

# The Painswick Beacon

*Sine praeiudicio*

Volume 33 Number 11

February 2011

## A Community Library ?

Painswick Library was closed by the County Council for health and safety reasons in December 2009. Since that time the community has been served by a mobile library which visits Stamages Lane car park every Monday morning. The Painswick Beacon understands that under the proposed changes to the County's Council's library service the mobile library is to be withdrawn. However, changes in Central Government legislation are being introduced to give local people a much greater say in how their communities are run. Painswick Parish Council is one of a small number of parish councils in Gloucestershire that have sought and been given the Power of Well Being. This power means that the Parish Council can by itself raise taxes to provide additional services for the parish. Previously parish councils were very restricted in what they could levy a tax for. The opportunity therefore occurs for the Parish Council to seek local taxation in order to provide such facilities as a Community Library in Painswick.

The County Council is offering communities the opportunity to create and run their own libraries. They have set a date of 11th February for parishes to put forward proposals. For groups interested in running library services they are offering modest start

up grants and the transfer of book stocks. They are also offering off the shelf packages, including help with set up, liaising with suppliers, and services including shelving as well as furniture, book collections, internet access, training, software packages and delivery of books. This together with advice and support and a telephone advice line.

The survey carried out by the County Council in the first half of 2010 has reflected the community's need for a permanent library facility in Painswick. A public meeting is being held on Tuesday 8th February in the Town Hall at 6.30 p.m. when various proposals relating to the use of existing buildings will be put forward to seek to establish a library and determine how it might be administered. The Parish Council is facilitating the meeting arrangements, although it will not run the meeting. There will be the need for any library to be staffed by volunteers and any resident interested in serving on a volunteer rota will be particularly welcomed at the meeting. It should be stressed that a community library is not exclusive to Painswick residents and it will be important to hear the views of all our parishioners regarding the provision of library services.

## But Gateway closed

On page 4 we carry a report from the Gateway Trustees stating their intention to wind up the Gateway charity and company. The Gateway Project was initiated in early 2007, the aim being to preserve for the village the library building (following GCC's aim declared in 2006 to reduce library costs) and, by combining it with an offer from St. Mary's Church, to reintegrate it with the Church Rooms thereby allowing the creation of a safe pedestrian route - a gateway - from the car park to the village centre. Other benefits would include the creation of a better tourist information centre, a benefice office for the church, a cafe/rendezvous, general trading facilities. An appeal was made to the village for pledges of support and some £70,000 was pledged within a few weeks - the project's negotiations went ahead. However, in August 2009 the project was put on hold, the reasons being mainly financial and the constraints imposed by GCC on the sale of the library building.

In December last the Gateway trustees investigated whether GCC's "Big Community Offer" gave an opportunity to resurrect the Gateway project. It is apparent from the discussion at the Parish Council (see page 3) that the latest lines of enquiry were highly contentious and as a consequence the Gateway project is being wound up.

There have been differences of opinion within the community relating to the Gateway project and what it has sought to achieve. However, whatever the views, one can at least acknowledge the dedication of the Gateway Trustees and the time and effort they have devoted in seeking to bring the project to fruition.

**On other pages this month:** Quiz early warning, Meals on Wheels, New Stroke Club, Women's world-day of prayer, Ashwell, Dash's help to homeless, Painswick Player auditions, Centre News, Music Society's season, Resthaven revolution, Cooper's Hill progress, Christ Church reminiscences, Tennis Club successes, Kate Foster snowboards, Cobalt Fund, Activities at Richmond, 'Gigspanner' concert, and Reports from Societies..

## Flying High over St Mary's weathercock

On page 10 we show pictures of Croft school children jumping over St. Mary's Church weathercock. Here we have Linsey Filby of the staff who was able to set a possibly unique record by registering her second jump after having done it as a pupil back in 1982. See the report from Dylan Davies.



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - by Charles Dorman

Reports upon meetings of the Parish Council cannot help but be selective, if only because of space constraints. We try to highlight points of wide public interest, based upon what we see and hear. The full minutes of Council and committee meetings are available for scrutiny at the Council's office and elsewhere.



Twenty two members of the public and our GCC Councillor Joan Nash and SDC Councillors Frances Roden and Barbara Tait attended the meeting on 19 January.

## PLANNING

**Objections to planning applications**  
Chairman David Hudson told the meeting that any letters of objection to planning applications received by SDC were not passed to the Parish Council with details of the application. He has asked SDC to advise the Parish Council when such objections were received so that they may be considered before the Parish Council gives its response. He also pointed out that such letters can be seen on SDC's website.

### The Shetland Shop

Chairman David Hudson said complaints had been received by the Parish Council on the scaffolding in front of the Shetland Shop. Cllrs Frances Roden and Barbara Tait said that the matter was in hand and a planning officer would investigate.

### Domestic or Residential?

Chairman David Hudson reported that he had talked to SDC and that he had been told there was no difference for planning purposes. Cllr Barbara Tait said that 'domestic' meant within the domestic curtilage of a property whilst 'residential' meant to be lived in. Cllr Barbara Tait will check again with planning. Cllr David Hudson asked for written confirmation.

### Brookthorpe Motorway Services

The Parish Council had just received details about a proposed request for a judicial review of this decision. Chairman David Hudson proposed putting off any discussion until the next planning meeting on the 2nd February to allow members time to read the document and decide whether to support the request or not.

## PARISH COUNCIL

### Bus routes survey

GCC is carrying out a survey of bus services in the county to be completed by the 31st January. Chairman Terry Parker

was concerned that the public might think the 46 service would be affected. He said the survey was about subsidised routes and, apart from Sunday, the 46 was a normal commercial route.

### Snow and Grit

Chairman Terry Parker read out a letter from Carol Fuller about organizing teams of volunteers to clear snow and grit roads.. He proposed that she discuss her ideas with the Parish Council's Emergency Team headed by Cllr Martin Slinger. There was considerable interest amongst members and the public in Carol Fuller's proposal and Terry Parker thanked her for her initiative.

The discussion then turned to grit bins. The Clerk had prepared a matrix of requests for new grit bins. He explained that the Parish Council would have to buy new bins at £82.50 each and then ask GCC to approve their location. Approved bins will then be filled by GCC whilst the Parish Council will have to buy grit and fill bins at non-approved sites. 21 bins have been requested, seven have been approved by GCC and recommended for purchase by the Parish Council and 4 are awaiting a decision. The seven approved ones are: one in the Town Hall car park and six at Elcombe. Full details can be obtained from the Town Hall.

There followed a lengthy discussion with Cllrs Andy Cash and Ian James of Sheepscombe ward stressing that being on the shady side of the valley suitably placed grit bins were critical to keeping access to the village open. The preferred route was via Slad Road but as that was a secondary gritting route GCC would not provide bins at Bulls Cross and Jacks Green. Cllr Joan Nash said that GCC would deal with bins with solidified grit from the previous year.

### Report by Cllrs Frances Roden and Barbara Tait

Cllr Frances Roden, leader of Stroud District Council, outlined the savings the District Council would have to make following the drop in the revenue support grant from £6.5 to £4.7 million. Stroud did badly in this respect as the savings would have to be made over two years

rather than the expected four. SDC has identified £2.7 million of budget and efficiency improvements including numbers of staff, part-time sports centres, reduction of the regeneration budget and gardening assistance. More assistance would be given to household/business energy efficiency, ring and ride schemes, essential maintenance for vulnerable householders and help with home insulation for low income households. More information is available from SDC.

Cllr Barbara Tait confirmed that the most favoured options for the core housing strategy for the District were Option A (2000 homes with supporting infrastructure in one place), then Option D (2000 homes scattered over several sites favouring the canal corridor) and then Option B (splitting 2000 homes and infrastructure over two sites). She outlined the proposed timetable to complete the project. Details available from SDC. She also confirmed that Slad road at the Vatch would be closed from the 7th February to the 18th March.

### Allotments

Chairman Terry Parker said that he had not received a reply from Selina Blow about finalising the arrangements for access to the Mop Tree site. He understood that the original access point to the site was approximately half way up the lane to the south of the field between the A46 and the golf course. Cllr Anne Burgess Watson said that the Parish Council should deal more firmly with the manorship and in the services being provided. Cllr Caroline White suggested that a deadline should be given and if no response was forthcoming the whole project should be reconsidered. Cllr Jason Bullingham queried whether parking was permitted within 15 yards of a public road on common land. If so could the area below the cemetery be used. Chairman Terry Parker said that parking next to the golf course would be provocative. He confirmed that the owner of the field, Richard Hinds, crossed the golf course with his heavy duty farming equipment as the turn off the lane at Clattergrove was too sharp. However this only occurred a few times a year whereas

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allotment holders would require much more frequent access. Cllr Rob Lewis said that a lack of a response from Selina Blow was discourteous and that she did not appreciate the gravity of the situation. The meeting agreed with Chairman Terry Parkers suggestion that a meeting be arranged through Bruton Knowles and Selina Blow's agent and that if the matter was not settled within two weeks the project should be reconsidered.

### The Gateway Project

The Chairman Terry Parker read out a letter from Leslie Brotherton, manager of the Gateway project, asking for the Parish Council's support. The project now involves possibly creating a café and meeting point together with two meeting rooms in the old library building, pedestrian access from Stamages Lane car park to the village centre through the church rooms area, possibly the creation of small retail units and the creation or building of a mini-supermarket at the top end of the car park. Cllrs David Hudson, Rob Lewis and Ian James energetically voiced their objections to some or all of the Gateway proposals. The village centre would be moved from its proper location around the Town Hall to Stamages Lane, the financial aspect of the project was unclear and a Tesco express was not the type of shop wanted in Painswick.

Leslie Brotherton, asked whether members had been given incorrect information, explained that GCC's asking price of £260,000 was out of the question and would have to be renegotiated. Also the offer of a 15 year lease was too short – a 40 to 50 year one was required. He also said that if the old library building was sold on the open market the 50% grant of the net proceeds of the sale would be available for a community group though not necessarily for a library service.

Chairman Terry Parker stressed the great enthusiasm in the village for a community library and said that GCC were expecting one bid from Painswick to set up such a service. The proposal to support the Gateway project was put to the vote and was rejected by all members present with one abstention.

### Community Library Service

Chairman Terry Parker said that three community organizations were interested in hosting a library service – the Town Hall, St Mary's Church and the Painswick

## Beacon Quiz of the Year - 19th March

The first eight teams have booked in. Only 20 more to go. Where are you all? Well just to whet your appetites there will be two innovations this year. One is still under wraps and very hush-hush and will be revealed on the night if it's ready. The other is new more comfortable chairs which the Painswick Centre Trustees have bought to replace the old grey plastic ones and which have already arrived. So, all the more reason to book your team in. Now not only can you have a fun sociable evening, exercise the little grey cells, enjoy the meal and have a drink, possibly win a prize but also be comfortable! Teams can be formed in any way you wish and it only costs £4 per person. Cheques made out to the Painswick Beacon please.



Remember that as well as prizes for the first, second and third placed teams, there are also ones for the best team name and the best mascot. Creativity is encouraged.

The information I need from each team is: the team name, which group does the team represent, contact person's name, address (email too) and telephone number. You may email me on [chasdorm@gmail.com](mailto:chasdorm@gmail.com) or leave your entry in the **Beacon Post Box** outside Murray's Estate Agents in New Street. or write to me at **Tilling, Kingsmill Lane, Painswick GL6 6RT or telephone 814548**. If anything is unclear or you want more information please contact me.

And finally – if anyone in your team has special dietary requirement, please let me know.

*Charles Dorman*

Centre. He stressed that time was short and confirmation of interest had to be registered with GCC by the 11th February. Jackie Herbert, chair of the Painswick Centre Trustees, said it would be sensible to express strong interest as there was common ground between the parties and the most appropriate venue could be agreed later. Jane Rowe suggested an article in the Beacon seeking support, then create a steering group and lastly agree on the day to day running. Chairman Terry Parker said that the Power of Well Being recently acquired by the Parish Council would allow it to precept for the running of a library service. GCC would also provide some financial support and supply books etc. The meeting agreed to set up a committee of 12 members, 2 each from the interested organizations and six members of the public.

### Broadband service

Cllr Rob Lewis reported that his request to our MP Neil Carmichael about improving broadband speeds had been passed to Ed Vaizey, Minister in charge of Communication who had replied with a standard letter of acknowledgement. Cllr Lewis said he has also been in touch with a local broadband service provider, Loop Scorpio, and was arranging for a presentation to local businesses.

### County Councillor's report

Cllr Joan Nash made the following points:

Gloucester Street pavements – they are to be inspected and a decision made for repair work to be carried out when the weather permits.

Sheepscombe Lane, by Painswick Lodge – patch repairs have been carried out this week (starting 17th January) and more work will be carried out during the February half-term. The lane from Sheepscombe to the A46 will be included in the 2011/12 repair programme.

Cheese rolling. It is proposed to have a three day festival in June with music and alcohol licenses being issued by Tewkesbury Borough Council (Coopers Hill is within their administrative area). Cllr Nash has asked for strict conditions on licenses to be enforced by the Police after residents complained of traffic and crowd problems at the last cheese rolling.

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# GCC Big Community Offer

## Stroud Road Library premises – Painswick Gateway’s last chance

Through these columns the details of the “Big Community Offer” were set out in the December issue, followed by the Painswick Gateway response where we reminded readers of the range of ‘potential benefits’ which might have been advanced if support was forthcoming. The end of January was the deadline set by GCC for submissions of statements of intent if a community group wished to take over these premises. Given PC and GCC support, in our view a viable business plan would be achievable; an amenity saved and new life breathed into the community.

We are indebted to everyone who helped in recent consultation; in many (generally supportive) written commentaries and in other conversations.

The two bodies consulted of greatest significance were the County Council and the Parish Council.

The County Council, it must be reported, did not respond to our specific enquiries as to any discounts they might apply to a sale of the premises to us, bearing in mind the huge difference between the newly stated £260,000 and the figure we had negotiated in 2009 of £112,000; neither did they respond as to whether they would consider a lease of at least double the 15 years offered, without which we would have difficulty recommending viability. It is clear that GCC’s interpretation of the government’s intention to “return public

buildings to the community” has nothing to do with the sentiment that follows from the words. They are only interested in the highest possible price. Transferring part of our heritage back to us counts for nothing on their balance sheet.

Regarding the Parish Council, we met with most of its members informally to brief them as to the extent of our research, to clarify our lines of enquiry and hear their concerns/aspirations. We made it clear in a formal letter to the PC that their support and goodwill, would be of ‘great significance in pressing this matter forward as positively as can be stated’. We put two specific propositions forward, namely that:

1. they consider calling upon Public Works Loan Board funding to make possible the construction of a gateway passage from the car park to St. Mary’s churchyard and
2. they support Painswick Gateway in its quest [with regard to] the plans as a whole, at least to keep open the option to rescue the buildings until a new business plan could be validated.

The latter involved considering some development adjacent, unspecified at this stage, which could provide a source of revenue and capital with which to fund the rehabilitation and occupation of the old buildings.

In the January meeting of the PC, it quickly became clear that the councillors

would like a “gateway” passage but that they did neither want to commit to public funding for a gateway, nor countenance any other new development, clearly indicating distaste for Gateway’s propositions and method of funding the rescue of the library building at minimal cost to the community. There was no debate, nor were questions put to us. A motion was put, the upshot of which “The Council feels unable to support the Gateway Trust’s Proposals” – was carried unanimously with one abstention.

Having considered the PC and non-GCC responses in particular, the Trustees have resolved that the Aims and Objectives that were set up by Painswick Gateway in the first place, and so strongly supported by others in the village, are unachievable in these circumstances. The Trustees have therefore commenced arrangements to wind up the charity and company. We will be refunding the balance of pledges according to commitments already made to our supporters in the coming weeks.

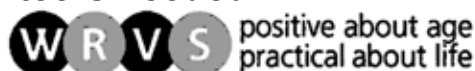
We are deeply grateful to the very many who have been forthright and supportive over a long period, often with considerable sums of money that they volunteered to commit. Our hope remains that another grouping will find a way to bring these now isolated premises back into community ownership.

*Edward Young – Chairman  
David Harley and Norman Rampton*

## Meals on Wheels driver 'retires' after 30 years

Jayne Hoyland has 'retired' from delivering meals on wheels after 30 years of service. She was presented with a plant arrangement from Ray Fellows who is the WRVS Project Manager. She will be missed by her colleagues, friends and, of course, the clients.

### Volunteers needed



We are always short of volunteers - male or female! If anyone would like to know more about being a driver for the WRVS (the only Commitment is 2 hours per month) then could they please telephone me

*Jackie Gray  
Area Organiser for Painswick Meals on Wheels*



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## New Stroke Club to launch in Painswick

People who have had a stroke and those who look after them are invited to join a new Club to be launched in Painswick.

The Club will be started by The Stroke Association with help from Richmond Painswick, a retirement village that is comprised of retirement homes, care facilities as well as exclusive facilities such as a private restaurant and health spa.

With the use of facilities offered free of charge by Richmond Painswick, the new Stroke Club will meet on the last Tuesday of the month from 10.30am – 12.30pm. The clubs launch will be on Tuesday 22nd February 2011.

The Club will offer members various activities such as arts and crafts, gentle exercise, reminiscence where people discuss historical artefacts and health demonstrations - such as massage, blood pressure checks and other social activities.

The Stroke Association is also looking for volunteers willing to help support this new group. This will involve various roles such as helping members undertake activities, spending time listening to and supporting members, providing refreshments and joining the Club committee. The Stroke Association welcomes applications from people who have had a stroke.

This Club will form part of the new countywide service, which has been jointly commissioned by Gloucestershire NHS and Gloucestershire County Council, and will support stroke survivors and their carers by setting up new Stroke Clubs and supporting existing clubs, which are located in Gloucester, Cirencester, Lydney, and Stroud.

To find out more and to register your interest please contact me (the Gloucestershire Stroke Association Stroke Club Coordinator) on 01452 520723 or email [caroline.seguro@stroke.org.uk](mailto:caroline.seguro@stroke.org.uk)

*Caroline Seguro*

## Socialize at Ashwell

Ashwell House Day Centre provides the opportunity for Senior Citizens to meet every Wednesday from 10 to 3 p.m. to socialize in a friendly and relaxed environment. A variety of activities and occasional outings are organised. Coffee, lunch and tea are provided with free transport if needed. There is a cover charge of £6. If you are interested why not come and join us? For further information contact: Anne Kenber 813259 or Etelle James 813358

*Sandra Glass*

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

We would be very pleased to welcome you to the Women's World Day of Prayer service on Friday March 4th at 11am at the Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Thérèse. There will be coffee and sandwiches after the service, please do come.

What is the Women's World Day of Prayer? It is an Ecumenical Christian organisation of international and national committee representatives who choose which country's women will be prayed for by all other women of the world on this special day. It is not limited to third countries; in 2013 we shall be praying for France. A few years ago Chile was chosen for 2011, a country coincidentally that we have heard much about recently when the miners were trapped underground and miraculously rescued. An earthquake devastated a huge area of the country last February.

The day provides a unique opportunity for women to come together and pray for other women and thus being part of a 24hr worldwide circle of prayer with everyone using the same service. We look forward to welcoming you to this service.

*Jane Robinson and Anne Hamill  
on behalf of Churches Together Around Painswick.*



## DASH

### - Delivering Aid to Stroud Homeless

The warm clothing and tinned food donated to Marah (the charity through whom DASH works) proved a real blessing in the cold weather before Christmas. One night there were 6 people sleeping rough in Stroud as well as many with inadequate clothing or facilities for the extreme temperatures. So there was real appreciation for all the help provided by people in Painswick.

The need for clothing continues as Marah's stocks are very low. Cuppa soups, pasta, tinned ready meals, boil-in-the-bag rice and small jars of instant coffee and dried milk are also needed for the emergency packs which Marah provides for those suddenly homeless or destitute. Please put any contributions you can spare in the box at Murray's Estate Agency or the one at the back of St Mary's Church.

Over the past year we have collected more than £250 for Marah through people saving their small change (5ps, 2ps & 1ps). Please continue to do this - Alison Robinson (812286) or Frances Watson (812071) are happy to come and pick up your contributions.

*Alison Robinson on behalf of DASH*

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## New Door Completes Refurbishment Project

The Centre's project to refurbish and improve the front entrance, lobby and toilets is almost complete. The new door will provide better access for wheelchair users and visitors with mobility problems. The design and location is intended to be as sympathetic as possible to the adjacent existing front entrance with its traditional oak door. All that remains is the installation of a ramp. The project will have cost almost £28,000, over two-thirds of which has been provided by generous donations from local residents and a valuable grant of £18,000 from The Painswick Trust. The Trustees thank all those who have contributed to the project.



Gloucestershire County Council's Big Community Offer (BCO) includes opportunities to deliver community-run Library Services from existing community buildings. The Painswick Centre's Trustees have expressed an interest in providing accommodation for a Community Library. We will work closely with the Parish Council and other meeting room providers to seek the best outcome for Painswick, since there may be other providers better placed to host a library service. Details of the BCO: Libraries can be found on the County Council's website at <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=101764>

At this time of the year, we encourage clubs and individuals who regularly hire rooms to become Affiliated Members. In return for an annual affiliation fee, currently £100, Affiliated Members receive a 40% discount on the normal room-hire fees, corkage and other charges. Overall, this can produce significant savings. In addition, they receive more advantageous cancellation arrangements, should they need to cancel a pre-booked reservation. Affiliated Members also receive advance notice of any changes in hire fees and other charges, which enables them to plan and adjust charges for their own members and clients. Over half of our regular hirers are Affiliated Members and the Trustees are grateful for their support and use of the Painswick Centre.

*Jane Rowe, on behalf of the Trustees of The Painswick Centre*

## CALLING ALL LOCAL ARTISTS

Angela Mullen-Bryan from the Painswick Art Studios informs us that a small studio space (5 sq. metres) has just become available in the arts studio space at The Painswick Centre. It has a friendly atmosphere with the space available every day. More information can be obtained from Angela on 01452 301538.

## The Painswick Players – An urgent reminder

### Painswick Players/Everyman Theatre Workshops

Over half the places for the Painswick Players/Everyman Theatre workshops have now been taken! Those of



you who are looking forward to taking part but haven't yet registered your interest are urged to do so as soon as possible. The workshops are to be held at the Town Hall from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm on Saturdays 5th and 19th March and 2 April. They are open to everyone aged 16 or over and the fee is £35 for the course of three sessions. Cheques, made payable to 'Painswick Players', should be sent to Jean Burgess at 7 Gyde House, Painswick GL6 6RR (for further information 'phone Jean on 812167).

### Play Readings

Play readings are held on the last Tuesday of most months in the Green Room at the Painswick Centre, beginning at 7.30 pm. These evenings are informal and intended to be good fun. Newcomers are particularly welcome to join us. See The Village Diary for further details.

'Duets' by Peter Quilter

The Painswick Players' next production is 'Duets' by Peter Quilter, described as 'A gloriously funny examination of the chaotic world of love, relationships and why the grass is never greener; an hilarious tribute to the strength and madness of the human heart.' There are to be three performances in the Church Rooms on 14-15-16 July as part of this year's Painswick Arts Festival.

### Auditions

Auditions for 'Duets' are to be held in the Church Rooms on Tuesday 5 April from 6.00 pm. For further information contact Dave Carlile (812381) or Stephen Friar (814004). 'Duets' will be used during the Painswick Players/Everyman workshops (see above).

**Website:** The Painswick Players website is currently being updated but is still accessible at [www.painswickplayers.org.uk](http://www.painswickplayers.org.uk).

*Stephen Friar*

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# Fascinating Concerts for 2011

This season's four concerts strike an unusually interesting combination of artists. We start with a piano recital, by Cordelia Williams, followed by a chamber quartet – a return visit by the impressive Mandelring, then intriguing piano trios by the Gould Trio - finally there will be brilliant choral singing by The King's Singers.

Cordelia Williams spent seven years at Chethams School of Music in Manchester, studying with Bernard Roberts. She went on to read Theology at Clare College, Cambridge, while also having piano lessons with Hamish Milne in London. She graduated with a First last summer and now studies as a postgraduate with Joan Havill at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She was the BBC young musician of the year in 2006, and has since gone on to build an impressive career on the international concert and recital platform. In 2006 she made her first foreign tour in the Gulf States, with concerts and workshops in Oman, Dubai and Abu Dhabi. This season includes debut recitals at the Royal Festival Hall and the Barbican Centre in London.

The Mandelring Quartet charmed us in 2008 when they expressed an admiration of Painswick and this Society and said they would like to return. Apparently they were very impressed by their reception and so much enjoyed meeting many of their audience over tea, sandwiches and cakes in the Church Room: something of a new experience for them. They made their way onto the world's great concert stages by winning a number of prestigious competitions. To the Mandelring, playing quartets is a dream career: not just because it allows them to make music freely and independently, but because they can sense the audience being carried away by their own love of the music and a mutual identification with it. This is a feature



that makes chamber music concerts so special for audiences and performers.

The Gould is one of the UK's finest chamber ensembles, boasting an impressive discography and

listing appearances at many famous festivals worldwide. The trio of piano, violin and cello comes from the classical era of early Haydn, when the violin and cello were added to supplement the 'tinkle tone' forms of the first pianoforte design, to compensate for its weak sonority. It blossomed in Haydn's later years with the development of pianoforte design and eventually this led to virtuosic parts for all three players. This will be evident from the programme chosen by the Gould Piano Trio, giving much enjoyment to audiences and great fun for the players.

The King's Singers specialise in a particular English style of music and singing; their programme for Painswick is as exciting as it is intriguing. It contrasts music as homage to some famous masters of music and their pupils, in early English music, again as poets and composers and again in music of the 20th century, including modern arrangements of music from The Savoy Operas of (G&S).

A fascinating series of concerts awaits us. The dates are: March 19th, April 2nd, April 16th and May 7th: they are also in the Beacon Diary. Tickets are available from Clare Haynes (01452 812514) and Hywel James (01452 812419).

*Maurice Maggs*

3	2	7
6	5	4
9	8	1

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# Letters



The inclusion of letters, maximum 150 words, in these columns does not imply that the Beacon committee endorses the views expressed, or otherwise.

### A thank you from Helen Baker

*Helen writes:*

I want to thank the Beacon team and those who put my name forward as Painswickian of the Year and to say that I just represent all the volunteers of the village.

This year there have been so many wonderful acts of kindness, especially by drivers, that we probably never hear about. Then there are all the people we rely on like Tracy our milk lady, the postmen and dustmen, who all deserve our thanks.

### That 20 m.p.h. limit

*Alan Hudson comments:*

I was sorry to read in last month's Beacon that my good friend Ralph Drew is disenchanted with the new 20 m.p.h. limit and calling for hand held speed guns.

My own observation has been just the opposite, for instance vehicles travelling up Gloucester Street seem to have reduced their speed from 60 m.p.h. to 40 m.p.h.

## A Number problem

This is for those who like playing with numbers. In the table opposite all the digits between 1 and 9 inclusive are used once. The observant will realise that the number formed by the digits in the second row is twice the number formed by the digits in the first row and that the number formed by the digits in the third row is 3 times. How many other ways can the digits from 1 to 9 be arranged to do this? No prize for the first correct solution except that she or he might be asked to contribute another puzzle for a future Beacon!

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# REVOLUTION AT RESTHAVEN?

You will, I very much hope, have noticed the advertisements for Resthaven in recent Beacons. This is part of a marketing plan, led by Peter Hewlett, whom we have recently welcomed as one of our Trustees, to give Resthaven a rather higher profile in the local community.

Times change and, with the emphasis on care in the community, more and more people are preserving their independence for as long as possible and thus postponing their entry to residential accommodation.

Resthaven's response has been to concentrate on meeting the need for nursing care in the later stages of life and the Trustees have felt it appropriate to reflect this by renaming the home to reflect its current activities and thus on 30 June last year we became Resthaven Nursing Home Limited.

As a Registered Charity we do not seek to make a profit but we cannot afford to make a loss and therefore it is crucial that we keep our rooms fully occupied at all times. Until recently it was possible to achieve this largely on the basis of personal recommendation but we have to face determined competition from other larger and better-funded commercial operators and this has prompted us to commission a new informative brochure and website - both illustrated with beautiful photographs from Pitchcombe's own Nick Darien-Jones.

Please visit our new website, [www.resthavenpitchcombe.co.uk](http://www.resthavenpitchcombe.co.uk), download our new brochure or, better still, contact our Manager, Jayne Roberts, to arrange a visit to Resthaven to see for yourself what we can now offer.

We are very keen to remain independent, voluntary and community based and this depends on maintaining a succession of local Trustees. If you have the inclination and experience to make a contribution please feel free to have a word with one of our present Trustees: Mrs. Pat Butts, Dr Jenny Chapman, Derek Grimsley, Peter Hewlett, Clive Jones, John West or me.

*Michael Little (telephone 813604 or [littlemj@btinternet.com](mailto:littlemj@btinternet.com))*




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## Dogs and the Post Office

### A plea from the Post Office ...

It is with regret that we need to enforce the rule of No Dogs in the Post Office for the following reasons:

- it is Post Office policy
- health and hygiene regarding the selling of confectionery
- customer complaints
- damage to stock during wet weather
- damage to carpets due to a few mishaps.

## Council scraps street closure fee for Royal wedding

Gloucestershire County Council has decided to waive the cost of applying for a road closure for people who want to celebrate the Royal wedding, and has issued the following Press release:

Across the UK, people will be holding street parties on April 29th when Prince Williams weds his long-term fiancée Kate Middleton. This means that roads will need to be closed to traffic for safety reasons. In Gloucestershire, it normally costs £70 to apply to Gloucestershire County Council for a road closure. But to ensure that people are not put off from hosting their own celebrations within their communities, the council has decided to waive this fee as a one-off gesture.



Cllr Stan Waddington, cabinet member for environment, said: "This is a truly special occasion and one that most people want to celebrate. Street parties used to be a regular occurrence years ago - I remember VE day when the whole street was out celebrating, it was wonderful. Occasions like this are great for building community spirit so we've made this gesture to ensure everyone in Gloucestershire can get out and celebrate with their friends and neighbours if they want to."

Although the fee has been dropped, Gloucestershire County Council still needs the normal 12 weeks notice if a road closure is requested in order to sort out signage and diversions for traffic.

While the council will endeavour to approve all applications, if a request comes in for a main road such as the A38 or A46, this may not be possible.

Lawrence Elcocks, the council's Network and Traffic Manager, said: "We understand that people may want to hold street parties, and on the whole any applications we receive will be approved. "But it is important that people are sensible about the locations they choose. In areas where the only road is a busy road, then to avoid disappointment if we cannot allow the closure to go ahead I'd ask people to look at whether they can hold a party in a community hall or nearby community area instead."

To apply for a road closure, email [highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk), or call 08000 514 514 or write to Gloucestershire Highways, Imperial Gate Business Park, Corinium Avenue, Barnwood, Gloucester, GL4 3BW.




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## Local History Teaser

Here is a fine-looking automobile right in the heart of Painswick. Do you know anything about Horne's Garage? Where was it and when? Do let us know.

Last month's photograph presented a cold snowy scene. Taken at The Cross, it showed Mr H.L.Ireland's newsagency and sweet shop which also sold all sorts of other interesting goods and goodies. Bill Perrins contacted us to say that he remembers it well as he lived there for many years and indeed was probably one of the children playing in the snow. "I can still feel how cold it was!" Pauline Berry also remembers it well and says it was probably taken either in the winter of 1947 or 1952. Perhaps you have memories of it yourself. Now, of course, it houses the Bistro.

If you have a photograph which would present readers with a challenge or might evoke some interesting memories please do get in touch.

## ... and the Local History Society

Gloucestershire is famous for its perry pears. In fact

it has the greatest number of pear varieties in the world and they have quite a history. At the January meeting of the Society, Dave Kaspar gave an enthusiastic and fascinating presentation on the orchards and fruits of the county, explaining that pears were first introduced here by the Romans. There are also 150 varieties of apple which originated in the county.

Perry pear trees grow particularly well in the Vale and can live for nearly 400 years. Magnificent pear orchards can be seen from Painswick Beacon and there are records to show that local perry was being exported 400 years ago, almost on a par with champagne. Records also show that in the 18th century Gloucestershire cider was being exchanged for French brandy, barrel for barrel – that's how good it was considered to be.

Many of the orchards are planted on the ridges of medieval ridge and furrow fields. Many too are flora- and fauna-rich, but the terrain is fragile because it has remained unspoilt for centuries and the temptation to use artificial fertilisers must be resisted. Much research has gone into re-discovering and preserving these old orchards and the almost forgotten varieties during the last 20 years. Charles Martell started this labour of love and hard work and Dave and his partner, Helen, are continuing the work. For the past 18 years they have run Day's Cottage Farm, producing special local perries, ciders and fruit juices (Stroud Farmers' Market) and enthusiastically working to preserve the old orchards, varieties and methods.

Sadly, as they point out, the seasonality has largely gone. Older fruit farmers remember people queuing to buy fruit for storing at the right times but this knowledge has gone largely because of all-year-round availability in the supermarkets. However, while enthusiasts like Dave and Helen continue to help preserve this rich heritage good old varieties with wonderful names such as Blakeney pear, Millers seedling, jackets and waistcoats, may flourish well into the future.

At the next meeting of the Society on Tuesday, 15th February, Mr Nigel Patterson will give a presentation on Stroud's oldest buildings. Croft School, 7.30pm – everyone is welcome.

*Carol Maxwell*



## The ladies get their hair raised!

Yew Trees WI took off to a jet-propelled start this year when we were treated to a talk given by Peter Roberts, a member of the Painswick retired pilots' fraternity. He spoke about commercial airline flying in general, and some hair-raising incidents in particular, in such an interesting and detailed manner that the WI member who proposed the Vote of thanks was provoked to ask if booking flights to Australia for later in



the year, only the previous week, had been such a good idea! Peter was able to assure us, however, that such incidents are rare, and even when they did occur, the passengers snoozing, reading or eating to while away the hours were usually blissfully unaware of what was going on. Our thanks to the professionalism, extensive training and competence of the crew on the flight deck. Peter's humorous, yet highly informative

approach to his subject follows a long and distinguished career, flying a variety of aircraft for different companies, enabling him to draw on a wealth of insider knowledge and experience.

If any ladies have been considering joining Yew Trees WI, but have never quite got around to it, this would be an ideal time to do it, as subscriptions are now due for the coming year. You can phone 810919 or 813841 for information.

*Maggie Drake*

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# Croft news

News snipped from the Newsletter from Ceris Towler to parents



## CARDUCCI

Thank you to the Painswick Music Society for arranging the Carducci Quartet again this year. The children thoroughly enjoyed the concert, which was both entertaining and informative. The Music Society also presented us with a photo canvas of the string players and the Carducci Quartet, taken when they visited last time.

## MATCH RESULTS

Both the football and netball team have played this week. The footballers drew 1-1 with Longney a team who had beaten them previously. Mr Wells was impressed with all the players and commented on how much they had improved and how well they played as a team.

The netballers won their match against Highnam and are placed second in their group in the league. The Highnam coach was impressed how well they played and also commented on how polite they were, so well done to them too.

## CHURCH WEATHERCOCK

....Look out for some photos in the Beacon later this month marking the event.

*- And alongside are a small selection of the photos with a report on the day's events. Our apologies to those jumpers not included.*



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# Jumping over St Mary's weathercock!



Synchronised jumping



The weathercock on St. Mary's church has been taken down for much-needed repair, which is now complete. Tradition has it that when the weathercock comes down, the children of Painswick are given the opportunity to jump over it before it goes back up on the spire. They can then point to it when it is replaced and say they have jumped over it. On Monday 24th January, staff and children of the Croft school had their chance. There was much excitement and delighted squeals from each as they took their turn to leap over the weathercock ... and then the children had their go, class by class. Curate Andrew Leach was in attendance to ensure an acceptable jumping technique was employed, and each pupil received a form certifying that they had indeed jumped over the St. Mary's weathercock. The playgroup also joined in, and Linsey Filby of the staff was able to set a possibly unique record by registering her second jump after having done it as a pupil back in 1982. At that time the schoolchildren were told that the weathercock would not come down again for another 100 years, but perhaps the forces of nature were underestimated. No damage or indignity was suffered by the now resplendent weathercock or (more importantly) any of the jumpers, and the weathercock will be put back in its rightful place in February. Who knows if some of the present pupils will ever get the chance to repeat the feat?

*Dylan Davies*

# A 46 Cooper's Hill Landslip



Following the Christmas break the contractor returned to site on Monday the 3rd January and set up traffic management to close eastbound carriageway ( Gloucester inbound) in preparation for commencing further piling in the carriageway and to allow continued access for tension piling to the existing Kingpost retaining wall. Fig. 1 shows the temporary closure of eastbound carriageway.



Fig. 1

Off the carriageway and down the slope of the A46, drilling of the two rows of tension piles to the Kingpost retaining wall continued. See fig. 2. On completion of the top row of tension piles, walers (horizontal steel beams) were connected to them in order to provide additional support to the existing Kingpost wall during excavation to allow for the lower row of tension piles to be installed. The walers will continue to provide support to the existing retaining wall up to and during construction of the new retaining wall. The more clement weather in the early part of January has improved working conditions on site and allowed works to continue on programme.



Fig. 2

For further details and information about this schemes as well as previous issued bulletins please visit <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=98677>

Patrick Tiffney, Project Manager



We couldn't resist including this photograph sent in by Nigel Barnett Here we see Jessica, Alicia & Sophie preparing to eat their Christmas pudding! Also a last sight of the snow we hope!

  
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# Christ Church Remembered

When Christ Church finally closed its doors as a place of worship last October after nearly three hundred and fifty years, many people felt more than a tinge of sadness. As a Congregational and latterly United Reform church it was undeniably a distinguished part of Painswick's heritage. Its closure elicited many fond memories from both near and far and excerpts from some of these recollections are included as follows.

*Michael Wear:* "...my thanks to Christ Church for all the support and encouragement it gave to me when I was training for the ministry. Without that support I never would have been ordained. I have a great deal to thank my home church for, and the memories will remain." He remembers particularly the great influence both Reg Cook and the Revd. Laurence Miller had on him.

*Jean Harper:* "Sunday School trip was always enjoyed and we'd either go to Weston-Super-Mare or Barry Island. Christmas parties were great fun ... Prize giving for good attendance at Sunday School was once a year ... Harvest Festival and the smell of the produce in the Church rendered lovely feelings. We were involved in the production of plays and there was a choir. Mrs Cook used to run great jumble sales and Mr Cook took the older children in the Sunday School.

Alan Hutt: "It was a major part of my life for many years, as it was of both Mum and Dad, and indeed all the members of both the Cook and the Hutt families. ... great excitement when Uncle Reg Cook used to invite us to help him stoke the ancient heating boiler down in the cellar. I remember too a succession of Church Ministers, ranging from George Nelson and Teddy Morris – both frighteningly evangelistic – through to the gentle Miss Cordon – such a lovely lady, and not frightening at all." He alludes to a cross which his father gave in memory of his aunts and hopes a place may be found for it in a Painswick place of worship. Likewise, he refers to a set of hymn books given in his father's memory.

*George Lansbury:* "...as one of the ex-Gyde boys, we made our regular pilgrimage to this chapel, come rain, wind, hail or snow. ... the Church Hall where us orphanage boys, during the last war, would find our afternoon recreation and moments of insulation while the war continued its awful affray. We yawned, fidgeted ceaselessly, and sometimes would attempt to fill in all the noughts of our hymn book while the minister continued, sometimes thumping his fist down on his pulpit to underline an important point. ... The focal point of this beautiful chapel is the stained glass window directly above the pulpit ... and wherever the sun got behind it, its colours would simply pour over you. ... I certainly became captivated by its enchantment, sometimes through the duration of a service."

*Gill Gyde:* "In the 1970s a major event in the life of Christ Church was the Christmas Carol Service. It was always well attended and there was a lot of support. ... The church was entirely illuminated by candles ... white household candles precariously fixed to wooden T frames attached to the ends of the pews. ... The atmosphere was quite magical, but as the service progressed some candles would begin to topple or drip their molten wax resulting in a lot of amusement as well as nervousness among the congregation. However, nothing ever caught fire, thanks to the likes of Fred Hutt and Jim Hodge who would scurry down the aisles snuffing out the offending candles."

*Marion Sadler:* "Phyl Cordon, pastor and then minister, (1972), was a great communicator and because she lived in the village she knew everyone and the church thrived. ... Phyl was the first woman to be invited to the various Prinknash celebrations. ... The annual carol service was truly a 'carols by candlelight' event. ... Harvest was another highlight of the year, again with a full church and great singing. ... Flower Festival, instituted by Phyl Cordon, ran for twenty-five years and people came from as far away as Devon and Oxford. All profits went to charities. People from all over the village contributed. ... our catering really took off ... full-scale lunches and teas ... a share of the profits always went to Mencap."

*Margaret Thomas:* "My family's connection to Christ Church goes back to the turn of the 19th century – probably earlier ... My grandmother, Louisa Cook, obtained the position of caretaker and with the job came Chapel Cottage. Widowed, she had five children and also fostered two girls. How on earth she managed them all in that tiny two bedroom cottage, I do not know. Reginald, the eldest son, was for many years a Sunday School teacher ... He was a clock and watchmaker ... He had a workshop in the cottage garden crammed with watches and clocks as was the living room of the cottage. ... He married Doris, the cook at Greenacres ... they took over the caretaking of the church. Doris continued in this role after Reg died until she herself finally died in 1985. My late husband, Frank Thomas, was a Painswick lad who worshipped at the church and was one of Uncle Reg's Sunday School boys ... He also used to pump the organ which was done by hand in those days. I have many happy memories of Painswick, the cottage and the Church. Our only holiday when I was a child was several weeks in the summer staying with Gran in the cottage. When the cottage overflowed, it was beds on the stage in the Sunday School! ... my family and the Church – the two were very closely intertwined."

These are just snippets from some very detailed recollections but they represent the very heart-felt and important meaning that Christ Church has had for many people over many years.

*Carol Maxwell*



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## Calling 'seep seep'

Flocks of birds flying over our homes at night in the depth of winter calling a soft 'seep seep' are likely to be Redwings. They are the smallest of the thrushes: the creamy stripe above the eye and reddish-chestnut flanks and underwings are distinguishing features.

Redwings are regular winter visitors mainly from Scandinavia and Russia where they



breed in summer. Some migrants may be the slightly larger, darker Icelandic birds, but I have yet to detect any differences. Have any of our readers?



Arriving in October and November, Redwings are fast moving birds, sometimes in mixed flocks, including starlings and fieldfares. They usually feed in the open countryside on worms, snails, slugs and berries. They only visit our gardens in the coldest weather when snow covers the fields and hedgerows, hence the large numbers this winter. Attracted also by apples, last year's bumper crop has been a key source of garden food, and flocks in excess of 50 birds have been reported on and under fruit trees in Kings Mill Lane and Randalls Field. Windfalls have their value!

In the New Year, Redwings will endure the 500 plus miles return journey across the seas to the North where winter will have relaxed its frozen grip: hopefully we shall see these beautiful birds in numbers again next winter.

Tell us about your redwing, and any waxwing sightings as reported in the January Beacon at our next meeting on Thursday February 10th in the Town Hall at 7.30pm. The speaker will be Phoebe Young: The Crane: back from the brink. All welcome.

*Bill Boydell, Painswick Bird Club*

## Ralph & Leslie save the day

Our meeting on 7th November was stricken by illness to our Chairman, who was due to give us the presentation.

But never fear - help is always close at hand in this group and up popped two members with quickly prepared programmes. Ralph Kenber took us on a whirlwind selection of music from around the world (based on his life experience) we enjoyed pieces originating from USA, Russia, Wales, Czechoslovakia and music of Jewish origin.

We were then entertained by Leslie Brotherton with a wide selection of music with romantic feelings or associations - from Beethoven, Saint-Saens, Debussy through to Spanish guitar pieces. This created some lively debate as to why such music feels romantic - oh yes, there's life in the old ones yet.

Why not give PMAG a try - you might be surprised by what goes on !!

*Stewart Price*



## Probus Tea Time

On 19th January, Pam Slater presented an interesting talk entitled 'The Story of Tea'. She described the history of the beverage from its secret beginnings in China, how that secret moved to Japan and finally, due to one Robert Fortune passed to the British in India.



We also looked at how tea arrived in Britain and Europe and how the expensive commodity found its way into the teacups of wealthy ladies who put milk in first to avoid cracking bone china crockery. Tea later moved downmarket to Tea Gardens where mixed company could socialise. There we learned that the word 'tips' as gratuities came from the initials of 'To Insure Prompt Service'.

Pam described the growing, processing, shipping, marketing and preparation of tea including the art of tea tasting and blending. The need to bring the new crop from China led to races by tea clippers to ensure good prices.

We learned how the British hit upon the bright idea of paying the Chinese for tea with Indian opium, causing the Opium Wars and how an unacceptable tax on tea led to the Boston Tea Party which was the beginning of the end for the American colonies.

*Glynn Nixon*

## The Field Club: Sudden Cyprus

The Field Club's next winter lecture will be on Wednesday 2nd March at 2:30pm in the Town Hall, when Nick Clarke, one of our regular speakers, will return to tell us about 'Sudden Cyprus: Winter and Spring'. This wide-ranging talk will cover some of the island's natural history as well as touch upon its history at the crossroads of many civilisations. Visitors are welcome to attend the Field Club's lectures, which are followed by light refreshments. For membership information, please contact tel. 813228.

*Jane Rowe, Membership Secretary*

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## Painswick's Tennis Club Successes



Painswick LTC's Men's "C" team won the County Division 2 Championship. Pictured are (l to r) Rob Ruggles, Rob Warrington, Richard Bailey, and Nigel Barnett. Jez Browning and Gary North were also members of the team squad.

Congratulations also to Painswick Tennis Club Ladies 'B' team who came top of Division 1 in the Gloucestershire Summer League.

The team included Amanda Porter, Tonia Robinson (Capt.), Mary Omnes, Sara Bevan, Sam Holt and Michelle Sidwell. This summer they will be promoted to the Premier Division where there will be some stiff competition. Good luck Ladies!

## Rugby results

Gloucester Division 1

Sat 15th January. Painswick 1st XV 34  
Cheltenham Civil Service 1st XV 19.

Sat 22nd January. Painswick 1st XV 23  
Spartans 1st XV 18.

## Kate Foster snowboards on the Beacon

Painswick also has our very own Snowboarding British Champion in Kate Foster. Kate became the British & Snowboard champion held last year in Switzerland.

The photo is of Kate taken on Christmas Day. Kate commented, given this snow in Painswick, "who needs an Olympic venue!"

Following our request to her to bring us up to date on her progress and to let us have her plans for this year, Kate has sent us the following information:

"Following a month in Colorado leading up to Christmas where I was training and competing in a few local competitions plus the Grand Prix, it was then home.... to snowboarding in Painswick for a couple of days!

Then the Aosta valley in Italy training for a week, followed by a week's coaching. Next up is 2 weeks as guest coach at some Animal Camps in Austria, some European competitions finishing up with the British Championships in Laax, Switzerland... got to retain my title, plus this year I will be competing in not only the Halfpipe but the Snowboardcross and the Slopestyle too so fingers crossed!" Good luck, Kate



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# Cobalt Fund and its loyal Painswick supporters

Last year's Painswickians are still at it, fund raising, that is. In January, June Gardiner and fund raisers from Woodchester handed over an impressive £8300 to the Cobalt Fund, made up from various recent events.

What June terms 'the Painswick amount' totalled £3557 of which £2300 was raised from sales at the Kemble Show and £1257 from bingo and a Christmas stall. The Royal Oak in Woodchester presented a cheque for £800 and the remainder was from other events at Kemble.

June and Sue are indefatigable, completely committed to their many endeavours to raise money for this very worthwhile cause. The Beacon will give notice of forthcoming events and hopes that as many people as possible will go along to support them.

*Carol Maxwell*

# Brightening Up the Winter Blues

Richmond Painswick is hosting a variety of events over the coming weeks that are open to everyone.

On Monday 7 February, at 7.30pm, Lee Knott will be singing along to music by Frank Sinatra, Matt Monro and Dean Martin at our Cabaret Evening. Tickets for non-residents cost £5.00 so book early as places are limited!

Neil Carmichael will be popping in on Saturday 12 February at 11am for an informal chat and a cup of coffee. If you have any questions for him or would simply like to meet your local MP, why not come and join us. Refreshments provided - donations for our chosen charity would be gratefully received.

Our Supper Club theme this month is "Under the Sea" and is being held on 22 February at 7pm. For £11.95 you can enjoy a three course dinner and if you fancy dressing for the occasion (mermaids, Neptune and fishy costumes all welcome) then please do come along and join us.

If you need any further information or would like to book any tickets, please contact Richmond Painswick reception on 813902 – we'd love to hear from you.

*Catherine Moore*

# "Gigspanner" concert at Sheepscombe

The "Gigspanner" comprising Steeleye Span's legendary fiddle player, Peter Knight, Roger Flack (guitar) and Vincent Salzfass (Congas and Djembe) will be performing at Sheepscombe Village Hall on Saturday 5th March 7.30pm. The concert is in aid of Village Hall funds. Expect to be captivated by an evening of music from an outstanding Trio whose Debut CD "Lipreading the Poet" was named as one of the Top 15 Global CDs of 2009. Tickets are £15 which includes supper, and Dick's Bar will be there too! To book Phone Celia on 814306 or email [celia.hargrave@btconnect.com](mailto:celia.hargrave@btconnect.com)

# Tai Chi at Richmond Painswick

Tai Chi is an ancient form of exercise originating from China, it combines relaxation and meditation with physical wellbeing.

Simone Glover from the Wellness Spa at Richmond says that the slow flowing moves of Tai Chi Qigong has been found to improve the condition of people with heart diseases, high blood pressure, arthritis and multiple sclerosis.

Research has also found that the system of slow, controlled, flowing movements combined with deep breathing helped to reduce falls in elderly people as well as stress and pain in healthy adults.

The Wellness Spa at Richmond Painswick will be holding a 6 week course in Tai Chi Qigong starting on Thursday 24th February 6.15-7.00pm. £25.00 for the course or £5.00 per session. For more information or to book

Beacon subscribers		
as at 21st January	2010 - 2011	This date last year
New or renewed after lapsing	102	80
Renewed from last year	456	492
<b>Total including postal</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>572</b>

# BEACO-DOKU

Last month's word was **S-N-O-W-E-D**: how did you fare?

S	N	D	W	O	E
E	O	W	D	N	S
N	D	E	S	W	O
W	S	O	N	E	D
O	W	S	E	D	N
D	E	N	O	S	W

We stay seasonal, and dare to mention the prevailing weather. So we offer **R-A-I-N-E-D** as the concealed word. Can you place the full word along each row in each direction, and in each of the six boxes?

	E				A
		I	R		
E	R			I	
			E		R
		D		R	
R					I

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# February News from your Village Agent

A belated happy New Year to you all; I missed the slot for the January edition due to Christmas chaos!

I thought it might be a good idea to reintroduce myself, so to speak, and give you an outline of what your Village Agent can do for you.

I and my other Village Agents work in 204 of the 253 parishes in Gloucestershire. The service is aimed primarily for the over 50's and based in rural parts of the county. We are there to help provide you with information on your particular situation/query/dilemma. We can help to put you in contact with the correct service you might need, whether it be a voluntary organisation or a statutory one such as social services. If you need extra support, we are happy to help you through the particular scenario which faces you from start to finish.

What makes our service especially helpful is that we are there to look at the whole picture with you; you may have contacted us regarding a query about Attendance Allowance, but because we do home visits, we can get a better picture of other services which might be useful to you. You might be the main carer for someone in your life and don't get a break, in which case we can refer you to Carers Gloucestershire, Caring for Carers, the Stroud Voluntary Agency, the Home Safety Team, Stroud Council Care Line and so on.

Many of us still have not been switched over to Digital TV if you get your signal from the Ridge Hill West transmitter (your local BBC news service will be Midlands Today and The West Country Tonight for ITV). If you are confused about the BBC Switchover Scheme, or know somebody who might need support to do this, then your Village Agent is there to help with this as well.

*Lou Kemp; Tel 07776245767*



# Police Report

## Two Arrests Made as Police Investigate Aggravated Burglary in Painswick

Alexa Collicott, Media and Communications Officer for Gloucestershire Constabulary reports that Police have arrested two men as they investigate an aggravated burglary in Painswick on Tuesday January 11.

At approximately 8.25pm police received a report that a couple had returned to their home in Bisley Street and found a man inside their house. He assaulted one of the residents before running from the address. The victim suffered a cut to his head and was taken to Stroud Hospital for treatment before being released a few hours later. A bag and a silver plated coaster have been reported as stolen from the home.

Two local men, aged 18 and 21, were arrested on January 12, in connection to the incident. They have been bailed to return to the police station on March 22, pending further enquiries.

Investigating officers continue to appeal to anyone who was in the area on Tuesday to contact them as soon as possible by calling 0845 090 1234 and quoting incident number 421 of January 11. You can also give information anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## PROPERTY REPORT for January from Hamptons International

At the beginning of this year, it is important to focus on the fundamentals in these challenging market conditions. Doing so will help separate the facts from some of the gloomy predictions that many news outlets seem to prefer. We are pleased to note that, across the Hamptons network, properties continued to sell briskly right up to the end of 2010. This was despite the typical holiday slowdown and contributed to our strongest business performance since the beginning of the market downturn.

Housing Minister Grant Shapps has been hoping for stable house prices and this appears to be the likely trajectory at a national level. According to the Nationwide Building Society, UK house prices finished 2010 at essentially the same level as a year ago, up by only 0.4% since January. This year is unlikely to yield more profound price movements, however, early indications have been positive right

across the South of England and Painswick and the Cotswolds is no exception to this. Here in Painswick, we have seen very brisk activity during January with market appraisals up 27% and numbers of available properties and viewings both up very significantly (155% and 130% respectively) on January 2010. Across our network we are seeing similarly buoyant activity levels and we are optimistic that this will continue well into the Spring.

The increase in Stamp Duty to five percent for homes in excess of £1m is an issue to bear in mind for some of our clients. It is likely to provide an extra push for potential buyers and we are actively advising our clients affected by this change to act sooner rather than later in order to avoid a significant increase in costs from 6th April.

We have taken on many new instructions in and around Painswick so far this year including: Lawn Cottage, a charming 3-

bedroom Arts and Crafts style property forming a part of the exclusive Painswick Court complex; Dynevor House, a classically proportioned Grade II Listed Georgian townhouse overlooking Painswick churchyard; Dry Knapps House, an elegant 5-bedroom family house in Edge Road with a superb level garden and parking; Pen-y-Gaer, a mid-1960's architect-designed family home offering versatile accommodation and an immaculate garden approaching 1 acre; and 311 Stroud Road, a substantial 4-bedroom family house with a superb detached indoor swimming pool/leisure complex.

Recently completed sales include: Torwin on the Cheltenham Road, Owlcote in Stamages Lane, Staddlestones in the Highlands along with Chapel Cottage and 3 Horsepools Cottages in Edge and Hillview Cottage in Sneedhams Green.

*Guy Tabony*



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## FEBRUARY

Sat	5	Sound Bath Meditations: Saturdays in February: contact Christina 07871 402785	Friends Meeting House	10.00 to 11.00am
		Theatre Club Outing to Cheltenham	Stamages Car Park	1.30pm
Mon	7	Short Mat Bowls - Mondays (contact 813627) Community Lunch: Hosts Painswick Golf Club Yoga (Mondays) contact Kim 812623	Town Hall	10.30am
			Ashwell House	12.00 to 1.15pm
			Sheepscombe Vill. Hall	6.30 to 8.00pm & 8.15 to 9.45pm
		Painswick Community Choir - Mondays (Enquiries Adrian 07855404147)	Painswick Centre	7.00 to 8.30pm
Tue	8	Bingo: Tuesdays – Tel. Ann, 813911/Liz, 813139	Ashwell House	6.30 to 9.00pm
Wed	9	Yoga (Wednesdays) contact Kim 812623 Horticultural Society	Sheepscombe Vill. Hall	9.30 to 11.00am
		Table Tennis Club - Wednesdays	Town Hall	2.30pm
Thu	10	Yoga - All Abilities (Thursdays) Cotswold Room 812623 T'ai Chi: Thursdays - Contact 812344 Dog Training Club (Thursdays) Jolly Stompers Line Dancing: Beginners - Thursdays Experienced beginners - Thursdays	Painswick Centre	7.00 to 9.00pm
			Painswick Centre	9.30 to 11.00am
			Town Hall	9.30am
			Church Rooms	9.30 to 12.00noon
			Town Hall	12.00 to 1.00pm
			Town Hall	12.30 to 1.30pm
			Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	11	Bird Club: The Crane - back from the brink : Phoebe Young	Town Hall	10.00am
		Country Market - Coffee available - Fridays		
Sat	12	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 812709	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Mon	14	Community Lunch: Hosts Falcon Bowling Club	Ashwell House	12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	15	Local History Society: Revealing Stroud's Oldest Buildings - Nigel Patterson	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	16	Probus: Westonbirt Arboretum - Jenny Barnett	Shires Room, Falcon	10.00am
Fri	18	Friday Club: Computers for the Elderly - Age UK Painswick Music Appreciation Group: The Violin	Town Hall	2.30pm
			Town Hall	7.30 to 9.30pm
Sat	19	<b>Copy dateline for March Beacon</b>		
Mon	21	Community Lunch: Hosts - Conservation Society	Ashwell House	12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	22	Painswick Players Playreading - New members especially welcome	P. Centre Green Room	7.30pm
		Yew Trees W.I.: Vintage Wonders - Ruth Jacobs	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat	26	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 812709	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Mon	28	Community Lunch: Hosts - Richmond Village	Ashwell House	12.00 to 1.15pm

## MARCH

Wed	2	Probus: The Battle of the Atlantic - Fred Jones Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club Lecture: Sudden Cyprus - Nicholas Clark. enq. 813228	Shires Room, Falcon	10.00am
			Town Hall	2.30pm
Fri	4	Fair Trade Coffee Morning Friday Club Spring Outing to Cabot Circus Shopping Centre, Bristol Women's World Day of Prayer Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Concert Outing to Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff	Croft School	9.30 to 11.30am
			Catholic Church	11.00am
Sat	5	<b>March Issue of The Painswick Beacon published</b> Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club & Glos. Geology Trust Walk - Chase End Hill & British Camp. Details 813228 Painswick Players / Everyman Drama Workshops £35 - contact Jean Burgess 812167	Stamages Car Park	4.00pm
				10.00am
Mon	7	Community Lunch: Hosts - Probus Ladies	Town Hall	10.00am to 1.00pm
Tue	8	Bird Club: The Oak & Furrow Wildlife Rescue Centre - Paul Richardson	Ashwell House	12.00 to 1.15pm
Wed	9	Horticultural Society: The Kitchen Garden Today - Roger Umpelby	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat	12	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 812709	Town Hall	7.30pm 7.30pm
Mon	14	Community Lunch: Hosts - Friday Club	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Tue	15	Local History Society: The Trials, Tribulations & Joys of Owning an Old House - John Goom	Ashwell House	12.00 to 1.15pm
Wed	16	Probus: Joint meeting with the Ladies: The Barge Ladies and Wine Tasting Parish Council Meeting	Croft School	7.30pm
			Church Rooms	10.00am
			Town Hall	7.30pm

Fri	18	Friday Club: Diaries of a Durham - Alan Parker	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	19	Painswick Players / Everyman Drama Workshops £35 - contact Jean Burgess 812167	Town Hall	10.00am to 1.00pm
		Painswick Music Society Concert: Cordelia Williams (Piano)	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
		Painswick Music Appreciation Group:		
		Concert Outing to Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury		5.00pm
		<b>Beacon Quiz</b>	<b>Painswick Centre</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
Mon	21	Community Lunch: Hosts - Park Residents	Ashwell House	12.00 to 1.15pm
Tue	22	Yew Trees W.I.: Medical Women Through The Ages - Jenny Barraclough	Town Hall	7.30pm
Sat	26	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 812709	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
		Helen & Anne's Spring Coffee Morning in aid of Smile Train UK	Town Hall	9.45am to 12.00noon
Tue	29	Painswick Players Playreading - New members especially welcome	P. Centre Green Room	7.30pm
Wed	30	Probus: King Cotton - Norman Brown	Shires Room, Falcon	10.00am
		Bookings Morning for Horticultural Society Outings	Church Rooms	10.00am to 12noon
<b>APRIL</b>				
Fri	1	Friday Club: Jerusalem Eye Hospital - Denise Magouran	Town Hall	2.30pm
		Painswick Music Appreciation Group: The 17th Century	Town Hall	7.30 to 9.30pm
Sat	2	Painswick Players / Everyman Drama Workshops £35 - contact Jean Burgess 812167	Town Hall	10.00am to 1.00pm
		Painswick Music Society Concert: Mandelring Quartet	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Tue	5	Painswick Players Auditions: "Duets" by Peter Quilter - All Welcome	Church Rooms	From 6.00pm
Wed	6	Theatre Club Outing to Malvern	Stamages Car Park	1.00pm
		Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club AGM & Lecture: India, Flowers & Wildlife - Philip Murgidge. Details 813228	Town Hall	2.30pm
Sat	9	Painswick Beacon Conservation Group scrub clearance working party: location check 812709	Painswick Beacon	10.00am to 1.00pm
Wed	13	Probus: The long thin country - Chile - Bob Price	Shires Room, Falcon	10.00am
		Horticultural Society: Hidcote;		
		A Garden Created by Lawrence Johnston - Duncan Coombs	Town Hall	7.30pm
Fri	15	Friday Club: Easter Food - Gillian Hancock	Town Hall	2.30pm
		Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Richard Wagner	Town Hall	7.30 to 9.30pm
Sat	16	Painswick Music Society Concert: Gould Trio	St Mary's Church	3.00pm
Tue	19	Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club excursion to North Glos Churches & Tea at Hailes Fruit Farm. Details 813228	Stamages Car Park	
		Local History Society: Research Evening	Croft School	7.30pm
Wed	20	Painswick & District Conservation Society AGM & Guest Speaker	Church Rooms	7.00 for 7.30pm
Fri	22	Good Friday Procession of Witness Start: Catholic Church		10.30am
Tue	26	Yew Trees W.I.: Mary Queen of Scots - Gillian White	Town Hall	7.30pm
Wed	27	Probus AGM	Falcon	10.00am
Fri	29	Painswick Music Appreciation Group: Members Night & AGM	Town Hall	7.30 to 9.30pm
<b>JULY</b>				
Sun	10	Wearable Art Painswick 2011		
Thu	14	Painswick Players production: "Duets" by Peter Quilter (also 15th & 16th)	Church Rooms	7.30pm

Entries for the Village Diary should be sent direct to **Eddie Buttrey** at [em-m.buttrey@virgin.net](mailto:em-m.buttrey@virgin.net)



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# PLANNING MATTERS

A summary of information from the Parish Council

## NEW APPLICATIONS

**THE PAINSWICK PHARMACY**, New Street. New non-illuminated fascia sign and new non illuminated timber projecting sign.

**TIMBERCOMBE COTTAGE**, Sheepscombe. Replacement porch to front elevation.

**TORWIN**, Cheltenham Road. Rear dormer in existing roof.

**FIELDCROFT**, Sheepscombe. Common beech tree to be removed.

**GLENMORE**, 7 Gloucester Road. Alterations to mature Ash TPO105

**ROSE COTTAGE**, Damsells Mill Lane. Alterations to existing and construction of single storey side. Extension and two car parking spaces.

## CONSENT

**LLOYDSTONE**, Stamages Lane. Minor amendment to planning permission S.10/0042/HHOLD to reduce the size of the entrance hall.

**PAINSWICK HOUSE LODGE**, Gloucester Road. Replacement of one chimney.

**DAMSELLS MEWS**, Painswick. Replacement of extant permission APP/C1625/A/07/2057650 (S.07/1543/OUT – Erection of Coach House. Allowed at appeal.)

**BEECHVIEW**, Far End, Sheepscombe. Construction of an attached double garage and bedroom above.

**BEECHVIEW**, Far End, Sheepscombe. Discharge of conditions 2,3,4,5 from application S.09/1288/FUL

## REFUSED

**DAMSELLS FARM**, Painswick. Change of use from agricultural to domestic use (garden).

## WITHDRAWAL

**TORWIN**, Cheltenham Road. Formation of a rear dormer in existing roof.

**THE BARN**, Slad Lane. New Entrance Lobby.

The Planning Committee of the Parish Council meets twice a month to discuss planning matters. The meetings commence at 7.00 p.m. and there is a 15 minutes time slot allocated at the beginning of these meetings for the Public to ask questions or comment on the nights Agenda. (See the Notice Board outside Town Hall for Agenda)

Plans can be viewed online at [www.stroud.gov.uk/plans](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/plans) and there is a computer located in the outer office of the Town Hall for public use. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 – 12.

# MINI-ADS

**Available for general deliveries and other similar jobs.** Please contact 01452 813319

## Is the fluffy kitten yours?

Presently sharing a bed with our two dogs! A tortoiseshell, long haired kitten found near Rococco Gardens. 01452 812102

**For sale: Drop-leaf table and 4 folding chairs** to match. Light wood, little used. Can deliver. £95 o.n.o. 01452 812918

**Snow tyres:** A pair of Kleber 215-55-16 snow/regular tyres. Cost £300. Only 300 miles, in as new condition £200. Telephone 01452 813615

**Nordic Rider Exercise Machine.** Barely used dual motion exercise machine for sale, comes with manual. Size: L 1.3m X W 0.5m x H 1.1m. Buyer collects, only £35. Phone Marianne on 01452 812241

**Local trustworthy, reliable and meticulous lady offering cleaning services** in the Painswick, Sheepscombe and Cranham areas. Including houses and B & B's. Ironing if needed. Contact Jennie on 01562 812644 or (m) 07769695772.

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**Wanted - Small area of woodland** or possibly paddock by local family. Please call 01452 813246

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# BUSINESS

**Living Well with Stress Mindfulness Course.** Four Sundays at Cheltenham Holistic Health Centre. Accredited Mindfulness Trainer, has worked with NHS and MoD. Contact Catherine Lucas 813274 [www.breathworks-mindfulness.co.uk](http://www.breathworks-mindfulness.co.uk)

**Painswick house for rent.** Semi-detached, unfurnished, 2 bedrooms, plus attic room maybe home office. newly decorated. courtyard garden. Painswick village. Close to the the Croft School and amenities. Ready for rent now. £650 per month. For further information please phone 01242 220600

**JK'S @ Painswick Golf Club** offering lunchtime food and evenings. Phone 814302 for Painswick Golf Club.

# VACANCIES

**The Painswick Centre seeks:- Front of House & Caretaker/Maintenance Supervisor.** Approx. 15 hours per week. Would also suit a couple. Must live in Painswick, be good with people, reliable and willing to work flexible hours. Pretty two bedroom cottage available to rent if required. References essential. Phone 813228 for full written details.

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# The Personal Column

Rachel Taylor and Jenny Gaugain

## Babies

Congratulations to NEIL and SARAH SANDERS of Castle Godwyn Cottage Paradise on the birth of their first child Jack, weighing 7lb 6oz.

and to HANNAN and KAKULI of Ashwell on the birth of William and Leon, brothers for Molly, on 14th December

also to EMMA and NICK WATKINS of Rosemullion, Lower Washwell on the birth of Holly Elizabeth on Christmas Eve, a sister to Hannah and grand-daughter to Ann and Paul Blakey of Jenkins Farm.

and to EMMA and MARK SMITH, a son Rafael Mark, a brother for Lucas on 11th December.

and to TIM and LIZ GORDON of Hamfields. Edge Road, a son Cassius, a brother for Indigo.

## Farewell

Best wishes to FELICITY SHARWOOD-SMITH who has moved from Richmond Village to The Guild House, 2A Denmark Rd, Gloucester GL1 3HW where she will be pleased to see friends old and new.

## Get well soon

Our wishes for a speedy recovery to BARBARA LEIGH-SMITH who is in Gloucestershire Royal Hospital after breaking two bones in her left ankle and two ribs after a fall.

and to JUNE PRIVETT who fell and broke her pelvis and has been in Gloucester Hospital but is now home.

## Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to BETH and MAC MACDONALD who were married on February 25th 1945

## Deaths

Sincere sympathies to the HOLLINGWORTH family on the death of DEREK

also to the family and friends of JOY BINNS (the Honey Lady)

and to the friends and family of CICELY BOREHAM, previous Head Mistress of Stroud High School, who died on 10th January

and to the family and friends of MAUREEN EUGSTER who died at her home in France in December. Until 1994 Maureen and her family lived at Hillside, Kingsmill Lane, Painswick.

and to the family and friends of QUEENIE BALLINGER who has died recently

*You could help Rachel Taylor and Jenny Gaugain, whose contact details are in the column to the right, if you would relay information about those you know and for whom a mention in the Personal Column would be appreciated.*

## Personal Messages

Jill Walford writes: Thank you Painswick for welcoming us to this beautiful village. Alan and I felt instantly at home. Since Alan passed away, the support, help and friendship that I have received has been incredible. I am so grateful to you all.

KAKULI and HANNAN would like to thank neighbours and friends for their kindness who sent cards and presents following birth of their identical twin sons

Hannan & Kakuli with Molly and the twins, William and Leon



Printed in Gloucester  
for  
The Painswick Beacon  
by  
www.inkylittlefingers.co.uk  
01452 751900



## NEXT ISSUE

Publication date

**SATURDAY**

**5th MARCH**

**Dateline for all copy**

**SATURDAY**

**19th FEBRUARY**

for editorial attention use

**beacon@painswick.net**

or hard copy - preferably typed

**Beacon post box - New Street**

All copy must include author, address and contact telephone number. Photographs and advertising art work original at 600dpi in JPEG

web site - about us

**www.painswickbeacon.org.uk**

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

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