

# The Painswick Beacon

Volume 30 Number 10

*Sine praeiudicio*



January 2008

## A46 to re-open on schedule?

The A46, which was closed on 10th August as a result of a landslide caused by the summer's floods, is on schedule to re-open on 15th February.

Gloucestershire Highways and County Council teams have overseen an extensive geological and structural investigation to understand the full scale of the risk now and in the future so that the most effective and long-term solution could be determined.



Major ground works were also needed, including the removal of 1000 tonnes of material to stabilise the slip and stop further ground movement, while continual monitoring was undertaken to check for any new movement. As this work took place, detailed designs of the permanent works were undertaken, and Severn Bore were contracted to undertake a major piling programme to underpin the surface of the road. In addition, vital services such as gas and water mains had to be diverted and protected to ensure homes and businesses did not lose supplies.

Throughout all of this, the risk of the slip worsening leading to a catastrophic collapse of the road had to be carefully monitored and managed.

Severn Bore began working on site in mid November and by 18th December they had completed all 37 piles (bored, casing installed, reinforcement installed and concrete placed), just two days behind the original schedule.

Embankment stability monitoring has not identified any movement or indication that the embankment stability has reduced and highway construction workers are now moving in to reconstruct the road. The overall work programme remains on schedule for completion and re-opening to traffic on 15th February.

To find out more about the work programme, log on to [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/A46](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/A46) scheme, which includes updates about the work taking place, responses to frequently asked questions, and maps of the designated diversion routes. Most locals, of course, seem to ignore the diversions in favour of various 'rat runs', notably Wades Lane/ Wick Street, which as a result of determined 'organic widening' has added a couple of metres road width in places!

## Painswickian(s) of the Year!

In response to our request for nominations for Painswickian of the Year, we had two clear nominations: Martin Slinger and our Painswick Firefighters, both in the frontline of the battle against the floods in July.

Our local team of retained firefighters - Mike Powis, Robert Goddard, Paul Luker, George Hodder, Paul Cook, Allan Bullingham, Mark Hancock, Mike Gamble, Andy Robinson and Wayne Lee - worked 12 hour shifts across the stricken areas of the county, including the heroic - and thankfully - successful struggle to save the Wallham electricity sub-station from flooding, thereby preventing electricity cuts in Painswick.

This set us a something of a problem: the Beacon's policy is that the accolade is given to an individual (or occasionally a couple) noted for outstanding or unstinting service in the village, rather than a group. So, after some discussion, we have decided that this year our Painswickian of the Year is Martin Slinger and the full story appears on page 5.

We would, however, like to acknowledge the sterling contribution made by our firefighters during the floods and take this opportunity to let them

know how appreciative so many people were for all their splendid efforts. Our picture shows nine of the team of ten in front of the Painswick appliance. The team still needs more members to reach its full complement, men or women, so if you feel able and willing to join the group do make contact.



*On other pages: A Quality council, a gateway opening? 30% down? an Arabian night, Jollies stomp on, Sheepscombe jumbles, Snow White chills, Croft wriggles, Unrunners walk, public hangings to be restored? ...and a quizzical call.*

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

### Nutgrove House

The committee, once again, considered the matter of the single course of 'stone' below the new railings outside this property in New Street, expressing their concern with the SDC Enforcement Officer's satisfaction with this material as compliant with the plans submitted. The committee were convinced that the material is reconstituted stone, and not the natural stone specified in the planning application.

It was agreed that as the Parish Council is expected to comply with regulations, so should the District Council in enforcement matters, and that the non-compliance should be placed on record.

### Three Gables – dental surgery

The Chairman undertook to discuss concerns about the seemingly excessive external lighting to this property, not least because it is not open for clients in the evenings.

### Street lighting

Peter Rowe reported having given further consideration to locations and extent to which some street lighting in Painswick might be extinguished during the early hours of each morning in order to reduce light pollution and consumption of electricity. Pending a detailed report to the Council residents are to be invited to express their views before the end of January, e.g. those living on the Croft estate.

## PARISH COUNCIL

### Quality Parish Council

The Council received the news that it had been accorded Quality Status, joining Cam and Newnham with such status in Gloucestershire. (See separate column for clarification of the characteristics of QPC.)

The reporting of its proceedings in these pages and elsewhere had contributed to this achievement, and the Council congratulated the Clerk upon the considerable work he had undertaken in making the detailed submission. A formal presentation of the award will be made in the Town Hall on Wednesday 23rd January at 7.30pm

### Youth involvement

Chairman Terry Parker reported that a meeting had been held on the previous day with members of the 'Psalms' group,



together with leaders Tim and Kirstin Friend. Among expressed desires of young people was the early erection of the promised basketball hoop post and extended hard surround for ball bouncing, and the hope that some floodlighting can be restored to the front of the pavilion on the Recreation Field. Girls were keen on having a 'drop in' centre in the Pavilion. The Council agreed to press ahead with the post and hard standing at the earliest practicable date, after receiving a further report upon intended location, and investigate the introduction of lighting. The idea of a drop-in facility will also be investigated.

The occasion was taken to express the Council's thanks for the excellent service of Tim and Kirstin (who was unable to attend on this evening), who are moving elsewhere, and welcome Ruth Henderson, pictured here with Tim, to this work.

### A46 reinstatement

The Chairman reported the latest news confirming that the carriageway at Salmon Springs should be restored for full use by mid-February. Although the Council remains appreciative of regular updating of progress through Joan Nash, it was a matter of continuing concern, and regret, that County Council officers do not directly inform the Parish Council – the most affected on the closed route of the A46 – of developments; representations in this regard continue to be made.

Upon the urging of Ann Burges Watson the Council agreed to seek the views and support of all other parishes 'enjoying' the absence of all but essential HGV in making strong representations to the

County Council for such vehicles to be permanently re-routed away from the Brockworth-Stroud section. Apart from the obvious and experienced relief of the current absence of such vehicles, it was urged that further damage to the highway and adjoining properties would be obviated by continuing curtailment.

### Feasibility study – community buildings Painswick Gateway

Upon enquiry from the Chair, Leslie Brotherton again reported that Painswick Gateway had received no response with regard to their offer in October to purchase the County Council's library premises, although it was understood to be imminent.

The Council decided to continue to defer consideration of instituting a feasibility study of usage of public meeting rooms in the village pending clarification as to the extent of provision through this project.

### National Trail and interpretation centre

The Chairman reported that the proposition, strongly supported at the last meeting, to seek funding which would straddle seven years targeted at regeneration of economic activity through all parishes along the Cotswold Way NT and include an interpretation and management base in Painswick (see pages 2/3 of last issue), was being incorporated in a joint 'expression of interest' being formulated by Stroud and Tewkesbury District Councils entitled 'Water and Wool'. Gloucestershire First was helpfully undertaking the considerable documentation required in formulating the 'expression', which had to be submitted no later than 31st December.

### Slad Common – gifting to the parish

The Council took note of the intention of the Manorship to gift Slad common to the Parish Council, and agreed to seek clarification of the precise extent of the land involved and associated matters.

### Precept 2008-09

The Council received a further report from Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee upon the financial projections of the Council and recommended precept upon the District Council for the coming financial year. Detail of these proposals was reported here last month (see page 2). Peter Rowe

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### OPENING TIMES

**MONDAY to FRIDAY**

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**SATURDAY**

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again expressed the view that any increase in expenditure reflected in the precept should be arbitrarily restricted to 5% and, when challenged as to how other expenditure regarded as urgent or essential could thereby be met, was unwilling to identify which items for which reserves had been set aside (e.g. replacement of grass cutter machinery) should be forfeited.

After further discussion the precept was set at £73,500, effectively an increase of £4.42 per Band D property - 14.4% in a full year.

**Martin Slinger  
Outstanding community service**



The Council was delighted to hear that Martin Slinger had received an invitation from HM Government to a reception at Lancaster House in London which Prime Minister Gordon Brown attended to thank representatives of areas where they had rendered outstanding service to their community during the flood crisis in the summer; Mr Brown only had time to directly meet with the Gloucestershire contingent before having to leave for a Commons' vote. Plaques had been presented to each person present; Martin is shown proudly holding his in our picture, and the Beacon is pleased to add its own tribute as his selection as Painswickian of 2007.

**PITCHCOMBE  
CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL**  
Applications are invited for this part time post. The post is 2 hours per week working from home, 5 Council Meetings per year and occasional Planning Committees when required - travel expenses paid. Must be computer literate, and administration experience essential. Knowledge of Local Government is desirable but not essential; training will be provided.  
Commencing salary between £8.04 and £8.43 per hour. Applications by letter and CV to Mr Roy Balgobin Clerk to Pitchcombe Parish Council, 11 Broadstone Close, Barnwood, Gloucester, GL4 3TX as soon as possible, and from whom more information obtainable or informal discussion on 01452 621688.



**Parish Council Quality Status**

This new-found status is the reflection of a conscious decision taken by the Council in close collaboration with its Clerk, Roy Balgobin, to diligently work through a complete revision of its working practices.

The granting of the accolade is the product of careful scrutiny by independent external assessors who have satisfied themselves that the Council is competent to:

- be representative of and actively involve all parts of their community
- be effectively and properly managed, with members and officers upholding a high standard of conduct
- work closely with voluntary and community sector groups, and articulate the community's needs and wishes through effective communications, which might include the production of parish plans or other similar documents and
- work in partnership with other local authorities and agencies and, depending on their size, be able to deliver local services which give the best deal for the local community

HM Government, through its November 2000 Rural White Paper, 'Our Countryside: The Future. A Fair Deal For Rural England', set out a number of measures to give local people the opportunity to become more involved in the development of their communities. The Government believes that parish and town councils, as the tier of government that is closest to local communities, have a central role to play in improving local quality of life.

It will be of longer term interest to see how far Painswick's Parish Council comes under public pressure to exercise its powers to locally manage new activities as were previously not adopted to be within its scope such as, making 'bye-laws in regard to pleasure grounds, cycle parks, baths and washhouses, open spaces and burial grounds, mortuaries and post-mortem rooms, public baths and washhouses', providing public clocks, and a host of other opportunities from traffic calming to crime prevention, and even power to provide gymnasiums, playing fields, holiday camps or provision of boating pools!

As one who has observed the Council at close quarters, as Clerk for five years and subsequently as a reporter of its proceedings, I can testify to the extent of change in recent times, and the advantages of this status for an incoming Council when elections are held in May this year.

*LWB*

**Painswick Gateway**

**Report and public meeting**

No news, last month, has turned out to be real news this month- at last!

As readers will be aware, the 'shadow' Trustees have spent the last few months negotiating with the County Council over the possible purchase of the library building. Just seven days before Christmas a response was received from GCC confirming a price which the Trustees feel is reasonable, and including a package for retaining a Council-supported library service.

That price and package has been incorporated into a Prospectus and business plan that is now with printers. All those interested, and it is hoped that many will be, can pick up a copy from Painswick Library from Saturday next, 11th January and some will be available from the Town Hall office when open. Copies will also be available to those attending Christ Church and St Mary's Church on the Sunday. There is not an unlimited supply, for cost reasons, but it is hoped there will be sufficient for all who have a real concern about the future of the premises, their potential, and existing and future services which could be based there. The prospectus will also be published simultaneously on the Internet at [www.painswickgateway.org.uk](http://www.painswickgateway.org.uk)

Notice is given here of  
**A public meeting to be held on Tuesday 22nd January at 7.30pm in Christ Church**  
to consider this Prospectus and detailed plan, and the recommendations it contains.  
**This is the occasion when the extent of support and endorsement from the people of Painswick will be expressed**

The Trustees have done their best and gone to great lengths to set out all the facts surrounding this project in the Prospectus and urge residents not to judge the proposals upon hearsay, but read the report for themselves.

A vote will be taken at this public meeting, and the future of the project depends entirely upon that outcome. The matter is now time-sensitive, so please be there and have your say, and cast your vote. There cannot be another chance.

If, for some reason, you cannot attend your written views will be appreciated but, regrettably, you cannot vote in absentia since you will have missed out on the debate and views expressed that evening.

**The Trustees believe this is once-in-a-lifetime OPPORTUNITY**

*Leslie Brotherton Manager*

# A46 Closure: 30% impact on local hostelries

**A 30% loss in trade for our local eateries: that is the main message from our short informal survey of five businesses in the village where you can eat and drink and, at four of them, also stay the night.**

Our intention was to find out how severely the closure of the A46 had affected them as, in part, they all rely on customers from outside Painswick. Our concern was that loss of trade might have been so great that the businesses might be in danger of closing. We can assure our readers however that whilst the owners reported that there has been a marked drop in customer numbers in three of the four enterprises, none of them stated that they were likely to go out of business.

As our readers may know, the Falcon, the Royal Oak and Cotswolds88 (formerly The Painswick Hotel) have all acquired new owners over the past twelve months whilst the Thai Restaurant at Cardynham House has recently changed to a Bistro and St. Michaels opened last year in Victoria Street.

For Cotswolds88hotel, Marchella de Angelis estimates a downturn of about 30% on non-residence business. She points out that people from a little further afield but within the county probably regard access to Painswick as too complicated to contemplate. Unfortunately for the hotel the problems caused by the flood and the road closure coincided exactly with the opening of the hotel and all this after a year's incredibly hard work to renovate and rejuvenate the building and the business.

John Pearson of The Falcon, which employs up to 19 staff in the busy summer months, told the Beacon that customer

numbers had dropped also by about 30%. A significant loss for him was the removal of Painswick from the itinerary of coach tour companies as the vehicles would have to make a 25 mile detour to continue their tour. Both John at The Falcon and Magda Black of St. Michaels reported a drop in the number of visitors requiring overnight accommodation in Painswick, including, in The Falcon's case, walkers "doing" the Cotswold Way though this is not the case for St. Michaels. Happily, though, Magda and her husband are now at last going on their honeymoon and visiting family on the continent over the next two months..

Shelagh Hume took over The Royal Oak at the end of May this year and, like the others, expected a busy summer. She also reckons that customer numbers have dropped by about 30%.



All four businesses were disrupted by the cutting off of the water supply and coped with it in different ways. Loss of trade for that 16 day period in July/August was bad enough but about a week after the water was declared potable again, Painswick's main road artery to the south was cut off. Shelagh made the point that Painswick had "seemed to fall off the map" and put it down to very confusing signage which sends traffic back towards the motorway and then suddenly stops. Similarly the signage at the Brockworth roundabout needs simplifying.

The only business that has not noticed

a sharp drop in customers is Cardynham House and the new Bistro. John Paterson, the owner, told us that because they do not rely on passing trade, customer numbers had remained much the same though new clients have to be "guided in" when trying to follow the confusing roads signs.

All repeated how grateful they were to



local people for continuing to patronise their establishments. There is no doubt that all would have had a harder time over the past few months had it not been for the support of Painswickians and other locals.

One final thought: when the A46 does finally reopen, how about doing it at a weekend and holding a celebratory event in Painswick. But somebody would have to organize it and pay for it. Any volunteers?



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# Martin Slinger is Painswickian of the Year

Our Painswickian of the year is Martin Slinger and, as many of you agree, he is a very worthy winner of the title. During the summer floods he was an absolute stalwart as can be seen below, but there is much much more to Martin and his unswerving service to the village over many years.

Born in 1944 Martin has spent nearly all his life at Jenkins Farm following a family tradition in the Painswick area which dates back 300 years. Very much a dairy farmer he left Jenkins Farm four years ago and now works as a herdsman feeding his own cattle and sheep at Edgehill Farm in partnership with his son, Paul. Daughter, Judy, is married to a farmer.

He is, apparently, semi-retired but you would never know it. His stunningly extensive knowledge of the locality, its land and its people, combined with his sheer practicality mean that Martin is usually the first port of call when there is a local emergency or a job to be done. He is often seen around the village, fencing, walling, turfing and carrying out all sorts of repairs for people. He is happy to turn his hand to anything practical. "I was taught all these skills by the old boys years ago," he says. He positively relishes dealing with little local emergencies from plumbing to rescuing straying animals, and according to Mary, his wife of 40 years, he can't say no.

Apart from Martin's genuine willingness to come to the rescue in all these situations he is very actively involved in a variety of local organisations. As a parish councillor since 1994 he is Vice-Chairman of the council, Chairman of the Finance Committee and Chairman of the Cemetery and Parish Maintenance committee. He is a school governor at the Croft School for which he does maintenance work and is known by all the children. He also carries out work at Resthaven and is the local snow-plough driver. He has been interviewed often by Radio Gloucestershire on a range of local subjects, has written over a hundred short stories and led many farm and public walks around the district.

In his younger days Martin attended Hartpury College where he won the Best Practical Student prize. He was in the Cotswolds Farmers team which won the National Tug-o-War title in 1966. Martin's father started the Painswick Show and Martin was the one time Chairman and latterly President when the show finished.

But Martin's commitment to the local community was specifically recognised by those responsible for the flood relief and water distribution when he was given a citation to mark his outstanding contribution in that crisis. Martin worked around



the clock to ensure that he was always available to unload the cartons of bottled water from the delivery vehicles. He also spent a considerable amount of time with the police in helping them determine those residents with particular needs. The citation was awarded to Martin at a ceremony held on 3rd December in London at Lancaster House. He was one of only eight people from Gloucestershire to be so honoured. He told the Beacon that he had been surprised to have been introduced to the Prime Minister. This happened when the Member of Parliament for Gloucester, Parmjit Dhanda, had suggested to Mr Brown that he might wish to meet the Gloucestershire contingent. Martin said that a number of lessons had been learned during the flooding and water shortage and that those present at Lancaster House had been interested to hear of Painswick Parish Council's Emergency Plan proposals.

For all these reasons and more, ("I'm just an odd-job man"), our readers consider Martin to be a truly deserving winner of Painswickian of the Year. His commitment to the village is unquestionable.

*Carol Maxwell*

## Sheepscombe Jumble Sale...

Saturday 2nd February is an ideal date for bargain hunting. FOSS and Sheepscombe School bring you their annual jumble sale at the village hall between 11.00 and 2.00pm. Be aware - assorted items of from quality clothing to furniture, from toys to ornaments are for sale. There will even be some refreshments to enjoy at this delightful event.

You are most welcome to donate any quality items to be sold at the sale. Bring them to the hall on the morning of the 2nd or contact Pauline (814198) for earlier drop-offs.

*Pauline Lindeque*

## ...and 2008 Summer Ball

The venue for the Sheepscombe Summer Ball on Friday 27th June is the Sheepscombe village Hall with magnificent Marquee, champagne reception, wonderful food and a fantastic band to dance the night away with.

Tickets are now on sale, £60 per head. Tables of 10 or individual tickets, with a limited number of tables of 12 available.

For bookings and payment please contact Sandra Waller tel 812343 or by e mail on [sandra.waller@langleywellington.co.uk](mailto:sandra.waller@langleywellington.co.uk). Don't delay and book today! We look forward to seeing you all.

*The Sheepscombe Ball Committee*

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# Painswick Music Appreciation Group

Congratulations to Stewart Price for choosing a wonderful concert for us to enjoy in Birmingham on 20th November. First we heard Beethoven's dramatic Coriolan overture and then Tchaikovsky's violin concerto, one of the great virtuoso works for this instrument, with the brilliant German soloist Christian Tetzlaff holding us spellbound. After his Bach partita encore, Mahler's highly original First Symphony brought an end to an exciting evening.

On 29th November, Alex Nichols arranged an unscheduled extra on French orchestral music. He started with the overture to *Djamileh*, a one-act opera by Georges Bizet, 1838-1875, based on a poem by de Musset. We then heard the *Concerto Symphonique* for piano and orchestra, the best-known work by Henry Charles Litolf, 1819-1891, a virtuoso pianist of Alsatian descent. Finally, Alex played a recording by The London Symphony Orchestra of the *Symphonie Fantastique*, a stirring composition in the French Romantic tradition by Hector Berlioz, 1803-1869.

For the Group, it was a slightly unusual experience to hear pieces in full, rather than excerpts: but (for us) an agreeable one.

The Christmas Social was held on 13th December. It was well attended. Quiet but festive music was the background for tasty food and wine and lively conversation.

*Ralph Kenber & Richard Burges Watson*

## Painswick Singers

**Many Thanks - but more members are needed.** The Painswick Singers would like to thank the residents of Painswick and the wider community for their support during 2007. The highlight was the autumn concert featuring 'Trial by Jury' and 'Songs from the Shows'. Concerts were also performed on Good Friday at St Mary's Church and at Christchurch to celebrate Christmas.

Future plans for 2008 include Mozart's Requiem to be performed on Good Friday at St Mary's Church.

The Singers are looking to expand their numbers. We particularly need more tenor and bass voices although both sopranos and altos would be welcomed.

The choir is conducted by Brian Etheridge a professional musician who is passionate about music. Monday nights are rehearsal nights at 7.30 in the Library Room. If you would like to join us you will be assured of a warm welcome. Just turn upon Monday 7 January at 7.30 or phone for more information. Phone Di Howsen on 813380 or Maurice Maggs on 814092.

## Gloucester Choral

The Gloucester Choral Society Spring season continues on Saturday 2nd February 2008 with *The Armed Man: a Mass for Peace* with Conductor Adrian Partington and Regency Sinfonia. This work by Karl Jenkins presents a message of peace against the backdrop of the seemingly timeless and unchanging history of war, particularly relevant today. Additionally, Julius Reubke's exciting Organ Sonata on the 94th Psalm will be featured. The performance in Gloucester Cathedral commences at 7.30 p.m. and, to hear this concert, please book your seats now. The usual special inclusive offer including transport is available to Painswick residents.

A Beavis coach will be waiting in Stamages car park for departure at 6.45 p.m. returning around 10.00 p.m. Tickets are £19 (centre nave) and £14 (rear nave), inclusive of discounted seat prices and coach fare. To use this service, please send a cheque (made out to Gloucester Choral Society) to Gordon Owen, Treasurer, Kemps Orchard, Kemps Lane, Painswick, GL6 6YB, providing your name, address, contact 'phone number and SAE.

*Gordon Owen 812841*

## Dance in the New Year

As we enter 2008, you may already be considering a new hobby or fitness regime. Line dancing with the Jolly Stompers could be the answer. This is a fun pastime, which exercises both mind and body.

A New Beginners class will be starting on the 10th January, 2008 at the Rugby Club, Painswick. The Jolly Stompers have been teaching Line Dance for over 11 years, with twelve classes in and around Stroud, including the already popular beginners class on Thursday lunchtime in Painswick Town Hall. The new class is structured to build up your knowledge of dance steps/dances and suit all ages and abilities with no partner is required.

For those who have line danced before, an improver class will also be available. This will include classic and popular dances with a variety of music to appeal to all tastes. If you have never danced before, this could be the opportunity you have been waiting for.

For further information contact Julie on 01453 752480 or just come along. The first class commences at 7.00 p.m.

### Beacon subscribers

20th December 2007	2007-08	2006-07
New or renewed after lapsing	125	144
Renewed from last year	489	495
<b>Total including postal</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>639</b>
Painswick village dwellings	1057	1057
Subscribing households	430	557
Percentage subscribing	41.5%	53%

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# Friday Club into 2008

The Friday Club had a pretty good 2007 with such a range of interesting talks that it is hard to describe the enjoyment these, collectively, gave. If you can envisage being regaled by the world's authority on handcuffs – yes, I do mean handcuffs - who has written a three volume treatise on the subject - you will get some idea of our eclectic mix of topics. The highlight of the year was the celebration of our 50th year anniversary with our President's tea party at which the Club's committee provided the entertainment. Believe it or not, they performed live circus acts in which the Secretary produced a rabbit (of sorts) out of a hat, the Treasurer was sawn in half (nearly), the Vice-Chair was tamed (almost) from the jungle and our redoubtable Chair walked a (nearly) tight-rope. Such drama - beat that, you Thespians.



Besides such activities we also arrange outings and the canal trip on the Kennet and Avon Canal in June was great enjoyment, as was our Christmas Lunch at Richmond Painswick, *pictured here*.

So all you who have not yet sampled our meetings, every other Friday at the Town Hall, why not give the Club a try? We start our 2008 programme on 18th January with a Beetle Drive (remember them?) and membership

registration. Then on Feb 29th will be our first outing of the year when we will be visiting Highnam Church for a talk about its history by the vicar, Rev. Tom Fenton whose great grand father built it in Victorian times. The church, incidentally will be doing 'Songs of Praise' on 11th January so, watch that programme then marvel, when you see the church, at how they managed to do this without getting the cameras, cables, lights and all the other TV paraphernalia in vision. We will also take in the daffodils at Dimmock. Not to be missed.



*Man Friday*



# Arabian night for Painswick women

A local success story was enjoyed by members of the Yew Trees WI at their Annual Meeting in November when Paul Moir gave a fascinating talk on the Rococo Gardens. This was everything his audience could hope for: amusing, informative and educational. The gardens may be familiar to his listeners but the background history and future plans heard direct from the man-in-charge are not, and they made an appropriate finale to an evening which began with members looking

back at their own third successful year as Yew Trees WI.

Mince pies and mulled wine helped create a seasonal atmosphere for the December meeting. Under the skilled tutelage of Katherine Kear members turned their hands to Tudor and Elizabethan Handicrafts. They discovered that orange pomanders require some skill and patience to make, but these can be acquired with practice and sufficient glasses of mulled wine! A cinnamon candle is less demanding – an artistic outcome can be achieved in surprisingly little time. At the end of a very social evening, happy members went home proudly bearing the fruits of their labours.

On Tuesday 22 January, Eileen Browne, who has lived in Saudi Arabia for many years, will give a talk entitled Women's Life in Arabia. Ladies, why not make it a New Year resolution to join the increasing numbers of local residents who are joining Yew Trees WI? A warm welcome awaits you at 7.30 pm in The Town Hall.

*Celia Lougher*

# Country Market

Another 'face' of Painswick's Country Market was caught on our roaming camera a few minutes after the last customer of 2007 departed on Friday 21st December.

Tables cleared, the very last advance order gratefully taken to its new home, the coffee cups washed and dried - and quietness descends.

As we can reveal, our 'marketeers' relaxed to enjoy a glass of wine, courtesy of Mair and Pat Daly, and reflected upon a successful year which had passed and what 2008 might bring.



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# Top Brass packs them in

**1st December ~ What a fabulous evening!** The Gloucester Salvation Army Brass Band were just superb. The Hall was full and for the first 5 minutes Paul Gray was fully occupied bringing tables and chairs out of storage for the people who arrived 'on spec'. The Band played a wide selection of carols (with strong support from the audience). An additional surprise was band member Thomas, who brilliantly entertained us with magic tricks and humorous singing

– a local lad with such talent! We're hoping to book them again for December 2009. For all those who came – thank you. (Even Ed. came, perhaps because we promised him not one, but two mince pies!)

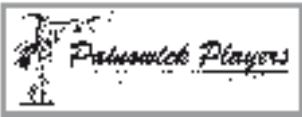
Thank you also to young Thomas (another one!) who was so helpful to me collecting the ticket money at the door. What would I have done without him? We are so pleased that we were able to help June Gardner with her raffle ticket sales for that wonderful quilt, donated by Mrs Kathleen Ryan. For all of the Trustees this was one of the high points of the evening. Please give her your support, there are very few more worthy causes than a Cobalt Unit.

As some readers will already be aware, the Cotswold Life magazine printed a number of pictures of those people who attended the Edwardian Evening in July. If you would like prints of any of these pictures you should contact the photographer, Michael Charity on 01242 517986. Prints cost just £7.50 each, including p&p.

Our next scheduled event will not be until April 25th when the Gloucester Police Choir will be returning to the Centre. They were last here about five years ago when I understand from Rose that they filled the Hall. Tickets will be on sale from the end of March from The Chairman, priced £8, to include a glass of wine and nibbles.

Finally, we are now down to just five Trustees. We need four Trustees for a quorum. Unless we can recruit additional Trustees we run the very real risk of not being able to function. Please, please, offer your services and help us to continue the good work we have been doing for the last 100 years.

Ralph Drew



# Snow White Panto Sensation

*"...a chilling tale of murderous rivalry, adolescent sexual ripening, poisoned gifts, blood on snow, witchcraft, and ritual cannibalism"* is how American author Terri

Windling described Snow White.

As everyone should know, Painswick Players is currently rehearsing the pantomime, *Snow White and the Seven Not Particularly Tall People*, written by Jack Burgess and directed by Lesley Wolowiec, to be staged at the Painswick Centre on Saturday the 2nd February at 2.30 and 7.30 pm and again on Sunday 3rd February at the same times.

We are all familiar with either the Brothers Grimm tale of Snow White or the Walt Disney film. But did you know that the Grimms collected their stories not for children but for adult scholars? They wanted a record of oral storytelling before the tales were lost forever. After their publication in 1812 the tales were so popular with families and children that all the footnotes and annotations were removed and the stories themselves edited, cleaned up and sometimes rewritten.

So what's so chilling about that? Read the Grimms' Snow White tale right through to the end and you will find out. One version has the wicked stepmother banishing Snow White, seducing a kitchen boy and ordering him to "bring back the girl's eyes and a bottle of her blood and I'll marry you". The boy abandons the girl in the woods and returns with a lamb's eyes and blood. A band of robbers befriend her, she dies and is brought back to life by a prince's kiss.

Walt Disney changed all this. His cartoon film released in 1937 abandons all the horror of the written versions, only keeping the truly frightening evil stepmother. The dwarves become major players, with individual names and characters, cheerfully singing as they go to work. And it is the Disney version that has inspired Jack Burgess's script. Or in his own words...

"I freely admit to relying on fading childhood memories of seeing the movie on the big screen and also of missing a fair bit of it whilst rummaging under the seat trying to retrieve the ice lolly that I'd dropped in fright when the witch first appeared."

This may explain some curious twists to the plot, such as the unexpected appearances of Dick Whittington, a troupe of tap dancing Trolls and chuckle mining in the Last Laugh Mountains of Saccharinia (which is no laughing matter). Not to mention Seven Not Particularly Tall People. Intrigued? All will be revealed on February 2nd (or 3rd).

Tickets are available from: The Royal Oak, Londis and The Chairman. And if you are so intrigued that you'd like to join Painswick Players, please contact Andrew Leach on 813609 or email [ajleach1@msn.com](mailto:ajleach1@msn.com). More information on Painswick Players is available at our website [www.painswickplayers.org.uk](http://www.painswickplayers.org.uk)."

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# Local History Teaser

At the risk of reviving not-so-welcome memories of summer floods and all the consequent problems, our photograph this month harks back to a time when water availability could not be taken for granted in some places locally. Can you name the person drawing water from the well, say where it was and approximately when?

Answer in next month's Beacon.

Last month's picture remains something of a mystery as we do not know what the occasion was ourselves and there was no response from readers. We do know that the lady in the centre of the picture was Lady Sleeman, wife of Colonel Sir James Sleeman, who lived at The Verlands.

If you have a photograph which you think would pose a challenge to readers we would love to hear from you.

The Local History Society's next meeting will be a Briggs/Archard production which will take place at the Croft School on Tuesday, 15 January. It will start at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome.

*Carol Maxwell*

## ... and Painswick Local History Society

### Aviation History in the Cotswolds

At the November meeting of the Local History Society Graham Pitchfork treated us to an excellent talk that toured the Cotswolds taking us to numerous little airfields that had been used during WWII and even a couple dating back to WWI.

It might not sound much but it was far more than just the physical airfields or the traces that are left of them in some cases. The talk encompassed so many details of events and people associated with particular places: Morton-in-Marsh a training airfield where the old training Wellingtons were used in the 1000 bomber raid on Munich and Essen in 1942 (and the chilling thought of over 6000 people lost just in training exercises); Little Rissington a training and maintenance unit set up in the 1930's as part of an expansion scheme for the RAF (the Red Arrows were formed here and are commemorated in the window of the local church); Kemble which was the home of the Red Arrows for many years and where 1064 were flown in after the War just to be scrapped; Woodchester where a stained glass window in the church commemorates Robert Alum d1912 the second person to be killed in what was then the Royal Flying Corps; Rudcombe where Bristol fighters were based during WWI.

Many of us felt that driving around in the future we would look differently on these places and make the effort to visit the various stained glass windows mentioned where fascinating little bits of aviation history are recorded.

*Peter Jackson*



## ArchiTecs

Something of a non-architectural ArchiTecs this month. In case there is no snow to impede us this January, can you work out where the picture on the left was taken in 2005?

Last month we asked if you knew where the file of walkers in New Street were heading? They were but one part of the Procession of Witness, which customarily wends its way around the centre of the village, on Good Friday. The picture was taken seven years ago.



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# Croft School



## A Wriggly Nativity

On Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th December, the Croft Infants presented A Wriggly Nativity to packed houses of highly appreciative parents, relatives and friends. The cast of thousands (well, 58 actually) included a divine Mary and Joseph plus Donkey, supported by assorted Innkeepers and Shepherds, a trio of Wise Men, a host of Angels, a galaxy of Stars and an entire menagerie of Cows, Horses, Chickens, Sheep and Camels, all enthusiastically wriggling away, whilst six fluent Narrators kept the whole show on course, Add wonderfully imaginative costumes, a fine set and terrific music and you had a great show.



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# 2007 Review

2007 has been an exciting and successful year for the school. We have continued to develop our creative topic based curriculum that the children (and their parents!) enjoy. We have welcomed a host of visitors to the school to add hands-on learning experiences to these topics. As well as visiting artists and drama groups we have held workshops in dance, science, history and music.

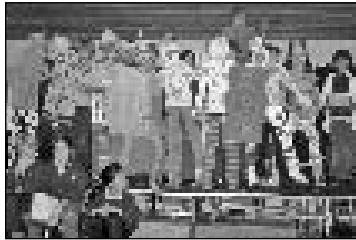


Fun at the Juniors' disco

An extension to the building over the summer has given us a spacious enlarged classroom and outdoor play area for our youngest class. Our new vegetable garden produced a bumper crop of food, which the children enjoyed cooking and eating. This was just one reason why we received

Healthy Schools accreditation in November, a prestigious national award.

As well as all of this, we achieved the highest academic results the school has ever achieved, placing us in the list of top 250 schools nationally. This has not been at the cost of sporting and creative activities, as we have had a full programme of shows, concerts, sports fixtures and after school clubs throughout the year. Our very successful Ofsted inspection in June was a positive way to end the school year and we were pleased that it confirmed so many positive aspects of our work.



Juniors show what they have learned about Celts and the Roman invasion of Britain

I am very proud of our tremendous children and all that they achieve and contribute. A caring, talented and hard working team of staff makes all of this happen, supported by dedicated volunteers, an outstanding governing body and an excellent PTA.

A highlight of the year for me has been the many ways in which we have worked more closely with the wider Painswick community. Year 6 children hosted an austerity lunch for the first time in the spring (come on 11th February for the second), two highly successful coffee mornings brought many visitors to the school and our Art Exhibition in the Town Hall in June was magnificent. Most



Rudolph at the PTA Fayre

recently, our School Council has begun to meet with the Parish Council, an innovative development that few school or parish councils engage with. Next, we are developing a partnership with

the community's support for Lideta and planning to become a Fair Trade School, linking with the recent application nominating Painswick as a Fair Trade community.

So please come along and see us and get involved in your local school. You may like to receive our fortnightly newsletters by email or come to offer a skill or a little of your time to the school. I would be interested to hear your views about how your school can be further involved in the community and in your organisations. If you want to know the views of young people in your community, get in touch as we have 144 of them more than ready to tell you!

Contact us on 812479 or visit our website: [www.croft.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.croft.gloucs.sch.uk)

Janet Hoyle, Headteacher

## 'Christmas Gifts'

It was all change for the Christmas Nativity Play at Painswick Playgroup this year. Melanie Cross, one of the parents and a published author, wrote the play in a unique new way for the children.

Entitled "Christmas Gifts" and performed on 18th and 19th December, this imaginative new play was written in rhyming verse and told the Nativity Story from

the perspective of the animals sheltering in the stable. Characters included a cow, cat and mouse that welcome the donkey carrying Joseph and Mary into the stable. The camels came next, carrying the three wise men. Then the sheep arrived with the shepherds.



The overall message was that you don't need to give material things at Christmas time, as the most precious gift of all is the gift of love.

As Beaty Bell, Playgroup Leader said, "We needed to reinvigorate our Nativity Play this year, not just for the children, but for the staff and parents as well. We are very fortunate to have such a talented individual as Melanie Cross to write us such an original and entertaining script. The children all love it".

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## Rugby

Painswick United's successful run continues, being undefeated in the Second Division of The Citizen Merit Table. Painswick's first fifteen have been experiencing mixed fortunes, their form typified with a 31 points to nil defeat away against Southmead when in the corresponding home fixture in November they had beaten the Bristol side by 28 points to nil. There was disappointment for the first fifteen in the EDF Energy Vase competition when they sustained a narrow defeat away against Old Plymouthonians. Several Painswick players had been unavailable and their presence might well have tipped the balance in the Cherry and Whites' favour in a closely contested match. Everyone at the club is looking forward to the New Year games with the first fifteen confident of getting back into winning ways.

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

Sat 1st. (L) Painswick 1st XV 8 Brockworth 1st XV 5. (M) Painswick United 14 Cheltenham North 2nd XV 5.

Sat 8th. EDF Energy Vase. Old Plymouthonians 1st XV 24 Painswick 1st XV 17.

Sat 15th. (L) Southmead 1st XV 31 Painswick 1st XV 0. (M) Painswick United 34 Westbury on Severn 2nd XV 0.

Sat 22nd. Painswick 1st XV 8 Stroud Nomads 28.

Sat 29th. Painswick 1st XV 25 Painswick United 15.

### January Fixtures

Sat 5th. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Bishopston 1st XV. Painswick United v Bream 2nd XV.

Sat 12th. Painswick 1st XV v Drybrook 1st XV. Painswick United v Brockworth 2nd XV.

Sat 19th. (L) Painswick 1st XV v Longlevens 1st XV. (M) Cheltenham Saracens 2nd XV v Painswick United.

Sat 26th. (L) Chipping Sodbury 1st XV v Painswick 1st XV.

Lady Sophia Gordon Trophy. (M) Painswick United v Cainscross 2nd XV.

Sat 2nd February. Painswick 1st XV v Smiths 1st XV. Painswick United v Smiths 2nd XV.

## Tennis

### New beginnings

The New Year sees big changes at Painswick Lawn Tennis Club. As from January 1st, all coaching, adult and junior, comes under the auspices of the Painswick Tennis Academy. This new initiative will be run by Head Coach, Lorraine Ristic, who will be responsible for all aspects of the club's coaching programme and its administration. This is an exciting turning point for the club and we wish Lorraine and her team every success with the new venture.

### And goodbyes

Tennis coach Craig Stock (*pictured right*) is leaving us for pastures new (or perhaps that should be courts new), as he takes up the position of Head Coach at Lower Hutt Tennis Club in Wellington, New Zealand in January. Craig has been coaching at Painswick for the last two and a half years, during which time he has coached right across the age range, from the 'toddler' group, which he initiated, to performance squads and adult tennis. We are all going to miss Craig hugely and we wish him well in his new position on the other side of the world.



### Painswick's most successful year

Painswick Lawn Tennis Club Mens A team have won the Gloucestershire League Premier Division for the third time in the club's history. The team comprising Paul Duncliffe, Rob Deanery, Duncan Ross and James Barnett did not lose a match, winning 10 of their 12 fixtures with 2 drawn. 4 of the club's ladies teams won promotion: from Division 1A, 3A and 3B with the newly formed young ladies team gaining promotion from Division 5A. The Ladies B team won the First Division and are promoted to the Premier Division. The team which comprised Carlie Jarvis, Mary Omnes, Tonia Robinson and Alicia Barnett were undefeated.

These results make 2007 the most successful in the club's history. Pictured from left to right are James Barnett, Paul Duncliffe, Carlie Jarvis, Mary Omnes and Alicia Barnett.





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# Golf - club house sale

The Beacon has followed up information that the Painswick Golf Club has decided to sell its club house and bungalow, and can confirm this is correct. Club Captain, Mike Hoey, confirmed that a motion to this effect was carried with an overwhelming majority at a recent Extraordinary General Meeting.

We expect to be carrying more details of the planned sale over the next couple of months, when negotiations have been concluded, but meanwhile readers may appreciate knowing that future arrangements do not affect the golf course, or the club house still being the club's base.

There is, it seems, every prospect of strengthening the catering side of things, which will be further good news about 'dining out' in and around Painswick.



## Unrunners in Santa Walk

Painswick Unrunners finished their successful first year with a jolly Santa Walk to the top of Painswick Beacon. Sparkling lights had been spotted the previous night in the sky above and on the ground by The Trig mark the children found evidence that reindeers had been there! Reindeer dropping of course... Rudolf shouldn't eat so much chocolate! It does terrible things to his digestive system!

He wasn't the only one with a red nose, but the adults blamed the cold wind or was it the mulled wine?

With a new year, comes New Resolutions. Get fit, have fun, make friends. If you want to know more, come to a meeting at 6 30pm at The Croft School, Painswick on Monday 14 January 2007 and find out how to begin 'unrunning' successfully with a gentle 6 week training programme. For those already running, join us for some 10K runs, starting in The Forest of Dean on Sunday, 6 January.

For more information email: [Rosemary.Sanderson@gmail.com](mailto:Rosemary.Sanderson@gmail.com)



## Painswick Beacon Conservation Group



At our AGM on 28th November we were glad to welcome several new members and guests. We were all delighted by a talk on Gloucestershire wild flowers, especially those in our locality, from Rosemary Westgate. They were illustrated with super digital photos, sometimes multi images and sometimes remarkable close-ups. This will have rekindled the audience's enthusiasm for the Beacon's wild flowers, and that in turn was reinforced by the message from our Recorder Clare Overhill. As well as leading popular flower walks this year she surprised many by announcing that she has identified well over a

hundred flower species on The Beacon. For a novel new year's resolution you might challenge yourself to find an identify a modest 40 flowers on the Beacon in 2008!

At the AGM we recruited two new committee members, David Bishop and David Bull. With David Little reappointed as Treasurer and myself as Chairman we now have four David's at the core of the Group. David Little told us that our finances are sound with our modest income just matching our small costs for machinery and large cost for insurance. David Allott in his Chairman's report spoke of the important working party efforts led by John Rhodes and Clare Overhill as our gangers. We have now made noticeable improvements to several areas of the Beacon. This had been acknowledged by the Environment award from Calor Gas. Looking to 2008 he hoped we would increase the clearance work and have more flower walks including one led by Rosemary Westgate at Westonbirt where she is a volunteer. Also, due to a law change there is the exciting prospect of some grazing (at last) on appropriate parts of the Beacon. And prospects for Grant funding too.

### Near Miss

Since the AGM we have been encouraged to apply for a 50% grant towards a Mountain Tractor part funded by ourselves, The Calor award, The Golf Club, The Blow Estate and credit for the 450 hours (@ £10 an hour) of our clearance gangs. Sadly the Grant fund was exhausted before our bid was assessed, so we will look for another scheme in 2008.

### Dates

Our working parties will meet on the following Sundays (see also the Diary pages) in January, the 13th and 27th; February 10th and 24th; March 9th; April 6th and 20th.

*David Allott, Chairman*

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# Letters

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



## Restore hangings

*From Audrey Watts, Lower Washwell:*

The Country Scene wall hangings in the Town Hall were made by Painswick WI members between 1946 and 1949 from any fabric that was available, including black-out curtains. Two of the hangings are part of a travelling exhibition organised by the WI National Federation and they are due to be returned during May this year.

When Painswick WI disbanded, the hangings passed into the ownership of the Gloucestershire Federation but we arranged for them to stay in our Town Hall.

Once a year they need taking down and as much dust as possible removed. They have stood the test of time but occasionally small repairs may be required to the applied pieces. The Town Hall staff, very kindly, organise the taking down and re-hanging.

Is there anyone, or a small group of people, who would take over the care of these wall hangings? Please contact me on 813089.

They represent part of Painswick's heritage.

## Croft School donation

*From Jenny Urbani, Court Orchard:*

Referring to a statement made in the Croft School section last month "...books to be funded from a donation from the closure of accounts of Painswick WI, given in memory of Doreen Boon" – I would like to make it clear that the money did not come from this source.

It came from an account opened by Doreen Boon, after the closure of Painswick WI, to continue the publication, sales and availability of the leaflet "Exploring Painswick". Following Doreen's death the account was closed and the funds donated to Croft School.

## A Beacon Restaurant Critic?

*From Patricia Burrows, Castle Hale Drive:*

As we now have so many fine eating-houses of various kinds in Painswick, I thought perhaps it was time for the Beacon to have an apposite column. So accordingly I am proposing to volunteer myself to be the Beacon's Egon Ronay (for a small fee, of course). I consider myself to be well qualified due to my inordinate commitment to chocolate cake and an enthusiasm for free meals!

Can anyone better this? In the meantime, as people from the Stroud valleys are probably discouraged from coming here due to the A46 closure, I hope all good Painswickians will loosen their belts and support our cafes, pubs and restaurants. One of these enthusiasts may even get the job I'm looking for!!

*Editor's note: Nice try, Pamela, but we suspect you'll have to join a queue!*

## Conserving the Beacon Jewel

*From Ros Harris, Butt Green:*

Having just returned from a wonderful, informative and inspiring talk, illustrated with superb photographs, at the AGM of the Painswick Beacon Conservation Group, I wonder how many people in the Village are really aware of this remarkable small band of locals who have worked so hard under the leadership of David Allot. The Group is helping restore and enhance the beauty of the Beacon, a 'jewel' in our area with many rare plants, flowers and 'mini-beasties'. There are guided walks, enjoyable gatherings to assist in the ongoing work on the Beacon, new friends to be made and much more fun!

Perhaps get involved...? Contact details can be had via the Painswick Directory.

# Big Lottery wins for local charities?

Smaller charities and voluntary groups are set to benefit from GRCC's (Gloucestershire Rural Community Council) successful Big Lottery BASIS bid announced today.

Lottery funding over three years will enable GRCC to support a whole range of voluntary organisations as they look at ways of improving their performance. Starting early next year, GRCC will work with groups to help them achieve a Quality Standard such as Investors In People (IIP) which can be used to demonstrate to funders that they are 'quality assured'.

GRCC recognises that voluntary groups will need to devote a significant amount of time and effort to the process so part of the Lottery funding allows for a limited number of bursaries to be made available to help groups make sure they have the right systems in place.

Over the next few weeks, GRCC will be starting to compile a database of organisations who are interested in knowing more, so if you would like more information, please call Naomi McMahon on 01452 528491 or email [naomim@grcc.org.uk](mailto:naomim@grcc.org.uk)

**beacon@painswick.net**

is our new, highly memorable email address.

For the time being, the old address  
([painswickbeacon@supanet.com](mailto:painswickbeacon@supanet.com))  
will also continue in operation.

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# Churches Together around Painswick

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Jan 17th – 24th 2008

This year we are having two events in Painswick: an afternoon tea and talk on Jan 17th at Christ Church Hall, 2.30pm and a Unity Agape – an evening of shared readings, music and food at St. Mary’s Church Rooms on Thursday 24th Jan at 7.30pm.

As we celebrate 100 years of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2008, there is to be a special service at Gloucester Cathedral at 6.00pm on Sunday 20th Jan which we hope as many of us from the area as possible will support. There will be lists for transport arrangements in all churches and meeting places – do sign up!

## Ecumenical Lent Courses – Feb 6th to March 20th

Lent begins very early this year – so it is difficult to circulate details of courses far in advance. Please do look at any church notice board and the special CTAP board opposite the Town Hall at the North gate to St. Mary’s –when details will be available in January.

*Rita Bishop, Secretary to CTAP*

## St Mary's: Renewal and refurbishment

The church council at St. Mary’s is consulting on what should be included in a programme of refurbishment over the next 3 to 5 years and invites all Painswick residents who have an interest in the interior of our Grade 1 listed building to submit their ideas. The lighting and carpets are obvious items that need renewing, but we are also considering catering facilities and possibly re-ordering of some items. A full article on this subject was published in the November 2007 edition of the parish magazine. The same article can be seen via the link on the right hand side of the home page of the Beacon Benefice web site [www.beaconbenefice.co.uk](http://www.beaconbenefice.co.uk). If you have any thoughts or comments please send them in writing to one of the churchwardens, Frankie Marsh or David Bishop via the Lychgate Office (or e-mail : [dc.bishop@btinternet.com](mailto:dc.bishop@btinternet.com)).

## ...and Lead: an increasingly valuable commodity

An accessible lead drain pipe was literally ripped off the wall recently at St. Mary’s. It has presumably been sold for its scrap value because of the significant price increases in recent months. Other materials such as Cotswold roof stones are said to be equally vulnerable. Many of the buildings in Painswick are potential targets for such thieves and we all need to keep an eye out. Unmarked vans or lorries, men working at strange hours, particularly if ladders are involved, are perhaps the obvious signs of nefarious activity. If you see something suspicious please call the police, challenge them if it is safe to do so and take details of number plates, vehicle make and colour etc. At St. Mary’s our property is being protected by insurance recommended ‘Smart water’. This is DNA based technology and is easy to apply both inside and outside. See [www.smartwater.com](http://www.smartwater.com) for details.

*David Bishop, Churchwarden, St Mary’s*



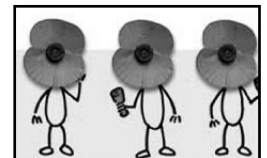
## They wished you a Merry Christmas...

The traditional pre-Christmas carol singing tour of Painswick took place on Thursday 20th December, starting from the War Memorial and finishing with mince pies and (much needed!) mulled wine at Gyde House (pictured left). A total of £216 was collected and will go to Lideta our World Vision “Churches in Partnership” link with a shanty town on the outskirts of Addis Adaba in Ethiopia.

*Iris McCormick*

## Poppy Appeal

I would like to thank all the Poppy People who this year have raised, together with the Church collection on Remembrance Sunday, the magnificent sum of £3,000. If anybody would like to add to the total please contact me.



*Patricia Burrows*

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# Richmond Painswick

## Phase Three – public consultation

Richmond Painswick have decided to radically revise their intentions with regard to Phase Three – the final stage of their desired development on the Stroud Road site. Their plans for that stage will be available for public scrutiny, and comment which they will welcome, at their centre on Friday 25th January between 10.00am and 6.00pm.

Some specific concerns were expressed by the District Council, and others, when an application last year was in fact turned down. The Beacon understands that the new proposal is for 12, instead of 16, apartments and that some other changes have been taken on board. Richmond say that they remain committed to try and create these apartments to be “more affordable and available to a wider group”. The new configuration will, we are told, comprise “an equal mix of one-bedroom and two-bedroom units, and more attention has been given to the views from these properties”.

Susie Oakley, Manager of Richmond Painswick, told us that “The apartments closest to Queens Mead have been re-orientated in order to retain the views from that cul-de-sac, and their roofline has been reduced by two metres”. Susie went on to say that further information will be available nearer the 25th and she can be contacted on 813902 when required.

## What House? Gold Award

Following on from its success in the Daily Mail UK Property Awards, Richmond Painswick has won gold in the Best Retirement Development category at this year’s What House? The prestigious award was presented at the official awards ceremony at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London.

Describing the winning development, the judges said: “These Cotswold stone buildings use sensational architecture in a beautiful setting, and are set around a five-acre site to maximise views of the rolling hills.”

Keith Cockell, managing director of Richmond Villages, commented: “Naturally, we are all highly delighted – it’s a great accolade for us as the developer and operator, as well as for our team at Painswick.”



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## PROPERTY REPORT for January from Murrays Estate Agents

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### Murrays wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Welcome to 2008. May we extend our best wishes for a happy and successful New Year and hope you all enjoyed recent festivities. What’s going to happen in 2008? you may well ask; good question! Clearly the market has slowed down in the last few months with even a slight drop in prices around the country, not yet in Gloucestershire, in December but I believe we are a long way from doom and gloom. I would not be at all surprised to see January doing very well like it did last year and by Spring prices moving upwards gently once more. Interest rates have had their first fall and may be forecast to fall again, employment is strong with healthy optimism from the business sector all adding up to a general feel good factor, Confidence is what we all need and not listening to all the doom that the papers have to say, things will look a lot brighter. Put all this together with the fact that the major asset that most of us have is our home. This must surely add up to property continuing to be a secure and growing investment in the future.

However, nothing is guaranteed and being ready to cope with harder times is also important. With well over a century of local experience in property in our team, we believe we are well placed to adjust to changing market conditions. As a local independent business without the controls of a distant head office driven by national issues, we know our market and can react quickly to changing local conditions. We have seen difficult times before and remember when estate agents had a real job to do. To this end we are re-training and improving our service; we realise that our clients will need a higher level of service to give their property the best chance of selling in this changing market. In Painswick activity remains strong with a several new instructions: Linkside a large detached bungalow with a large garden on the outskirts of Painswick, Kingsmill Lane Cottage, a charming detached cottage in Painswick with lovely views, New Inn House, a beautifully converted house and barn in the Camp, East Barn a stunning Barn Conversion in Brookthorpe Court and Sunrise, a charming bungalow with lovely views in the Colony at Whiteway.

Currently we have under offer: Mary’s Acre and Mary’s Acre Building Plot, Mermagen House, Court Cottage, Highfield, 13 Gyde House, 4 Clattergrove Cottages, The Former Lloyds TSB and 7 Hyett Orchard all in Painswick, Well Cottage at The Camp and Elmbank in Pitchcombe. Properties that are now Sold are 7 Churchill Way, Windrush in Beacon Close, Roseleigh on Cheltenham Road, Orchard Bungalow in Pitchcombe, Winding Waters and Vermont in Cranham, Allanhay in Edge, Barley Mow in Slad and Haresfield Farm in Bird in Hand.

*James C Murray*

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## JANUARY 2008

Tue	8	Dog Training Club (Tuesdays) Yoga: Beginners welcome – Tuesdays	Christ Church Hall Town Hall	9.30 to 12.00noon 10.00 to 1.15am
Wed	9	Probus: Cotswold Canals - Bruce Hall Horticultural Society: Australian Flora - Aubrey Wood Bingo: Wednesdays – Tel. Ann, 813911/Liz, 813139	Shire Room, Falcon Town Hall Painswick Centre	10.00am 2.30pm 7.30 to 10.00pm
Thu	10	Jolly Stompers line dancing; new starters (Thursdays) Improvers & classic dances (Thursdays) Tea Dances – Thursdays Music Appreciation - Chopin	Rugby Club, Stroud Rd. Painswick Centre Cotswold Room	7.00 to 8.00pm 8.00 to 9.00pm 2.30 to 4.30pm 7.30pm
Sun	13	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group: Scrub clearance working party (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	9.30am to 1.00pm
Tue	15	Local History Society: A Briggs / Archard production!	Croft School	7.30pm
Thu	17	CTAP Christian Unity Week Talk & afternoon tea	Christ Church Hall	2.30pm
Fri	18	Country Market reopens - coffee available (Fridays)	Town Hall	10.00am
<b>Sat</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Copy dateline for December Beacon</b>		
Sun	20	CTAP Service for Christian Unity (transport arranged locally)	Gloucester Cathedral	6.00pm
Tue	22	Yew Trees WI: Women's life in Arabia - Eileen Brown	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	23	Probus: Building a Medieval Cathedral - Peter Petrie	Shire Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	24	Music Appreciation Outing to Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Colston Hall, Bristol CTAP Unity Agape	Stamages Car Park Church Rooms	5.00pm 7.30pm
Sun	27	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group: Scrub clearance working party (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	9.30am to 1.00pm
Wed	30	Women's Fellowship: My grandmother's a Gypsy - G Mills	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm

## FEBRUARY

Sat	2	February Issue of The Painswick Beacon published		
Sat 2 (& Sun3)		Painswick Players panto 'Snow White and the Seven Not Particularly Tall People' Theatre Club outing to Cheltenham	Painswick Centre The Falcon	2.30pm, & 7.30pm 1.30pm
Wed	6	CTAP Ecumenical Lent courses begin, various venues/times Probus: Air Force Blunders - Norman Brown	Shire Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	7	Cotswold Care Support Group Music Appreciation: Great Opera Houses of the World	Ashwell House Cotswold Room	2.30pm 7.30pm
Wed	6	Probus: Air Force Blunders - Norman Brown	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am
Sun	10	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group: Scrub clearance working party (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	9.30am to 1.00pm
Wed	13	Horticultural Society: Derbyshire Well-dressing - Mr K Orchard-Robinson Women's Fellowship	Town Hall Christ Church Hall	2.30pm 7.30pm
Thu	14	Romantic Valentines Dinner	St Michael's Restaurant	From 7.00pm
Tue	19	Bird Club: Wildlife in Antarctica and Southern Ocean – Dr Richard Sale Local History Society: Local properties & work of the National Trust – Paul Rutter	Town Hall Croft School	2.15pm 7.30pm
Wed	20	Probus: Wine Tasting - John Storer	Church Rooms	11.00am
Thu	21	Music Appreciation: Hi-Fi	Cotswold Room	7.30pm
Sun	24	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group: Scrub clearance working party (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	9.30am to 1.00pm
Tue	26	Yew Trees WI: The Grand Circle, Utah & Arizona: Bob Price	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	27	Women's Fellowship: Rainbow House, Poland - Mrs Medicott	Christ Church Hall	7.30pm

## MARCH

Wed	5	Probus: Architecture of the Mogul Empire - Leslie Dalton	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	6	Cotswold Care Support Group Music Appreciation: Ballet Music	Ashwell House Cotswold Room	2.30pm 7.30pm
Fri	7	Women's World Day of Prayer; Coffee & Meeting	Ashwell House	10.30am
Sat	8	Village Quiz	Painswick Centre	6.45 for 7.15pm
Sun	9	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group: Scrub clearance working party (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	9.30am to 1.00pm
Tue	11	Bird Club: Birds of Australia – Ged Cassell: & AGM	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	12	Horticultural Society: Take a Closer Look - Andy Purcell Women's Fellowship: Recycling - Sue Hurt, Stroud D C	Town Hall Christ Church Hall	7.30pm 7.30pm
Tue	18	Local History Society: The Railway that Never Was - Jill Simmons	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	19	Probus: A look at Stained Glass - Richard Cann	Shire Rooms, Falcon	10.00am



Thu	20	Music Appreciation: Pictures in Music	Cotswold Room	7.30pm
Fri	21	Good Friday procession of witness around Painswick	St Mary's Church	10.25pm
Tue	25	Yew Trees WI: History & work of National Trust - Paul Rutter	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	26	Theatre Club outing to Cheltenham	The Falcon	6.30pm
Sat	29	Painswick Music Society Concert - Llyr Williams, Piano	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
<b>APRIL</b>				
Tue	1	Bird Club: Birds of Ecuador & experiences in conservation - Renton Righelato - Trustee, World Land Trust	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	2	Probus: History of Junk - Roger Hennesey	Shire Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	3	Cotswold Care Support Group Music Appreciation: Donizetti	Ashwell House Cotswold Room	2.30pm 7.30pm
Sun	6	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group: Scrub clearance working party (location check 812709)	Painswick Beacon	9.30am to 1.00pm
Wed	9	Music Appreciation Concert Outing: Welsh National Opera - Eugene Onegin Horticultural Society: Climbers, Ramblers & Scramblers - Mr R Bracher	Bristol Hippodrome Town Hall	7.00pm 7.30pm
Sat	12	Painswick Music Society Concert - Ashley Wass (piano) & Alexander Chausian (cello)	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Tue	15	Local History Society: Research Evening	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	16	Probus: AGM	Shire Room, Falcon	10.00am
Thu	17	Music Appreciation: A Mystery	Cotswold Room	7.30pm
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
Fri	25	Gloucester Police Choir Concert	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Sat	26	Painswick Music Society Concert: Arpege Ensemble	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Wed	30	Painswick & District Conservation Society AGM: Presentation subject: The Painswick Tombstone Restoration	Church Rooms	7.30pm
<b>MAY</b>				
Thu	1	Cotswold Care Support Group	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Sat	3	'Too Hot to Handle'	Painswick Centre	7.30pm
Thu	8	Music Appreciation: Members' Night	Cotswold Room	7.30pm
Sat	10	Painswick Music Society Concert: Mandelring Quartet	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Wed	14	Horticultural Society: AGM	Town Hall	7.30 / 8.15pm
Tue	20	Local History Society: Annual Outing	Croft School	7.30pm
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
<b>JUNE</b>				
Thu	5	Cotswold Care Support Group	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Tue	24	Yew Trees WI: Pub Signs - Angela Pancrucker	Town Hall	7.30pm
<b>JULY</b>				
Thu	3	Cotswold Care Support Group	Ashwell House	2.30pm
Tue	22	Yew Trees WI: The Cotswold Perfumery - Pam Slater	Town Hall	7.30pm

*Please help us help you by letting us have copy of complete programmes of meetings, or single events, as soon as they are known. In this way our forward listing of them all can be of maximum assistance to organisers anxious to avoid clashes of dates.*

*Thank you.*

## Cranham is challenging

The Cranham Challenge is Cranham's answer to University Challenge complete with buzzers! Please come and watch the eight teams battle it out for a place in the final.

The Dates (all Fridays) are January 11th, February 8th and March 7th

We hope the evenings will be a fun way to relax over a glass of wine. See how many questions you can answer – BUT – no helping the teams! Complete the optional quiz sheet – eat the free nibbles – Cheer, Boo, Hiss, Laugh – win the Raffle.

A great night out for only £3.50 (wine extra) in aid of Cranham Church. For further information please phone Phil Stick on 813407

## ... and decadent too!

Following the great success last year, The Friends of Cranham School offer you unabated pleasure on Tuesday February 12th at "Olivers" 7.30pm. £5 ticket (includes a glass of wine).

Indulge Yourself... Relaxation massage... Beauty Therapy... Therapeutic Oils... Unusual gifts... Original designed cards... Hand Crafted Jewellery... and more.... If you are prepared to be pampered, dreamy for decadence... or would like to run a stall at this FUN evening, please call Lou Kemp on 863638 or email: [loulou.kemp@virgin.net](mailto:loulou.kemp@virgin.net).

Directions to "Olivers": from Cranham, turn left onto the A46, half a mile south of Royal William, down signed track, on the left. From Painswick, it is 1.7 miles after the Painswick lights, on the right.



# PLANNING MATTERS

A summary of information from the Parish Council.

## NEW APPLICATIONS

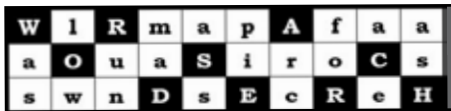
- LADYMEAD, KEMPS LANE.** Erection of single storey extension.  
**SPRING COTTAGE, TICKLESTONE LANE, KINGS MILL LANE.** Change of flat roof dormer to twin gable dormer, insertion of new dormer to front elevation. Erection of replacement sun room.  
**MILTON COTTAGE, VICARAGE STREET.** Roof covering over outside area & repositioning of steps up to garden shed.  
**LYNCOMBE FARM, CHELTENHAM ROAD.** Fell beech tree (TPO: 15) that overhangs A46.  
**BEARS DEN, CHELTENHAM ROAD.** Erection of single storey side extension  
**LABURNUM COTTAGE, SHEEPSCOMBE.** Variation of condition 5 of application 07/0278. New stone window to west elevation.  
**1 CANTON ACRE.** Change of use of garage to habitable accommodation.  
**OLIVERS BARN, CHELTENHAM ROAD.** Retrospective change of use from barn to residential accommodation and ancillary equestrian use.

## REVISED PLANS

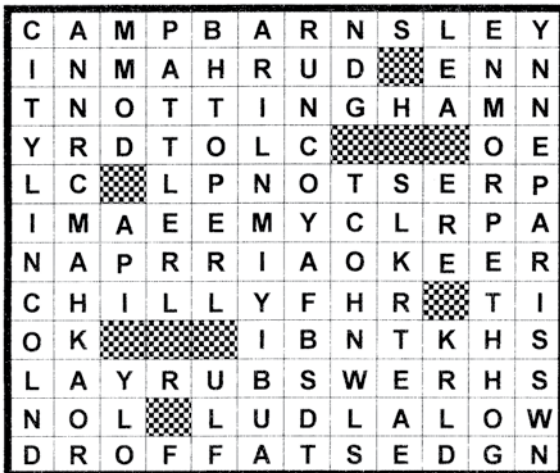
**Land at MARY'S ACRE, STAMAGES LANE.** Erection of a detached dwelling & garage.  
 Main changes: Revised design of house & position of garage. Details of additional garden land and of access land arrangements. House position moved further to rear/north-west of plot and garage relocated to minimize impact upon trees. (2 revisions)

## CONSENT

- DOWNFIELD COTTAGE, BULLS CROSS, SHEEPSCOMBE.** Erection of a wooden double garage.  
**CASTLE LODGE, CHELTENHAM ROAD.** Installation of dormer windows to rear elevation and alteration of roof space.  
**BEAMSLEY, CHELTENHAM ROAD.** Garage conversion and new detached garage.  
**THE VATCH HOUSE, THE VATCH, CATSWOOD LANE, SLAD.** Alterations to the dwelling house  
**CHAPEL COTTAGE, THE GREEN, EDGE.** Creation of gable roof & replacement doors.



Can you find the fourteen County Towns, north of Painswick, hidden in the grid?



In last month's seasonal WordSearch?, we invited seasonal indigestion by hiding 25 examples of classic Christmas fare. They were:  
 BISCUITS, BRANDY, BRANDY BUTTER, BREAD SAUCE, CAKE, CHEESES, CHIPO-LATAS, CHOCOLATE LOG, CRANBERRY, FRUIT, GAME, GRAVY, HAM, INDIGESTION PILLS, MINCE PIES, PORT, PUDDING, PUNCH, RED WINE, STUFFING, SWEETS, TRIFLE, TURKEY, WHITE WINE, SPROUTS

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**MINI-ADS -** There is a flat charge of £5.00 for mini-ads, maximum of 30 words, paid for (by cash or cheque payable to 'The Painswick Beacon') in advance. Please send money with mini-ad to Dermot Cassidy, 1 Painswick Heights, Yokehouse Lane, GL6 7QS.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Beacon now accepts occasional commercial mini-ads but, space constraints apply and non-commercial ones have priority.

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## New Year, New You!

Start the year as you mean to go on and visit the beauty rooms within the Wellness Spa at Richmond Village.

We offer a range of treatments for all ages  
**10% discount off all treatments in January**

**Happy New Year**  
 from all at  
**Richmond Painswick!**

# The Personal Column

## Wedding

Congratulations to KATE O'FLYNN and SIMON JONES who were married at St Mary's, Painswick on 24th November.

## Births

Congratulations to RACHEL and JONATHON HINDS whose daughter, Anna, was born on 22nd November, a first grandchild for PHILIP and SARAH HINDS and for NAOMI MCLAURIN-JONES and the late JACK HINDS.

## Welcome

We would like to welcome CAROL ES-KELL and ROBERT HARGREAVES to Little Cob at Edge;

also to CRAIG and SUSAN PARKINSON to Dial Tryst in Vicarage Street also to ANDY GINN in Vicarage Street;

also to AUDREY and BRIAN HASLETT, who are moving back to Painswick after several years away, to 7 Hyett Orchard

## Moving around

Best wishes to HAINE RYAN who has moved to 3, Churchill Way from Gloucester Street.

## Nonagenarian

Congratulations to FREDA HUDDLESTONE who will be ninety on 18th January

## Get well soon

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to JOAN TRUMAN, DICK PURDY and DAVID RYLAND.

## Condolences

Our sincere sympathies to the family and friends of PHILIP EVANS, RUBY HOGG (formerly of Ashwell), ELEANOR BRENNAN (Michael and Sally Brennan's granddaughter), JOHN BENTLEY, GEOFREY OLSEN and GWEN GORTON (in her 100th year).

## Personal message

MARY MCCARTHY would like to thank Postman David Fawkes and Dr Jim Hoyland for the help they gave her after she fell in Pullens Road.

*Rachel Taylor welcomes information for the Personal Column. Space limitations permit only a small amount of text and your assistance in this regard is helpful.*

## Let's get Quizzical!

C'mon Painswickians, get Quizzical! The Village Quiz is on Saturday 8th March at the Painswick Centre. Now is the time to get your teams sorted out and register them with Charles Dorman by email [chasdorm@googlemail.com](mailto:chasdorm@googlemail.com) or by post to Tilling, Kingsmill Lane, GL6 6RT or leave a note in the Beacon post box. Teams should consist of four people and the cost is £4 per person (£16 per team) to include a light buffet supper.

Feedback from last year tells us the evening was much enjoyed by the twenty teams who took part. For the second year running, The Jolly Stompers won, narrowly beating 'Los Paradisos', made up of residents from Paradise. Will they make it a hat trick?

The entry charge of £16.00 per team of four remains the same as last year, essentially to cover catering costs. The bar will be open at the same time as the doors, from 6.45pm, and we aim to be reading out the last question about 10.30pm. As we have said before, there is no need to be coy about entering as the answers are a team decision so that the combined brain power in each team is brought to bear on a wide variety of questions.

We hope that teams will enter into the spirit of the occasion by bringing a suitable mascot, and we will be awarding a prize for the one that our 'judge' thinks is the most imaginative. Mobile phones remain a taboo, and 'Ask the audience' may be a no-no!



## NEXT ISSUE

Publication date

**SATURDAY  
2nd FEBRUARY**

## Dateline for all copy

including Mini-Ads - Display advertising  
- Diary - Club news - etc using

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Photographs

**preferably original  
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[www.painswickbeacon.org.uk](http://www.painswickbeacon.org.uk)

All copy must include

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