

The Painswick Beacon

Volume 31 Number 1

Sine praeiudicio

April 2008

Painswick goes bananas... ...over Fairtrade!

Friday 7th of March was a day to celebrate as the village was presented with the Fairtrade Foundation certificate by Stroud Member of Parliament David Drew.

Parish Council Chairman Terry Parker received the certificate on behalf of the community. The day marked the culmination of the very considerable efforts by Alison Robinson and Iris McCormick together with the members of the Fairtrade Steering Group to satisfy the Foundation's strict criteria relating to the availability and use of Fairtrade products within the village. The contribution made by The Croft School deserves special mention and our photographs show the children enjoying their involvement in the day which began with their Coffee Morning at the school before the children processed to the Town Hall for the presentation of the certificate. The Steering Group wishes to thank the local shops and businesses for their support and in particular Bill Singh at Londis as well as Ximena and Brian Nunez at Olivias who also made the wonderful cake which was enjoyed by everyone.



Apparently, the Fairtrade coffee cake tasted pretty fair, too!



... and Free Parking until June

Stroud District Council has informed the Parish Council that the car parking charges in Stamages Lane car park will not be reinstated until 2nd June. The extension of the period is part of the District Council's continued support for the village following the floods.

On other pages this month: Crime up as **Reuben** retires... **Fame & fortune** on a Thursday... This & that... **Pasta & puds**... Some **puzzling results**... When's a railway not a railway?... **Who dunnit** after Snow White?... Our **councillors report**... **French star quality**... **African royalty**... Tea over **The Quilt**... **Colonials over Whiteway**... Promises, promises... Even more **Fair Trade at the Croft**... **30 years on**... and the **Lisbon Treaty** from Sheepscombe...



PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cotswold walling and structures

Terry Parker suggested to the committee that dry stone walls and other non-dwelling structure in various parts of the village were from time to time removed or modified and that such changed the public perception of retaining our heritage and the charm of the village. After discussion it was agreed to place this on the agenda of the next meeting, but meanwhile a small working party would consider ways in which such structures could effectively be listed and preservation assured.

Notification of neighbours

The committee expressed concern that the immediate neighbours of planning applicants were not always receiving notice of submissions. Chairman David Hudson offered to investigate with SDG

PARISH COUNCIL

Public session

The 15 minutes in which residents may raise matters with the Council.

Painswick - Stroud: cycling/ bus times

Elinor Croxall pointed out to the Council that she regularly cycled to and from Stroud to catch a train to her work in Swindon and enquired what action the Council might take to one day achieve a dedicated route which was safer than on the A46 as at present. Chairman Terry Parker pointed out that this was a specific item in the Parish Plan but no progress had been possible, although David Hudson recalled making investigations at the time. Peter Rowe wondered whether the extent of use of the pavement by pedestrians might permit use by cyclists also but was assured that quite a number walked to Stroud.

Ms Croxall also pointed out that bus times were such that it was commonplace for there being 40 minute waits at the station for the soonest rail connection. She wondered whether buses would be used instead of cars if there was better 'joined up' timetabling of public transport.

The Council undertook to investigate these matters further.

Painswick Gateway – policy

Arising from minute 6 of the previous meeting, Terry Parker suggested, and it was agreed, that the words 'The Council confirmed that it was still supportive of the Gateway concept' have the following added 'but Members had concerns about the business plan'. Ann Burges Watson pointed out that such reservations were not applicable to all Members, as she for one had not voiced that opinion. (*See report page 2 last issue.*)

Meeting Halls: usage feasibility study

Members received a report from a meeting convened by the Council with representatives of Painswick Centre and Painswick Gateway. The report stated:

- It was unanimously agreed that the time for a feasibility study of community buildings of the type advised by the Gloucestershire Community Council had passed. The requirement was now to consider an audit of the extent and use of meeting halls/rooms available to the public for recreational purposes as part of a revision of the Parish Plan. In this connection it was noted that the status of a parish plan has, in most instances, been acceptable to grant-making bodies as evidence of need.
- It was agreed that the Parish Council be asked to appoint a Convenor whose task would be to call a meeting of all clubs and amenity organisations' representatives responsible for the provision of meeting halls/rooms available to the public for recreational purposes from all parts of the civil parish. From that meeting a group would be formed whose task would be to carry out an audit of the extent and use of the meeting halls/rooms within Painswick and to conduct a parish-wide survey to establish what additional facilities/activities parishioners believed were needed. The results would then be placed before the public for their comment.

Peter Rowe enquired why the audit was required and Mr Parker pointed out that such would be of help as and when grant aid applications were made by any hall operator. Martin Slinger felt it important to look at how halls other than Gateway may survive when Gateway 'takes off'. Gill Richards suggested that the study is necessary to avoid duplication of facilities and, hence, competition between meeting halls, and that such should be added to the brief. One Member suggested that competition may not be a bad thing.

Terry Parker pointed out that it need not be a Parish Councillor who acted as Convenor but enquired directly of Peter Rowe whether he would be willing to undertake this task, which he accepted. In his response Mr Rowe indicated his intention to seek guidance from Barbara Pond, The Gloucestershire Rural Community Council's Village Halls Officer, upon teasing out what people may want for the future.

Cotswold Way – interpretation centre

Terry Parker reported upon such progress as had been made to represent this project with the Local Action Group and others, but that he and Leslie Brotherton had discerned that others seemed not to appreciate the significance of this (Painswick) proposition. Neither had given up securing a place for this proposal in whatever final schedule of projects may emerge for consideration for funding after close of applications on 23rd May, even though there was an 'open door' for new bids before then.

Summer Event 2008

Martin Slinger reported that arrangements had been agreed with the organisers of this year's Companion Dog Show, on Saturday 12th July, for which the Parish Council would make arrangements for the event to be enhanced by an 'animal zoo' and a jumbo bouncy castle.

Trader notices on pavements

The Council gave further consideration to this subject, having received another letter urging that a date be identified by which there would be improvements to the ad hoc signage on pavements. (*See report page 2 last issue.*) The regulations in such matters were reported by the Clerk who had made enquiry of the District Council, it being acceptable for such as limiting signs to A-board type outside the premises being advertised. It was agreed, however, that where health and safety appears to apply because of obstruction of pedestrians with or without mobility aids the Clerk would initiate action.

The consensus of the meeting was to allow a further three months for businesses to get back on their feet after the long period of closure of the A46, at which time the situation be reviewed.

Village spring clean

The Council decided that it should promote an occasion when there is a community focus upon the tidiness of the village, itself leading activity on Sunday 25th May from 3.00pm.

Street lighting – extinguishing

The Council awaits proposals from the County Council regarding street lights which might, to conserve energy, be extinguished during the early hours of the morning. Ann Burges Watson drew attention, however, to a pedestrian 'black spot' at the junction of Butt Green and the footpath alongside Croft School playing field. Terry Parker suggested that in any village there is a 50-50 split between those concerned to have improved illumination and those who regard all lighting as polluting.

Calor Village of the Year

The Council agreed to enter Painswick village in this competition. The other three villages declined entry.

Town Hall heating

The Clerk reported upon a professional assessment of the heaters in both the upper and lower halls and that their inefficiency is now such that they needed progressive replacement. It was agreed that, subject to inspection of one in use, a single new 16kw heater replace the two in the upper hall at an early date.

Village Information Point

The Council welcomed the initiative of Painswick Gateway and three volunteers to reopen the information desk at the library, in particular to be responsive to tourist enquiries. (See separate report.)

Mobility impairment

Letters were received from Jane Robinson and Rachel Taylor reminding the Council that the location or lack of dropped kerbs seriously prejudiced the ability of those using such as buggies to manoeuvre to all parts of the village centre. Ann Burges Watson also drew attention to the needs of mothers with push-chairs and indicated that the Traffic Committee would, with the assistance of those concerned, obtain suggestions for new dropped kerb points so that appropriate representations could be made. (See also next report.)

Traffic matters

The Council received reports prepared by County Council officers Martin Midgeley and Yacoub Mulla and, separately, Ann Burges Watson upon an exhaustive meeting in the village on 13th March to look at many outstanding issues affecting traffic and free but safer movement of pedestrians.

Space does not permit as thorough a report as may be warranted upon the many issues aired and clarified at this meeting, readers being commended to view the reports themselves at the Council office. Subjects included

- a pedestrian crossing in New Street outside the pharmacy phased with the traffic lights to be re-evaluated
- footway widening opposite Hazelbury House to be investigated after land availability checked
- indiscriminate parking in Vicarage Street best tackled by collaborative resident action
- parking at the stocks: to consider obstructive reflectors
- pavement fronting Town Hall to receive slabs to be investigated and possible shared contract
- highway drainage at entrance to The Park to be investigated but competing with many other works
- Bisley Street parking and bushes and obstructions best tackled by interested parties collectively
- Kingsmill Lane resurfacing entered for funding 2008-09 outcome expected after April
- Pavements/kerbs Gloucester Street resurfacing unlikely before 2011
- Safety reflectors at culvert drop on Stroud Road and Wragg Castle Lane
- Kemps Lane advisory parking locations to be removed and obstruction monitored by Council
- Removal of irrelevant street signage
- Copy of the safety audit at entrance to Richmond Painswick to be sought
- Extending the speed limit in Stamages/Kingsmill Lane not prioritised because of costs involved

Late evening bus services – 46

The Council expressed dismay that a seemingly arbitrary decision had been taken to discontinue services leaving Cheltenham after 7.25pm, totally without consultation. The decision had been, it was stated, based upon a review of use during the last six months. Members were incensed by the seeming disregard of the fact that the closure of the A46 for those six months had undoubtedly impacted upon travel habits. They were further agitated by yet another example of breach of the Charter undertaking between the County and Parish Councils to consult upon impending actions affecting one another's services.

It was agreed that the views of this Council be conveyed immediately to the County Council in unambiguous terms.

Victorian lamp – New Street

Martin Slinger reported that consequent upon representations to the County Council regarding the instability of the plinth upon which this lamp is mounted they had undertaken to carry out complete repairs, regarding this as an essential street light.

Painswick crime rises

The latest crime statistics from PC Reuben Wyatt show that reported crime rose slightly in February in Painswick to 11 cases. The breakdown is set out below with the previous month's figures in brackets:

Criminal damage	1 (0)
Theft from motor vehicle	0 (1)
Theft of motor vehicle	0 (1)
Assault	0 (1)
Theft	2 (2)
Burglary	1 (2)
Burglary non-dwelling	4 (0)
Other	3 (2)

These are the last statistics to be supplied by Reuben, as he retires on 16th April. He passes on his thanks 'for making my job as pleasurable and easy as it has been' and says, as he enjoys his retirement, he will try not to think too much about the hard work we are all doing. He has promised that his replacement will continue supplying us with a monthly view of the shady demimonde of Painswick life.

Meanwhile, Linda Dey, our Police Community Support Officer, is emphasising the importance of security measures to your home and property. She says that often burglars look in sheds as they can be easily forced open and can contain items that can be used to break into the main house.

The following are basic steps which may assist in deterring an unknown person to enter or attempt to enter your property:

Shed Security

- Ensure a padlock is fitted that is of a high security type
- Ensure hinges are strong and fill screw heads with glue to prevent removal
- Secure garden tools to shed framework
- Mark items with your postcode and house number
- Use gravel pathways, they give an audible alert and thieves don't like to be heard

Home Security

- Make sure your home looks like someone is living in it even when you are out
- Use automatic time switches to turn lights on when it goes dark
- Never leave windows on the latch or slightly ajar when you are out
- Ideally front doors should be secured in two places
- Use a door security chain every time that you answer the door

Further information on crime reduction can be found at www.crimereduction.gov.uk

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 23rd April at 7.00pm. The meeting normally occurs in May but is earlier this year because of the Parish Council Election which takes place on Thursday 1st May. It is the opportunity to hear reports from County, District and Parish Councillors and to question them about the work of the various councils.



News from the Centre

This month we are delighted to welcome a new Trustee. David Crispin who lives in Cotswold Mead, has joined the committee and will bring valuable exhibitions and commercial experience to the running of the Centre.

The skittle challenge!

With skittle alleys fast falling by the wayside locally, Painswick is really fortunate to have an alley still in use. Sadly however it is only used occasionally and we would like to propose that local clubs or societies consider getting teams together. Just imagine the Bookworms v the Puffins or We could then start an inter-Painswick "Skittle Challenge Cup" and have many a fun evening at very reasonable cost. Anyone up for this?

Future Dates for your diary

There are several interesting and exciting events in the pipe line which we wouldn't want you to miss so do make a note of them and get your tickets early as they have proved to be extremely popular in the past.

Friday 25th April – Gloucester Police Choir 7.00pm £8 each to include wine and nibbles. The Choir will provide a super evening out and was much enjoyed by a full house a couple of years ago. We will be having a raffle so would be most grateful for any donated prizes.

Saturday 3rd May – Too Hot to Handle 8pm £16 to include chilli con carne. Book early if you want to get in! Penny Lyons and her band are guaranteed to give you a wow of an evening and get your feet tapping.

Monday 26th May (Bank Holiday) – Craft & Antiques Fair 10.00am – 4.00pm free entry. Tables for vendors are £18 but for those collecting solely for charity the table charge will be £10. Last year there were many interesting and varied stalls which made an enjoyable day for both sellers and buyers. Delicious home made cakes, tea and coffee and snacks will be served.

Saturday 20th September – 'the Best of British' a dinner dance from 8.00 – 11.00pm. Tickets will cost £16 and include bangers and mash and music by Ian Towers to dance to which all promises to be a great evening.

Tickets will be available from The Chairman as usual or from Ralph Drew 814070 or Sue Lendon 813791.

Ralph Drew who usually writes this article is on a much deserved holiday as we go to press, but in his absence we would like to thank him for the time, ideas and energy he gives to organising these events at the Painswick Centre.

Sue Lendon (Trustee)

A Good Evening Out

On Wednesday April 16th, the Painswick Film Group and The Painswick Centre proudly present...

THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (Cert 15)

...starring Forrest Whitaker in an Oscar winning performance as the Ugandan President, Idi Amin.

Skilfully written, the film explores the relationship between Amin – 'charming, magnetic, murderous' - and his physician, played by James McAvoy, as the dictator spirals into murderous insanity. Doors and bar open 7.15 pm; film starts 7.45 pm. Tickets £5 from The Chairman or Painswick Post Office in advance, or, subject to availability, on the door.

The Painswick Film Group is working towards setting up a community film club. If you want to see films regularly in Painswick, please tell us what sort of films you most want to see - popular, indie, classic, foreign language, art house, children's or documentary. Anything is possible; just call us. Better still, come to this trial screening and tell us on the night. Also, if you can help us set up a film club for the Painswick area, please get in touch.

We are testing the water, so if no-one responds, there may not be another chance! Please telephone: Jane Rowe 813228, Ela Pathak-Sen 813458 or Gill Richards 813328.



Fame & Fortune



in Painswick



Business Thursday, a new regional business club, has been launched by two local businessmen, Michael Howes and Howard Davis in partnership with the Chartered Institute of Marketing, Gloucestershire Enterprise Network and Beacon South West. Meeting at The Painswick Centre - generally on the second Thursday of the month - Business Thursday features local business speakers and an excellent buffet.

The inaugural meeting on 13th March focused on "Beating the Credit Crunch", with guest speakers financial guru, Mike Warburton from Grant Thornton and Marketing and Management practitioner, Sara Shailer from Accompli.

The next meeting on 10th April is entitled 'How to Achieve Fame and Fortune', when speakers Rob Rees MBE, The Cotswold Chef™ and PR and Media guru Emma Walton, will be joined by local buy-to-let property developer Amanda de Gonville Morrison.

Business Thursday is a not-for-profit business training company, created to meet professional and executive training needs. Find out more at www.businessthursday.com.



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Searchers make history in The Quiz

The Searchers - drawn from Painswick Local History Society - emerged triumphant in the Beacon Village Quiz, held on Saturday 8th March. Runners up were 'I Sappienti Ignoranti' (the evidently not so ignorant Italian Group), followed by 'Key Notes', who harmoniously represented the Painswick Music Society. All are pictured below, along with 'The Anglo Scottish Alliance', who won the *Best Mascot* prize.



The victorious Searchers



The not so ignorant 'I Sappienti Ignoranti'



The harmonius Keynotes



The Anglo Scottish Alliance

No fewer than 26 teams were crammed into the Painswick Centre for a very enjoyable village event. The final place list appears below. Quite a few new names, which is very pleasing, but the old stalwarts seem to have made the running whether at the top, middle or bottom. I understand that one team, a frequent past winner, was missing a key player with a consequent drop in the ratings. Perhaps those teams with a less successful track record should consider co-opting star players from the premier sides. A transfer window would be established and bribery of an extreme nature would be encouraged.

Feedback from participants is welcome. I already have some comments and suggested improvements. Please write or email with your ideas and the Beacon quiz committee will consider them. I can be contacted by email at chasdorm@googlemail.com or by post at Tilling, Kingsmill Lane, Painswick GL6 6RT or put your letter in the Beacon Box outside Murrays Estate Agents.

Finally thank you all participants for taking part and helpers for assisting, a special big thank you to the newcomers – and let me know about the transfer window idea – I might be up for it.

Charles Dorman

Beacon Village Quiz: The Results

1	The Searchers	Local History Society
2	I Sappienti Ignoranti	Italian Group (Weekly Meetings)
3	Key Notes	Painswick Music Society
4	Four Wags	Dog Walking Friends
5	Three and One	Valerie Sharpe & Friends
6	The Slashers	Beacon Conservation Group
7	Seeds and Weeds	Horticultural Society
8 =	The Coasters	Jolly Stompers Line Dancers
8 =	3 Glasses + Bottle of Plonk	Sandra Glass & Friends
8 =	Bookworms	Book Club
11	Quasimodos	Ancient Society Painswick Youths
12 =	PC Trustees	Painswick Centre
12 =	Los Paradisos	Paradise Residents
14	The Shuttles	Badminton Club
15 =	The Conservators	Conservation Society
15 =	Natty Matty Bowlers	Short Mat Bowling Club
17	The Richmond Revellers	Richmond Painswick
18	The Rear Enders	Pat Francis & the Rump
19 =	Village Idiots	Niels Jensen & Friends
19 =	The Has Beans	Horticultural Society
21 =	The Anglo Scottish Alliance	Dave Carlile & Friends
21 =	The Recycled Teenagers	Friday Club
23 =	Bowls Club	Bowls Club
23 =	4th Century	Woods and Friends
25	Esmereldas	Ancient Society Painswick Youths
26	Penny Pieces	David Gunton & Friends

Letters



Pointing the finger

From Harold Wood, Cotswold Way Warden, Kingsmill Lane

I am surprised – no astonished – that the Beacon, which has devoted so much space to the ‘Gateway Project’, has allowed to pass unnoticed and unreported a far more important and topical event.

On 25th May, 2003, a letter was the opening shot in a battle to have the Cotswold Way National Trail way-marked through the village. On 22nd February this year, I had the honour to affix the final two way-marks that were the final links in the chain.

This means that walkers can now find the ‘Way’ into, through and out of Painswick without having to make enquiries – or getting lost!

The more observant among you will have spotted the eye-catching signs in Gloucester Street, Bisley Street and the Church lych gate. There are also more permanent fingers pointing in both directions opposite the Town Hall.

So, now ‘walk the way: it’s only 102 miles!

(In our defence, we should point out that, as you say, the final way-marks only went up on 22nd February – a week after the copy deadline for the March Beacon. Hence, this month’s Beacon is the earliest we could have reported the news. We welcome – indeed rely on – our fellow Painswickians to supply us with news stories and pictures. – Editor)

The inclusion of letters in these columns does not imply that the Beacon committee endorses the views expressed.

The Painswick Centre, The Gateway Project...

From Mr F O J Otway, Richmond Village,

Your March issue has articles/letters about the Gateway Project and its possible effect on the Painswick Centre. The Centre is currently viable but, if the Gateway Project goes ahead and takes custom away from the Centre, it may cease to be viable. Is it sensible to risk this?

There is no certainty that the Gateway Project will be financially viable if it proceeds. Should it go ahead and fail to cover its costs, what person(s) and /or organisation(s) will have to pay the debts? The Parish Council has stated that it will not; as a long time worshipper at St. Mary’s Church, I would not find it acceptable that the debts should fall on this church. I would like to know which organisations and persons will take on the debts, and I imagine that many residents in the village would also like to know.

...and its liabilities?

From John Mantell, Hyett Orchard:

It seems strange that the Chairman of the Painswick Project (not an elected member of the Parish Council) can write on their behalf in April 2007 stating that the Project has their support. This although the Council did not confirm support (reluctantly by some members) until February 2008.

Should the Project fail, the Council, as a supporting body, could become involved in any legal and financial liabilities incurred. The Council gave no constructive reason for their decision or the definition of what “support” they are providing. They must have been aware of the wide concern in the village on this subject.

The only backing for this Project was at their recent meeting when less than 5% of the village indicated their approval.

The Council should re-examine their decision bearing in mind the potential liabilities involved and the general concern of the Parishioners.

No doubt many people will give careful thought on their selection of candidates on 1st May.

This & That


From Pauline Foreman, Richmond Village:

I would like to say thank you to all those who bought tickets for my afternoon of readings of ‘This & That’ on 8th March; and to Richmond who gave me so much help with organising the event and for their donation to my chosen charity; and to Avril Dorey who dealt so successfully with the raffle.

With all your support, by way of the raffle and generous donations, I am able to send £160 to Childline. Thank you again.

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Christian Aid Week

May 11th to 18th

Today Painswick has been declared a Fair Trade Village which is a huge encouragement to the dedicated group of people who have been promoting this cause. We all need encouragement in our humble efforts to support visions that can seem overwhelming in their scale and feasibility. The Christian Aid committee feels enormously privileged to operate in an area where so many people care deeply about those less fortunate than themselves around the world. Every year we are encouraged to carry on by your amazing response to the Christian Aid Week appeal.

The total raised is incredible – over £12,000 last year – but the people who help are incredible too.

- Please encourage your house-to-house collector by responding generously to his/her gift of time and energy, (and by signing a gift aid pledge if you are a tax payer).
- Please encourage our wonderful volunteer cooks who make the delicious lunches served in Christ Church Hall.
- Please encourage our stall holders by contributing and/or visiting to buy (plants, cakes, books and antiques) in Christ Church itself.
- Please encourage David Bishop who has offered to take tours up Painswick church tower and
- Fred Jones who has offered to catalogue a cache of war-time newspapers which have been given to us to sell (see below).

Last year you turned out some magnificent hats for us to sell – they provided lots of colour and fun in the shop. This year we would love to receive any scarves and stoles you can bear to part with, and also good quality children's books and toys. If you have never ventured up Gloucester Street to see what happens – come this year, there is something for everybody!

Full details next month but please start planning and look out some treasures for us.

Wartime newspapers – a real bargain!

We have been given an amazing collection of newspapers dating from 1939 to 1945 to sell for Christian Aid. There are about 100 in all covering all the main events of those years. We are indebted to Fred Jones who has listed them all with date, name of publication and main event covered. Some are quite thin, some have more pages, we are suggesting a donation of £3, £4 or £5. The list is held by Revd. Peter Minall, 813730 peter.minall@btinternet.com. If you would like to know if he has a paper to coincide with a birth date or an event during the war which is of special interest to you, please contact him to reserve it. We will have all the papers ready for collection and payment in the Christian Aid shop (Christ Church, Gloucester St. Painswick) on Wed/Thurs/Fri 14/15/16th May between 10am and 3pm. (Great lunches served on those days too!).

Women's World Day of Prayer

Women gathered at Ashwell House for a meaningful service prepared by the women of Guyana. Sister Catherine talked of the wisdom of God as understood by Job, and how we can find some of that in our daily lives. The collection amounted to £89.90p which has been sent to The Women's World Day of Prayer movement for Christian education and Bible teaching in this country and all over the world.

Jennifer Watts



Procession of Witness

The Good Friday Procession of Witness organised by Churches Together Around Painswick was this year led by the Vicar, the Reverend John Longuet-Higgins. There was a change to previous years as the members of the various denominations having processed from their own churches did not first meet in St Mary's Church but at the Cross which had been raised on Palm Sunday on land close to the Lychgate. After a short introduction by the Vicar, the considerable number of parishioners made their way through the village in silent procession before returning to the area in front of the War Memorial for readings and hymns. The organisers were grateful to the Neighbourhood Wardens who came to help ensure the procession was kept clear of traffic. At the conclusion those attending were invited to the Christ Church Hall where they were welcomed by the Reverend Heather Whyte and offered hot cross-buns and coffee.

Pasta & Puds at Christ Church

A very successful Pasta and Puds evening was held on March 7th in aid of Christ Church 2008 Charities - Air Ambulance, Prostate Cancer Research and Stroud Mencap Homes Foundation.

Thanks to all who supported the event in any way and to Meriel Middleton and her enthusiastic team for making it such an enjoyable occasion. The magnificent sum of £904 was raised for our charities.

Thanks...

The annual 'Helen and Anne Coffee Morning' in the Town Hall on the 8th March raised a total of £610 for our three charities. Many thanks to all who gave time, goods, baking and donations. It was a great morning but as usual without the support on the day, all the hard work is to no avail. God Bless

Helen & Anne

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Croft School News

Ending the Term in Style

The junior children had a very busy week before the break. Year 6 children did an excellent job of entertaining visitors at the Community Lunch, receiving many compliments from those who visited. They also visited the Stroud Magistrates Court, in preparation for the Mock Trial. We all enjoyed the assembly by scientists from the Bristol Chemistry labs followed by exciting workshops for Years 4 to 6. On the last morning, the juniors enjoyed a special quiz morning. The top scorer from each year group goes forward to a competition next week against other schools. Congratulations to the winners:



- | | |
|--------|------------------|
| Year 3 | Jane Taylor |
| Year 4 | Cara Cox |
| Year 5 | Kitty Juggins |
| Year 6 | Sebastian Hewitt |

Class 1, who presented to the school and to parents what they have learned in their topic this term, finished off the term with style.

On Monday 25th February, our boys' 5-a-side football team went to a tournament at Stratford Park. The following Wednesday was Pyjama Day, organised by the School Council, which raised over £120 to help fund their sponsored child from the more than 120 people clad in pyjamas.

The week finished with a healthy eating show entitled 'Captain Carrot, Field Agent'. I was ensconced in a budget meeting, but it sounded as if great fun was had by all!

Crossing Patrol

We are still in need of a crossing patrol person. This role can be shared between two people. Please mention this to anyone that you think may be interested.

Fairtrade Coffee Morning

To mark the village being granted Fair Trade Community status, Our Fair Trade Committee held a coffee morning on Friday 7th March.



Parents and children baked cakes, biscuits etc using Fair Trade ingredients or provided packs of Fair Trade biscuits, cakes and cereal bars. Some very special coffee was provided by Brian and Ximena Nunez from Olivas Delicatessen, who also made a superb giant Fairtrade coffee cake. Our thanks go to them

and to Iris McCormick for their help with the morning.

After the coffee morning, the committee joined me in parading to the Town Hall with a monster Fairtrade banana for the celebration of Painswick's having been granted Fairtrade Community status.

Draw A Bird Competition

The Painswick Bird Club has invited all junior children to take part in a competition. They are invited to draw or paint a bird and there will be a winners and runners up prizes. Entries should be sent to the school office by Wednesday 19th March. Each entry should be marked with the type of bird and name and age of the artist.



Music Tuition

The cost of our instrumental teachers has risen and so we will have to raise the cost of lessons from September. Group lessons, currently £50 per term, will cost £55. Individual lessons, currently £75 per term, will cost £82.50. Bursaries towards the cost of lessons and free instrument loans are available for those eligible for free school meals. The school can in some circumstances subsidise the cost of lessons in cases of hardship. If financial considerations prevent your child from learning to play an instrument please get in touch with me and I may be able to help.

Welcome

We have recently welcomed Miss Langham to Class 3. She will be working with the class for the final placement of her PGCE and will be teaching the class for much of the time from April to June.

Activemark

We have just received the 'Activemark' Award for exceptional delivery within the National Sport Strategy. Our thanks go to Mr. Lewis & all the staff for their work in earning this award.

Janet Hoyle



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New Facilities at Playgroup

There are lots of changes at Painswick Playgroup this term. A new toilet area was installed last month, which also includes facility for disabled children. The reception area has also been given a facelift with new flooring and furniture. The children and parents love these new changes, especially the bright colours and patterns. They were made possible with money received from various fundraising activities plus a very generous donation from Painswick Austerity Lunches.

Next, there are plans to upgrade and extend the outside play area behind the playgroup building. We anticipate that these changes will be completed in time for summer. The new area will include a playhouse, sandpit and other outside play toys. This will be paid for with money raised from the very popular Easter Egg Trail held at Rococo Garden on Good Friday.

Over 600 local people came along to complete the trail around the garden and claim their free 'lucky dip'.

As Jo Weatherall, Committee Vice- Chairperson said: "Our thanks go to everyone involved who made this day such a success. Also to our sponsors – Barclays Bank. We were delighted with the number of people who turned up – despite the cold winds and sleet showers!"

Linda Yates,
Committee Secretary



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Golf Club

Club Captain

Following the Annual General Meeting, Kish Venkatasami became the new Club Captain of Painswick Golf Club, taking over from Mike Hoey. His first official duties were his drive on the following morning, and on 12th March, he presented the prizes at the Ladies Presentation evening and dinner.

Texas Scramble

On March 4th, the Ladies and Senior sections of Painswick Golf Club held one of their regular Texas Scrambles. The morning got off to a frosty start, but soon warmed up when the sun came out. The prizes of bottles of wine produced the usual hotly competitive event. Results were as follows:

1st - Stuart Price, Malcolm Booth, David Haslam and Jean Kendrick.

2nd - Phil Jennings, Ken Morris, Peter Rowe and Margaret Hodge.

3rd - David Walker, Norman Pullen, David Thomas and Angela Woodward.

4th - David Heyes, Richard Wright and John Glover.

5th - Martin Taylor, Brian Webb, Jim Hodge and Meg James.

Nearest the pin - Peter Rowe.

If there were a prize for the best on course catering, it would go to Meg James, who kept her team liberally supplied with home made cakes and liquid refreshments throughout their round!

Mail on Sunday Classic.

In a fiercely contested second round of the Mail on Sunday Classic, the Ladies from Painswick Golf Club were beaten 3 games to 2 by the Ladies from Forest Hills Golf Club. The team was Kate Dennison (captain), Sarah Taylor, Jean Kendrick, Angela Woodward and Bronwen Godley.

Mixed Match

On Saturday 15th March, Painswick Golf Club held its first Mixed Match at home against a team from Cleeve Cloud. With some matches completed, the heavens opened, and the remaining matches had to be abandoned. After everyone had dried out, a meal was held in the clubhouse, and the match was declared an amicable draw.

Introduction to Golf

We will be starting more 'Introduction to Golf' sessions for both men and ladies in the spring, and anyone interested would be most welcome. Don't worry if you do not have clubs or golf shoes, trainers will suffice. Clubs and balls will be provided. Please contact Sylvia Walker on 813141 or Angela Woodward on 814302 if interested. If any juniors would like to have a go, please contact our junior organiser, Simon Overthrow, on 01452 5543055.



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Bowling at the Falcon

Open Days in May

The Falcon Bowling Club starts the outdoor season on Saturday 19th April at 2.30pm. We're confident it will be warmer by then!

Recent news is that the Club played an indoor mixed match of 6 rinks (24 players per team) against Cotswold IBC resulting in a win by 10 shots for Falcon by 106 - 96. Even better news at this event was the welcome appearance of our Club Captain, David Ryland, who, despite his serious stroke last October, was transported from Stroud Hospital to the game. He was even properly dressed in his Club blazer and tie. All bowlers were delighted to see him again and he chipped in with a good speech at the tea interval. We look forward to seeing more of him at the Falcon green this year.

This season is very special for the Club since two of its Members take up top posts in the County Bowling scene. Max Hart is President of the GBA (county men) and Myra Savage is Senior Vice President of the GCWBA (county women). It is very unusual for one Club to fill these responsible positions at the same time. The Club will host Men's County matches against Warwickshire, the Three Counties, the Royal Household, Falcon BC, and a Ladies County match against Hampshire. In addition the Club hosts the Men's County Finals in August. All of this promises good bowling on this famous old green.

The Club will be holding Open Days to widen public awareness of this fine game which can be played by both sexes, at all ages from 9 to 90, and by those with disabilities. Come and try your hand on Thursday 22nd May and Friday 23rd May from 3.00pm to 7.00pm, and Saturday 24th May from 10.00am to 3.00pm. Alternatively phone Norman Rampton (813928), Club Secretary, to arrange a roll up to suit your circumstances.

Norman Rampton

Uphill for Unrunners

Painswick Unrunners ran their first official three mile run of 2008 at The Ashton Court Bristol Hearts First Jog on 9th March. After six weeks of running in circles around the Rugby Ground in Painswick, it was time to go out and face the world. Unfortunately the organisers had failed to mention that their beginners jog included a very steep hill! We ran up the hill and then we ran down the hill and the eight Unrunners made the three miles in style, if a little puffed by the end! One never knows quite what one is going to face when going to a run and fortunately for us, we know that living in the Cotswolds means that we have to learn to love the hills!

On 16 March Jane Winfrey, Lorna Cima and Rosie Sanderson completed a bitterly cold Bath Half Marathon. In 15 months Lorna has gone from someone who couldn't manage 100 yards to someone who ran a Half Marathon in a very respectable 2:27 minutes! The proof, if it was needed, that anything is possible with enough time and determination! More runs are planned in May with the Tewkesbury 5 miles/half marathon ahead of us. If you can run a little, so can we! New members welcome

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Tennis Club

LTA President Stuart Smith paid tribute to the success of Painswick Tennis Club on a visit to the county. Mr Smith said: "Painswick LTC is a thriving rural club and we are delighted to support the great work that is going on there. The members and committee are very proactive and have a proven track record of introducing juniors to the game and getting them regularly competing. The extra two floodlit courts will help this effort but will also assist with continuing to progress the successful adult programme".

The club has six courts on two sites, four at Broadham Fields and two at the village recreation ground, all of which have been resurfaced in the past three years from its own funds. The club are now looking to build two new floodlit courts on the Broadham site.

Membership has increased to over 400, with a strong junior section of 200 including the top ranked under-14s in the county, Daniel Omnes and Alicia Barnett, and the 2007 Gloucestershire Under-10 Mini Green Masters Champion George MacDuff. They also won three junior county leagues last season. Mr Smith praised the club for helping to deliver key objectives set out in the LTA's Blueprint for British Tennis, including the top priority of getting more junior players competing. "Stuart Smith's visit to the county will further raise the profile of tennis in Gloucestershire and help us continue to drive up the number of regularly competing juniors in our great sport" said Rob Dearing, Tennis Development Manager. Painswick LTC President, John Courts said he was delighted to have been able to welcome Stuart Smith to the club.

Painswick Tennis Academy will be running Easter tennis camps for juniors from Monday 14th April until Friday 18th. Mini camps (ages 5-10) will take place Tuesday to Friday, 2-4pm. All day camps (ages 8-14), from 10am until 4pm, will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, with a fun tournament for 10 to 16 year olds on Monday, 2-4pm. Non members welcome. For further information and booking forms, please contact Sharon Hall on 07766732392.

Annual Subscriptions are now due at the club. If you have ever considered joining a tennis club, whether as a beginner, a competitor, or just for the occasional social game, now is the time to join Painswick. Our four floodlit courts are set in the beautiful surroundings of Broadham Fields, with two more courts in the planning. We also have two further courts on the recreation ground available for members' use. Painswick is one of the most successful clubs in Gloucestershire having won the county's 'Club of the Year' award in 2002 and 2006 and both our senior and junior teams achieve regular successes in the leagues. The Club is LTA performance accredited with the Painswick Tennis Academy offering courses for everyone, from age four to adult. Individual coaching is also available from our highly qualified coaching team. Social tennis is an important part of



the club; there are a number of sessions throughout the week dedicated to those who just want to turn up and play, regardless of ability, and, off the court, a wide range of events, from quizzes to barn dances are arranged throughout the year. If you are interested in joining, or would like further details, please contact Ruth Smith on 813693.

Rugby

It has been a successful month for Painswick first fifteen in Division 1 of the Gloucestershire League and they will finish the season in a strong position. The United suffered a minor set back to their excellent merit table season when they lost to a particularly strong Cheltenham North side. The loss however does not affect their promotion to the merit table first division

March results

[(L) indicates league match, (M) Merit table]

Sat 1st. (L) Painswick 1st XV 32 Ross on Wye 1st XV 12.

(M) Old Cryptians 2nd XV 7 Painswick United 10.

Sat 8th. (L) Old Bristolians 1st XV 3 Painswick 1st XV 22.

(M) Painswick United 15 Cheltenham North 3rd XV 26.

Sat 15th. Gloucester 2nd XV 0 Painswick United 32.

Sat 22nd. Easter. No matches.

Sat 29th. (L) Painswick 1st XV 24 Dursley 1st XV 5

(M) Berry Hill 3rd XV 0 Painswick United 12

April Fixtures

Sat 5th. Painswick 1st XV v Berry Hill United.

Sat 12th. (L) Brockworth 1st XV v Painswick 1st XV.

Old Centralians 2nd XV v Painswick United.

Sat 19th. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Bream 1st XV.

Painswick United v Brockworth 2nd XV.

Sat 26th. Stroud Junior Combination Cup Final:

Painswick United v Cirencester 2nd XV at Dursley.

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30 years of the Beacon!

As our 31st year kicks off and subscriptions start to roll in, we are heartened by the pats on the back that we have received along with them...

"Many thanks for your work... Thank you for the continued excellence of your monthly... I send copies to my sons as they like to keep abreast of local news... Well done, keep up the good work... All your hard work is appreciated...."

So, how did it all begin? It was back in 1977 that Helen Horton noted that a number of villages similar to Painswick were producing their own local newspaper and she was instrumental in forming a committee to launch what became The Painswick Beacon. Some of the names on that first committee still seem reassuringly familiar: Editors: Helen Horton and Terry Parker

- Hon Treasurer: John Polhill
- Advertising: David Gunton
- Village Diary: Edwina Buttrey
- Clubs & Organisations: Graeme Horton
- Sports: Lynn Steer
- Bits and Pieces: Rachel Taylor
- Production facilities: Peter Wiggins
- Typing: Sylvia Steer
- Paste up: Lois Wiggins
- Distribution: Chris Jones

PC-based electronic publishing was unknown back then and the early issues would not have been possible without the professional help of Lois and Peter Wiggins who gave their time voluntarily, Lois working long hours to produce the artwork which was achieved by sticking the printed columns onto paper and then photographing each page. Sylvia Steer didn't even have the benefit of an electronic typewriter. Each section heading was carefully created using Letraset adhesive letters. One of the many innovations over the years was the purchase of a Kroy machine which enabled the words to be produced on a ribbon. A major influence on the newspaper's presentation was the purchase of a golf ball electronic typewriter.

Distribution has always been key and we were very grateful to the milkmen and newspaper deliverers who took the Beacon to a number of local addresses. As we became established, a team of distributors was set up and copies of the Beacon are now delivered to all homes in the village. The membership of the team has, not surprisingly, changed over the years but the



April, 1978: The first Beacon (4 pages!)

efficiency of the team in getting the copies out in a very timely manner has been unchanged.

The major hurdle the committee faced at the outset was how to fund the newspaper, it having been agreed that the Beacon should be free to every household in the village. We need not have worried as no fewer than 45 local businesses sponsored the early editions and a number of donations were received from residents. All this seems a far cry from today with 600 plus subscribers and businesses waiting for advertising space. The success has enabled the size of the Beacon to increase from four pages in 1978 to editions - like this one - with 24 pages. Even then, we can't always include every item.

The Beacon has seen many changes in these 30 years and the present committee wishes to acknowledge the considerable individual contribution made. Prominent amongst these is Alan Bamber who, first with responsibility for the Beacon's production, and then as editor/production chief took the Beacon through a period of major change in the 1990s to see the adoption of Desk Top Publishing, so that now 90% of copy is received in digital form - mostly via email - and fed directly into page. In addition, for the past five years, the Beacon has been published on-line via our own website www.painswickbeacon.org.uk, which now also features an electronic archive, enabling all the Beacons published since 2002 to be viewed on-line.

There have been other changes outside of the Beacon's production responsibilities. In the 70s the Beacon committee members were to be heard singing carols for charity around the villages streets. This no longer happens but in recent times the Beacon's annual quiz has proved to be a popular event. Another innovation has been the production of an annual directory of businesses, services, clubs, societies and other organizations, now also available on line via the website.

Thirty years on, the majority of the original committee members are still living in the area. They will, like us, probably be surprised that we're still here, and proud, too that last year the Beacon won the Calor Village of the Year Best Parish Magazine award. With your continuing support we hope that the Beacon will continue for many years to come.

Beacon subscribers

21st March 2008	2008-09	2007-08
New or renewed after lapsing	35	69
Renewed from last year	369	349
Total including postal	404	418
Painswick village dwellings	1057	1057
Subscribing households	299	296
Percentage subscribing	28.2%	28.0%

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Painswick Parish Council – Annual Report 2007-08

The event which overshadowed most other happenings was the great flood. The owners of the twelve mills along the Painswick Stream are unlikely to forget the inundation of their properties. Lessons were learned by the local authorities and much work has been done since, not least in the removal of debris from a range of watercourses. The collapse of the A46 at Salmon Springs had a considerable impact on many people's lives. Painswick's businesses suffered markedly with visitors deterred from making the circuitous route necessary to reach the village. The business support organisation Gloucestershire First received much praise for the publicity campaign it mounted through the media to inform everyone in the region and further a field that "Painswick was open for business". Concerns were expressed by residents about the length of time necessary to repair the road but the technical explanation was convincing. Users of the A46 were grateful that the contractors were able to meet the planned reopening date of 15th February. The road had been closed for six months. The road closure has highlighted the absence of Heavy Goods Vehicles in that period and the Parish Council has made representation to the County Council to have a weight restriction introduced along the road between Brockworth and Stroud. If the restriction is agreed it would also have to apply to the A4173 (Edge) and B4070 (Slad). A petition to Government raised by parishioners calling for the A46 to be downgraded to a B class road in order to effect the weight restriction has been circulating within the parish.

The flooding caused the closure of Severn Trent's water distribution plant at Tewkesbury and the Parish Council became involved with the distribution of bottled water when the mains supply was cut off. Tributes were paid to the police who manned the bottle distribution centre throughout the period. Parishioners were themselves praised by the authorities for the calm manner in which they dealt with the situation. The help given to the housebound by neighbours was much appreciated. However, the overriding reaction from most residents was relief that the electricity supply had been maintained. Loss of electricity would have caused considerable hardship.

There were a number of happier events during the year. Painswick became a Fairtrade village and the Parish Council was awarded Quality status. There was considerable sympathy for those communities whose post offices were scheduled for closure but relief that Painswick did not feature in the list. The Parish Council decided not to await the possible relocation of the men's convenience which is located in St Mary's Street and carried out the necessary renovation work. The Gateway Project has been the subject of much discussion during the year. The Parish Council has continued to support the Gateway concept but concern has been expressed about the business plan. The recently announced audit of public meeting halls/rooms will help to better identify how those halls/rooms may be best used.

Finance

Finance Committee Chairman Martin Slinger comments that It has been another tight year with little opportunity for movement. The increased costs of essentials such as heating and lighting have not helped the financial position. That said we spent a considerable sum above the core budget on various projects. Examples are £2,000 for the St Mary's Churchyard footpaths, £1,200 for the St Mary's Street men's convenience, a £1,000 loan to the Gateway Project and £500 towards the repair of the sundial at the Chemists. Donations totalling £450 were divided between several charities among them being the Stroud Citizens Advice Bureau, Stroud Victim Support and the Air Ambulance. The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining the Recreation Field, the main cost being grass cutting. There is no income. We were therefore pleased to have been able to reduce that expenditure with a new contract. The Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2008 will be available for inspection at the Parish Council Office in due course.

Planning

Planning Committee Chairman David Hudson reports that in 2007 the committee dealt with 140 planning applications compared with 117 for the previous year. This year there have been 28 applications up to the first of April. The majority of applications continue to be for extensions to existing dwellings, though in 2007

four of the applications related to the building of new dwellings. The trend is for the District Council to grant consent in the majority of cases which normally mirrors the Parish Council's approach.

Traffic

Mention has been made earlier of the A46 closure. There was an unexpected bonus from the closure in that County Highways took the opportunity to carry out resurfacing and repairs to other parts of the road particularly at Fiddlers Elbow where there is periodic slippage. The Highways Department has now promised, after due survey, to repair the over used and much damaged roads such as Wades Lane and Wick Street for which we and, in particular the inhabitants of those areas are very grateful. Traffic Committee Chairman, Ann Burges Watson comments that lack of funds is a fair reason for not doing much else. Ann reports that "we continue to ask for a 20mph speed restriction within the village envelope, a pedestrian crossing by the pharmacy and several more dropped curbs to help the less mobile and young mothers with push chairs. She says that "parking is an ever present problem and we must ask yet again for residents and their guests to please look before you park to ensure that the vehicle is not causing an obstruction to other road users i.e., the fire engine which requires 10' in width and that there is sufficient space for a wheelchair or pushchair to pass along the pavement. The new traffic regulations are much tougher than the previous ones".

Footpaths

Footpaths Committee Chairman Ann Daniels reports that (a) a Modification Order is being sought to make the New Drive between Stamages Lane and the A46 a public right of way; (b) the County Council has conducted a 100% review of all the footpaths in the parish and is now carrying out the identified repairs; (c) Cotswold Way signage has been erected throughout the village.

Plantation

The main item to report is that the application for a Woodland Improvement Grant has been successful. Committee Chairman Ann Daniels says the work on this Site of Special Scientific Interest will be carried out over the next five years.

Cemetery & Parish Maintenance/Town Hall

Martin Slinger reports that his committees have managed to keep on top of things this year. He says that problems are being overcome but because of lack of finance this is taking a number of years. Clearing up people's rubbish is a particular problem. There is so much work being undertaken within the Civil Parish that we are getting to the limit of Parish Handyman George Hodder's working hours.

Slad Ward (Cllrs Norrie Curtis and Jackie Woof)

Another successful year, although the closure of the A46 did result in an increase of traffic on the B4070 through Slad. The Parish Council kept in close contact with the County Council to ensure the essential repairs to the road were treated as a priority and were completed on time. Precept money was used to pay for an edition of the Slad Valley News magazine which is delivered to every household in Slad, Elcombe and The Vatch. Our thanks to George Hodder for all his work around the village.

Sheepscombe Ward (Cllrs David Harcup and Dhusy Mahendran)

A quiet year. There are continuing problems with road repair materials being washed away with heavy rain.

Edge Ward (Cllr Martin Slinger)

The main concern to villagers has been the additional traffic problems caused by the A46 road closure diversions.

Summary

The Parish Council's four-year term ends in early May when a new council will be elected. I wish to thank the councillors and the co-opted members from the local community for the considerable amount of time they have given on a voluntary basis in helping to run the parish affairs. The councillors in turn wish to express their appreciation to the Clerk to the Council, Roy Balgobin, the Assistant Clerk, Liz Fisher and the Parish Handyman, George Hodder for all they do on behalf of the community.

Terry Parker
Chairman



Local History Teaser

This month's photograph was taken in the Churchyard during a Clipping service in the early 1970s. Can you identify the elderly lady who was a real Painswick character and say where she lived? We would also be pleased if anyone can say who the young lady standing to her left is as we do not know.

Last month's snowy picture showed those horrific icicles hanging precariously from the roof of Canton House in New Street. There was a gas boiler behind the blocked-up window and apparently the icicles were increased each time the warm air came out. This was in 1982.

Next month's Local History Society meeting will feature three members giving short accounts of their own recent research. It will take place at the Croft School on Tuesday, 15th April, starting at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Carol Maxwell



...and Local History Society

Painswick's Railway that almost was

At the March meeting Jill Simmons gave a most interesting and detailed talk on the proposed railway link between Stroud and Painswick, an idea which from its concept until its abandonment, spanned a period of forty years exactly.

In November 1866 a meeting of landowners, mill owners and residents was held in the Town Hall in order to discuss the proposal and to promote the introduction of a Bill into Parliament for the purpose. Messrs Little, Hyett, Webb, Croome and Dickinson were among the local dignitaries attending as

was Mr Edwards, an engineer. The general opinion was that the railway would be beneficial for businesses and residents alike and may even promote a degree of tourism to the town. Mr Edwards presented his scheme, estimated to cost £14,000, and as there was little prospect of raising such a sum, the proposal was shelved.

New interest was awakened following the death of Mr Frederick Gyde in 1872 when it was realized that he had wished for a sum of £5,000 to be invested in a rail link to Stroud. Another meeting was held when the costs were estimated to be about £25,000 and, allowing for the Gyde bequest, about £13,000 would have to be raised in share capital over and above the £7-8,000 which could be raised at the time. The scheme was again abandoned.

Fifteen years later the scheme was again revived owing to generous offer being made by the Rev. and Mrs Seddon whereby they would subscribe £2,500 for the purpose of shares. By the end of the meeting there was a shortfall of only £550 and an Act for making the Painswick Railway received Royal Assent in 1889. Nothing further was done and the powers obtained by the Act lapsed in 1894. The reason for this has never been fully explained.

Yet another attempt was made in 1895 although this time the scheme was for a Light Railway from Stroud, through Painswick to Cranham. No Bill for this project was obtained and nine years later in 1906 with no prospect of a railway being constructed, attention turned to more important matters, those of water supply and drainage.

In conclusion, it would appear that had the idea of a rail link been raised some twenty to thirty years earlier, it may have succeeded, but with the cloth industry in the Painswick Valley in terminal decline and production transferring to the mills of the North Country it was a lost cause.

In all, 'forty years to get nowhere': perhaps in political terms, not too uncommon!

David Archard

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Whodunnit?

It could be anyone after Snow White!

After the major production that was *Snow White and the Seven Not Particularly Tall People*, Painswick Players are putting on one of Alan Ayckbourn's bitterly humorous plays, *It Could Be Any One Of Us*. This is a murder mystery with a cast of six and three different possible outcomes! Production dates are Thursday 19th, Friday 20th & Saturday 21st June - so make a note in your diary and we will let you know when tickets go on sale.

To return to *Snow White* and the etc etc, it was our most successful production ever in terms of ticket sales. What is especially pleasing is that not just the children enjoyed the show - we have had positive comments from adults too which probably confirms the notion that we all children at heart. Alan Ayckbourn is very different and quite frightening at times. Nevertheless we hope to see you all in the audience again.

If you want to know more about Painswick Players or would like to be involved in any way, please go to our website: www.painswickplayers.org.uk.

Charles Dorman

Painswick Music Society



Alexander Chausian, cello, and Ashley Wass, piano, both distinguished international concert artists and featured by the BBC as New Generation Musicians, come together to present the second of this year's festival concerts at St. Mary's Church on Saturday 12th April at 3.00pm. Their programme comprises sonatas by Mendelssohn, Beethoven, and Rachmaninov.



possible by their own enterprise.. Their programme comprises music by Diabelli, Bruch, Bernstein. Bax and Paul Reade which you will not hear in this form except from the Arpège.

Tickets from 'The Chairman', New Street, Painswick or Clare Haynes 812514.

As a soloist with orchestra, Alexander has performed in many countries worldwide, including appearances with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra at Vienna's Konzerthaus, in Linz, the London Mozart Players and the Philharmonia Orchestra in London, and with national orchestras in Belgium, Luxembourg, Boston, and the Carnegie Hall. Ashley has appeared at most of the major British concert halls. His concerto appearances include Beethoven and Brahms with the Philharmonia, Mendelssohn with Orchestre National de Lille and Mozart with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra at the Vienna Konzerthaus. He has also worked with Sir Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the BBC Symphony Orchestra.



Music Appreciation Group

At our March meeting, Maurice Maggs gave a talk on ballet music. Maurice explained that the history of ballet music, as entertainment, started at the court of Louis XIV. After Louis' death, the Paris Opera became the ballet centre of the world. From early on, ballet was interwoven into opera, as extra entertainment. To illustrate this, Maurice played two dances from *Dido and Aeneas*. Much of the music used in early ballet pre-existed it, but choreographers then began to demand music specifically for a particular ballet.



One of the early composers was Adophe Adam, a contemporary of Donizetti, with music specially commissioned for a new ballet, *Giselle*. Maurice played a 1987 recording of the original score. Another significant composer was Delibes, for a new ballet *Coppelia*, of which we heard the Slavonic Dance.

Delibes was followed by Tchaikovsky, who was commissioned to write a full evening ballet to be called *Swan Lake*, which at first bewildered both the dancers and the conductor: we heard the pas de six.

After his death in 1893, The Bolshoi commissioned Glazunov to write *Raymonda*, a medieval romance set at the time of The Crusades. We heard an extract. He was followed by Stravinsky and Prokofiev, whose *Romeo and Juliet* was rejected by the Bolshoi as too difficult: today it enjoys great success.

Parisian audiences demanded ballets within operas, perhaps as light entertainment. In addition much concert music has been used for ballet.

Maurice ended his instructive presentation with further extracts from *Raymonda*.

Richard Burges Watson



The Arpège Ensemble, a unique combination of flute, viola, harp and horn will present the third concert at St. Mary's Church on Saturday 26th April at 3.00pm. All four artists are distinguished inter-

national concert artists in their own right but as an Ensemble they are renowned for their fusion of past and present music, offering sonorous sounds unique in the concert repertoire made

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A46 - The Aftermath Making good the 'Rat runs'

During the recent A46 closure, Painswickians made extensive use of various unofficial alternative diversions to reach Stroud, in particular Wick Street, Wades Lane and Pincot Lane. The result was serious damage to the road surfaces concerned, along with mutilated verges. Significant defects (potholes) have already been repaired and regular inspections have been carried out by Gloucestershire Highways to ensure the public's safety.

Having now assessed the damage done, Gloucestershire Highways says it proposes to carry necessary repairs such as sections of carriageway resurfacing and verge repairs where they have been over-run by traffic. Some of the verges will need extra topsoil and reprofiling, possibly with new kerbs to give protection to the verges in the future.

Commenting on the work programme, which may take two to three weeks to carry out, Martyn Midgley, Stakeholder Manager - Central Team (Northern Area) Highways & Customer Services Team, said "Unfortunately, to allow the workforce to carry them out safely and efficiently, we will have to close the road during the daytime. Before the works can be done we need to serve statutory (legal) notice to close the road - this notice will take a minimum of two months to process, so we anticipate carrying out the repairs in May and June this year."

The (hopefully) drier weather at this time of year should also help with the verge works. The approximate cost of the works is £100,000 but this will become clearer once the design work is finalised. Exact details of road closures, dates and durations will be advertised and the local community informed closer to the time of the works.

... and That Petition

Thank you to those 701 people from in and around Painswick who have signed the petition to redesignate the A46 and the A4173 as "B" roads. Some sheets are still to be returned so the total number of signatories may be about 720. This is a significant number of people. We are currently organizing the next step to achieve our aim.

Just to remind you, the original petition asks government to redesignate the A46 to a "B" road so that weight restrictions can be imposed as we believe that heavy goods vehicles contribute to the problem of the frequent partial and complete road closures experienced since 2002. So that such vehicles should not just be shifted onto neighbouring through routes, we subsequently added a sentence asking that the A4173 (Edge) and the B4070 (Slad) should also have weight restrictions. Signatories of the original petition who disagreed with the revised version were invited to phone us to have their names removed. None has done so.

We will keep you informed of developments.

Ann & Charles Dorman



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Denis is a Star

Denis French, well known for his beautiful wood carvings, has received a regional 'Business Star' award from the Bristol and South Gloucestershire branch of the Federation of Small Businesses for "an exceptional contribution to improving the local business environment".

With typical modesty, Denis claims not to know how or why he was nominated and his wife, Desiree, said she thought it was "a wind up" when the congratulatory phone call came. However, we think it might be something to do with his superb efforts promoting Painswick to the outside world and co-ordinating the publicity to keep Painswick businesses in the public eye during our six months of A46 isolation.



Sheepscombe Toddlers

The Sheepscombe Toddler Group meets every Monday morning from 9.30 to 11.30am in Sheepscombe village hall for singing, craft activities, refreshment and fun. Call the secretary, Lucinda Tottle on 813945 for further details.



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Stroud Festival of Nature



This year's Stroud Show (Saturday, 19th July, Stratford Park) will see the launch of the district's first Nature Festival. If successful we would seek to make it an annual event. Stroud is surrounded by some of the finest countryside and wildlife in the UK,

yet Stroud has no visitor centre to celebrate this and has never hosted a Festival of this kind. Such a festival is long overdue.

Three projects are being organized as part of the Festival:

- School's Wildlife Art Competition
- Stroud College Photographic exhibition.
- Great Green Wildlife Watch.

The emphasis will be on education and engagement. We are looking to inform the public, in particular children, about the world on their doorstep through participation in creative, fun activities. To date, a dozen local and regional organizations have offered to attend. If you can make a contribution to the Festival, we would love to add you to the list. If you cannot attend, but have any resources that we could use on the day, that would be appreciated.

Last year, the Stroud Show, which dates back to 1871, was washed out in that infamous July weekend. This year, the organizers are determined it should be bigger and better than ever.

Dramatic Career Change for Mike

Mike Gamble and his wife, Clare, are about to enter a new and very significant phase in their lives and one which is of interest to all of us. Michael Gamble Limited Funeral Directors opens for business on Saturday, 5th April at 4 London Road, Stroud.

In contrast to the current tendency for funeral businesses to be part of huge organisations, Mike's intention is to run a small, independent, family concern offering a very personal and caring service. At the same time, he is keen to point out that the approach of his new business will be both modern and professional, combining therefore the best of traditional care with up-to-date skills and detailed attention. Such funeral businesses are increasingly rare these days.

Mike and Clare are very pleased with the town centre premises in Stroud from which the business will be run. They have worked hard to renovate the shop and are proud both of the excellent facilities they have there and also of the fleet of Mercedes vehicles which will be used. The whole enterprise reflects their commitment to providing quality, dignity and professionalism.

Mike feels he has a good team. He will be directing, Clare will be in charge of administration and Philip Tomlins, already an undertaker with whom Mike has been training, will work behind the scenes. The business will be a member of the National Association of Funeral Directors.

Many Painswickians will know Mike as one of our firefighters who runs his landscape gardening business locally. So why this rather dramatic step? Mike says that he feels a need for a real change of direction, that he has been interested in the funeral business for some time and that the time is right. His working background is interesting. He qualified at Hartpury College and, amongst other experiences, has worked for Prince Michael of Kent at Nether Lypiatt. He has been self-employed since 1995.

And Clare? She started working life as a groom, then after gaining qualifications in secretarial and administration skills, worked for various companies. Having children, both at the Croft School, she has worked with Mike in his business and has also been an active member of several groups locally.

Both Mike and Clare are very involved in Painswick life. Their enthusiasm and commitment is exemplary and their dedication to

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offering and providing a first-class funeral service is indubitable. On both 5th and 12th April they will be holding open house at the premises in London Road, Stroud where you are more than welcome to go in for coffee and view the facilities.

Carol Maxwell

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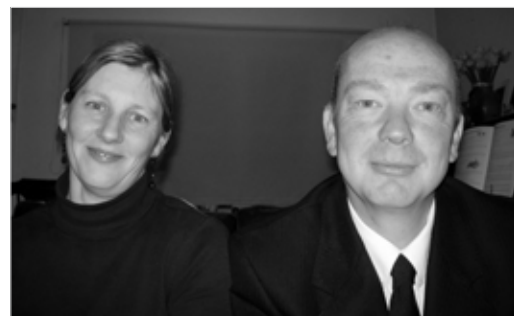
The Lisbon Treaty...

...and the Sheepscombe Connection

All the way from Longridge in Sheepscombe, the Director of the British Management Data Foundation, Brigadier Anthony Cowgill, has just sent us a substantial 350-page document, entitled *The Treaty of Lisbon in Perspective*, which provides a comprehensive analysis of the EU 'Treaty of Lisbon' (or the 'European Reform Treaty: Consolidated Treaty on European Union and the Consolidated Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union' to give it its somewhat less than snappy official title).

The publication contains the full text with all the Protocols and Declarations, with each entry fully annotated and amendments immediately made clear. Much interesting information stands out, including key issues of interest to business and industry, changes in legislative processes, revisions to the Charter of Fundamental Rights, etc.

Comparable previous BMDF publications tackled the Treaties of Nice and Amsterdam, attracting plaudits from leading politicians and other senior figures in public life. Lord Willoughby de Broke, in the House of Lords, commented that without the Nice publication, "I do not believe we should have been able to have a...sensible debate about the treaty". Anthony Cowgill is offering Beacon readers a £10 discount off the published price, delivered to your door for £17.50. To take advantage, email bmdfstroud@aol.com or call on 812837, mentioning that you are a Beacon subscriber.



Gateway Project update

Village Information Point

With the tourist season gathering pace strenuous efforts have been made to try and recreate a reference point for them when they arrive in Painswick. Readers may recall that the TIC closed down last autumn after many very successful years of public service.

One of the Painswick Gateway objectives is to build up a village information point, one to which anyone can have access most mornings and afternoons of the week; some might call it a one-stop-shop for information. We realised, of course, that we could wait until all our negotiations are completed to get the Gateway wagon rolling, but if we did so quite a few visitors would be frustrated and the village would to some extent lose out.

Three people have stepped forward to, as they say, 'front run' the start of an expanded new service; Anne Smith, Grace Hanchet and Harold Wood. A start was made last week, and initial opening will coincide with the library times, but it is hoped to expand these progressively in the coming weeks. All three are very keen to make this a success, and other volunteers are already offering their services either regularly or occasionally. Several are the tales of interesting enquiries received, so even a couple of hours to help out could be very rewarding. Those who organise events are urged to keep the Village Information Point informed, so that they can play their part with publicity or such as sales of tickets. They hope to accumulate a range of local information of interest to villagers or visitors, so please help them to help you. The telephone line is back in use on 813552 - library times only.

Logo

PG is looking to have a logo and is inviting anyone to let us have ideas as to how we can best represent with a simple design what we will stand for. It may be used on stationery, publicity and many other ways to catch the eye and stick in the memory. An open wrought iron gateway in the foreground might be a good start.

We can arrange for the chosen design to be converted into the appropriate format and be 'polished' up, but are inviting anyone – young or not so young – to suggest the essence of the design itself. Any entries please during April to David Harley, 4 Court Orchard GL6 6UU – no big reward, we're afraid, but many thanks and mention in these columns if it causes no embarrassment.

Leslie Brotherton - Manager

THE Quilt

A remarkable story is coming to a fine conclusion - and a cream tea too!

Readers may recall that we drew attention to the quilt made by William Ryan which his wife Kathleen donated to be used to raise funds for the Cobalt Unit Appeal after his death. It was pictured in all its colourful splendour with our Christmas edition. June Gardiner and friends have taken that quilt to many a function across recent months and sold more raffle tickets than they care to remember.

The draw will take place on Saturday 10th May some time late in the period between 2.00 and 4.30pm in the Town Hall, during which cream teas will be served and there will be a final flourish to add to funds still further with a cake stall, bric-a-brac and a 'new' stall - with quite a few products from the Alan Titchmarsh range!

Kathleen Ryan will be enjoying a tea, and be making the draw.

June tells the Beacon that her team have raised over £1,500 from this raffle alone. Their appreciation is expressed to all who have given their support, not least to those who bought tickets at many venues. They cannot help but single out Paul and Claire Moir for allowing them to use the Orangery at the Rococo Garden during snowdrop time – half of the money came from that effort and opportunity alone!

The Easter Bingo night made £280, and was particular fun. But June goes on to say "The amount of money the 'Washwell girls' have raised for charity is now close to £50,000 – yes, fifty thousand pounds – and it has been a pleasure and privilege to have been involved in efforts which go some way towards beating this dreadful disease". June is now seeking a break from this work, and is hopeful someone else will take up where she leaves off, but she will still be around to help.

**Painswick
Gateway**

May Madness



St. Mary's Flower Guild had been looking forward to putting on the postponed Flower Festival this summer. Unfortunately, the large number of weddings in which they will be involved has made this a vain hope and the Festival has had to be abandoned.

They have, instead, decided to invite Katherine Kear, a well-known flower arranger, to give a demonstration entitled 'May Madness' and hope as many people as possible will join them. It promises to be a really enjoyable event; preceded by lunch with a glass of wine. It will raise money for the renovation of our historic tombstones, which was the original intent.

The event will take place at 12.30pm on Wednesday 30th April in the Painswick Centre. Tickets cost £15 and can be obtained from The Chairman shop.

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Catching up on... Teasers for Valentines

Not having reported in recent months I have some catching up to do. On St. Valentine's day the Club was entertained at Richmond Village by invitation of the Management who had organised a St. Valentine's Quiz for us. What fun I thought, expecting lots of questions about the old days about which we oldies excel. Not a bit of it. Richmond's Quizmaster had really done her homework. From some real research, digging up lots of surprising facts that were both highly interesting and entertaining, she produced a set of 30 teasers: a real challenge for our six teams. Much to our surprise the winning team scored no less than 23 correct, whilst Man Friday's team came a close runner up with another team with 22. I have to confess, however, that we had to indulge in a little guess work and I know we were not alone. Anyway, we much enjoyed ourselves and also the tea, scones with strawberry jam and cream that followed. Many thanks to Richmond Care who certainly cared for us that day.

Daffs at Dymock

Now I have to admit that I had never seen the daffodils at Dymock. It isn't that I have not tried. I always chose the wrong day too late in Spring. But such vivid descriptions have been given to me of looking first to the right, then to the left and back again, that my imagination did not have to work hard to conjure up fields of yellow of exquisite beauty. So the Club set off in February with great expectations. And those fields of yellow remained where they had always been – in my imagination. For we had booked a day that turned out cold and windy, when there was not a yellow head in sight, it being either too early or too cold to open up. So we returned very well fed from an excellent pub lunch, disappointed about the elusive daffs, most impressed with the sight and history of Highnam church and its Parry family connections, as told by Tom Fenton, a descendent, but having much enjoyed our own company and a coach ride in lovely country. Mind you, I have to say that I thought I heard our Youth Group (yes we have a hard core group of fledgling nonagenarians who are a rowdy lot) twittering about having seen more daffodils in Hollyhock Lane. So we all put our hands up for a coach trip next year to visit Hollyhock Lane.

Crying in Cheltenham ...and Colonials from Whiteway

In March we had the Cheltenham Town Crier's talk, revelling in his reminiscences about being on duty on its Promenade, directing shoppers wanting to know the way to the sea front – really what a lot of fun and satisfaction there is to be had being a Town Crier. Now, in April we will have Joy Thacker on the 11th talking about "The Whiteway Colony" and, shiver my timbers, those well travelled master mariners Janet and Peter Jenkins on the 25th, taking us "Sailing around the Caribbean". Alas no rum, but tea and biscuits as usual.

Man Friday

Down on the farm...

You may remember seeing the exhibition in the Library some years ago when our Community Farm was starting at Hawkwood in Wick Street. Then the BBC Food Programme and TV Country File featured us and we quickly reached our limit of 100 members and had to make a waiting list. However, now I am pleased to report that we have been able to rent extra land at Brookthorpe and can take more members.

Besides producing a splendid variety of organic vegetables for members to share each week, we rear our own animals, grow flowers for picking and have once a month working days. There are also summer camps, apple juicing days, bonfire nights, ceilidhs, harvest suppers and children's activities. You can choose how much you get involved. For elderly members like Hugh and myself haymaking etc is not practical but we very much appreciate the amazing selection of organic seasonal vegetables we collect each week for which we pay £35 per month by direct debit.

It is also possible to just join the farm without buying a vegetable share - this costs £2.00 per month and allows you to come to the activities and to purchase separately whatever staples you need - potatoes, onions, carrots, eggs, meat and milk.

Do go and see the exhibition in the Library or phone me on 813072 for more information.

Carole Ross



Coach to Bath

Seats are still available on the coach to Bath on Wednesday 16th April, leaving 10.00am from Stamages car park and returning 5.00pm from Bath. Fare £8.00. Book now with cash or cheque payable to Painswick L&B Outings to Joan Truman, Little Place, Hollyhock Lane, Painswick GL6 6XH.

Enquiries to Joan Truman on 813695 or Pauline Berry on 813227.

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Robert Ball Farewell to a Remarkable Neighbour

Much has already been said and written about the life of Robert ("Bob") Ball who recently died shortly before his 90th birthday. We found him a friendly and sociable neighbour, always ready for a chat, but beyond knowing about his artistic reputation and visiting the occasional local exhibition of his very varied works, and the sad fact that he was going increasingly blind, we really knew little about him until with other neighbours we attended a Celebration for his Life in Holy Trinity Church in Slad.

We learned that he was a great printmaking specialist, with some of his works in the V&A, the Ashmolean and the Hermitage, and that after years as Principal of the Stroud School of Art he eventually rescued it from collapse. In character he was larger than life: who else, after seemingly missing a bus, would have laid down in the road to stop and board it; who else, losing his sight in his old age, would have asked a neighbour to assemble cutting shears for him with which he then proceeded to cut the hedge; and who else, when already registered blind would have joined a sailing ship, the "Eye of the Wind" at Gloucester docks for a working holiday around Lands End, volunteering for all duties, including night watch at 2.00 am halfway up the rigging?

A remarkable man - we shall miss him.

Ralph Kenber

Promises, promises... ...at Olivers

The Countryside Sports Days at Olivers on 6th July may seem a long way off, but planning has begun in earnest now, building on the success of the previous two years. Those of you who joined us last year will know rain did not stop play! A fantastic time was had by all who took part in all kinds of events including pony rides, clay pigeon shooting, remote control cars, tractor & trailer rides, trampolining, skittles, boules, tots treasure hunt, zip wire and rowing on the mill pond.

New for this year will be remote control boats on the pond, archery and the exciting 'Olivers Grand National All Comers Challenge'. The day will finish with our fabulous auction of promises. And here's where you can help - we're looking for donations of promises. It can be pretty much any kind of promise - here are some ideas drawn from a few of the great promises we've had in the past: riding lessons, cakes, day out on a canal boat, B&B in London, facials, children's birthday parties, sailing lessons, ironing, meals, crates of beer and babysitting services.

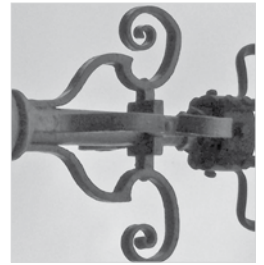
And all the money raised from the promises - and the rest of the events at the Sports Day - goes to support the work of the Church Army. If you feel you can help in any way, or to talk through any ideas you might have for promises, please contact Penny Lyon on 813243 or e-mail penny@olivers-estate.co.uk



ArchiTecs

We asked, last month, if you knew where the photograph on the left was taken. The answer was St Mary's Street, and one of the set back cottages opposite the stocks.

This month we think you will be caught out. Can you place the piece of ironwork on the right.



PROPERTY REPORT for April from Hamptons International

Since the A46 re-opened we have seen a marked increase in both the number of sales agreed and the number of properties coming to the market. Properties in sought after locations are continuing to attract interest at fairly attractive prices whilst properties in marginal locations need to be more keenly priced in order to encourage prospective purchasers to view. The cottage market is more sluggish because most second home buyers have disappeared for the time being and the first time buyers are now struggling to get a mortgage up to this level now. This is as a result of mortgage companies tightening their belts with lending. This leaves those downsizing or moving areas so cottages need to be very competitively priced to get viewers in through the door. The traditional family home remains strong and the priority for most buyers is to secure the right property for their family rather than just a bargain. The good news is that the number of new potential purchasers registering in February was just 3% below that of last year when the market was at its peak and higher than the previous two years: so buyers are out there!

Hamptons have recently become involved in a number of local sponsorships. As sport is very close to my heart the Painswick office is delighted to be able to sponsor the Painswick Rugby Club for three years. In addition to this we are sponsoring the Cotswold Chef Robert Rees who will be taking you on a musical and culinary journey of the last 40 years on Friday and Saturday 4th-5th April in the Pittville Pump room. Book tickets on www.robrees.com/stepback

New Instructions: Edge : Back Edge Hall; a beautiful country house set in a fabulous rural position, Corinium House; a 5 bedroom family house in 0.8 acres, Partridge House; a 4 bed period house with magnificent views. Painswick: Woody steps; a good 4 bed family house, Greenaway; a 5 bed family house, Ashleigh; a 6 bed period house with 0.3acre garden. Sheepscombe: Well Cottage; a 2 bed cottage in need of refurbishment, Field House; a 4 bed house with panoramic views, Slad: Old Sunday School; a newly refurbished 4 bed house with lovely views.

Properties now under offer: Little Bacchus in Brookthorpe, Hamfield in Edge Road, The Willows in Upton st Leonards, 1 Witcombe Court in Little Witcombe, Well Cottage in Sheepscombe. If you would like a free valuation then please do not hesitate to contact me on 812354.

Miranda Harding, Manager



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APRIL

Sun	6	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group: Scrub clearance working party (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	9.30am to 1.00pm
Mon	7	Yoga (Mondays)	Sheepscombe Vill. Hall	6.30 to 8.00pm & 8.15 to 9.45pm
Tue	8	Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) St Mary's Guild: A not very Painswick wedding - Y Rawson	Christ Church Hall Church Rooms	9.30 to 12.00noon 2.30pm
Wed	9	Yoga (Wednesdays) Music Appreciation Concert Outing: Welsh National Opera - Eugene Onegin Horticultural Society: Climbers, Ramblers & Scramblers - Mr R Bracher	Sheepscombe Vill. Hall Bristol Hippodrome Town Hall	9.30 to 11.00am 7.00pm 7.30pm
Thu	10	Bingo: Wednesdays – Tel. Ann, 813911/Liz, 813139 T'ai Chi: Thursdays - Contact 01452 813072 Yoga - All Abilities (Thursdays) Cotswold Room Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners - Thursdays Experienced beginners - Thursdays Tea Dances – Thursdays Jolly Stompers line dancing; new starters (Thursdays) Improvers & classic dances (Thursdays)	Painswick Centre Town Hall Painswick Centre Town Hall Town Hall Painswick Centre Rugby Club, Stroud Rd.	7.30 to 10.00pm 9.30am 9.30 to 11.00am 12.00 to 1.00pm 12.30 to 1.30pm 2.30 to 4.30pm 7.00 to 8.00pm 8.00 to 9.00pm
Fri	11	Country Market - coffee available (Fridays) Friday Club: Whiteway Colony - Joy Thacker	Town Hall Town Hall	10.00am 2.30pm
Sat	12	Painswick Music Society Concert - Ashley Wass (piano) & Alexander Chausian (cello) and 13th: Charlie Taylor's unique Sale of interiors, painted and garden furniture etc.	St Mary's Church Painswick Centre	3.00pm 10.00am to 6.00pm daily
Tue	15	Local History Society: Research Evening	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	16	Probus: AGM Coach to Bath. Enquiries - 813965/813227 Film Group: 'The Last King of Scotland' Parish Council Meeting	Shires Room, Falcon Stamages Car Park Painswick Centre Town Hall	10.00am 10.00am 7.15 for 7.45pm 7.30pm
Thu	17	Music Appreciation: A Mystery	Cotswold Room	7.30pm
Sat	19	Copy dateline for May Beacon Bird Club field trip. Kites Hill World Land Trust nature reserve		9.45am
Sun	20	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group: Scrub clearance working party (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	9.30am to 1.00pm
Tue	22	Yew Trees WI: The Story of Tea - Alan Hudson	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	23	Annual Parish Meeting (see page 3)	Town Hall	7.00pm
Fri	25	Gloucester Police Choir Concert Friday Club: Sailing around the Caribbean	Painswick Centre Town Hall	7.30pm 2.30pm
Sat	26	Painswick Music Society Concert: Arpege Ensemble	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Wed	30	Probus: On being a Magistrate - Celia Hargrave May Madness - Flower Guild demonstration (see page 18) Painswick & District Conservation Society AGM: The Painswick Tombstone Restoration Project	Shires Room, Falcon Painswick Centre Church Rooms	10.00am 12.30pm 7.30pm

MAY

Thu	1	Council Elections Cotswold Care Support Group	Town Hall Ashwell House	7.00am to 10.00pm 2.30pm
Sat	3	May Issue of The Painswick Beacon published 'Too Hot to Handle'	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Wed	7	Bird Club field trip. Cirencester Park	Cirencester Park	9.45am
Thu	8	Music Appreciation: Members' Night	Cotswold Room	7.30pm
Fri	9	Friday Club: Indian Cooking Demonstration	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	10	Painswick Music Society Concert: Mandelring Quartet Cream Teas and Announcing winner of Quilt raffle	St Mary's Church Town Hall	3.00pm 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Tue	13	St Mary's Guild. 'Helping the Third World' - A . Robinson	Church rooms	2.30pm
Wed	14	Probus: Living Creatively - Judy Clinton Horticultural Society: AGM Parish Council Meeting	Shires Room, Falcon Town Hall Town Hall	10.00am 7.30 / 8.15pm 7.30pm



Sat	17	Horticultural Society: Chairman's spring social event: Blenheim Palace & supper at Miserden Village Hall	Stamages Car Park	2.00pm
Tue	20	Local History Society: Annual Outing	Croft School	7.30pm
Fri	23	Friday Club outing: Beauty and the Beast on Ice	The Everyman	
Sun	25	Village Tidy Up	from Town Hall	3.00pm
Mon	26	Crafts & Antiques Fair	Painswick Centre	9.30am to 3.30pm
Tue	27	Yew Trees WI: Wit & Wisdom - Mike Rafferty	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	28	Probus: Members Talk(s)	Shires Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	29	Theatre Club Outing to Bath	The Falcon	6.00pm
Fri	30	Bird Club field trip. Weekend exploring wildlife in Dorset (until Sun 1st June)		

JUNE

Sun	1	Painswick Beacon Clear Up	Car Park, Catbrain Quarry	2.00pm
Thu	5	Cotswold Care Support Group	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Fri	6	Friday Club: The Lighter side of Policing	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	10	St Mary's Guild. Garden Meeting at the home of Mrs Jean Harley	Old Orchard, Brookhouse Mill	2.30pm
Wed	11	Probus: Club Outing to RAF Cosford Museum & Moseley Old Hall, (NT)		
Sat	14	Painswick Fete in aid of Painswick Tombstone Restoration & Cotswold Care Hospice	Painswick House Park	2.30pm
Wed	18	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	20	Friday Club: Woodchester Mansion, B & P Wollaston	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	24	Yew Trees WI: Pub Signs - Angela Pancrucker	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	25	Probus: Sue Ryder Homes - Duncan Willoughby	Shires Room, Falcon	10.00am

JULY

Thu	3	Cotswold Care Support Group	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Fri	4	Friday Club: A Rotary Project	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sun	6	Countryside Sports Day	Olivers	1.00pm (Picnic)
		Events start	Olivers	2.00pm
Wed	9	Probus: 44 Peaks with an hour to spare - E. Fellows	Shires Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	10	Theatre Club Outing to Stratford upon Avon	The Falcon	10.00am
Sat	12	Companion Dog Show and Village Event	Recreation Field	tba
		Summer Concert: Return visit by Thames Head Choir	St Mary's Church	7.30pm
		Victorian Costume Ball. For info tel. 01453 883150	Painswick Centre	8.00 to 11.30pm
Wed	16	Parish Council Meeting	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	18	Friday Club: Dessert Island Discs with ?	Town Hall	2.30pm
Tue	22	Yew Trees WI: The Cotswold Perfumery - Pam Slater	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	23	Probus: Ladies Luncheon		

AUGUST

Fri	8	Friday Club outing: Giffords Circus	Minchinhampton	
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SEPTEMBER

Fri	5	Friday Club: Working Life on the River Severn	Town Hall	2.30pm
Wed	10	Probus: The people who built Birmingham - interspersed with music. Malcolm Lewis	Shires Room, Falcon	10.00am
Sat	13	Horticultural Society Annual Show	Painswick Centre	
Fri	19	Friday Club: Life and Times in Gibraltar	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	20	Best of British' dinner dance	Painswick Centre	8.00 to 11.00pm
Wed	24	Probus:	Shires Room, Falcon	10.00am

OCTOBER

Fri	3	Friday Club outing: The Mail Box	Birmingham	
Thu	9	Bird Club: Breeding birds of southern Britain	town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	17	Friday Club: A Painting Experience	Town Hall	2.30pm
Fri	31	Friday Club: Halloween Event	Richmond Painswick	

NOVEMBER

Tue	4	Bird Club: Finland - winter to spring: Helen Williams	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	14	Friday Club outing: A Day at the Races		



PLANNING MATTERS

A summary of information from the Parish Council

NEW APPLICATIONS

PAINSWICK MILL, TICKLESTONE LANE. Works to horse chestnut tree (TPO 190)

BEACON HOUSE, NEW STREET. Replacement window and alterations.

WOODLANDS, EDGE. Single storey extension.

10 PULLENS ROAD. Addition of downstairs bathroom and W/C to north elevation of property.

FAIRFAX, VICARAGE STREET. Two storey extension.

MEADOW BANK, KINGS MILL LANE. Works to various trees.

STROUD SLAD FARM, SLAD LANE, SLAD. 2 extensions of existing livestock buildings to house tractor, straw & machinery (extension to barn 1) and act as lambing shed (extension to barn 2).

WYNSTOWE, LOWER WASHWELL LANE. Erection of rear single storey extension.

COURT COTTAGE, HALE LANE. Construction of conservatory, separate summer house and alteration to vehicular access.

16 CHURCHILL WAY. Re-siting of garage and replacement of flat roof with a pitched roof.

JUBILATE, BLAKEWELL MEAD. New dwelling.

SEAGRIMS, PINCOT LANE. Erection of replacement conservatory and balcony, new front entrance. Subdivide existing studio for separate accommodation.

CONSENT

Land at MARY'S ACRE, STAMAGES LANE. Erection of a detached dwelling & garage.

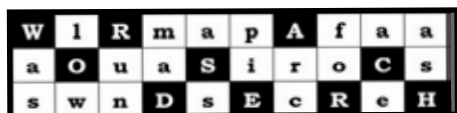
SPRING COTTAGE, TICKLESTONE LANE, KINGS MILL LANE. Change of flat roof dormer to twin gable dormer, insertion of new dormer to front elevation. Erection of replacement sun room. (The listed building part of this application, reported to our February meeting, was refused, but a new application has been submitted)

VERLANDS, VICARAGE STREET. Demolition of garage block and outbuilding.

HILL HOUSE, GLOUCESTER STREET. Alterations to house and outbuilding.

CONSENT GRANTED ON APPEAL

DAMSELLS MEWS. Erection of coach house.



With eyes firmly upon the Olympics, we thought that identifying 17 countries of the Far East might test you. One



has such a long name that it runs to two parallel lines.

Last month we wondered whether those recently 'displaced' from 'The Smoke' could find 17 of the Outer London Boroughs. If you did, they were:

BARKING & DAGENHAM, BARNET, BEXLEY, BROMLEY, CROYDON, EALING, ENFIELD, GREENWICH, HARINGEY, HAVERING, HILLINGDON, HOUNSLOW, KINGSTON, MERTON, NEWHAM, SUTTON, WALTHAM FOREST



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Palm Coast - Florida. Luxury 3-bed, 3-bathroom condo. Coastal resort with two large swimming pools, spas and all amenities plus beaches and golf. Close to Disney. £425 per week April onwards Ring Ralph Drew on 814070

Rock - North Cornwall. Well equipped bungalow sleeps 5. Available some weeks throughout year. Please call 812832.

Qualified Herbalist MNIMH seeks treatment room in Painswick from which to practice. Please ring Maria Vierge on 810931

Experienced reliable dog walker, sitter/lodger lives in Painswick. I provide a 'Home from Home' as dozens of dogs will testify. Ring 812678

For sale. 'Neptune' bath seat, completely reconditioned. £110 o.n.o 812678.

Evening Receptionists required at Richmond Painswick - from 5.00 pm. If you have an outgoing and empathetic personality, are confident and organised, contact Carolyn on 813902. Pay dependent on experience.

Calm Creativity - One Day Workshop using writing and guided meditation to help you reach your creative core. Wednesday 30th April, 10.00 - 4.00 pm, Friends Meeting House, £35.00. Contact Swithin Fry on 813274

MINI-ADS - Free to subscribers. Maximum of 30 words.

For non-subscribers there is a flat charge of £5.00, paid by cheque to 'The Painswick Beacon', in advance. Text and cheque (only) to Dermot Cassidy, 1 Painswick Heights, Yokehouse Lane, GL6 7QS. Commercial/business mini-ads accepted; space constraints apply and others have priority.


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The Personal Column

Weddings

Congratulations to SIMON BEAMISH and KATE MUSTY who are to be married on 5th April at St Mary's, Painswick;

also to ANDREW NOCKTON and TERESA FENNEL who were married on 29th March at St John's, Pitchcombe;

also to JAMES PLAYFAIR and ANNA CATALINOTTO who are to be married on 7th April at St Mary's, Painswick;

and to RUSSELL IBBOTSON and BETHANY FOSTER who are to be married on 21st April at St Mary's, Painswick.

Baby

Congratulations to ELENA and ANDREW BROTHERTON on the birth of a second son, Luka William, a brother for Gregory and sixth grandchild for Dulcie and Leslie.

Well done!

Congratulations to Pete Bradshaw on being awarded an MSc in Ecology from Bristol University.

Welcome

We would like to welcome Mr & Mrs PERRIS to 'Merrills', Friday Street;

also Mr & Mrs STEED into Court Cottage, Hale Lane;

also Mr & Mrs WALLIS to 4 Clattergrove Cottages.

and welcome back to BOB and MARG SHEA to No 7, Stroud Rd, St Mary's Mead. Their return was unavoidably delayed but they are settling in at last.

Farewell

We are sorry to say goodbye to CORRY and JAMES SPENCER, who have moved to Winchester.

Get well soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to MONICA IRELAND, ALAN ERROCK and SUE ROBINSON.

Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of RUTH HEAL, ROBERT BALL, PAULINE RUMMING, CLIVE MURRAY and GARY MASON, who have all died recently.

Personal Messages

The Hudson Family would like to thank all those many people who supported us at Angela's Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday 27th February. Over £1,000 was raised in the retiring collection which went to St Mary's Church.

Margot Gardner and family thank our dear friends and neighbours for their prayers, messages of sympathy and support following their recent bereavement.

Ruth and Emma Robinson thank our neighbours and friends very much for their support, kindnesses and messages of sympathy on the death of our mother, Louie Robinson. We are sincerely grateful to the Revd David Newell, also Philip Ford, undertakers and those who took part in Mum's funeral service

Dick Purdy is very happy to be back home and wishes to thank all those kind Painswick friends who have visited him in hospital, sent cards and letters and messages of encouragement and support during his time in hospital.

Ruth Heal 1911-2008

As a family we shall long remember the memorable funeral service for our Mother on Tuesday, 4th March in Painswick church. We felt so strengthened and supported by the love and affection shown by so many of her family and friends who came that day not least her many friends in Painswick, a place where she and Harold were so happy and gave of their utmost to parish life.

We would like to add our very special thanks to John Longuet-Higgins for his help in arranging and taking the service so thoughtfully, to David Archard for his painstaking trouble with the funeral arrangements, the Church Choir and Organist, the Flower Guild for arranging flowers so beautifully and the Falcon Inn for excellent canapés and drinks afterwards.

Painswick changes very little and the beauty of the Spring day shining on the village and its beautiful surroundings was a fitting tribute to a very special person who had had a very good innings of 96 years. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.



Alison, Penny and Tim

NEXT ISSUE

Publication date

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