air Ambulance - pictured here in flight.



## Review of the Network of Libraries

*It almost goes without saying that the Beacon receives all sorts of enquiries, rumours, and so on, so typical and characteristic of an active village community. Among these have been differing opinions/understanding about the future of Painswick's library, a much valued resource. Concerned that these rumours might gain an erroneous momentum of their own we sought a precise and authoritative statement from the County Librarian. A few days later the subject was discussed at the February Parish Council meeting when the Chairman reported that a statement had been promised from the Library Service in time for the meeting. An inquiry to the Library Service had brought the assurance that the statement would be provided to the Beacon and the Parish Council in time for publication in the March issue. We feel the best service we can render is to reproduce the statement dated 22nd, sent on behalf of the library service, verbatim, and leave those who have an interest to make their views known.*

*There seems to us to be a wide open opportunity which needs to be seized locally if the library and all the potential it and the premises represent is to be retained in the medium or long term. The time for pooling of ideas is upon us, before the anticipated public consultation takes place between May and July, and preferably before the library service itself adopts a position which then may be difficult to dislodge.*

*The Beacon will welcome feedback, as doubtless will the Parish Council; it can be seen that this is an important opportunity.*

*The County Library and Information Service's letter to the Beacon and the Parish Council is as follows:*

### "Background

In 2002 a Best Value Review was carried out of Gloucestershire's Libraries and Information Service. The recommendations stated that we needed

- To modernise Gloucestershire Libraries and Information
  - To improve performance in relation to Public Library Standards
  - To maximise use by a wider cross section of the public
  - To ensure optimum use of resources
- The Best Value Performance Improvement Plan stated that by 2007 we will have
- A revised and integrated network of libraries
  - Plans for at least one superlibrary in Gloucester or Cheltenham
  - Local libraries working in partnership with local communities, especially in co-located premises
  - One-stop shops/ kiosks
  - Revised mobile library service
  - A range of self-service options



Considerable progress has been made against a number of these headings and as part of the work, Cabinet agreed in April 2004 to the Review of the Network of Libraries which will not be completed until 2007. This work involves:

- Statistical analysis of levels of business
- A SWOT analysis to consider financial and other effectiveness factors, property suitability, demographic factors
- Asset management plan looking at sufficiency and condition of each site and to consider refurbishment and maintenance programmes
- Marketing campaigns to take place in areas where libraries are underachieving and monitoring of levels of usage
- A review of the mobile library service
- Further examination of the library needs of a number of communities including Painswick.

### Examination of the library needs of the community in Painswick

A detailed timeline has been established for this. Work carried out so far includes:

- The collection of business level statistics and information on the condition

of the building and outstanding property work.

- A meeting has already taken place with the portfolio holder and the county councillor.
- The next step is to meet with District and Parish Councillors and other Stakeholders to go through a similar process and to investigate any proposals made. These meetings are currently being arranged.
- By May 2005 recommendations will be drawn up and reported to the Head of Community Services and the Portfolio Holder.
- Between May and July 2005 a public consultation process will take place.
- A report is due to go to Cabinet in August 2005.

It is important to note therefore that no decisions have yet been taken about future library provision in Painswick, and that there is a desire to consult widely and to consider any ideas which are put forward.

*Jo Hand Assistant Head of Libraries & Information"*

On other pages this month record Village **Quiz team entries**, exciting times **at the fort**, who is meeting the **Princess Royal**, off on **the Inca Trail**, latest **Marathon Man** now lives here, assistance **on your garden**, the **cemetery chapel** upgraded, a serious **appeal to our readers**, what **warblers**, **Upper Washwell** does it again, two **pages of letters**, **Town Hall thoughtless parking**, new **post box?**

# 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 COMMITTEE

### Londis - security

The intention of the proprietors to install a wrought iron outer door to this store to frustrate those attempting to break into the premises was noted and supported.

### Care Centre - liaison

The committee noted that a meeting had been held with Richmond Painswick and that proposals for a liaison group were being drafted.

### Assistance for SDC

The committee heard from the Chairman that the District Council had specifically requested the assistance of the Parish Council to monitor compliance with planning conditions, this because the Planning Department did not itself have the resources to cover the whole district.

### Lamp House - simulated windows

It was reported that SDC had written to the owners requiring removal of the 'windows' facing New Street, but no response had as yet been received.

### Rococo Garden

Committee noted that approval had been given to the repair/re-use of the derelict former garden bothy to form a display/study area as well as alterations to terracing and retaining walls. Other aspects, including the chair lift, which this Council had opposed, had been withdrawn (*See also Letters page.*)

### Orange mast

The committee noted that Orange had published their 'roll out' plans for 2005 and that these included a third mobile telephone transmission mast on the Golf Club site.

## PARISH COUNCIL

### Bulls Cross - bus shelter

Council noted that funding sources were being investigated to purchase and erect a new shelter, possibly, on safety grounds, in the nearby lay-by.

### Definitive diary

It was noted that arrangements had now been put in place for cross reference, a 'link', to the Diary published in the Beacon for all seeking such information on the Council's web site.

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### St.Mary's wall - Stroud Road

The absence of a response from the developers of this site consequent upon the Council's having provided professional opinion and quotation for reconstruction was noted, and will be followed up.

### Councillors' allowances

An extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council had been held on 2nd February, this due to an unforeseen tight dateline to be met by the District Council (which is responsible for deciding such matters), for any submission regarding introduction of allowances for parish councillors. At that meeting it had been agreed, not least in order to remove at least the financial deterrent for prospective councillors, to propose allowances which may be claimed in a full year at £300 for the Chairman of the Council, £200 for Chairman of the Planning Committee and £100 for any other Members of the Council.

No decision of SDC has as yet been made public.

### Plaque for Parish Clerks

As requested at the extraordinary meeting, a quotation was received in the sum of £400 to prepare a listing of clerks, assistant clerks and handymen for display in the main hall of the Town Hall.

### Open Spaces Society - membership

The Society had responded to the Council's decision not to renew its annual subscription this year which had been decided on grounds of there being little continuing relevance in doing so and cost (£125pa). The Society apologised for misstating the cost which had been revised to £30pa, but the Council adhered to its previous decision.

### Pigeon migration

A letter was received from Frances Roden of Beacon House pointing out that various methods, including mesh over gutter, spikes along ledges, balloons, etc., had been used by many residents in New Street to urge pigeons to relocate their roosts as much damage or blocking of gutters and drains was occurring. The effect merely moved difficulties experienced from one place to another, pigeons having a seeming predilection for the larger Cotswold stone roofs hereabouts. Mrs. Roden enquired whether the Parish or District Councils had advice regarding deterrence. It was agreed to investigate and advise accordingly.

### Painswick Library - future

*See separate report on front page.*

### Affordable housing - District update

The Chairman reported information from the District Council that it is experiencing a shortfall of about 1337 affordable housing units per year. The Council was reminded that the significant element in achieving the building of such units was the purchase of land on which there was a presumption against normal residential development. It was hoped that such land could be bought at below market levels

allowing the housing units to be marketed at 'affordable' prices.

### Village Link bus service

*See separate report on page 11*

### Police and Traffic Warden cover

A response to this Council's enquiry as to the extent, timing and effectiveness of police resources dedicated to Painswick was received and read from Inspector Nick Holmes of the Stroud District Police.

Inspector Holmes had elaborated that PC Jerry Seymour is their Community Officer for the area, that he has two Community Support Officers available to him in addition to two other Support Officers from the Community Safety Department. Further, there is one Traffic Warden in the Stroud Inspector Neighbourhood Area (INA) also available to the parish. He went on to mention that he also had 'response' police officers who make up most of his staff, these deployed to meet the demands of emergency calls including burglaries, traffic accidents, criminal offences, etc..

Apart from pointing out that Traffic Warden Noel Baadjes had carried out a patrol on the previous Friday and handed out five fixed penalty tickets in Painswick, no assurances were given in his letter that any specified minimum hours would be dedicated to Painswick in any one week by any of his staff, pointing out "I have only finite resources and these have to be used appropriately to meet the ongoing crime and disorder problems across the INA and Division".

Peter Rowe and David Hudson expressed their displeasure with the reply, as did other members, and it was resolved to respond seeking a specific exclusive allocation of resources to the village and civil parish.

### Speed limit of 20mph

The Council received a communication from an Edge resident who asserted that the possibility of introducing a 20mph speed limit in parts of the area was a foregone conclusion. It was affirmed that this is not the case and that the opportunity for individuals to comment upon such an idea was genuine and that comments would be carefully scrutinised, and that no predetermination existed.

### Recreation Ground use for sports

The Council received and endorsed the decisions of the Trustees of the Recreation Ground that the junior section of the

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Painswick Rugby Club may use the field for occasional Sunday 'overflow' junior section sport between September and April, and that a Stroud Association Football club also be permitted to use the soccer pitch with the proviso that the club offer coaching to and encourage the participation by local youngsters. In both instances the Council agreed to offer use of the Pavilion changing rooms.

**Youth Club management**

A report was received of a meeting with the youth club on 4th February and the intention to advertise in the Beacon for residents willing to serve on a management committee (*See elsewhere in this issue*). Members were, while in no way wishing to intrude upon the internal organisation of the club, far from 'comfortable' with the overall management proposals and anticipated further discussion at a later date.

The Council was reminded that it was probably one of only two villages in the County which met the full cost of having a part-time youth worker. There now having been a request to include all 'employers liabilities' in the budget, includ-

ing contribution to a pension scheme, it was agreed to once again make representations to the GCC that Painswick should make a contribution, but not meet the full (gross) cost of employment.

**Private firework displays**

The Chairman reported a further unannounced instance of a firework display which had also included particularly loud 'explosions' which he knew had caused significant distress to horses, cattle and domestic animals over a wide area.

The Council urged residents to give notice of intent through the Beacon so that such might be anticipated by livestock owners. (*The Beacon would be pleased to carry such notices.*)

**Post box - St.Mary's Street**

Upon the suggestion made by Johnny Johnston it was agreed to make representations for a post box to be located adjacent to the Nurses Home at the junction of St.Mary's and Friday Street.

**New Street - resurfacing**

Peter Rowe pointed out that recent restoration of road markings in New Street led him to deduce that resurfacing was far from imminent. Several members joined

with him in pointing out that many parts of the carriageway had deteriorated and presented hazards for motorists as well as pedestrians crossing the road. It was agreed to seek advancement of the date for resurfacing as a matter of some urgency.

**Town Hall parking**

Repeated abuse of the parking area, reserved (and owned) by the Town Hall for its patrons, to the rear of the premises was reported. Where this involved a resident of New Street House it was of note that each flat also owned a garage so that a private facility already existed. Users of the Town Hall were frequently inconvenienced, not least those with mobility difficulties or deliveries. Further representations would be made, despite the disregard of formal notices already placed.

**Police access to data**

Terry Parker reported his agreeable surprise that, at a recent Police Consultative Meeting held at the Royal William, the police reported that using a car's registration number they can now instantly ascertain whether the vehicle is insured.

**THE Village Quiz**

Entries for the Village Quiz have closed and, next Saturday, intellect will compete with straightforward common sense as **a record 27 teams**

We are delighted with the response and totally endorse the idea that this is a convivial night out with friends, and not as much of a battle of wits as some make it out to be. Doors will be open at 6.45 and 'eyes down' will be at 7.15 precisely! Only then will our teams know just what subject matters have been selected to challenge their knowledge.

It is our hope that each team will be bringing a suitable mascot and, if the names of the teams are anything to go by, these could be of very real interest - try Number 7!

- Millers and Farmers
- The Aviators
- Cuckoos
- The Rosie Four
- Bluebottles
- Natty Matty Bowlers
- Pauline's Bloomers
- Four Wags
- The Coasters
- Key Notes
- Quasimodos
- Esmeraldas
- Limited Company
- Procrastinators
- Village Idiots
- Cross Bulls
- Primavera
- Ha'penny People
- Bookworms
- The Conservators
- Drama Queens
- Desperandum
- New Painswickians
- The Tickers
- The Shuttles
- Band of Hope
- The Searchers

**one Beacon Trophy**

*being, but not in the same order*

- Ancient Society of Painswick Youths A
- Stamages Lane friends A
- Harescombe Village
- Painswick Music Society
- Dog Walking friends
- Slad Village
- Local History Society
- Gunton and friends
- PADFAS
- Ancient Society of Painswick Youths B
- Bulls Cross friends
- Painswick Probus
- Stamages Lane friends B
- PCMS
- Pitchcombe friends
- Tourist Information staff
- Jolly Stompers Dance Group
- Horticultural Society
- Badminton Club
- Painswick Players
- Jenny Gaugain book club friends
- Painswick Bird Club
- Orchard Mead friends
- Painswick Conservatives
- Short Mat Bowling Club
- Conservation Society
- Susie Oakley and friends

**We hope each team will bring an apt mascot and some of those could be very interesting indeed.**



## Dogs a wow

The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme was established to promote responsible dog ownership. The Bronze is the first award. To achieve this accolade a dog must walk quietly on a lead, sit and lie down on command and allow its owner to groom and inspect it. Finally the dog must come to its owner when called. The owners are required to answer questions on responsibility and care of their dog.

Once the Bronze award has been achieved, dogs and owners progress to Silver and Gold Awards, which require a higher standard of obedience from the dogs and more in-depth knowledge from the owners.

The following members of Painswick Dog Training Club passed the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme Bronze Award on 15th February:

**Mollie Apperley and Sydney  
Sandra Saunders and Thunder  
Rosie Sanderson and Phoebe  
Gayle McMahon and Ollie  
Jules Lewis and Maddie  
Harry Wynne-Morgan and Lara  
Maxine Jarman and Wilbur  
Emma Freeman and Murphy  
Anne Bishop and Kizzy  
June Tufnell and Zebbie**

Well done!

*Fiona Chapman*



## COBALT APPEAL FUND

(Registered Charity No. 1090790)

## EASTER BINGO

### PAINSWICK TOWN HALL FRIDAY, 18TH MARCH

doors open 7 pm  
EYES DOWN 7.30 pm

 Fabulous prizes  
Raffle  
Free coffee and  
biscuits at half time 

**6 books for £5**

Organisers: June Gardiner and Suzie Archer

## £27.000 and rising

This will be the fifth year when "the girls from Upper Washwell, and others, have been fund raising. The total is now at £27,000.

We look forward to your company for a fun evening of Bingo on Friday 18th March, with a warm welcome to everyone".

*June Gardiner and Suzie Archer*

## Does Anyone Know?

I am currently researching the Painswick Book Club which was alive and well throughout much of the nineteenth century in Painswick.

Does anyone know anything at all about it? I would be very grateful for any information. 813387

*Carol Maxwell*

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## Ashwell House Festivities 2004

As we make a rapid start to the New Year the residents of Ashwell House look back at 2004 and look at the fun and games that was enjoyed by all. Apart from the general weekly activities we enjoyed celebrating Shrove Tuesday with pancakes, Valentine Day with a Continental Breakfast and had toasted teacakes one cold winters afternoon. We shared Women's World day of Prayer with friends from the village and of course enjoyed celebrating Easter with a tea party. As the summer arrived we enjoyed strawberries and ice cream and a gateaux afternoon. We celebrated Harvest with Jacket Potatoes and sausages and had a collection for the Salvation Army's Soup Kitchen. We also enjoyed lunch and communion with the Bishop. As summer moved into Autumn we had fun with the 'Lets Party crew' and enjoyed their magic and puppetry skills and of course as usual we enjoyed a firework show. As Christmas fell upon us we had fun with a craft afternoon, had several Christmas lunches and enjoyed the usual fare of mince pies.

Whilst having fun we did our best to raise money for various charities. We raised £60 for Guide dogs for the blind, £102 for Winstons Wish, £180 for the Cotswold care hospice and £112 for Children in Need and we started 2005 off with a collection of £455 for the Tsunami Appeal.

*Michelle Elliott  
Scheme Manager - Ashwell House*

## PAINSWICK YOUTH CLUB

**Invites applications for membership of  
their anticipated new Management  
Committee**

Applications are welcome from members of the public who are keen to support the young people and have a genuine interest in promoting youth development work in Painswick.

For further details ring either:  
JENNY BROADBANK (Youth Leader) on  
01453.757780

or ROY BALGOBIN (Clerk to the Parish  
Council) on 01452.812722

Applications in writing by  
31st March please to :

Mr Roy Balgobin  
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# HRH at the Annual Meeting

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, who is an Associate member of the Gloucestershire Federation of WIs, will attend their Annual Council Meeting at Cheltenham Town Hall on Monday 14th March.

Her Royal Highness will Address the Council after which she will



meet members and be shown examples of the work of GFWI and the wider Organisation in the field of education, public and international affairs, home economics and craft, combined arts and leisure.

This annual event draws delegates from each local WI. Before Her Royal Highness had announced her diary

details for the 14th our Yew Tree WI President, Christine Fellows (pictured here), had agreed to be its representative. We hope she enjoys the occasion.



# Discovering Hidden Treasure

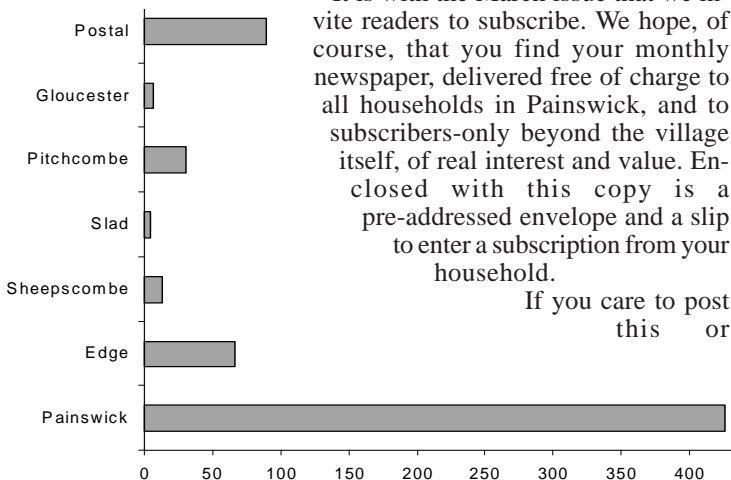
Discovering hidden treasure on our doorstep – that is something we all dream of doing. But this is just what happened to a number of Yew Tree WI members when Valerie Dugan came to talk at the February meeting. Those unfamiliar with the local artist's work were amazed to find that such talent exists above The Shetland Shop, in the centre of Painswick. Valerie showed us examples of her wonderfully varied work and allowed us to appreciate her great range of style, and to marvel at her painstaking patience.

Sarah Harper-Little will be the speaker at the meeting on 22nd March. She is going to talk about the extraordinary work done by *Canine Partners*, the charity which trains dogs to help their disabled owners lead independent lives.

*Celia Lougher*

## Subscription invitation

The Beacon committee thanks all who have given us support as subscribers, advertisers, as well as the huge number who have taken the time and trouble to send in articles for publication. You and we are also indebted to our our team of voluntary distributors. The number of subscribers reached 620 this last year - this being fewer than in the past three years or so.



It is with the March issue that we invite readers to subscribe. We hope, of course, that you find your monthly newspaper, delivered free of charge to all households in Painswick, and to subscribers-only beyond the village itself, of real interest and value. Enclosed with this copy is a pre-addressed envelope and a slip to enter a subscription from your household.

If you care to post this or

leave at the desk in the Post Office, we will be most obliged. For those requesting or continuing postal delivery of the Beacon there are fixed charges to defray our costs, but in all other instances the amount you decide to subscribe is entirely at your discretion. Some ask us for an indication of what might be contributed and, to be helpful, we can point out that each copy costs 40p - 50p to print; we leave the mathematics to you!

We post complimentary copies to anyone we know is in residential care, so please keep us informed of such circumstances.

For newcomers to the village we should point out that The Painswick Beacon is an independent community newspaper, produced on a voluntary non-profit making basis, with the main aim of bringing news of local activities to the attention of all Painswick residents.

It may interest some to know that fewer than half of the households in Painswick village (our target group) subscribed this last year; it certainly surprised us!

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# Playgroup news

During the busy build up to Christmas, the Playgroup received its visit from OFSTED (the Office for Standards in Education). The Inspector spent two days at the Playgroup watching the children and talking to the staff and parents. The Inspector's report was glowing! The report included the following comments:

"Painswick Playgroup provides high quality education and children are making very good progress towards the early learning goals in all six areas of learning.

An excellent range of high quality equipment and resources is utilised well.

Children are happy at the Playgroup. They have developed excellent relationships with the staff and their peers.

Sessions are well planned ... the staff are enthusiastic in their roles and make learning fun for the children."

The Playgroup is currently full on all days except Thursdays.

The next main intake is in September and enquiries should be made in July to Beaty Bell at the Playgroup.

The topic the children have been studying this term is the five senses. They enjoyed exploring different tastes (including curry), smells, sights, sounds and touching mystery objects. They bought items from home to help illustrate each sense and discussed and made simple charts of which items were popular or not so popular!

The children celebrated Chinese New Year by preparing and tasting Chinese food. They had fun using chopsticks and dressing in Chinese clothes. They decorated pictures of roosters and coloured Chinese writing to make an impressive wall display.

Finally, the staff and parents of the Playgroup would like to pass on their sympathies to Flora Semark following the sad loss of her husband Fred. Flora and Fred were both dedicated trustees to the Playgroup for many years prior to their recent move.

*Andrea Robinson*

## Easter Services 2005

### Palm (Passion) Sunday March 20th

8.00am BCP Holy Communion.

St. Mary's Church.

8.30am Mass. Church of Our Lady & St. Therese.

10.30am Meeting for Worship.

Friends' Meeting House.

10.30am Sunday Service. Christ Church.

6.30pm Beacon Service (in the Church Rooms).

### Maunday Thursday March 24th

8.30am Agape Breakfast (in the Church Rooms)

7.30pm Holy Communion. St. Mary's Church

7.30pm Table. Holy Communion. Christ Church.

### Good Friday March 25th

10.25am Procession of Witness.

Start at St. Mary's Church, followed by hot cross-buns & coffee at Christ Church Hall.

12.00-2.00pm Meditations on the Stations of the Cross. St. Mary's Church.

2.00pm Good Friday Service. St. Mary's Church.

### Easter Sunday March 27th

6.00am Hymns and prayers. Cranham Common.

8.00am B.C.P. Holy Communion. St. Mary's Church.

8.30am Mass of the Resurrection. Church of Our Lady & St. Therese.

9.15am Easter Breakfast. Christ Church.

9.30am Holy Communion. St. Mary's Church.

10.30am Festival Service & Holy Communion. Christ Church.

10.30am Meeting for Worship. Friends' Meeting House.

For the details of other Holy Week and Easter Day church services in the parish, please see the various church notice boards. Details of services at Prinknash Abbey are displayed on the notice board at the Church of Our Lady & St. Therese.

## The Inca Trail

It is not just coffee mornings that raise money in such large amounts for charity hereabouts. We have had sponsored parachute jumps for the not-so-young, strolls from one extremity of the United Kingdom to the other, cycle rides from point to point. The latest and undoubtedly exciting undertaking will be by two ladies who have set their sights on The Inca Trail as a goal in raising funds towards finding a cure for alzheimer's disease.

Frances Fenwick, a florist of Wragg Castle Lane in Pitchcombe and her friend Liz Odell will set off to traverse the 35 miles or so of The Inca Trail in May. Not the longest of distances, but it is at high altitude! Training involves covering sections of the Cotswold Way using a rigorous timetable at weekends, and the ten mile stretch between Cranham and Kings Stanley will see them passing through Painswick on Easter Monday - 28th March around 10.30am.

They have set themselves a target of raising at least £5,000, with £3,000 collected already.

Members of the public can join them on this or any other section of their walk along the Cotswold Way in exchange for a contribution of £5 towards the Alzheimer's Society. Contact Frances on 812535 or 07778.655220 for details.

They were inspired and motivated in some measure by their sons' own 'gap year' exploits, as well as close family experiences of alzheimer's disease.



The 16th May marks the date for setting off for South America, so anyone (or organisation) able to offer a donation to *The Alzheimer's Society* should contact Frances at Kellavie, Wragg Castle Lane, Pitchcombe GL6 6LU.

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## Snowdrops at the Rococo Gardens

What's in a name? Fairmaids of February, Perce-neige, Galanthus or just plain snowdrop! In fact as we listened to Peter Dinning at our February meeting, held in the beautiful surroundings of the Rococo Gardens, we realised that snowdrops are many things but not plain! Are they native to Great Britain or perhaps introduced by the Romans, no one is sure, but wherever they come from our gardens prove that they are certainly at home in Painswick! We were able to examine some of the 20 or so varieties grown at the Rococo Gardens, however there are over 500 known varieties. We learnt that some bloom early, some late, there are single and double species and some even have spots! We even saw pink, yellow and blue blooms but were later let into the secret of food colouring!

It was interesting to hear about James Atkins who, in the late 19th century, retired to Painswick and lived in Rose Cottage. He was obviously a keen gardener because he went to work on the then Painswick House Estate and propagated a new variety of snowdrop, Galanthus Atkinsii. It is still abundant there and probably in our gardens too as it is one of the most vigorous and well known varieties.

Our talk was followed by a bracing walk around the gardens to see the massed 'Fair maids of February', followed by a welcome retreat to the cosy tearooms and a hot drink with a slice of cake. All very enjoyable!

Our next meeting will be back in the Town Hall at 7.30 on the 9th March. Frank Hardy will be with us to give a talk on vegetables and soft fruit. Non members are welcome too.

Betty Harris



## Easter at our Market

Our Easter Market will be held on Maundy Thursday 24th March at 10.00am. in the Town Hall.

We are also open every Friday from 10.00am. with the exception of Good Friday.

We have a good choice of local honey and homemade preserves in stock, including chutneys and the new season's Seville orange marmalade. Fresh eggs and lemon curd can also be bought and ordered. Our home-bakers offer delicious cakes, pastries and desserts. In addition, you can buy traditional and fancy breads, including granary and wholemeal loaves. Our local plant growers offer a selection of potted spring and summer bulbs and shrubs. There will also be an expanding range of cut flowers to buy as the growing season progresses.

Additionally there is diverse needlecraft including cushions, bags, knitted scarves, and hand made cards.

If you want to be sure of a specific item, to avoid disappointment we strongly recommend that you order in advance. Please place an order at the market or



telephone  
Doreen  
Boon on  
813850 at  
the be-  
ginning

of the week with your requirements. We also welcome orders for celebration cakes (e.g. weddings, birthdays and anniversaries). Iced rich fruitcakes and decorated sponge cakes can be made to your design.

We look forward to seeing you at our Easter Market and at all our regular Friday markets.

Patricia Davey and Jane Rowe

## Annual Show

The 10th September may seem a long way off, but it is sooner than one thinks if contemplating entering such as the Handicraft Section of the Horticultural Society's show.

The classes this year will be

- A rag doll
- A door draught excluder
- A child's or adult's knitted short-sleeved jumper
- A tea cosy
- A Get Well card
- A painting of a tropical flower
- Gardening labels made from recycled materials
- A coloured plan of your ideal garden
- A photograph taken through a gate
- A photograph of a typical gardener - with a caption.

Philip Berry

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# World class Musicians coming to Painswick

The season of four concerts hosted by Painswick Music Society starts on Saturday 19 March when we welcome the Skampa String Quartet (photo). Founded in Prague in 1989, the Skampa Quartet has since become well established on the international music circuit. The performance comprises four pieces. The opening piece – Mozart’s String Quartet in G – is one of his early works and provides a preview of his genius. The other three pieces offer Czech and East European delights – Suk’s Meditation on an old Bohemian Chorale, Prokofiev’s String Quartet No 2, and Smetana’s String Quartet No 2. The Skampa’s 2003 recording of the Smetana String Quartets provoked The Guardian to a warm tribute.

Our second concert is on 2nd April and features the Orchestra of the Swan with Emma Johnson (clarinet). Under the artistic direction of David Curtis, the Orchestra of the Swan has achieved national recognition for its excellent performances. Emma Johnson is one of the few clarinetists to have a busy international career as a soloist. The performance comprises two symphonies – Mozart’s No 29 and Haydn’s No 7 (Le Midi) – and Mozart’s Clarinet Concerto in A. The latter is the last instrumental work Mozart completed before his death. It is also one of our chairman’s favourite pieces and if I may quote him: “I do not have words to describe the beauty of this work. I find it incomprehensible that someone could write such a serenely beautiful melody with its overtones of unbearable sadness as that in the second movement, whilst realising how fatally ill he was.”

The concerts take place in St. Mary’s Church on Sat-

urday afternoons at 3.00pm. The musicians play on raised staging. There is a short interval of about 20 minutes to allow everyone to stretch his or her legs. Many of us bring a small cushion to sit on. Teas are available afterwards to round off the afternoon.

Membership, which provides admission to all four concerts, costs £31 – a saving of £19 on the individual tickets. Students and children are welcome and tickets cost £3 per concert. Tickets for the concerts can be obtained from Hywel James, Canton House, New Street, Painswick GL6 6XH (812419) or from the Shetland Shop. Cheques should be made payable to “Painswick Music Society”.

*Peter Rowe*

**Painswick  
Music  
Society**



## Gustav of Cheltenham

Iain Cooper gave a presentation to PaMAG last month on the life and works of Gustav Holst, who was born in Cheltenham in 1874. In 1892, he became organist at Wyck Rissington. The next year his operetta Lansdowne Castle was produced in Cheltenham; another of his operettas was The Sorcerer of Tewkesbury. In 1893, he went on to the Royal College of Music, where he became a lifelong friend of Vaughan Williams. In 1905, he became Director of Music at St Paul’s Girls’ School and in 1908 also Director at Morley College.

Holst became interested in Indian music and philosophy and in 1905 composed an opera, Sita, based on the Rig Veda, a massive work with Wagnerian influences. Another early work, from which the Group heard extracts sung by Janet Baker, was Savitri, a mystical and meditative opera, with similarities to the Dream of Gerontius. In 1913, he composed his St Paul’s School Suite, a lively and jolly piece which incorporated Greensleeves, reflecting his liking for folksong. His first large-scale instrumental work, and his most successful, was The Planets, a seven-part suite with astrological associations. The Group heard the last of these, Neptune, a mystical piece, rather quiet and austere.

In 1917, Holst began to compose a choral work, The Hymn of Jesus. Holst did not have strong religious beliefs but had religious feelings. Much of the Hymn was in plainsong, with dissonnant chords. Iain invited us to think of Holst’s Jesus as a Byzantine mosaic. The piece draws on the tune This is my dancing day: dancing was a metaphor for religious ecstasy. Holst wrote several hymns, including In the bleak midwinter (describing Cranham), I vow to Thee My Country, and O valiant hearts!

Holst thought his best work was Egdon Heath (1927), dedicated to Thomas Hardy, who had named the Heath. Egdon Heath was also dissonnant and asymmetrical. In the same year, he composed his Choral Fantasia in which, Iain said, Holst aimed to get back to the warmth of some of his earlier works. This was performed at the Three Choirs Festival in Gloucester in 1930; in parts it was lyrical and optimistic. Holst’s career was cut short by his early death, aged 59, in 1934. Iain described Holst as very original, a man of complete integrity.

*Richard Burges Watson*

**Music  
appreciation  
Group**



## 100% Beethoven

On 15th February we listened to an all-Beethoven concert with a difference in Cheltenham Town Hall.

It was performed for a packed audience by the versatile Academy of Ancient Music, one of the world’s first and foremost period-instrument orchestras.

They played the Coriolan Overture and Symphonies no. 1 and 8 with breathtaking precision, with Joan Rogers, one of this country’s best-loved sopranos singing an aria from “Fidelio” and “Ah Perfido” in her lovely deep quality voice. An evening to treasure.

*Ralph Kenber*







## Spotlight on . .

### Pauline Berry

Pauline née Webb, like most 'Spotlighters', was born in Painswick. She

has also lived here all her life and has a deep interest in the history of Painswick due to her ancestors who date way back. The Webbs were clothiers and Edmund Webb gave one of the first bells to St.Mary's Church in 1686. He is buried in the church and a plaque to him is situated above the south door.

Pauline, as many will know, contributed to the Issue 7 of the Painswick Chronicle, copies of which are still available from our Local History Society and shops.

#### Let's start with your early days in Painswick

I was born above The Dairy on 3rd October 1928, the youngest of four children. The oldest was brother Cuthbert, followed by Desirée (called Betty), Diana and Verona. Being the baby I was rather spoiled. My father Frederick and mother Mary Webb farmed Blakewell Farm situated on the Edge side of Edge Lane down to the stream at Washbrook. This was mainly a dairy farm and we sold the produce at The Dairy where the Painswick Tea Rooms are today. My mother looked after the shop and made the cream to a locally approved recipe and also sold fresh flowers collected from the market daily, and strawberries when in season. My parents sold the business to Gloucestershire Dairies in 1933 when I was five, but remained managing the business for a further two years. We then moved to Butts Cottage which was owned by the Hyett family. There was a lovely garden and an allotment right opposite where we grew all our vegetables.

#### Now tell us about your schooldays.

At the age of five I started at Painswick School. I remember Miss Broadstock, one of our teachers who came to the school on a motorbike; she later became the

mother of Joan Nash. Then there was Miss Moody who later became Mrs Cohen.

When eleven I went to Stroud Girls Central School and was very homesick to start with, being away from home all day. Later on I was very happy and remember our wonderful Head Mistress, Miss Martin. Compared with life today we were brought up to

behave ourselves. My father was also a disciplinarian by example. I ended up being one of four House Captains, each House competing for school trophies including singing and sports.

#### What did you do then?

Initially I stayed at home because my mother had an operation, but sometimes helped on the farm. I then took a Pitman's Short Hand Typing course at Rowcroft in Stroud. We learned to touch type to Victor Sylvester's music because of the strict tempo! One day at the end of term we started dancing to the music and were strongly ticked off by the Solicitor's Clerk from the office below. I then worked for nine years in the cashier's department at Witherbotham, Ball and Gadsden as a Solicitor's Clerk.

At that time, before I was married, I was very busy as a member of the Stroud Choral Society, the Painswick Players and Operatic Society which mainly performed Gilbert and Sullivan and Edward German.

#### That leads us directly to your marriage?

Yes. I married Toby Berry on 3rd October 1956, on my 28th birthday at St.Mary's Church. I was a regular churchgoer and was married by a wonderful Vicar called Harold Heal who knew every family and child in Painswick.

Toby, also a Painswick farmer on Highfold Farm, used to walk regularly passing Butts Cottage to Dry Knapps Farm



where he lived with his parents. I started secretly looking out for him, and vice versa. That was how we met, but we never admitted this to each other when we were married. My father was very fond of Toby and his dearest wish was that I should marry him.

I have a son, Phillip, who now farms Highfold. He went to Marling, was interested in farming and gardening, but started work in the Civil Service. He quickly discovered that indoor life didn't suit him. He started a business as a contract gardener, did well, and sold it to take over Highfold Farm from my father, with my father helping him.

#### What are your main interests and hobbies?

My main interests are the Horticultural Society, of which Philip is the Chairman and Show Secretary, and the Local History Society.

My hobbies are knitting, sewing, walking and gardening even though I am not a good gardener. I also love re-reading old classics which, because they were written when life was much slower, I find relaxing.

When spring comes the first snowdrops, primroses, celandines and bluebells give me great hope for the future.

I also help Philip on the farm occasionally, when help is needed.

#### What do you think of Painswick today?

Having read previous Spotlights I also regret the loss of small and useful shops such as John Saunders fruit and vegetable shop, due to the lack of local support and the fact that so many homes have been turned into holiday rental cottages. This added to the decline in British farming which is at an all-time low and makes me unhappy with the effect it has on village life. That said, there have been many improvements.

*Another of our series of interviews with people who were born in Painswick, or came here when they were very young.*

Readers are reminded that a direct line to Painswick's PC is **07799 624643** if he is off duty it connects direct to the police Control Room



## The Falcon Inn

Book now for Valentines night Monday 14th February for a special 3-course dinner in our restaurant, or St.David's Day on 1st March. Our regular jazz night Tuesday 15th February in the Ostlers -

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# Election(s) coming

At the time of putting the Beacon to bed for this edition no decision has been made about a General Election - this despite much conjecture.



However, **there will be elections for the County Council on 5th May.**

Our next issue is published on 2nd April and, as nominations do not close until Thursday 7th, we regret that we will not be able to publish the full list of candidates for the Painswick Division.



Pre-eclampsia is an illness that occurs only in pregnancy and can affect both mother and baby. Some 70,000 women are affected with this problem each year and whilst some cases are mild, there is a severe form which can cause serious complications.

Peter goes on to say that "Whilst this may not be one of the more well recognised charities, I have chosen to run on their behalf as my wife Karen was unfortunate to suffer a very severe case of pre-eclampsia during pregnancy some years ago. Action on pre-eclampsia aims to raise awareness of the condition and provide support and advise to the public and health professionals of the disease".

Should any readers, or indeed clubs or societies able to divert any funds or traditional coffee mornings, to support Peter, he can be contacted on 814119, his Email: peter@robinson.fsbusiness.co.uk, or his home.

# Wordsearch

The twelve English counties south of Nottingham in the grid last month were

- ESSEX
- SURREY
- KENT
- SUSSEX
- HAMPSHIRE
- BERKSHIRE
- BEDFORDSHIRE
- DEVON
- GLOUCESTERSHIRE
- DORSET
- ISLEOFWIGHT
- SOMERSET

This month we have blended in some eighteen fruits for you to find. Get peeling!

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C E Y R A E E U F R A E K Y B L A  
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O R H C M H B B Q N E L N G R M B  
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U D U O B E R R Y O Y B A L S T A  
Q B L A C K C U R R A N T T T O N  
A L P E N T U Y R R E B E S O O G  
P L U M B E R R Y B R U T E U S E

# Marathon man

Peter Robinson, who lives at 8 Stroud Road, tells us that he has been "fortunate enough to secure a charity bond place to run in the 25th London Marathon on 17th April this year".

We are only too pleased to respond to Peter's request that we include this item, not least to draw attention to his endeavour to raise funds for one of the lesser known charities - "Action on Pre-eclampsia".

# Architecs

If you spotted it, the fragment of local architecture we showed last month was on the frontage of Wickstone in Bisley Street



And, for this month, what and where is this?



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# Serious 'pocket' money offer

A Beacon reader, less nimble than once he was now that he is well past retirement age, cannot help but wonder whether the unearned income of maybe a few of our younger generation is such that an extra pound or two might come in useful?

Even without having to crawl out of bed at the crack of dawn, he would be only too relieved and pleased to part with 40p if someone would collect and then deliver his newspaper on a Saturday and/or Sunday.

Anyone interested in rendering a regular service?

Or anyone else needing it?

Offers, or requests, to the Beacon box - and we will see if we can match them.

Quite a lot of money to be earned in an hour or so!

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## Flexible bus

We had hoped, at long last, to be publicising information about the impending, and socially very important, Stroud North Link door-to-door bus service of which we have made mention in the pages from time to time.

It was to have been chugging its way around all parts of the local countryside last November, and then it was to have been February.

Alerted to the possibility that late March was on the cards we braced ourselves and allocated space for the item.

Circumstances dictate that readers, and indeed potential users, will have to wait until at least our next issue for this significant report.

Please 'watch this space'.

## Police & Community Consultative Meeting (PCCM)

A meeting of Stroud Neighbourhood Area PCCM was held at The Royal William on Thursday 3rd February.

The Stroud Inspector Neighbourhood Area (INA) covers an area of approximately 15,000 hectares. The area is bounded by the settlements of Minchinhampton, Ebley and Painswick with a population of approximately 45,000. The meeting began with a presentation on the Freedom of Information Act which became law on 1st January this year. The Act is of considerable importance to the police as it requires them to make available material to the public which in the past has had restricted access. However, there are still categories of information which the police may withhold given certain conditions.

Reports presented to the meetings are very informative. For example, the cost of the protection afforded to members of the Royal Family in Gloucestershire is met from a Central Government grant, not by local taxpayers. The £7 million bill for the policing at Fairford during the Iraq war was eventually paid by the Home Office.

Operation Penobscott was a one day operation using ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition system) to target uninsured, untaxed and stolen motor vehicles. The crime report showed a downward trend within the Painswick Parish in the seven categories which include burglaries, motor vehicle theft, Class A drug related offences, serious violence and personal robberies.

The meeting concluded with public questions.

### Police Consultation Meetings

The county is divided into what are termed Inspector Neighbourhood Areas (INAs). The Inspector who heads the Stroud INA is Nick Holmes. Each INA has its own discussion forum which is called a Police & Community Consultative Meeting (PCCM). PCCMs are chaired by a member of the Police Authority. The meeting agendas include presentations by police officers and others who are concerned with crime and disorder. Crime statistics are a regular agenda item. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings at which questions are encouraged. The meetings are widely advertised. Locally, details are displayed on the Parish Council and Library notice boards. The Beacon has asked to be kept informed of meeting dates, times and locations which we will publish with as much notice as possible.



## Birds on the flood plain

Despite the inclement weather, many members and visitors turned up to hear Mike Smart, the warden of Ashleworth Ham give a very stimulating talk on the above subject last week.

The river Severn is the longest river in Britain; water drains from as far away as Snowdonia. This means it has to cope with a large volume of water leading to flooding near the estuary and thus providing an ideal habitat for water loving birds such as geese.

Due to its geology there is a bore at every high tide and this stimulates bird activity.

Slimbridge was once part of the Berkley estate and as such was the site where geese were raised for 'the shoot', geese of various kinds being creatures of habit have been returning there ever since.

He gave information about the habits of various geese including Brent geese. These were originally coastal birds but have now moved inland to feed on sport and recreation grounds. Watch out Kingsholm!

During our visit to Slimbridge in December we were amazed to see that a Black Swan was brooding a clutch of eggs. Being from 'down under' it has not changed its breeding season. It is rather an aggressive bird when it has young and drives off other swan species.

In the past many farmers drained and ploughed up the flood plains to grow maize. Now Defra is persuading farmers to come back to grassland, this is a good example of conservationists and farmers working together.

Joan Cooper

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## Warblers

The next event is a talk by club member Jane Rowe on "Common British Warblers" in the Painswick Town hall on Thursday 17th March at 7.30pm.

*To quote from the BTO web site:* Time was, when all of Britain's warblers disappeared to Africa or the Mediterranean Basin for the winter. Now Blackcaps are swapping Morocco for down-town Cheltenham, whilst Chiffchaffs delight in the rich insect-life of Cornish sewage works.

This will be followed by the Annual General Meeting. Everyone welcome.

Bill Boydell



  
**Painswick  
Bird Club**

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## Sounds like an odd challenge for the *Odd Couple*

I am pleased to report that rehearsals are moving along at a cracking pace for our next production, *The Odd Couple* by Neil Simon (28th – 30th April at the Painswick Centre). We're shaping up for a feisty, first class production. Mind you, there are the odd couple of challenges still to be overcome. For example, the play is set in New York and everything hinges on delivering Neil Simon's quick-fire lines with a 'soodably NooYork kinda sound and rhythm, yuh



know what I mean?' And, just occasionally, according to our director, Kevin Parker, there is an observable tendency for accents to start off quite believably in Times Square but then to amble down Broadway, slip off the Brooklyn Bridge into the East River and drift out into mid-Atlantic.

Sometimes they can even get swept up by the prevailing winds and end up anywhere from Houston to Euston! So, Houston (or Euston), we have a problem.

What we need is an Uncle Sam (or Aunt Samantha) residing here in Painswick to spare the odd couple of hours listening to our cast of would-be Yankees and handing out some constructive criticism. If you fit the bill, please give Kevin a call on 384284 or assistant director Ann Dorman on 814548. I'm sure there must be someone out there: it's a small world, after all. I sense a neat link coming up...

On the subject of small worlds, on Saturday 12th February we presented an afternoon of readings entitled *It's A Small World* at the Painswick Centre.

I am delighted to report that the afternoon, conceived and compiled by Pauline Foreman and presented by a talented team of PP readers, was a great success and the packed (and rapt) audience enjoyed both the readings and the cream teas in the interval. As a result we are making a donation of £100 to ChildLine.



## John Thynne Russell

John Thynne Russell who died on the 18th January at the age of 85, was born at Matson, moving as a child to Woodfield Cottage, Vicarage Street. His father John T R senior (a descendant of the Thynne family of Wiltshire and the Canning's of Gloucestershire) was a skilled Cotswold craftsman who made the casket containing the loyal address from the people of Painswick to the Queen on her coronation in 1953.

His mother Alice was the daughter of Richard Price Hill (1826-1898) who was admitted as a Solicitor in 1848 at Worcester

Educated at the Marling School, Stroud, John joined the R.A.F at the beginning of the second world war and served his country for 30 years. Whilst in the Middle East, he was awarded the B.E.M for his work with young apprentices. His citation told how he "put duty before self to an exceptional degree" On his retirement, he worked for some years at Ullenwood Manor (now the National Star Centre)

John's great love was the church and his faith was simple, straight forward and practical. A great deal of his retirement was spent helping the community, giving people lifts for shopping or hospital visits and with his duties as Crucifer at the church.

John also appreciated a pint of cider. Like his father, his distinctive presence was known throughout the Cotswold Pubs and clubs. He was never happier than when talking to people, whether visitors to the church or in the pub in his own unique way about Painswick.

Immensely hospitable John welcomed many people into his home over the years, whether as lodgers where rooms were often offered to people down on their luck, or to family and friends for holidays and short stays. His meals (often fry up's) were served with the recommendation "Better than the Painswick Hotel"

For 16 years John wrote regular columns for the Citizen and Gloucestershire Echo

An eccentric character, he never learned to walk, but hurried everywhere. His phone always answered with "John ere" in his broad Gloucestershire accent and conversations sometimes ended unexpectedly with the sound of his receiver going down.

Paul Taylor

## Churches Together Around Painswick

Many participants in the activities of CTAP will appreciate how much we felt the loss of our so recently appointed Hon Sec, Thelma Dale. We extend our sincere sympathy to her son Alan, family and friends. It was whilst working on publicity for the **Lent Groups** that she died. Happily there are many who will bless her name as I am happy to report that we have four groups in Painswick itself and two further ones in Edge and Cranham. As the new Hon Chair I am most grateful to all who have facilitated and are participating. If you were away when they started but would like to join please check the notice board in any of the churches for details.

I am very pleased to announce that Rita Bishop, someone with an excellent ecumenical background, has kindly agreed to take up the role of Hon Secretary. However, there are still plenty of opportunities for volunteers. For some years now Audrey Price has ensured we have had a welcome opportunity to participate in the **Women's World Day of Prayer** and we thank Ashwell House for their kind hospitality on 4th March. Audrey feels it is time for her to pass on the baton so we would be so grateful to hear from ? you..... Whilst on the subject of replacements, Francis Otway is looking for someone to take over the organization of the CTAP golf match; and after the success of the first CTAP cricket match last year we hope for helpers as well as players to repeat the event. Please get in touch with Rita Bishop on 814205 or Jane Jennings-Taylor on 813234.

The **Good Friday Procession of Witness** on 25th March will be led this year by the Rev Heather Whyte. You are invited to St. Mary's for a hymn and a prayer at 10.25am, from there the route is N along New Street, E down Bisley, back S along Friday Street to the War Memorial for a short service of readings and prayers. Once again the generous Christ Church community are inviting us to share fellowship, hot cross buns and a drink in their hall in Gloucester St. afterwards. Details of other church services over the Easter holiday are shown elsewhere in the Beacon and, of course, in the various churches.

Jane Jennings-Taylor

# Cemetery Chapel

Painswick is set in a countryside of exceptional beauty and, whichever direction one takes to roam, there are numerous locations of which one can record that they have a unique tranquillity and aspect. Such is surely an apt description of the cemetery on the lowest slopes of Painswick Beacon.



In May 1861 the Churchwardens at St.Mary's decided that no further burials were to take place in the churchyard after 1862. The Lord of the Manor generously donated four acres of his common land to the Tithings of Edge and Spoonbed, and the cemetery was officially opened in June 1863. Responsibility for its upkeep lies now with the Parish Council.

Although the chapel has been located there for much of this time its use in connection with funeral services declined in recent years and the council consequently reflected that trend by reducing its investment in upkeep of the interior. The place had become somewhat cold and dusty, and use was only intermittent. The exterior fabric was to receive regular attention and the future of this otherwise classic chapel seemed forlorn.

All that has changed in the past year, with the interior receiving much careful attention. The pews, which can seat up to thirty five, have been re-varnished, the altar cloth replaced for services, background heating obtained with boosting when a service is held. Mindful that the chapel is intended for use by any denomination the decor has been restrained with minimal adornment. Access for those with mobility difficulties has been brought right up to date, there being no steps at any point, and a small number of vehicles attending any service held there can now

approach close to the chapel with a tarmac driveway and reversing spaces. Pigeons, which had come to roost in the porch and the open steeple, are now prevented from doing so by the installation of steel mesh outer doors.

An electric organ is available in support of services. However, since different denominations prefer to select such for themselves, service sheets, hymn and prayer books are not provided.

These changes have been brought to the attention of funeral directors and, as a direct consequence, there is a distinct increase in the number of services held there. Such include those immediately prior to interment in the cemetery itself, removing the need for the journey between a church and the cemetery, or services prior to cremation elsewhere or interment of ashes.

There are visitors to the cemetery to tend burial plots many times every week of the year and the chapel is now open to the public whenever a member of staff is on duty and can therefore unlock the entry doors.

A place for quiet meditation . . .







### Access to the Rococo Garden - pleas for debate

*John Byng-Hall writes*

In the January edition of the Beacon there was news that an application by the Rococo Gardens for the installation of paths and a platform lift for the disabled had been made, but that the outcome remained uncertain because of worries about any threats to the historical integrity. I understand that the Gardens have been told that the plan had to be dropped. I am disabled and use a wheelchair, and I am a resident of Painswick.

The Rococo Gardens are one of the unique delights of Painswick. This rejection is thus a disaster for disabled people, and their families. It has great significance for us as we are restricted in so many ways. It must be remembered that a high percentage of the population become disabled to some degree at some point in their lives. The steep slopes can also be prohibitive to many older people, and difficult for parents with push chairs. Providing suitable access that goes beyond the entrance is thus important for many people.

I very much value the importance of recreating a garden in its original form, but I also value the principle of making this available to be enjoyed by as many people as possible. It is vital to have discussions about how to both preserve the original character as well as make it available for all people to visit. I understand that a lift could be hidden from view behind the Eagle House with some judicious planting. The proposed path for the disabled also follows the route of an historically known path. In addition the new path would make it possible to return a further part of the Garden, below the Eagle House, to its original Rococo state. The access paths would thus increase the

historical integrity, not reduce it.

The Disability Discrimination Act says that access must be made to public places, so long as it is reasonably possible. The plan showed that it is feasible. I am puzzled why it has been opposed by anyone. The whole issue needs an open debate to clarify this important dilemma.

and

*Mrs Nancy Shepherd, a Friend of the Rococo Gardens writes*

I was dismayed to read that the Council had mixed feelings about the intention to create a pathway for the disabled with an all weather chairlift.

I have been a friend of the Rococo Gardens for many years and have enjoyed my walks around the Garden.

Unfortunately I am not able to walk far these days and resort to a wheelchair on occasions. At the last AGM of the Gardens Paul Moir outlined the scheme mentioned above - imagine my joy on hearing that perhaps in the near future I could once again enjoy the Gardens albeit in a wheelchair.

Members of the Parish Council please do not reject this most needed addition to the Gardens, it will mean so much to disabled people.

### Obstruction

*Philip Berry, farmer, writes*

Your recent excellent feature on the problems faced by the fire crew in trying to pass parked cars in narrow lanes around Painswick was not heeded by one person who parked a car near the end of Edge Road on Friday 4th February - it should have been the 13th!

I hauled a large load of straw from a barn at Blakewell Farm that afternoon, some of which was needed to bed cattle down that evening, but was unable to get past the parked car. The road was totally blocked for about 45 minutes while efforts were made to find the owner by contacting nearby residents.

When these attempts failed, I then had to reverse the trailer back up the lane, in the dark, of course, and park in the yard at Dry Knapps, hitch off and return home with the tractor.

The police were given the vehicle registration number, and attempted to contact the owner who lived in Vicarage Street. Unfortunately the owner was not at home, and as the vehicle was not parked on double yellow lines was deemed to be parked legally, albeit in a silly place.

In order to get my straw home I had to

return that evening with a more powerful tractor capable of pulling the load up the steep pitch just above the drive to Washbrook Farm, and proceed through Edge, along Seven Lease Lane and down through Holcombe. All this being about three times the normal length of the journey. I finished that day at 12.30am.

My thanks to Douglas Robinson for his help and to the many other people who were inconvenienced by the incident.

### Stroud Area Telephone Directory

*Carole Ross writes*

Does anyone else feel we should receive a Stroud Directory from BT without incurring a £10 charge?

Having just tried unsuccessfully for at least 15 minutes to speak to a human being at BT Customer Services, I have written to them and wonder if other Painswickians could do likewise.

If we all complain it might have some effect. The address is BT Correspondence Centre, TVTE Gateshead NE11 0ZZ

*The Beacon notes that Painswick lies at the very edge of its directory area, and the one covering Stroud is described as Gloucestershire South. Ed.*

### Indian broadband

*When writing to enter a team of neighbours for the Village Quiz, Ted Fellows added*

As an aside, I signed up for Waitrose's broadband at a cost of £18.99/month a few weeks ago, having used the free Waitrose internet service for the past six months. So far I have received a very good service on both accounts, the help line being particularly useful when setting up the broadband. Even though Waitrose responds to queries via India, only seconds elapse before one is attended to. It does sound a bit odd, though, when someone with an obviously Indian accent (albeit very clear and understandable) insists on answering to an English/Scottish/Welsh name such as George, Brian, Trevor or Douglas, Mary, Christine, Ursula or Joanne ...



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### New Street in particular

Peter Pywell has shared with the Beacon a letter he has sent to Joan Nash with copy to the Parish Council  
Thank you for the useful article in the Painswick Beacon magazine (December 2004, page 17) which described briefly how money was to be allocated for local road repairs.

Despite this, I must write to you yet again on this subject before a serious incident occurs to pedestrians or motorists.

It is painfully obvious to all that the extremely poor state of the A46 through Painswick will not last until the currently proposed date of 2007/2008 before being repaired. The surface already has numerous deep potholes, and is very uneven. It requires urgent remedial action involving scraping off the existing surface and re-surfacing over the entire length through the village.

Please renew your endeavours to get significant improvements in this matter as soon as possible.

### Surgery (dis)appointments

Peggy Bradshaw writes

Whilst waiting to see a doctor in our surgery I was horrified and disgusted to read that many people did not turn up for their appointments.

Have these people no sense of courtesy or are they too selfish or ignorant not to ring or write to cancel their appointment?

How dare they treat our doctors like this. They should try living in cities like Bristol and try to get an appointment. Or is it because it is free that they can abuse our surgery like this!

Also, while waiting for a chiropodist appointment at Beeches Green I read that fifty-five people just didn't turn up in November. Who are these rude thoughtless people - again the podiatry clinic is free, so people think it doesn't matter.

I am disgusted and sick of these people who want everything for nothing!

We noted, from the January Newsletter for patients of the Painswick Surgery, that between 24 and 32 patients had not let the surgery know in advance of their

non-attendance. At 32 this equates to a full 8 hours during which a GP could have seen patients. Ed.

### Right of passage

Ann Burges Watson responds

In his letter in the last issue of The Beacon, Rod Moulton asked about the purpose of my ride through Painswick on the fire engine. I wished to see for myself, and to learn from the crew, what problems they meet in responding to calls. Time saved can be lives saved. On this occasion they were held up for ten minutes by a vehicle parked in a duly authorised place opposite the Painswick Hotel that did not leave room for the engine to get through. (The ambulance has been unable to pass this same spot on two previous occasions.) The crew have often been held up by vehicles parked on the A46 opposite Stamages car park. The Council is looking into these problems.

The crew are often delayed by badly parked cars in Bisley Street and Vicarage Street. The same problem comes up in Friday Street. The Police are prepared to take action against vehicles which infringe double yellow lines although they would prefer drivers to show good civic sense and not to try

to get away with illegal parking. The police accept the Council's view that parking on pavements should be tolerated for the time being, provided that it does not obstruct pedestrians, prams or wheel chairs and does not infringe traffic regulations.

Extra parking is needed, ideally on the northern outskirts of Painswick. This would make it easier to use the facilities of the Recreation Field. It would reduce congestion in the village centre. Car ownership is likely to continue to grow. Painswick needs room to expand if it is to develop local business and to attract more tourism. If it cannot expand, it risks stagnation.



### Withymead footpath: entrance

Michael Howes of Glendale House in Vicarage Street writes:

It was a bit of a shock, the day I arrived home from work to find a Motorway-sized road sign painted on the pavement in front of my house.

The 27 inch high lettering extends some 6 feet across and is 5 feet high and, due to it being entirely surrounded by listed buildings in the middle of a conservation area, it can be viewed only from a passing helicopter!

Now, I've no objection to there being a sign in this location: the Quaker meeting house is along this footpath and vehicles parked by tradesmen working at the meeting house and even by stressed residents who have inadvertently given up their traditional parking spaces to visitors, may have occasionally been a nuisance to pedestrians and particularly less able folk attending the Sunday morning service. But it's the size of the thing: it's huge!

So, whilst other Cotswold towns like Bibury are removing their road signs to be sensitive to tourism and because they trust their residents to

behave in a neighbourly way, here in Painswick we choose the very spot that tourists stand to photograph the view or take snaps of the adjacent Dover House, to create a road sign suitable only for viewing from 200 yards on a Motorway.

I would very much like someone from the Parish Council to explain to me why it is necessary to paint it in 27 inch high letters and, of course, to promise to replace it with something more appropriate to our pretty village.

The Beacon invited the Parish Council to comment. Chairman Terry Parker said that the Highways Department who carried out the work have advised the Parish Council they had to put the KEEP CLEAR sign where it is because of the uneven surface opposite the footpath entrance and also the presence of a stop tap which had to be kept visible. The County Council officer recommended that the sign be left as it is until the area is resurfaced.

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## Broadham

The Broadham centre continues to bring improved facilities for the sporting community. The recent provision of permanent floodlights for rugby training and the expectation of two new tennis courts together with the soon to be completed tennis pavilion are all signs of a thriving sporting environment.

Our picture shows the Painswick Ladies Hockey team in action.



## Rugby

### Outstanding win for Painswick

Painswick travelled to Chosen Hill last Saturday for their Gloucestershire Premier Division match in the knowledge that the unexpected defeat by Old Richians at Broadham the previous week had raised the spectre of relegation. Before last Saturday's match, Chosen Hill were lying second in the table and Painswick were well aware that this was to be a hard fought game.

As it was the Cherry and Whites rose to the occasion and emerged victorious by the margin of 25 points to 13. Their tries were scored by flanker Matt Coombs (2) and centre Olly Clewes who was also successful with a penalty attempt. The other try scorer was the No. 8, Rob Andrew, who crossed the home side's line for a pushover try.

In a match where the lead changed hands several times, it fell to Mark Bragg to put the Painswick victory beyond doubt with a drop goal in the dying moments. In the Citizen Merit Table match, last Saturday, the United went down by 19 points to 7 away at Old Patesians.

On the Saturday before, again in a Merit Table encounter, the United had a resounding victory over the Tewkesbury second fifteen at Broadham, with a 39 points to nil score line. Leading by a single penalty goal at half-time, the United ran in no less than six tries in the second period with James Booker achieving a superb hat-trick.

Painswick Veterans were scheduled to meet their Cainscross opposite numbers at Broadham last Saturday but the heavy snow that had fallen in the preceding days had made the ground too wet and the game was called off.

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

Sat 5 Feb. Swindon College OB 17 Painswick 1st XV 27. Painswick United 31 Cainscross 2nd XV 0.

Sat 12 Feb. Dursley 1st XV 10 Painswick 1st XV 32.

Bill Adams Cup. Painswick Adders 12 Dursley 3rd XV 16.

Sat 19 Feb. (L) Painswick 1st XV 5 Old Richians 1st XV 17.

(M) Painswick United 39 Tewkesbury 2nd XV 0.

Sat 26 Feb. (L) Chosen Hill 1st XV 13 Painswick 1st XV 25.

(M) Old Patesians XV 19 Painswick United 7.

### Fixtures

Sat 5 Mar. Brockworth 1st XV v Painswick 1st XV.

Stroud Junior Combination Cup. Minety 2nd XV v Painswick United.

Painswick Veterans XV v Cirencester Veterans XV.

Sat 12 Mar. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Aretians 1st XV.

Bill Adams Cup. Painswick Adders v Cirencester 3rd XV.

Sat 19 Mar. Stroud Senior Combination Cup. Painswick 1st XV v Cirencester 1st XV.

Drybrook 2nd XV v Painswick United.

Sat 26 Mar. Painswick 1st XV v Smiths Industries 1st XV.

Gloucester Civil Service 2nd XV v Painswick United.

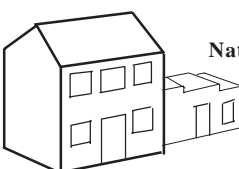
Readers are reminded that a direct line to Painswick's PC is **07799 624643** if he is off duty it connects direct to the police Control Room



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# Cricket

## Alastair Bressington

In the January issue of the Beacon it was reported that Alastair had signed a one-year contract with the Frocester Cricket Club. The signing followed the news that the Gloucestershire County Cricket Club member had not been offered a contract with the County Club for the 2005 season. The decision by Gloucestershire was greeted with considerable surprise by local sportsmen, not least because the former Painswick Cricket and Rugby Club player had been called to Old Trafford last summer as the England Twelfth Man in the match against the West Indies.

The news that Alastair has been invited for a trial with the Kent County Cricket Club and will join the club for a two week period immediately after Easter has been well received locally. Everyone at Broadham will want to wish him well. Alastair told the Beacon that he was very keen to return to first-class cricket and hoped that the trial would result in the offer of a contract by the Kent club.



# Dugan and Shearman to exhibit

Valerie Dugan and Ian Shearman will again be exhibiting their work at Painswick Town Hall in March. The show can be viewed from 2.00 until 8.00pm on Friday 11th March and 10.00 to 4.30pm on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th March.

Valerie is a local artist and is well known for her award winning Calligraphy and Botanical art. She lives at The Shetland shop in Painswick where her work can be viewed at any time.

Ian comes from Hyde near Minchinhampton and his Landscapes, many of which are of local Cotswold scenes, and Raku Ceramics are widely collected. His other work can be viewed at his studio.

# Painswick Blues

The latest programme of the Blues Club has come our way, and the performers through to mid-July are included in the Diary pages.

To roll forward, September onwards include such as The Animals, Traffiker, Honey Boy Hickling, and others.

# Tennis

The club held a very successful quiz event at Broadham recently. The Sharp Team were the winners in a closely fought but very friendly event. Well done to Val and her team and many thanks to John Barrus, John Courts and Gill Willoughby for organising the quiz. The evening raised £394 for club funds.

# Recreation Ground

Painswick is very fortunate in having two sports grounds and elsewhere in this issue there is reference to the future use of the Recreation Ground Association Football pitch for both seniors and youngsters. The trustees have also agreed to the ground being used as a reserve facility for Rugby Club juniors on Sunday mornings.

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## Before my time!

At its February meeting, the Local History Society welcomed Richard Savage as its speaker, on the archaeology of Crickley Hill.

Exploration of the site began in 1969, and for many years annual digs were carried out by volunteers from countries around the world, up to 100 at a time, staying in summer camps. The total number of volunteers ran into thousands, and many are still in touch with each other.

The importance of the site was enhanced by its position on the hypothetical Jurassic Way trade route.

Eventually about a half of the total 9-acre site was investigated.

The first human activity on Crickley Hill seems to date from 4,000BC and there is evidence of occupation in the Neolithic, Early Bronze and Iron Ages.

The defence works formed not just a hill fort, but a complex multi-period site.

Numerous arrowheads have been discovered, many of them clustered around the entrance to the fortified site, indicating that at some time there was a determined attempt to capture the fort.

The site was restored at the conclusion of the series of digs and there are no current plans to open up the remainder.

Richard Savage's talk was greatly enriched by superb aerial photography.

*Peter Minall*

## Local History Teaser

Painswick has enjoyed a number of notable occasions over time, not least the one portrayed in this photograph. The serious demeanour of those present was fitting for the situation and, although it did not take place within living memory, do you know what the occasion was and when it happened? There appear to be some rather impressive-looking characters among the assembled subjects. Can you identify any of them?



Answer in next month's Beacon.

The answer to last month's teaser: once a fortnight the fire brigade used to meet for a practice and on the occasion shown in the photograph the practice took place at Painswick House. It was March 1896 and the Stroud Journal reported it thus:

'... the scene of their exertions on this occasion being the gardens of Painswick House, where as a variation on the ordinary routine of work, a photographer was in attendance for the purpose of obtaining the counterfeit presentments of the brigade.'

An effective tableau was arranged, in which, with the aid of a ladder, two firemen were posted in the act of rescuing the youngest daughter of the house from what was supposed to be a burning building.'

The young lady was Miss Violet Hyett.

And on the subject of acting, this month's Local History Society meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15th March at the Croft School when members of the Painswick Players will take us through eighty assorted years of drama in Painswick. The meeting starts at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome.

*Carol Maxwell*

## Coaches to London & Bath

Seats are still available on the London Coach leaving Painswick at 8.30am on Wednesday, 16th March. Fare £10.

A coach to Bath has been booked for Wednesday, 20th April. It will leave Stamages Lane Car Park at 10 am. The return journey leaves Bath at 5 pm. Fare £7.

Bookings with cash or cheque payable to "Painswick L & B Outings" should be made with Joan Truman, Little Place, Hollyhock Lane, Painswick, GL66XH.

Enquiries to Joan Truman, 813965 or Pauline Berry, 813227.



## Annual Coffee Morning

by Helen & Anne

**Saturday 19th March in the Town Hall From 9.45am to 12 noon**

Our main project this year is to send money towards the education in Bangladesh of the niece and nephew of Kakuli and Maria Rozario. Kakuli and Maria are known to a lot of people in Painswick and are members of the congregation of Our Lady & St Thérèse. The children live in Tongi, near Dhaka with their mother Agnes where there is high unemployment. We feel this is a practical way to help people we know. Their priest will receive the money and issue us with a receipt. There will also be the usual donation to Our Lady & St Thérèse and Father Franco in Papua New Guinea.

There will be the usual cake stall, jams and preserves; Raffle, Bric-a-brac, books, fresh flowers and plants. Special requirements can be ordered in advance. Coffee, tea, chocolate and our famous home made biscuits will be served; adults £1.00 and children 50p.

Do come and support us on this our 15th year. Especially those mums, dads and grandparents with young children. A warm welcome to all.

*Helen Baker Anne Leoni*

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# Police Report

January 13th - February 7th.

House Burglary - 0

Business Burglary - 3 ( 1 in Painswick, attempt burglary of shop, nothing taken. 1 in Pitchcombe tools taken from an unoccupied farmhouse overnight. 1 attempt from Cranham Church nothing believed taken)

Shed Break - 0

Vehicle Break - 1 ( bag and contents taken from vehicle in car park area)

Vehicle Theft - 0

Criminal Damage - 0

Theft - 2 ( Both in Painswick, one wallet from a club changing room and one petrol cap from a parked vehicle)

Assault - 0

Deception - 1 ( of local Hotel)

Total crimes this period 6.

Incidents have settled down again after the Christmas increase but we still need to be on our guard against the opportunist criminal. Most of the above offences have occurred either overnight, while a place has been unoccupied or where property has been left on view. I would like to welcome Police Community Support Officer Tamsyn Griffiths to the area. Tamsyn will be responsible for foot and vehicle patrols around the village and surrounding areas in support of the Police, and her responsibilities will be liaising with the community, anti - social behaviour problems and parking issues. Tamsyn will operate from Stroud police station, please do not hesitate to call her on 0845 090 1234 if you have any issues you wish to raise.

PC.1270 Jerry Seymour Bussage Police Station



## WP v DTP

As mentioned here last month, there must be several hundred regular users of computers in and around Painswick, among whom quite a few use their powerful machines for word processing.

We are pleased that two took up our offer of a free 1-2-1 explanation of the pleasures of desk top publishing. Again we offer to the first few making enquiry, a mutually convenient time for a demonstration on one of our PCs using Adobe PageMaker or Serif.

## Gardening Assistance

During the six months starting on 4th April the Gardening Assistance Scheme operated with funding from the Stroud District Council will run again in 2005.

The scheme makes help available for garden maintenance for older and disabled people living anywhere in the area. Further, composting of garden refuse is encouraged and compost bins, kitchen bins and green bags are on offer.

To gain advantage from the service it is an important first step that one's requirements are registered. This can be done by writing to The Garden Assistance Scheme c/o Care and Repair (Stroud) Ltd, Unit 9, New Mills Industrial Estate, Libby's Drive, Slad Road, Stroud GL5 1RN or telephoning between 10.00am and noon on weekdays on 01453.767154 - so don't delay

## FOSS grand Jumble

The Friends of Sheepscombe School Annual Jumble Sale will be held today, Saturday 5th March, in the newly refurbished Sheepscombe Village Hall from 10.30am until 1.00pm.

All donations gratefully received. Please call either Sarah Bruce on 814689 or Sarah Lane on 812654 if you need further information.

Sarah Lane

## PROPERTY REPORT for March by Murrays Estate Agents

2005 has begun very much as we expected, the traditional buzz of enquiries from day one and a flurry of valuations with view to marketing in the Spring together with several good new instructions. Now that we are nearing the end of February however, we are getting a clearer picture which is much more promising. Applicant registration is well ahead of this time last year and viewings in February compare with the best of last summer with a surprising increase in offers as well. Buyers however are being cautious, often offering well below the asking price in the hope of getting a bargain resulting in longer and harder negotiations in order to achieve a sale with vendors whose properties were perhaps a little expensive, having to accept a more realistic price in order to move forward. In many cases recently we have found by starting at a realistic figure, we have been achieving the asking price or more, enabling sellers to move quickly on and buy at a sensible price too because they have sold their own and are proceedable. Don't despair however if your property hasn't sold; the level of new buyers coming into the market, a high number of which are moving into the area, is remarkably good and as long as your property is competitively priced you should soon find a buyer.

Painswick continues to do well regardless of the market, it is gratifying to know that so many want to live in our lovely village, although it is becoming more difficult for many to afford. Latest instructions include 2 Spring Cottages, a substantial four bedroomed period house tucked away behind The Old Bakery (the Chairman) in New Street, an excellent modern house in Lower Washwell with great views, another off Stamages Lane and yet another in Gloucester Road, a popular position on the village outskirts, as well as a lovely period house at the bottom of Vicarage Street. Not quite the number of exchanges and completions at this time of year but The Doreys at Edge has gone through, as have Amesbury in Vicarage Street, Forty Acres in Wick Street, Rose Cottage at Brookthorpe, a building plot in Kingsmill Lane and The Wool Barn at Sheepscombe. Many more are bubbling and with the strong level of interest we anticipate serious activity in the coming months. Don't forget we are off to our Mayfair Office after Easter for our Spring presentation of Cotswold homes to the London market.

Clive Murray 22.2.05

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# Painswick Beacon the Iron Age Hill fort



As reported in last months Painswick Beacon, the Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service together with Painswick Beacon Conservation Group have started the repair work on the defensive banks of the hill fort; despite some of the most adverse weather this winter. The work is scheduled to last for about twelve weeks. Walkers will have noticed the two trenches being excavated at the modern entrance to the fort. These will form the basis for two stone stairways leading up to the top of the inner bank and will prevent erosion of this main access point. Further along the bank erosion gullies will be repaired and reseeded.

At the Trig: Station major repairs to the banks and consolidation around the pillar will stabilise the area. The Trig: Station will be used to inform walkers about the hill fort, its history and significance as part of a chain of defensive camps stretching along the entire Cotswold escarpment.

Scrub clearance from the defensive banks will include the removal of some trees. This is necessary to protect the archaeology caused by root penetration and by trees blown down during winter storms. The scrub clearing will open up the limestone grassland encouraging many scarce flowering plants and associated butterflies and moths. Part of the programme is to install interpretation boards at the three main entrances to the Common. These will provide details of the sites history, wildlife and quarrying from the Iron Age to the present.

The Group are in the process of reopening the wildlife corridor which used to exist between Madams Wood Corner and Cudhill Common together with our colleges from Upton Saint Leonards. At the same time we have been clearing scrub from the view point between the top of the Plantation and Folly Cottage on the B4073 road to Gloucester. From the lay by it is possible to see the Severn Vale, Forest of Dean and the Welsh mountains.

Any one keen to help, can join us on 10th and 20th March, for further details contact me.

*Cedric Nielsen on 812385*

# The Painswick Day Care Centre

2004 saw the opening of the Painswick Day Care Centre at Ashwell House. The day care centre is open to anyone who would like to spend a day in the company of others enjoying craft and various other activities. The day care centre has capacity for 15 people and the cost for the day is £22 which includes transport, morning coffee and biscuits, lunch, afternoon tea and cake and of course a days activities.

In the near future there will also be a bathing facility should you wish to enjoy the luxurious comfort of a proper soak in the bath with trained staff at your side. The Painswick Day Care Centre currently employs two trained members of staff and has a small band of willing volunteers.

They would like to attract a group of volunteers who would be able to help with transport, so if you have an hour or two to spare on a Monday we would love to hear from you. If you think that the day centre might be the answer for you and you would like to visit then you would be more than welcome. Please pop in and see Gwen Cussell (the Manager) any Monday and she will be more than pleased to show you around.

*Michelle Elliott  
Scheme Manager - Ashwell House*

## Spanish

*There was a slight error in this item last month and, although those who made contact need not do so again, we think that revising the message here may be helpful.*

I am interested in running a Spanish class for a small group or on a one to one basis here in Painswick on either a Monday or Friday morning.

As I am a native Spanish speaker who has taught adult education classes before, it could be any level - complete beginners or a conversation class for competent speakers. Cost will depend on size of group. If this is something that appeals to you or a group of friends please contact me on 812860.

*Ana Murray*



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**MARCH**

Sat	5	Coffee Morning in aid of Brook Hospital for Animals Mother's Day Crocus Walk in aid of Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Refreshments available.	Town Hall Start from, Croft School	10.30am 2.30pm
Sun	6	Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Improvers (Sundays)	Painswick Centre	7.30 to 8.30pm
Mon	7	Austerity Lunch: Hostess - Miss Pauline Lamont	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Tue	8	Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) Story Time	Christ Church Hall Painswick Library	9.30 to 12.00noon 3.30 to 4.00pm
Wed	9	Tea Dances - Wednesdays Hort.Soc: Vegetables and Soft Fruit	Painswick Centre Town Hall	2.00 to 4.00pm 7.30pm
Thu	10	Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners Experienced beginners - Thursdays Music Appreciation Group: The Cello	Town Hall Painswick Centre	12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm 7.30pm
Fri	11	Country Market with coffee available Fridays Exhibition by Dugan and Shearman (to 13th) ( <i>page 17</i> )	Town Hall Town Hall	10.00am 2.00pm
Sat	12	<b>Village Quiz</b>	<b>Painswick Centre</b>	<b>6.45 for 7.15pm</b>
Mon	14	Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Conservation Society	Christ Church Hall	12.00noon to 1.15pm
Tue	15	Local History Society:Painswick Players – 1st 80 years Jazz Evening: Local musicians, no entry fee	Croft School Ostlers Room, Falcon	7.30pm 8.30pm
Wed	16	Coach to London: <i>full information on page 18</i> Probus: The English Gypsy - Mr Philip Pratley Women's Fellowship: Changing scenes in the garden - Parish Council Meeting	Stamages Car Park Ostlers Room, Falcon Christ Church Hall Town Hall	8.30am 10.00am 7.30pm 7.30pm
Thu	17	Music Appreciation Group: Evening concert visit Bird Club: Common British Warblers – Jane Rowe	Bristol Town Hall	7.30pm 7.30pm
Fri	18	Senior Circle: 'A Painting Experience' with Adele Easter Bingo by Upper Washwell ladies	Town Hall Town Hall	2.30pm 7.00 for 7.30pm
	19	<b>Copy dateline for March to Editorial Team</b> 15th Annual Spring coffee Morning (Helen & Anne) Music Society Concert: Skampa Quartet Blues Night: The Robin Bibi Band	Town Hall St Mary's Church Painswick Centre	9.45am to 12noon 3.00pm 8.00 for 9.00pm
Sun	20	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group Scrub Clearing. Contact Pete Bradshaw 814210	Car Park in Upper Plantation	10.00am
Mon	21	Workshop: An introduction to Calligraphy with James Skinner (Also on 28 March) Tel: 01452 611614 Austerity Lunch: Hosts - Dog Training Group	Church Rooms Christ Church Hall	9.30am to 2.30pm 12.00noon to 1.15pm
Tue	22	Yew Trees WI – 'Canine Partners'	Town Hall	7.30pm
Thu	24	<b>Diary deadline for March to Edwina Buttrey</b> Country Market with coffee available	Town Hall	10.00am
Fri	25	Please note: No Country Market Good Friday Procession of Witness	meet at St Mary's Church	10.25am
Fri	25	Stainer's 'Crucifixion'	St.Mary's Church	7.30pm
Mon	28	Easter Monday Inca Trail walkers pass through Painswick	( <i>see page 6</i> )	10.30am approx
Wed	30	Hort.Soc: Outings booking morning Probus: The Bayeux Tapestry - Mr I Willox Theatre Club Outing to Malvern	Church Rooms Ostlers Room, Falcon The Falcon	10.00am to noon 10.00am 1.00pm

**APRIL**

Sat	2	<b>April issue of The Painswick Beacon published</b> Music Society Concert: Orchestra of the Swan With Emma Johnson, clarinet Blues Night: The Thompson Brothers	St Mary's Church Painswick Centre	3.00pm 8.00pm for 9.00pm
Tue	5	PCMS: 'Religious Education in Schools'	Church Rooms	7.45pm
Wed	6	Women's Fellowship: Opening Service	Friends Meeting House	7.30pm
Thu	7	Cotswold Care Support Group Music Appreciation Group: Ralph Vaughan- Williams	Ashwell House Painswick Centre	2.30pm 7.30pm
Fri	8	Senior Circle: 'Old Musical Instruments'	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	9	Service of Thanksgiving for Fred Semark	St.Mary's Church	10.30am
Wed	13	Probus: AGM	Ostlers Room, Falcon	10.00am





Sat	16	Hort.Soc: 'April Showers' flower arranging	Town Hall	7.30pm
		Music Society Concert: Alexis White, piano	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
		Blues Night: Danny Bryant's Redeyband	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Tue	19	Local History Society Research Evening	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	20	Coach to Bath: full details on page 18	Stamages Car Park	10.00am
		Women's Fellowship: Living with visual impairment	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
Thu	21	Music Appreciation Group: Members Night	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Fri	22	Senior Circle: 'Falklands War' - Roy Balgobin	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	23	Music Society Concert: Tasmin Little, violin, and Wayne Marshall piano	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Tue	26	Yew Trees WI – Role of Magistrates	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	27	Theatre Club Outing to Malvern	The Falcon	6.00pm
Thu	28 – 30	Painswick Players: <i>The Odd Couple</i>	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
<b>MAY</b>				
Mon	2	Hawkwood College: Open Day	Hawkwood College	10.00am – 5.00pm
Wed	4	Painswick & District Conservation Soc. AGM: Speaker Ben Sang - Severn Wye Energy Conservation Agency	Church Rooms	7.30pm
		Women's Fellowship: The Pyrenees in June - Sue Smith/Sue Dodd	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
Thu	5	Local elections – County Council		
		Cotswold Care Support Group	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Fri	6	Senior Circle: The joys of being a Funeral Director - Chris Weaver	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	7	Women's Fellowship coffee Morning	Town Hall	10.00am to 12noon
		Blues Night: Sherman Robertson	Painswick Centre	8.00pm for 9.00pm
Wed	11	Hort.Soc: The Fun of Gardening + AGM	Town Hall	7.30/8.15pm
Sat	14	Blues Night: Sherman Robertson	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Sun	15	Christian Aid Week begins		
Tue	17	Local History Society Annual Outing		
Wed	18	Senior Circle May Coffee Morning		
Fri	20	Senior Circle: Flowers in May - Katherine Kear	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	21	May Ball: a 'first' for Croft School	tba	
		Blues Night: Ottis Grand	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Tue	24	Yew Trees WI – Life as a Photographic Artist	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	25	Annual Parish Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
		Women's Fellowship: Community First Responder Scheme - Kevin Dickens	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
Sat	28	Theatre Club Outing to Watermill Theatre, Newbury	The Falcon	10.30am
<b>JUNE</b>				
Thu	2	Cotswold Care Support Group	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Fri	3	Senior Circle: Air Ambulance - Ian Nicholls	Town Hall	2.30pm
Wed	8	Women's Fellowship: village Shop - Marion Beasley	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
Sat	11	Sue Ryder Care 25th Anniversary Celebration Coffee Morning	Town Hall	9.45am to 12noon
Fri	17	Senior Circle: Tales from a local publican - Johnny Johnson	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	18	Blues Night: Ainsley Lister	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Tue	21	Local History Society AGM	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	22	Women's Fellowship: Carvery Lunch	Golf Club	12.30pm
Tue	28	Yew Trees WI – talk by Waitrose	Town Hall	7.30pm
<b>JULY</b>				
Fri	1	Senior Circle Outing to Snowhill Lavender Farm		
Sat	2	Blues Night: Lightning Willie and the Poor Boys	Painswick Centre	8.00pm for 9.00pm
Tue	5	PCMS AGM	Church Rooms	7.15pm
Wed	6	Women's Fellowship	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm
Thu	7	Cotswold Care Support Group	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Sat	9	Victorian Costume Ball for info. tel. 01453 833150	Painswick Centre	8.00 to 11.30pm
Fri	15	Senior Circle: Europe - Elizabeth Finsberg	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	16	Dog Show	Recreation Field	tba
		Blues Night: Bad Town Blues ( <i>and pig roast</i> )	Painswick Centre	8.00 for 9.00pm
Wed	20	Women's Fellowship: BBQ at The Latchetts	Kingsmead	7.00pm

## PLANNING MATTERS

A summary of information received from the Parish Council. Painswick locations unless indicated.

### NEW APPLICATIONS

OLD VICARAGE, DAMSELLS MILL LANE, SHEEPSCOMBE. Internal & external alterations to facilitate new heating system, electric installation, kitchen & utility  
DALEGARTH, COTSWOLD MEAD. Extension to existing dwelling  
LORDS WOOD COTTAGE, THE GROVE, SHEEPSCOMBE. Retrospective application for erection of a porch & construction of a retaining wall with handrailing  
CHANCELLORS TEA ROOMS, VICTORIA STREET Change of use and alterations to annex rooms from tea rooms to office  
12 BERRY CLOSE Replacing flat roof with pitched roof  
BUNNAGE FIELDS FARM, THE CAMP, SHEEPSCOMBE Erection of extension to dwelling  
WORGANS BARN, FOLLY LANE, STROUD Erection of garage, store & stables (resubmission following refusal 04/0453/FUL – our ref:26/04)

### REVISED PLANS

HAMMONDS BARN, WICK STREET. Replacement of existing garage/outbuilding Main changes: Relocation of building and revised elevation

### CONSENT

DORMER COTTAGE & WOODSEND COTTAGE, BUTT GREEN. Erection of extensions  
PAINSWICK ROCOCO GARDEN, FORMER GARDEN BOTHY. Repair/re-use of derelict former garden bothy to form display/study area. Alterations to terracing, retaining walls  
PAINSWICK HOUSE, GLOUCESTER ROAD. Extension to shed for use as a stable

BROADHAM FIELDS (PAINSWICK RFC), STROUD ROAD. Erection of 4 permanent floodlight columns  
THE SCHOOL HOUSE, SLAD ROAD, SLAD. Erection of a garage with link to existing house. Internal alterations.  
HILLVIEW COTTAGE, VICARAGE STREET. Construction of new porch to back door  
Land at STROUD ROAD (CARE CENTRE). Proposed relocation of laundry and maintenance store at level O, below ground under garden terrace

### REFUSAL

BELL HOUSE, FRIDAY STREET. Demolition of garage & erection of a dwelling  
HILLVIEW COTTAGE, VICARAGE STREET. Conversion & extension of existing domestic outbuilding to form 2-bedroom cottage

### PLAN WITHDRAWN

Land at MARY'S ACRE, STAMAGES LANE. Erection of dwelling house and garage

### RESULT OF APPEALS:

**PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED:**  
WELCOM, THE PARK. Erection of 2 storey extension & internal alterations

**PLANNING PERMISSION REFUSED:**  
WELCOM, THE PARK. Erection of a private garage

### NOTIFICATION OF APPEAL

MILL POOL HOUSE, TICKLESTONE LANE, KINGSMILL LANE. Erection of extension & new dormer window

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## MINI-ADS

**Unwanted Tapestry Patterns-** Barbara Blaby would be grateful for unwanted tapestry patterns: Please ring afternoons or evenings on 07790.814635

**Luxury Caravan** for hire on North Norfolk Coast - 2 bedrooms. Few minutes walk from the beach at Wells-next-the-Sea. Please contact for brochure 01327.844554 email: dynasty12005@aol.com

**Computer Wanted** - with basic Word Processing program, preferably Microsoft Office. 813841 (Evenings & weekends).

**Andalucia Spain**, Villa in foothills above Nerja. 3 Bedrooms, sleeps 4, TV, own pool. Wildlife walks, views, mountains and Mediterranean. Available July/August £550 per week. 814070 or 0034 952 037 108

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*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.*

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# The Personal Column

## Babies

Congratulations to KATHERINE and JAMIE COX on the birth of their son, Joel Barnaby, in Peterborough, Canada, on 19th February; a brother for Oliver, and a second grandson for John and Caroline Milne

*and, by way of correcting a one-letter error last month*

also congratulations to KATE and NICK GRIMSLEY on the birth of a son, Samuel Hubert, on 28th December; a third grandchild for Nada and Derek Grimsley.

## Get well soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to DIANE MEARNES, BERNARD CHILD and JOHN MANTELL.

## Condolences

Sincere sympathies to the family and friends of THELMA DALE, KEN WHITTING and TONY COWD who have died recently

and MARY FOLDS who lived for many years in Painswick with her husband Oliver and died recently in Cheshire.

## Welcome

We would like to welcome Mrs LAURA ROSS to Amesbury in Vicarage Street from Uley,

also Miss JOANNA SCOTT to Benwell in Hale Lane,

and MIRANDA HARDING who has come from their Tower Bridge office to be the new Sales Manager at Hamptons International in Painswick

and Mr and Mrs TRIMMER who are moving to Forty Acres

and Dr CHAMBERLAIN-WEBBER and Miss HAMLIN who are moving to The Doreys

and JOHN and CHRIS STEPHENSON-OLIVER who moved into their new house The Three Owls in Blakewell Mead last Monday.

## Goodbye

We are sorry to say goodbye to Mr and Mrs HORNER from Forty Acres.

## Personal messages

### Wedding invitation

*The Reverend Chris Garrett writes*  
Sandy DuPont and I are at last getting married - on Saturday 9th April at 2.00pm in Tewkesbury Abbey, where Sandy was for many years the Visitors Officer.



Having lived as long as each of us now have, we've picked up a lot of old friends over the years, not to mention younger family members, so we can't invite nearly all those we'd like to the reception.

However, if any of you happen to find yourselves in Tewkesbury that afternoon we'd be delighted if you'd come and swell the singing and share a glass of mulled wine with us in the Abbey after the service.

Ella Adlam writes to say thank you to all the kind friends and neighbours who sent flowers, cards, visits to hospital and for walking Rupert. Their prayers and kindness have been a great comfort.

Ted Burge writes to say he "has made a good recovery from pneumonia. He thanks all who sent cards and good wishes. He was aware of a veritable raft of prayers, and a wealth of positive thoughts".

Flora Semark would like to thank all the friends who sent cards and letters on the sudden death of dear Fred. A Thanksgiving Service for his life at the Parish Church on Saturday 9th April at 10.30am

John McCabe and family wish to thank all the kind people of Painswick and Sheepscombe for all their sympathy cards and letters, which reached over a hundred, on the death of my darling Elsie, mum and grandma.

*We appreciate receiving information for the Personal Column, and any you can pass on to Rachel Taylor is always welcomed.*

*Space limitations permit only the minimum amount of text, and your assistance in this regard is helpful.*

## NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date

**SATURDAY 2nd APRIL**

Items for publication to Editorial Team using E-mail, the Beacon Post Box or to Longhope, Blakewell Mead GL6 6UR by

**SATURDAY 19th MARCH**

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

**SUNDAY 20th MARCH**

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

**THURSDAY 17th MARCH**

Diary items (only) to Edwina Buttrey, using the Beacon Box

**THURSDAY 24th MARCH**

Letters and articles for publication are particularly welcome by Email to: [painswickbeacon@supanet.com](mailto: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 provide your name, address and a contact phone number.

The Beacon's telephone number is **814500**, and can accept short recorded messages: our fax is **01452.814500**

Our web site is [www.painswickbeacon.org.uk](http://www.painswickbeacon.org.uk) including

**Beaconline**, the Painswick Beacon web edition  
Address for general correspondence (not items for publication)  
Stoneleigh, Gloucester Street GL6 6QN

### Beacon Committee

Editorial team this month  
Leslie Brotherton\*, Jack Burgess,  
Carol Maxwell and Terry Parker  
\*co-ordinated and compiled

**Personal Column:** Rachel Taylor 813402  
**Diary:** Edwina Buttrey 812565

**Feature Writers:**  
Carol Maxwell 813387  
Leslie Brotherton 813101  
Jack Burgess 812167

**Sport:** Terry Parker 812191  
**Directory:** Leslie Brotherton 813101

**Business Advertising:**  
Dermot Cassidy 813737  
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